

1. Motion – Proposed Irish Famine Grave Monument at Macdonald Gardens Park, Ottawa

Motion – Proposition de monument commémorant les victimes de la famine en Irlande au parc Macdonald Gardens, à Ottawa

Committee recommendations, as amended

That Council approve:

- 1. That Ottawa will participate in the Bronze Shoes project by facilitating the erection of an Irish Famine Grave Monument within Macdonald Gardens Park as a restoration of the memory of those victims of the Great Irish Famine whose remains lie in Ottawa, and as a space to contemplate humanity's capacity for compassion and resilience; and**
- 2. That staff be directed to work with the Bytown Famine Monument Committee to resolve details such as installation details, required permits, and maintenance and liability requirements; and,**
- 3. That, while careful to preserve the heritage attributes and facility of Macdonald gardens Park for the citizens of Ottawa at the proposed site, the memorial will serve a number of purposes:**
 - To thank Canada for its response to the Irish humanitarian disaster and to recognize the particularly heroic efforts of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Wendat First Nations and other first responders who received the unprecedented waves of famine refugees suffering from an unknown disease of often-fatal effect, even at the cost of their own lives.**
 - To remember the victims of the Great Irish Famine who arrived in Bytown and to recall the great humanitarian disaster that reached Canadian shores.**
 - To celebrate the resilience of the human spirit in the face of disaster; that though twenty thousand Irish died, ninety thousand survived and prospered with the gift of hope and a new beginning in Canada.**

- To enrich the public experience of the existing city park by introducing a sobering reminder of the original purpose of the site as a resting place through innovative design.
- To create a space for contemplation on ground hallowed by the city's history and the remains who lie there.
- To create an inspirational symbol of the power of compassion, hope and opportunity to transform the lives of all those who arrive on a stranger's shore.

Recommandations du Comité, telles que modifiées

Que le Conseil approuve:

1. Que la Ville d'Ottawa participe au projet de chaussures de bronze en permettant l'érection d'un monument commémorant les victimes de la famine en Irlande au parc Macdonald Gardens – pour honorer la mémoire des victimes de cette famine, dont les restes reposent à Ottawa – afin d'offrir un espace propice à la réflexion sur la capacité de l'humanité à faire preuve de compassion et de résilience;
2. Que l'on demande au personnel de travailler avec le comité du monument de la famine de Bytown pour régler les questions relatives à l'installation, aux permis nécessaires, à l'entretien et à la responsabilité;
3. Que, avec un souci de préserver pour les résidents d'Ottawa les caractéristiques et la structure patrimoniales du parc Macdonald Gardens à l'endroit proposé, le mémorial serve différentes visées :
 - Remercier le Canada pour sa réponse à la crise humanitaire vécue par les Irlandais et reconnaître l'héroïsme remarquable des Premières Nations anishinaabe, haudenosaunee et wendate et des autres premiers répondants ayant accueilli, même au péril de leur vie, des

vagues sans précédent de réfugiés de la famine atteints d'une maladie alors inconnue et souvent mortelle.

- **Honorer les victimes de la grande famine en Irlande arrivées à Bytown et rappeler l'importante crise humanitaire s'étant étendue jusqu'aux rives du Canada.**
- **Souligner la résilience de l'esprit humain face aux catastrophes et rappeler que, si 20 000 Irlandais ont péri, quelque 90 000 autres ont survécu et pu prospérer en profitant de possibilités et d'un espoir renouvelés au Canada.**
- **Enrichir l'expérience proposée au public dans ce parc de la ville grâce à un monument de conception novatrice qui invite à réfléchir à la fonction initiale de ce lieu où reposent des âmes.**
- **Créer un espace contemplatif dans un lieu imposant le respect par les restes qu'il abrite et l'importance du rôle qu'il a joué dans l'histoire de la ville.**
- **Proposer un symbole inspirant de la compassion, de l'espoir et des horizons qui s'ouvrent, qui peuvent être des vecteurs de transformation puissants pour toutes ces personnes qui arrivent en territoire nouveau.**

Documentation/Documentation

1. Coordinator's report, Council and Committee Services, Office of the City Clerk, submitted on May 14, 2024 (ACS2024-OCC-CCS-0053)

Rapport de la coordonnatrice, Services des comités et du conseil, Bureau du greffe municipal, soumis le 14 mai 2024 (ACS2024-OCC-CCS-0053)
2. Extract of draft Minutes, Built Heritage Committee, May 14, 2024

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité du patrimoine bâti, le 14 mai 2024

Motion - Proposed Irish Famine Grave Monument at Macdonald Gardens
Park, Ottawa

This motion was referred to the Built Heritage Committee by Ottawa City Council on May 1, 2024. A report will be submitted to Ottawa City Council on May 15, 2024.

Committee members received the following submissions, and a copy of each is filed with the Office of the City Clerk:

- Michael McBane, including 3 attachments
- Frank Tierney, Tierney Stauffer LLP
- Louise Charbonneau, Centre for the Cause of the Venerable
Élisabeth Bruyère
- Joseph O'Connell
- Beverley Elliott
- Terry Hall
- Maureen Cross
- Patrick Kelly
- Sean O'Carroll
- Pat Marshall
- John Williams
- David Flemming, Heritage Ottawa
- Paula Brennan

- Nancy Miller Chenier
- Craig Hamm
- Anne Sabourin
- Norita Fleming, née O'Donoghue
- Teresa O'Donovan

The following speakers addressed the Committee to speak to the motion:

- Michael McBane, Global Irish Famine Way Local Committee Ottawa
- Dr. Mark McGowan
- John Banigan, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Craig Hamm, Irish Communities of Ottawa
- Sean McKenney, Ottawa and District Labour Council
- Sœur Huguette Parent, Sœurs de la Charité d'Ottawa
- Kay O'Hegarty, Irish Seniors Social Group Ottawa
- Nicolas McCarthy
- John Cardill
- David Flemming, Heritage Ottawa (as needed)
- Ilona Horvath, Friends of Macdonald Gardens Park
- Allen Brown, Lowertown Community Association Heritage Committee
- Janet Young
- Fiona Gilligan

Following discussion on this item, the Committee carried the motion as amended by Motion No. BHC 2024-14-01.

WHEREAS there is evidence that the former Catholic graveyard located at Macdonald Gardens Park, located near Rideau and Cobourg Streets contains the remains of victims of the Great Irish Famine 1845-1851. They were among the thousands of Famine refugees who arrived in Bytown in the summer of 1847, malnourished and often suffering from typhus; and

WHEREAS the Irish Famine refugees were met with heroic compassion in Ottawa by, among others, Sister Bruyère and the Sisters of Charity, the Oblate fathers, Dr Van Cortlandt, other clergy and women volunteers; and

WHEREAS, of the 106,812 Irish Famine refugees who made the voyage to Canada in the summer of 1847, one fifth died either on passage or on Canadian soil. Yet the vast majority of them survived and prospered, testament to the resilience of the human spirit when offered compassion, hope and opportunity; and

WHEREAS the Irish of Bytown-Ottawa helped shape this city. Countless Irish who came to Bytown throughout the 19th century to build the Rideau Canal, work in the lumber industry, and farm the Ottawa and Gatineau Valleys; and

WHEREAS Canadians and Indigenous people provided compassionate care to Irish immigrants, the exemplary efforts of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Wendat nations will be recognized as part of the National Famine Way project in Ireland, which commemorates the journey undertaken by 1,490 famine emigrants who walked from Strokestown, County Roscommon, to ships in Dublin Port during the Irish Famine of the 1840s; and

WHEREAS an ambitious plan has emerged in partnership with the National Famine Museum in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, to extend the commemoration of the Irish Famine Emigrant Way to Canada; and

WHEREAS the symbol marking the Famine Way in Ireland is a pair of bronze shoes that signifies the hopeful journey and flight from famine; and

WHEREAS a number of these bronze shoes will arrive from Ireland aboard the ship Celtic Explorer on May 9, 2024 in Newfoundland.

From there, they will be shipped to various locations across Canada where monuments will be erected at Grosse-Ile, Quebec City, Montreal and Toronto, with other communities actively considering doing so as well; and

WHEREAS the installation of the monuments will take place throughout the summer of 2024 across Eastern and Central Canada; and

WHEREAS the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, Eammon McKee, is an avid historian of the Irish in Canada and enthusiastic supporter of this project; and

WHEREAS the entire cost of shipping, production and installation of the Bronze Shoes memorial in Macdonald Gardens Park will be covered by the fundraising efforts of the Bytown Famine Monument Committee,

WHEREAS Macdonald Gardens Park is a park cherished by the residents of Lowertown. Frederick Gage Todd, a noted Canadian landscape architect, is recognized for designing some of the country's best urban parks, including Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg (1904-06), Bowring Park in St. John's, Newfoundland (1912-14), and National Battlefields Parks (Plains of Abraham) in Québec City,

WHEREAS the Macdonald Gardens Park is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act and installation of such a monument will require a heritage permit; and

WHEREAS public consultation on the Park's proposed Heritage Conservation Plan is imminent; and

WHEREAS it would be beneficial to provide residents, including those of Lowertown, of the city, and of the Irish diaspora in Ottawa to have the opportunity to express their views on an installation of a memorial; and.

WHEREAS the Built Heritage Committee is the Committee responsible for advising and assisting Council on matters relating to Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following Motion be referred to the Built Heritage Committee meeting on May 14, 2024 for review and recommendation to Council on May 15, 2024:

BE IT RESOLVED that Ottawa will participate in the Bronze Shoes project by facilitating the erection of an Irish Famine Grave Monument within Macdonald Gardens Park or other location as deemed appropriate as a restoration of the memory of those victims of the Great Irish Famine whose remains lie in Ottawa, and as a space to contemplate humanity's capacity for compassion and resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, staff be directed to work with the Bytown Famine Monument Committee to resolve details such as installation location, installation details, required permits, and maintenance and liability requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, while careful to preserve the heritage attributes and facility of Macdonald gardens Park for the citizens of Ottawa at the proposed site, the memorial will serve a number of purposes:

- To thank Canada for its response to the Irish humanitarian disaster and to recognize the particularly heroic efforts of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Wendat First Nations and other first responders who received the unprecedented waves of famine refugees suffering from an unknown disease of often-fatal effect, even at the cost of their own lives.
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- To enrich the public experience of the existing city park by introducing a sobering reminder of the original purpose of the site as a resting place through innovative design.

- **To create a space for contemplation on ground hallowed by the city’s history and the remains who lie there.**
- **To create an inspirational symbol of the power of compassion, hope and opportunity to transform the lives of all those who arrive on a stranger’s shore.**

Carried as amended

Amendment:

Motion No. BHC 2024-14-01

Moved by J. Leiper

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2024, a motion was referred by Ottawa City Council to the Built Heritage Committee to review a proposal to commemorate victims of the Irish Famine with a monument and directed the Committee to make a recommendation to Ottawa City Council on May 15, 2024; and

WHEREAS the Committee has determined that the Macdonald Gardens Park is the appropriate location for the proposed monument;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the May 1, 2024 motion be amended to delete the following words “or other location as deemed appropriate” and “installation location.”

Carried