Call for Artists – Public Art Contest

Municipality of Pontiac

Heritage tour of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais– Phase 2

Crédit photo: Cameron Turpin

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1.   INTRODUCTION

The MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais is located in Western Quebec. The region includes seven municipalities: Cantley, Chelsea, L'Ange-Gardien, La Pêche, Notre-Dame-de-La-Salette, Pontiac and Val-des-Monts.

Artists residing in the Outaouais region of Quebec are invited to submit their credentials, examples of previous work and a concept for a permanent sculpture for one of the selected sites in each of the municipalities of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais. The structure will be part of a heritage tour that will link all the municipalities of the MRC.

This call for artists is for the **Municipality of Pontiac**.

2.   CONTEXT

The 'Hills and Water Route' is a public art circuit piloted by the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais that highlights the historical, cultural and natural heritage of the seven municipalities of the MRC. Artists from the region were called upon to create these sculptures, which represent an important story from each community, related to water, the unifying theme of the tour. Visitors are invited to explore the territory to discover these permanent works of public art that are the pride of the communities of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais.

Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2017, where eight sculptures were installed in the seven municipalities of the territory. Phase 2 of the project consists of installing a second piece public art in each municipality to enhance the 'Hills and Water Route'. For more information on the route, visit: www.decollinesetdeau.com.

The project has the following objectives:

- · To promote and publicize the cultural and natural heritage of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais;
- · Encourage visitors and residents to take heritage tours and to take advantage of other offers in the region;
- · Develop a sense of pride and belonging to the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais;

- <u>To be part of the regional effort to promote and disseminate the Outaouais tourist route: Les Chemins d'eau;</u>
- ***Encourage visitors to come to the region and stay longer;***
- ***Encourage economic development;***
- ***Provide visibility for local artists and artisans.***

3.   PROJECT VISION

SELECTED THEME

<u>The Municipality of Pontiac, crossroads and meeting point of a rich heritage</u>

The municipality is working to develop different projects that tell the history of the municipality and under the following themes:

- The presence of the *coureurs des bois* and indigenous people
    - Fur trading (trading posts along the river)
- A place of passage and transition
    - The area occupied today by the Municipality of Pontiac is part of the historic territory of the Anishinabeg, which was one of the most important trade routes in North America.
- The wood industry (log drive)

The structure must include the various themes mentioned above, in order to harmonize with the Municipality's future projects. The structure must tell the story of the Municipality while highlighting the cultural and natural heritage of the region.

SELECTED SITE

A place where travellers and tourists pass through, a place where indigenous peoples and descendants of Europeans live, a meeting point for a population of diverse origins, the Municipality of Pontiac can be described as a crossroads, the point of contact of a rich heritage. The site chosen to continue the heritage tour is a typical reflection of this portrait, as the Quyon village area was one of the most important meeting points for the fur trade, for the coureurs des bois and later for the lumber industry. Located on the grounds of the Quyon Recreation Park at the intersection of Ferry Road and Clarendon Street, the

structure will be at the heart of the village and will appeal to both residents and visitors arriving by the ferry at the end of Ferry Road.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Municipality of Pontiac: cradled between the rivers and the hills

As the traveller enters the Municipality, he is struck by two important geographical features: to the south, the Ottawa River and to the north, the Eardley Escarpment. The contrast between these two landscape features immediately catches the eye. Composing a landscape of great beauty, this point of contact, this obvious demarcation between the Ottawa Lowlands and the Laurentian Plateau (Canadian Shield), is a testimony to the rich geological history of Pontiac.

Approximately 6,000 years ago, human occupation was added to this territory and in turn shaped its elements (the river, the forest and the soil), giving rise to the transitional landscape that we know today. Cradled between water, farmland, villages and hills, the Municipality of Pontiac is the meeting point of a diverse cultural and natural heritage.

The indigenous populations

These human populations are at the heart of a vast network of exchanges on the scale of the American Northeast. Indeed, many objects found in the region and analyzed by archaeologists were made from copper nuggets from the Lake Superior region and obtained through barter. Living from fishing, these indigenous populations inhabit in a semi-permanent way certain sites along the river where they notably erect cemeteries. 1500 years ago, these groups adopted a ceramic tradition called Pointe-Péninsule, which can be found in New York State, southern Quebec and southeastern Ontario, once again testifying to exchanges and the movement of populations. They are also, according to archaeology, the ancestors of the Algonquin bands that formed about 1000 years ago. In their language, the Algonquins call themselves Anishinabeg, which means "human being", and more specifically "real men". The area occupied today by the Municipality of Pontiac is part of the historic territory of the Anishinabeg, which extended all along the Ottawa River up to the of Deep River. When the Europeans arrived in the 17th century, they controlled the river, which they called the Kitchissippi (which means *great river),* one of the most important trade routes in North America.

However, around 1650, decimated by war with the Iroquois and disease, the Algonquins lost commercial control of the river to the Outaouais. The latter were, for about twenty years, the main intermediaries in the fur trade. After that, the European *coureurs des bois* went up the river to get the furs themselves in the West. Despite their short-lived role, the Outaouais left their name to the river, the region and the future capital of the country. The same is true of their most famous chief, Pontiac, born between 1712 and 1725 and murdered on April 20, 1769. Although he left his name to the Municipality, as well as to the electoral district of which it is a part, there is little chance that he ever passed through here. A famous war leader of the Ottawa of the Strait, he led a revolt against the English during the War of the Conquest.

European populations
Following in the footsteps of Samuel de Champlain, many missionaries, explorers and voyageurs travelled the river by canoe, stopping at the various trading posts along the way. These were places of exchange where people sold their furs, got supplies or simply rested before or after one of the many portages. Towards the end of the 18th century, people could stop at Pointe Mondion (Pointe à l'Indienne, Quyon sector), opposite the Chats portage, and get supplies from Joseph Mondion and his wife Marguerite Charlebois. The first Europeans to settle permanently on the banks of the Upper Ottawa River, they built a small wooden house, raised a few animals, cultivated the soil and sold their products to the voyageurs. Located at a strategic point for trading activities, their property passed into the hands of the large companies (notably the Hudson's Bay Company) who maintained a post there from 1800 to 1837.

The first inhabitants arrived in the municipality thanks to a new industry that would transform the economic face of the region: the exploitation of white and red pine forests. In Onslow Township, which had been opened to settlement in 1805, the American Philemon Wright was granted 12,000 acres of land along the river and established a lumberyard at Pontiac Bay (southwest of Quyon) in 1814. Around 1840, in the same township (at Beechgrove), John Christian Mohr, a Swedish immigrant, obtained several acres of land on which he settled, built a house and later a sawmill. The first settlers in Eardley Township (opened in 1806) were the Merriefields. They were followed by Daniel Sinclair in 1831 and Joseph Lusk (Irish Protestants) in 1832. These new inhabitants often combined forestry and agricultural activities. Pontiac is also the meeting point of several origins: Irish, Scottish, English and French Canadian.

A place of passage and transition

As the 19th century progressed, a diverse population came to settle in the Ottawa Lowlands. The large pine forests were harvested and replaced by farmland. However, the river remained, until the late arrival of the railroad (in 1886), the main axis on which people and goods circulated. By 1840, there was no overland route beyond Onslow Township. The Aylmer Road, as it would later be called, was the work of one man, Joseph Wyman Jr., who would carry the mail on horseback (and then by stagecoach and sleigh in the winter) for nearly 40 years between Aylmer and Portage-du-Fort.

On the river, steamboats linked the eastern and western ends of the municipality. As early as 1832, the *Lady Colborne* made it possible to travel from Aylmer to Fitzroy Harbour in Ontario. In 1846, entrepreneurs active in the municipality (John Egan, Ruggles Wright and Joseph Aumond) founded the Union Forwarding Company and purchased two steamboats. The first, the *Emerald*, served Deschênes Lake, near Aylmer, and went as far as the Chats Falls (Quyon sector). On the other side of the falls, which a horse-drawn railway allows to bypass, the *Oregon* links Chats Lake to Portage-du-Fort. The arrival of the railroad put an end to the monopoly of water transportation, although a steamboat service remained active until after the First World War. Tourists could board the G.B. Greene, an elegant and spacious paddlewheel boat that took them to Chats Falls. At the same time, the escarpment revealed its mineral wealth with the discovery and exploitation of one of the largest molybdenum deposits in the world.

Historical text : Maude-Emmanuelle Lambert

4. PROJECT SITE

Quyon Recreation Park: Intersection of Ferry Road and Clarendon Street, Quyon. The red x indicates the location of the structure

<u>View from Clarendon Street:</u> **<u>Note that the wooden structure will be removed to make room for the artwork</u>**

View from Ferry Road: Note that the wooden structure will be removed to make room for the artwork

<u>View from the Park:</u> Note that the wooden structure will be removed to make room for the artwork

5.   DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

The design requirements for the structure to be selected are as follows:

· Respect the theme chosen by the municipality in section 3 of this document;
· Establish a conceptual link with the theme of water, the unifying theme of the heritage tour of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais;
· Harmonize with the landscape and heritage features of the site;
· Involve the users of the site;
· Be safe for the public;
· Be created with permanent materials that are environmentally friendly and low maintenance (Note: each Municipality will carry out the conservation and maintenance activities it deems necessary to protect the

art structure and reserves the right to remove the art structure if it deteriorates beyond reasonable repair)
· Consider the environment and physical interactions that would affect the structure, including but not limited to sunlight, winter, moisture and wear and tear from interaction with the public;
· Comply with all applicable codes.

6.   BUDGET

The budget for the structure is $10,700, including applicable taxes and the following:

· <u>Artist's fees</u>
· <u>Materials</u>
· <u>Fabrication</u>
· <u>Structural engineering opinion, if applicable</u>
· <u>Travel and meetings with the Municipality</u>
· <u>Installation</u>
· <u>Public liability insurance</u>

Transportation of the sculpture to the site will be determined with the Municipality depending on the size of the structure and the distance to be covered.

The Municipality will be fully responsible for preparing the site and base that will host the sculpture and will help anchor the sculpture in place.

Note: The Municipality will provide additional funding to enhance the sites with landscape integration elements and visitor amenities such as picnic tables or benches, where appropriate. The Municipality is open to proposals from the artist for the development of the site.

7.   ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists who reside in the Outaouais region are eligible. Preference will be given to artists submitting projects for the Municipality of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais in which they reside. Please note that artists may submit proposals for more than one site.

Participants will be selected by a jury that will be formed in each Municipality. The jury's evaluation criteria are as follows:

· The artist's place of residence (Municipality);
· Experience in outdoor public art;
· Vision and originality of the concept;
· Understanding of the project's objectives;
· Integration of the structure with the characteristics of the site;
· Demonstrated adherence to schedules, deadlines, project requirements and budgets.

8.   PROPOSAL GUILINES

Proposals must include the items listed below. Acceptable file formats are DOC, DOCX and PDF.

Proposals may be submitted in electronic format via online file transfer. Please indicate your intention to submit a proposal by e-mail to romain.claire@municipalitepontiac.ca

In-Person Proposals: Proposals can also be submitted on a USB stick and placed in the box in front of City Hall at 2024 Highway 148, Pontiac, J0X 2G0. Please note:

- Paper documents will not be accepted.
- Proposals submitted on a USB stick must clearly indicate the name and contact information of the author of the proposal.
- Flash drives will not be returned.

Elements of the proposal:

1.   One-page statement of interest, which must indicate:

   a.   Why you are interested in this municipality's call for artists (specify the name of the municipality in your proposal);
   b.   What aspect of this public art commission inspires you;
   c.   How you or your work relates to the public art vision of this project.

2.   One page description of your artistic approach and how you intend to approach this project.

3.   A sketch and description of your proposed concept (the sketch can be done by hand or computer and should express the uniqueness and originality of the concept, its integration into the site, and interactions with visitors, if any).

4.   A two-page artistic resume indicating your education, public exhibitions, commissions and other relevant experience; please include the names of three references (preferably people you have worked with).

5.   Up to 10 digital image files of completed or in-progress work, including fabrication and installation of public art projects; these images must be accompanied by a list giving details such as your name, title of structure, date, medium, dimensions, budget and location. Name your images with your last name and first initial, followed by a number indicating the viewing order corresponding to your listing (e.g. SmithA_01.jpg). Acceptable formats are JPG, and PNG and the maximum size of each file is 5 MB.

6.   Artists can present their proposal in French or in English.

9.   DEADLINE

Deadline for the presentation is Friday, June 18, 2021 12:00 p.m.

No proposals received after the deadline will be accepted.

10.   QUESTIONS

If you need more information or assistance in submitting a proposal in electronic format, please contact:

Elza Sylvestre
Recreation and Community Life Director
Municipality of Pontiac
819-455-2401#122
sylvestre.elza@municipalitepontiac.ca
or
Christine Butt
Local and Cultural Development Councillor
MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais
819 827-0516, extension 2292
cbutt@mrcdescollines.com

11.   PROJECT TIMELINE

1. Deadline for presentation: June 18, 2021 4:00 p.m.
2. Selection of finalists by jury: June 21, 2021
3. Municipal approval: July 13, 2021
4. Notice to the selected artist: July 15, 2021
5. Signature of the contract with the artist: July 2021
6. Completion of the fabrication: End of September 2021
7. Installation: October 2021, depending on weather conditions
8. Unveiling: October 2021

12.   ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional historical information

A) Ouvrages de références, monographies et articles

· Bégin, Richard, « Le chemin et le "port" d'Aylmer : la voie de l'Outaouais supérieur », *Histoire Québec*, 11, 1 (2005) : 4-11.
· Bond, Courtney C. J., *Le Pays de l'Outaouais. Un guide historique de la région de la capitale nationale* (CCN, 1968).
· Dunn, Guillaume, *Les Forts de l'Outaouais* (Éditions du Jour, 1975).
· Fletcher, Katharine, *Capital Rambles, Exploring the National Capital Region* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2004).
· Gaffield, Chad, dir., *Histoire de l'Outaouais* (IQRC, 1997).
· Leroux, Manon, *L'autre Outaouais* (Pièce sur pièce, 2012).
· Robinson, James. *"The Quio". How Quyon Came to Be* (Dickson Press, 2006).
· Taché, Louis et al. *Le Nord de l'Outaouais* (Le Droit, 1938).

B) Online resources

· Dictionnaire biographique du Canada (bilingue) : http://www.biographi.ca/fr/index.php
· Encyclopédie canadienne (bilingue) : http://encyclopediecanadienne.ca/fr/
· Héritage Pontiac (carnet en anglais de Mo Laidlaw) : http://www.heritagepontiac.ca/
· Histoire, Patrimoine et éducation. Mot-clé : Histoire de l'Outaouais (carnet en français de Lynne Rodier) : https://histoirepatrimoineeducation.net/tag/histoire-de-loutaouais/
· Histoire forestière de l'Outaouais (site multimédia bilingue réalisé la Société d'histoire forestière du Québec) : http://www.histoireforestiereoutaouais.ca/
· La rivière des Outaouais : 400 ans de rencontres (exposition du Réseau du patrimoine gatinois) : http://www.reseaupatrimoine.ca/
· Répertoire du patrimoine bâti de l'Outaouais : http://patrimoineoutaouais.ca/
· Rivière du patrimoine canadien – La rivière des Outaouais (bilingue) : http://www.ottawariver.org/index.html

Copyright and moral rights

The sculptures created as part of this project will be owned by the Municipality in which they are located. Copyright, including all concepts, drawings and final artwork, will remain with the artist. The artist must guarantee that the art structure is original and does not infringe on the copyright of any other person. The artist retains the moral rights. The MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, Tourisme Outaouais and the seven municipalities will retain the right to distribute images of the works for marketing and promotional purposes.

Privacy Policy
The MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais and the members of the jury will treat the content of the proposals and jury deliberations as confidential information.
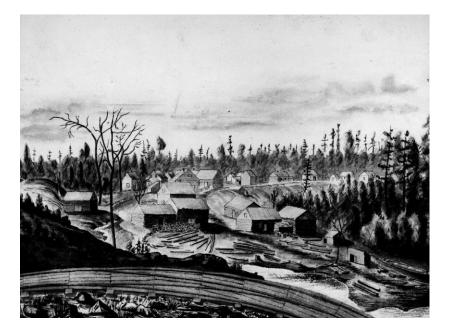
Cancellation
The MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais reserves the right to not accept any of the proposals submitted and to reissue this Call for Artists.

13.   CHECKLIST

- ☐ One-page statement of interest.
- ☐ Description of your one-page artistic process
- ☐ Sketch and description of the concept
- ☐ *Two page artistic resume.*
- ☐ Maximum of 10 digital image files

14.   PHOTOS

Pontiacville (or Pontiac Village), 1855 by William Augustus Austin (1829-1896). In the foreground is Ruggles Wright's shipyard and slipway at Pontiac Bay. Source: Library and Archives of Canada, 1983-46-7.

Hudson's Bay Company Canoes at Chat Rapids, by Philip John Bainbrigge Source: Library and Archives Canada, 1983-47-18.