The Municipality of Pontiac unveils a sculpture by artist John-Philippe Smith

MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC — The Municipality of Pontiac has unveiled a public art structure today created by artist John-Philippe Smith. This sculpture, located in front of the Luskville Community Centre (2024 Route 148), is part of a circuit highlighting the historical, cultural and natural heritage of the seven municipalities within the MRC des Collines-de-l’Outaouais. Artists from the region were called upon to create sculptures representing an important history of each community, in relation to water, the unifying theme of this circuit;

The artist John-Philippe Smith’s proposal was chosen by the Municipality of Pontiac among 8 projects received following a public competition launched last summer.

About the sculpture

The sculpture entitled « At the crossroads » is inspired by the old military boundaries found along the roads since ancient times, but also the obelisks, which over the centuries, were used to commemorate the memory of an event or a person. The 8-foot fall sculpture is oriented according to the cardinal points.

Each facade illustrates a different aspect of the municipality’s history. The north recalls the unique geology of the Eardley escarpment and the Luskville Falls, while the South depicts sturgeons and trilobites, species that inhabited the Champlain Sea 12,000 years ago. The East side gives tribute to the indigenous people who used the river for trade, travel and as a food source. Finally, the West facade recalls the arrival of settlers of European origin (Irish, Scottish, English and French Canadians) and their economic activities.

About the artist

Native to Pontiac, John-Philippe Smith is a professional sculptor and engraver whose works and practice are rooted in history and traditions. He has won several prizes, including first place at the 2015 European Stone Festival. His workshop “Smith & Barber” has restored sculptures and stone masonry of several buildings on Parliament Hill.
Partners

The heritage circuit was developed through the cultural committee of the CLD des Collines-de-l’Outaouais. It has been made possible thanks to the MRC des Collines de l’Outaouais’ Cultural Development Fund, which is the result of a Cultural Development Agreement between the MRC and the Ministry of Culture and Communications. This Fund ensures the implementation of the MRC’s Cultural Policy. Other financial partners were also involved in this project, such as the seven municipalities within the MRC, Tourisme Outaouais and the CREO (Regional Conference of Outaouais elected officials).

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