Artist Proposal

“APPLES and PEARs”

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Artist’s Concept Statement

APPLES and PEARs

The project Apples and Pears consists of a composition of seven sculptural works in Indiana limestone and bronze.

The proposal is inspired by the fact that early settlers, many of whom British Loyalists from England, Scotland and Ireland planted apple and pear trees upon arrival as stated in the book “History and Heritage of Binbrook” by the Binbrook Historical Society.

With a contemporary and fresh appearance, the project Apples and Pears will represent the agricultural roots of Binbrook without being too literal. Five sculptural works of apples and pears will be presented on the circular precast concrete platform in the centre of the plaza with a half a pear at the beginning of the Parkette and half an apple installed on the lawn at the intersection.

The work will evoke the rich tradition of Still Life in art history throughout the centuries, particularly in the Renaissance and Baroque era and back to the beginning of civilization in Greek and Egypt. Directly referring to Binbrook’s heritage, the composition of fruits will also evoke historic community events of harvest on the fields, where people come together in the fall to gather fruits.

Fruits are powerful symbols of life, fertility and renewal. A consistent element of life and nature is transformation and change. Change is certainly a strong characteristic of the built environment in the history of Binbrook as well as its future.

Carved in limestone with stems, grain and seeds cast in bronze, the large sculptures in Apples and Pears will invite public interaction and offer a tactile, sensory experience for citizens, visitors and children alike. The fruits will vary in sizes up to a maximum height of 120 centimeters for apples and a maximum length of 170 centimeters for pears. Each sculpture will be anchored with stainless steel pins and a 2-component epoxy on a steel enforced concrete foundation.

Four sculptures are cut in half and show the inside of an apple and a pear. Besides revealing the beauty and miracle of the fruit itself, this will open a scientific dimension and inspire curiosity in children how a fruit does come into being.

Having visited the site and being aware of the built environment, shapes and colour schemes present and the landscaping plans, I do think that the chosen materials Indiana limestone and bronze will enhance the current colour schemes of the bricks and glass used in the façade as well as the landscaping elements that will come into play after the completion of the Binbrook Community Parkette.

With a historical dimension to Binbrook’s culture, and heritage, the sculptural elements of Apples and Pears will contribute a playful, interactive element to the environment at Binbrook Community Parkette and while modest in scale, the project will have an immediate, positive and strong presence.
Technical Drawings Sections

Materials: hand carved Indiana limestone and bronze

Weight: 1 whole apple or pear weighs approx. 2.2 tons