THE BINBROOK PARKETTE PUBLIC ART COMPETITION

Artist Proposal
“Sunvane” Structure and Maze Plaza
Vilnis Cultural Design Works

Artist’s Concept Statement

A weathervane / sundial structure, standing approximately 11 metres (36 feet) high and displaying historical information related to the development of the Binbrook community, is our concept for the public art commission at the Binbrook Community Parkette. Dating back thousands of years, weathervanes and sundials are iconic, recognizable structures with deep roots in agricultural communities as they conveyed important weather-related information.

Visible from various viewpoints in the predominantly flat countryside surrounding the village of Binbrook, the Binbrook Village Community Wind Vane will act as a homing device pinpointing the community’s commercial centre, both in the past and in the present-day, and will serve as a reminder of its agricultural roots, evidenced most strongly by the presence of the adjacent Binbrook Agricultural Society grounds and the continuity of the area’s agricultural economy. It should be noted that the history of farming and agriculture was agreed upon as an anchor of the community during a public meeting held in Binbrook to discuss this project in May 2011.

The various parts of the weathervane structure, from base to crown, will be used to present significant information pertaining to the historic development of Binbrook. The four-sided stone base, produced in polished black granite, references the village’s original importance as a central crossroads location, originally known as Hall’s Corners. Each of the four polished surfaces in the weathervane’s base will be inscribed / engraved with relevant and entertaining historical facts, which can include the names of the original settlers, various brands used to distinguish free-roaming pigs in 1829, images of 19th century commercial establishments located at the crossroads e.g. Franklin House, and a succinct summary of Binbrook’s founding and early industrial, commercial and social history. The importance of social connectedness and relationships was yet another anchor noted by participants at the May 2011 public meeting.

As illustrated in the concept image, crowning segments of the weathervane will be used to carry words and symbols referencing Binbrook’s history, in particular changes in transportation technology, which has been so influential in its transformation from a predominantly agricultural service centre, when “Hall’s Corners [was] a great place for horse traders—some of them having half-dozen horses in the morning, and none at all before night” to a contemporary residential community. The transportation symbolism responds to the “Transforming Place” priority expressed at the May 2011 Binbrook public meeting.

At its base, the Binbrook Village Community Wind Vane will be anchored in the circular plaza included in the parkette design. It will be used as a clock face for the sundial, and will offer children and their families the opportunity to play an interactive game possibly in the form of a thematic maze, permanently rendered in the chosen durable base material, e.g. paving stones, terrazzo, coloured concrete etc., and linked to Binbrook’s agricultural / commercial history. In creating this interactive, accessible element for visitors, noted as a priority at the May 2011 meeting, we plan to work closely with the landscape architect to integrate the plaza and the weathervane / sundial structure with the overall design for the parkette.
CONCEPT DETAILS

City of Hamilton Binbrook Parkette Public Art Competition “SUNVANE” STRUCTURE AND MAZE PLAZA by Vilnis Cultural Design Works