

Detailed Donation Proposal

Donation of Monument Marking the Global Irish Famine Way

Donation proposed by:

National Famine Way

<https://nationalfamineway.ie/>

Funded by:

Mistera Foundation

P.O. Box 42071

RPO Conestoga Mall

Waterloo, Ontario

N2L 6K5

Description of Proposed Monument

The proposed donation is of a set of bronze shoes atop a granite plinth and base that will be consist with other bronze shoes installations in Ireland and elsewhere along the Global Irish Famine Way. The shoes are affixed to the plinth using a 10mm threaded bar included with the shoes. The base into which the plinth is set will be inscribed with the trail name in English, Irish, and French.

Plinth and Base:

- The plinth will be carved in a gray granite, closest colour available to original plinths on the National Famine Way Mother Trail in Ireland.
- cut with angled smooth top surface set into the base. The base will have the Trail name inscribed in English and Irish.
- Text: Global Irish Famine Way (EN) Slí Dhomhanda an Ghorta Mhóir (GA)
- Type: the font is Arial black, 30mm vertical.
- The base of the monument is approximately 37 inches long, 22 inches deep, and 9 inches high.
- The plinth is approximately 10 inches long, 10 inches deep, 23 inches in high (rear), 20 inches in height (front)



Figure 1-2: Examples of other monuments along the National Famine Way in Ireland.



Figure 3: Example of text included on plinth.

Bronze Shoes:

- The shoes weigh 3kg and are approximately 7.5 inches long, 6 inches wide, and 3 inches tall.
- The shoes come with 2 no. threaded receiver plugs set into the bottom of the bronze shoes (to take 10mm threaded bar).

- These are recessed approximately 35/40mm into base of shoes.
- The threaded bar length is 90mm in total (40mm threaded into shoe base) and 50mm exposed.
- 2 no. holes should be drilled into stone plinth 12mm in diameter and approximately 60mm deep.
- The holes should be blown clean and Mastic resin or equivalent inserted into holes. The shoes should be placed into the drilled holes and allowed to set.



Figure 4-6: Images of the bronze shoes that will be cast and sent to Hamilton.

Interpretive Plaque:

An interpretive plaque will be installed next to the monument with the name of the monument, donor recognition, and a brief historical background of the monument.

A QR code will be included on the interpretive plaque will link visitors to the Global Irish Famine Way website: <https://nationalfamineway.ie/global-irish-famine-way/>

Proposed Location



Figure 7: Proposed location along Waterfront Trail indicated in red.



Figure 8: View of the proposed location from Harbourside Way, monument will be placed on the grass next to the Waterfront Trail, an accessible walkway. The monument will be next to an existing Corten steel art piece and playground.

Reasons for and Relevance of the Monument

The City of Hamilton's position at the "Head of the Lake" and gateway to the Gore District and townships beyond, meant it was an important port for immigrants arriving to Canada West during the years of the Irish Famine (1845-1847). The city received upwards of 16,000 migrants in the summer of 1847 alone, more than double its population of 7000. Over half of those, 16,000 required assistance in the form of food, shelter and medical treatment for typhus and other ailments. The majority of those assisted, about 80 per cent were Irish.

- The monument will be a reminder of this past and reflect the background and stories of many of Hamilton's citizens.
- As noted by Staff working in Immigration Partnerships, there is currently no monument in Hamilton that reflects the Irish immigrant past.

The proposed location is located along the north and east edges of Pier 8. This 30-meter-wide accessible walkway is ideal as it is close to where the Irish Famine migrants arrived by ship to Hamilton in the years 1845-1847 and where they were housed in temporary sheds and treated in the temporary Emigrant Hospital.

- The monument will be used as an educational tool to reflect on this aspect of the location. The interpretive plaque will lead viewers to the National Famine Way website, where more information and resources can be found.

Today, Hamilton is home to a large number of immigrants from different backgrounds.

- This monument will resonate with other groups in Hamilton and will reflect on the shared past of many communities.

Installation and Maintenance statement

Installation:

The donor will be responsible for all costs of installation including:

- The granite plinth will be sourced, carved, and delivered to site by Brian Rees, owner of Johnny Tombstone Lettering Co., a local Hamilton business. A quote provided on November 4, 2024 was \$3,400.
- The site will be prepared by Soil-Mat Engineers & Consultants LTDA with a geotechnical review.
- A concrete pad slightly larger than the monument and a 4-foot-deep concrete footing will be installed by Three Seasons Landscaping for approximately \$6,800. A slight slope will be incorporated for drainage.
- The footings, subgrade, and concrete footings will be inspected by Soil-Mat Engineers to ensure the monument will be stable. The total cost for engineering is estimated at \$500-1,000 depending on the duration and frequency of site visits.
- Bronze shoes will be cast at a Bronze Art Ireland, and shipped to Hamilton with threaded receiver plugs that will be set into the bottom of the shoes by the foundry. Two 10mm threaded bars will be supplied by the donor and installed into the receiver plugs on site. Epoxy will be used to add additional strength to the connection.
- The shoes will be stored at the donor's expense until installation.

- Johnny Tombstone Lettering Co. will assist with securing the bronze shoes to the granite plinth before installation.
- Installation will occur Q3 2025 with little to no disruption to users of the Waterfront Trail, playground, or other City staff.

Maintenance Considerations:

- The concrete pad will ensure no damage to the monument from landscaping and snow removal activities. The platform serves only as a foundation for the plinth and will not be large enough for viewers to stand on. The platform will be set away from the walkway so as not to be a tripping hazard.
- The shoes will be flushed with the granite plinth to prevent theft. The top of the plinth will be curved to also prevent theft.
- The shoes will be cleaned and hot waxed by City staff or a contractor every 2-3 years to prevent accelerated bronze deterioration. This maintenance activity will be covered by the maintenance donation.
- The granite will not need any reoccurring maintenance tasks.