

A proposal for a  
**Canoe Sculpture**  
in Downtown Kemptville



By the North Grenville Friends of Indigenous Trails

July 23, 2024

**Location –**

Old Town Kemptville  
Turning basin, South  
Branch of the Rideau  
(Kemptville Creek).

To be mounted on the  
concrete retaining wall,  
opposite the Public  
Library.

In the same style as the  
Post Card Murals.



## Idea –

The idea is to have a sculpture of a canoe mounted on the concrete retaining wall below the Wellstein Building facing the creek.

Engineering services would be required to ensure proper installation.

CA regulations would be followed with regards to flood plane and species at risk (Butternut). Trees would not be cut.



## Design –

The canoe is a symbol of resilience and human ingenuity – and part of the shared heritage of both Indigenous peoples and settlers in our community and Country.

Concept 1 is based on a birchbark canoe from the Canadian Canoe museum in Peterborough.

Concept 2 is traced from a photo of renowned canoe maker Chuck Commanda paddling a traditional Algonquin birchbark canoe.



Concept 1



Concept 2

## Concept 1

Canoe is more visible in this concept.

Mounted on concrete wall.

Fabricated out of flat metal. Material could be steel or copper.

Colour could be natural i.e. steel left to rust to orange-brown. Copper oxidizes to a pale green.



## Concept 2

Canoe is slimmer in this concept.

Mounted on concrete wall.

Fabricated out of flat metal. Material could be steel or copper.

Colour could be natural i.e. steel left to rust to orange-brown. Copper oxidizes to a pale green.



## Concept 1

Shown with rust  
colouring.



## Interpretive Story Panel

To accompany the sculpture, an interpretive story panel would be mounted on the opposite side of the creek at the Library parkette.

The panel would explain the history and significance of the canoe as part of the shared heritage of Indigenous peoples and settlers in our community.





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FOR DISCUSSION ONLY