Artist’s Proposal

**LANDMARK**

by Simon Frank

I am proposing to create and install a new bronze sculpture entitled Landmark, on the Fieldcote walkway. Landmark will be comprised of a large tree section, or tree “slice”, installed in an upright position at the intersection of the two paths, sited on the north side of the trail, facing along the walkway towards Wilson Street. The sculpture will be approximately 42” tall and 3” thick, and will be bronze-cast directly from an actual tree section. This will allow the artwork to retain all of the natural texture and character of the wood - making it look similar to the many cut logs lying nearby at the site.

Landmark will also have a text element, raised in relief on both of the “cut” surfaces of the sculpture. This text will run in a circular pattern, like the concentric growth rings of a tree, and will be different on each side of the sculpture. On the side that faces Wilson Street, the rings of text will refer directly to the human history of Ancaster, including text related to the settlement and development of the area, as well as Doris Fieldcote’s bequest of the property to the community. On the other side of the sculpture, facing the woodlot at Fieldcote, the rings of text will address the natural heritage of the site; including a list of the Carolinian plants and animals in the region, and a geological history of the Niagara Escarpment and “Dundas Valley”. The text element gives Landmark an important educational or ‘interpretive’ aspect, one where a sense of place is embodied in the actual form of the sculpture. It also directly engages the public, revealing greater levels of meaning and relevancy as people approach the artwork, touch it, realize the symbolic nature of its construction, and read the words.

Landmark is a public artwork that takes its inspiration from the natural setting, and makes authentic connections between the human and natural histories of the site. By its very design, it belongs to its setting, and it will provide people who encounter it while using the walkway and trail loop, with both a heightened sense of place and a thought provoking experience. By doing these things, I believe Landmark will become an important permanent addition to the site.
Dimensions and Materials.

Materials / Fabrication:
Landmark will be bronze-cast using the “lost wood” process. The raised text on the sculpture will be created using sandblast mask. I will use a Ferrous Nitrate patina for the bronze, which will give the sculpture a natural appearance – with rich, brown and red tones.
Concept Image In Context