

# Secord Monument

## UPDATE - MAY 2024

On August 13, 2023, the Municipality of Kincardine Council directed staff to prepare a report with recommendations for Council's consideration about Secord Monument 2.

### Monument 2

Public Library (currently in storage)

Monument 2 is one of the two monuments honouring Dr. Solomon Secord in the Municipality of Kincardine. Council also requested the report include recommendations for possible options for public engagement.

Removed in the spring of 2023 from its location outside of the Kincardine Branch of the Bruce County Public Library due to the Queen Street reconstruction project, Monument 2 remains in storage. The monument's inscription reads:

*I mark the Sunny Hours.*

*To Solomon Secord, 1834-1910.*

*Our family physician for 50 years.*

*This memorial was erected by his loving friends. Served as surgeon with the Southern Army during the American Civil War. All that lived he loved, and without regard for fee or reward, he did his work for love of his fellows.*

While the monument commemorates the service of a local and valued surgeon, it is also recognizing his service in the Southern Army (also known as the Confederate Army.) This war was about the preservation of slavery, a system that systematically oppressed and dehumanized Black people.

Over the years there have been requests to remove this monument due to the reference to Secord's service to the Southern Army during the American Civil War. There have also been delegations and correspondence to past and current Councils to keep the monument in the original location with the original wording as it was felt that this would preserve history.

On January 24, 2024, Council approved the resources needed to engage the community in meaningful conversations and learning about equity, diversity, and inclusion which will assist Council in its decision-making regarding this Secord Monument.

### Monuments Honouring Dr. Secord



Monument 1 currently located in the Kincardine Cemetery.



Monument 2 outside the Kincardine Branch of the Bruce County Public Library; currently in storage.



### Dr. Laura Mae Lindo

The consultant chosen for the engagement process is Dr. Laura Mae. Dr. Lindo is a respected educator who holds both a master's and PhD in education. Dr. Lindo is currently working with the Municipality to provide opportunities for the public to explore history and impacts, share perspectives, consider new ideas, and form new relationships. To learn more about Dr. Lindo visit her website at [lauramaelindo.com](http://lauramaelindo.com) or contact her at [lauramae@lauramaelindo.com](mailto:lauramae@lauramaelindo.com).

# Engagement Process

## Phase 1

The engagement process for the Secord Monument is seeking all viewpoints. The central approach to this engagement process is to foster an environment of inclusion and create opportunities for safe and respectful conversations about the community we all thrive in and belong to.

The first phase of engagement has been initiated and has included four main components:

### Public Survey

On March 12th, an online survey with option for a paper copy launched. Survey promotions used channels like social media, radio, newspaper, postcards, and other networks.

The survey closed on March 31st, 2024, with 475 participants.

The survey collected information about:

- The issues needing consideration.
- The perspectives and worries from the community.
- Community suggestions about who needs to be engaged in further discussions about monument 2.

### Group Conversations

Held in April, small group conversations were held with people interested in:

- history and heritage
- equity and inclusion
- preserving the monument in its original form
- residents requesting participation

Identification of the groups came from the input collected in the survey.

### Historical Research

Initiation of historic and timeline research surrounding the installation of both monuments is underway with many secondary sources collected. Work to collect primary sources continues into the next phase of the engagement process.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The creation of a “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)” section at [www.kincardine.ca/Secord](http://www.kincardine.ca/Secord) was developed from the questions and comments received from the public. As the process evolves, this resource will grow with more questions and answers. The public may continue to submit their questions and comments through [www.kincardine.ca/Secord-CandQ](http://www.kincardine.ca/Secord-CandQ) or by contacting the facilitator or staff.

# Engagement Process

## Next Steps

### Future Community Conversations

More community conversations are coming. These help to provide further understanding of issues and the opportunity to hear suggestions about future options for monument 2.

Registration for these sessions is open to the public online at [www.kincardine.ca/Secord-CC](http://www.kincardine.ca/Secord-CC) or by contacting staff at 519-396-3468 ext. 7145. Following registration, individuals will receive a selection of dates to choose from for participation.

### “What Was Heard” Report

Review and summarization of the information collected through the community conversations and continued research is ongoing. The facilitator, Dr. Lindo will be presenting what she has heard throughout the first phase of the engagement process at a future Council meeting. The report will be available at [www.kincardine.ca/Secord](http://www.kincardine.ca/Secord) once completed.

### Future Components

As we hear the feedback throughout the process, future components and steps will be identified. A decision from Council is anticipated in August 2024.



Dr. Laura Mae Lindo virtually attended and spoke at the March 27, 2024 meeting of the Municipality of Kincardine Council. A recording of the meeting can be viewed online at [www.kincardine.ca/Council-March-24-2024](http://www.kincardine.ca/Council-March-24-2024).