

# Secord Monument

## UPDATE - JULY 18, 2024



On August 13, 2023, the Municipality of Kincardine Council directed staff to prepare a report with recommendations for Council's consideration related to one of the two monuments honouring Dr. Solomon Secord, including possible options for public engagement.

## Overview

The monument located outside of the library square in downtown Kincardine was removed during the reconstruction of the downtown last year. The 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 important to recognize that it recognizes his service in the Southern Army (also known as the Confederate Army) which was fought to preserve 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 to 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.

Dr. Laura Mae Lindo was chosen as the consultant for the engagement process. Dr. Lindo is a respected educator who holds both a master's and PhD in education. 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

All viewpoints on the Secord Monument were solicited through this engagement process. The central approach to this engagement process was to foster an environment of inclusion and create opportunities for safe and respectful input about the community we all thrive in and belong to.

The first phase of engagement has concluded and included the following components:

### Public survey

An online / paper survey was launched on March 12th and was promoted on social media, radio, newspaper, post cards, through networks etc. The survey was open until March 31st, 2024, and had 475 people participate. The purpose of the survey was to collect information about:

- The issues that need consideration.
- The perspectives and worries from the community.
- Community suggestions on who needs to be engaged in the discussions about the monument.

### Small group community conversations #1

These were held in April with people interested in:

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

These groups were identified through the input collected from the survey.

### Small group community conversations #2

These were held in May. Invitation for the public to participate in these small groups or individual meetings was promoted through social media, the website, an update to the community and through radio.

### Research on historic timelines and information

Initiation of historic and timeline research surrounding the installation of both monuments was conducted and many secondary sources were collected. To learn about primary and secondary sources visit: <https://umb.libguides.com/PrimarySources/secondary>.

Dr. Lindo has completed a report on what she heard through the engagement process and will present to council on July 24, 2024. This report is available to the public at [www.kincardine.ca/Secord](http://www.kincardine.ca/Secord).

To watch the presentation of the report to Council live or following the July 24th meeting, visit the Municipality's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@MunicipalityofKincardine>.