

Homecoming Statue

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Artist's rendition of the proposed homecoming statue.



An artist's sketch of a Naval Centennial statue project called The Homecoming was unveiled today on Wharf Street in front of community leaders, politicians and citizens by Steven L. Point; Lieutenant Governor of B.C.

Nathan Scott will sculpt and cast the statue over the next year. It will pay tribute to the men and women of the Canadian Navy and be displayed in the high profile location of Victoria's Inner harbour.

"The statue depicts a sailor returning from sea with outstretched arms to welcome his daughter," said co-chair of the Homecoming Statue Committee, RAdm (Ret'd) Ken Summers.

"This statue represents the special moment in the life of any sailor when they return from the sea to once again meet their family."

Once built, the statue will be erected next to the Tourism Victoria Information Centre on Wharf Street, which overlooks the Legislature building and the Inner Harbour.

"More than 3.6 million tourists come to Victoria every year, and they will be able to stand in front of the statue and have their photo taken with

the Legislature in the background," said RADM Summers.

For the past year, a group of local business leaders, retired and serving naval officers and non-commissioned officers, and the well known local sculptor have come together to create this project.

"It aims to build awareness of the navy and its centennial in the community," said co-chair of the Homecoming Statue project committee HCapt(N) Cedric Steele. "The theme is 'inspired by gratitude', because the commitment of the men and women of the Canadian Forces is part of a long standing history of the navy in our community."

The project is community driven and funded, said Capt (N) Steele. "We need to raise \$150,000 to bring this to fruition."

Members of the public can purchase bricks to surround the statue. Each brick will be engraved with either the name of the person donating, or the names of people they wish to remember. Aside from purchasing one of two sizes of bricks for \$200 or \$350, people can also purchase a pewter miniature of the statue for \$200.

If more than the budgeted \$150,000 for the project is raised, excess funds will be donated to the Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC).

Artist Nathan Scott, who sculpted the Terry Fox statue at Mile 0 of the Trans Canada Highway and other local military statues, has been contracted to sculpt the statue. "The biggest challenge with this will be sculpting emotion between the two characters that are interacting with each other," said Scott.

Scott will begin the statue later this month and expects it to take eight to nine months to complete.