



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE... January 30, 2013**

**Private donor provides \$1 million to Brock University for art commission**

Cultural Asset Management Group (CAM Group), on behalf of Brock University, is inviting Canadian artists to propose a work of art to commemorate Sir Isaac Brock after whom the university was named. The St Catharines, Ontario university is marking its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014.

“CAM Group is proud to play a role in honouring Isaac Brock, one of the founding fathers of Canada. This major commission is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for artists to make visible the founding dynamic and legend of a nation. This commission is at least as much about the future as it is about the past. Brock University and its generous donor are calling upon and significantly investing in Canadian artists to honour and celebrate our history”, said Shelley Falconer, CEO of Toronto based, Cultural Asset Management Group.

Brock University has issued a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) laying out the key parameters for artist selection and the work itself. The artist will be selected by March 1 2013 to complete the work of art by May 2014.

CAM Group will manage the RFP and seeks proposals from Canadian artists for a muscular work of art. “Brock was a quintessential Canadian. , and He was both an athlete and dedicated to lifelong learning. His many evident qualities included analysis, leadership, courage, creativity, innovation, inspiration and community engagement. We look forward to artists from all regions of Canada and its diverse communities applying for this outstanding opportunity”, notes Shawna White, president CAM Group.

Brock is a rapidly growing university building on internal and external collaboration and which, in faculty, students, administration and partners, deliberately develops, strengthens, nurtures and utilises both sides of the brain. Uniquely, Brock is where interdisciplinary focus deliberately helps students develop rational and analytical thinking as well as their emotional, creative and innovative sides.

After 10 years in Canada, in 1812, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, President and administrator of the Government of Upper Canada and Commander of the British Forces, galvanized and led the Canadian civilian, governmental, militia, native and military forces to repel superior American military forces intent on annexing Canada. His victory instilled in all the first significant sense of Canadianess, the first sense of a Canadian community

distinct from the United States and Great Britain. Even Brock's death in battle galvanized the Canadians to exceptional levels to complete what he led. Such was his importance and the universal recognition of his qualities that during Brock's funeral the defeated American forces fired rifle volleys to salute Brock from the American side of the Niagara River. This commemoration is about Brock the legend who perceived and promoted a pride-filled sense of community and Canadianess that 55 years later officially became Canada.

It is generally agreed that Brock's repelling of the American forces could not have occurred or succeeded without the personal, professional and political bond that Brock and native leader Tecumseh forged together. This was an early and particularly exemplary example of what Canada has come to be known for worldwide, each not only tolerating "the other" but embracing "the other", a key evolution in developing our multicultural richness which makes Canada stronger than the sum of its parts.

Some of Brock's values are summarised as leadership, courage, innovation, inspiration and community involvement which Brock University honors yearly by awarding the Spirit of Brock Award to qualifying graduate students.

Little more than an echo away from the site of Brock's last battle, Queenston Heights, overlooking Lake Ontario Brock University sits prominently, high astride the northern lip of the narrow southern Ontario land bridge with the United States, the Niagara Escarpment. Brock is at the centre of the geo-political, tectonization of Canada.

This is further manifest by the fact that Brock University sits on the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve and is engaged in transdisciplinary research at the University and with the Niagara region in order to transcend the often contradictory relationships between economic practices, social progress and the natural environment.

Brock University has issued a formal Request for Proposals laying out the key parameters for artist selection and the work itself. The artist will be selected by April 1, 2013 to complete the work of art by May 2014. Any artist who would like to be sent the RFP, should send their email address and other contact information to the project art consultant, Cultural Asset Management Group. Phone: (905) 415-2826 [info@camgroup.ca](mailto:info@camgroup.ca)([www.camgroup.ca](http://www.camgroup.ca)).

For further information on Sir Isaac Brock see:

- The Astonishing General The Life and Legacy of Sir Isaac Brock By Turner, Wesley B.
- Tecumseh & Brock The War of 1812 By Laxer, James
- Isaac Brock Larger than Life By Begamudré, Ven
- The Death of Isaac Brock By Berton, Pierre
- Bold, Brave, and Born to Lead Major General Isaac Brock and the Canadas By Fryer, Mary Beacock