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## Facts on Figures

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**What It Is:** This bronze figure of legendary Canadian oarsman Edward "Ned" Hanlan stands nearly 3 metres high, and, strangely, has the body of another oarsman, Joe Wright Jr. of Toronto, who stood in as a model.

But the face is Hanlan's, and everything else about this Toronto Island sculpture speaks to the glory and gusto of a man widely described as Canada's first international sports hero.

The 6-metre-tall monument is the first landmark to greet visitors as they arrive at Hanlan's Point. At the foot of the sculpture, a bronze seagull in flight seems helpless in the shadow of Hanlan's imposing figure.

With a clenched fist tucked behind his back and his right arm wrapped around two giant oars, Hanlan faces the mainland, his eyes casting a fierce gaze at the city's skyline.

The statue is mounted on a pink granite pedestal quarried in Quebec. A sandblasted inscription hails Hanlan as "the most renowned oarsman of any age whose victorious career has no parallel in the annals of sports."

**Who Commissioned It:** City of Toronto. Funded by the City of Toronto and friends of Hanlan.

**Date Unveiled:** 1926. A second unveiling took place in September 2003, when the sculpture was moved.

**Location:** The monument was originally erected at the old Manufacturers Building at Exhibition Place. In 1972, it was moved near the Marine Museum. Eventually, city officials decided to ship it to Toronto Island.

"Hanlan was raised on this island and it seemed an entirely appropriate location for such a significant figure," says city conservator Sandra Lougheed, who oversaw the move.

**Artist:** Emanuel Hahn was famous for his medal and coin designs, some still in circulation. The caribou on the quarter and the sailboat Bluenose on the dime are signed with his "H."

In 1926, Hahn won a public competition for a sculpture to commemorate Hanlan.

**Inspiration:** Born in 1855, Hanlan grew up on the Island and rowed to school on the mainland. As the world's top sculler, he was Canada's first world sporting champion in a singles event. The renowned athlete was also a hotelier and called for nine-hour workdays for civic workers while he served on the Toronto Harbour Trust.

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*One in a series on the stories behind statues and sculptures in the GTA.*

Hicham Safieddine

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