

Proposed Chestermere Sculpture 2020 “Word of Mouth”

Mayor and Council,

Please find following our submission for the proposed sculpture “Word of Mouth” at the Storm Water Retention Park in West Chestermere. Might we suggest this location could be officially named “Retention Park” as it would be both the reliquary for historic objects as well as the storm water retention site? Logically this site could be designed as a destination all-season park amenity in town. The word “Retention” used as the Park name becomes a subtle double entendre.

Conceptually the intention of the sculpture “Word of Mouth” is an artistic blend between Chestermere’s fabric of Historic Artifacts integrated with introduced contemporary forms, concepts and ideals. The underlining narrative of “Word of Mouth” is the importance of communication in shaping the historic and contemporary evolution of our home town of Chestermere.

The intent of the proposed sculpture is to celebrate the Historic Legacy of the Summer Village of, and Town of Chestermere. The sculpture would act as the focal point of the collection of outdoor historic artifacts. When communities grow and thrive, verbal culture is the essence of daily life. Traditionally oral histories are passed by word of mouth down through generations in a community. History is fluid. The spoken word becomes an ephemeral texture that contributes to the historic cultural fabric.

A common interpretation of Heritage includes new objects and spaces which will in time harness the patina of time similarly as do older objects and spaces. The term Heritage does not have a determined date when heritage starts. Objects of heritage are embedded in an experience created by various kinds of users and the people who attempt to manage this experience.

“Word of Mouth” would be an engaging play based experience for both children and their parents whose focus is their communication in the immediate world around them. Repeated visual and tactile contact with these community artifacts would create an experiential learning environment relevant place of civic historicism in everyday lives. The intent is to place a “Time Capsule” within the work which would act as an interactive component allowing the opportunity for the community to house familial letters and small artifacts. This would attest to an individual’s connection with Chestermere.

“Retention Park” is an ideal destination for these historic artifacts. There is sufficient space to place community artifacts in a logical sequence that respectfully frames the compelling narrative of Chestermere’s history and into the future. Sensitive design of the site’s spatial arrangement would integrate the existing land and water based assets with cyclists and pedestrian access. The site and the proposed sculpture location have high visibility from the road which would embed it in the community’s consciousness and reinforce all season use. Logical approach to the site programming would encourage mixed use activities that encourage expanded contact with the community’s collection of artifacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this proposal for the sculpture “Word of Mouth”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chestermere Historical Foundation