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*Hills of Hope
Historical Society*



Mayor Rodney Shaigec
53109A Highway 779
Parkland County, AB
T7Z 1R1

May 22, 2012

Subject: Monument Sustainability

Dear Mr. Mayor,

The Hills of Hope Historical Society members wish to introduce ourselves to our Parkland County representatives and have attached an overview of who we are and what we do.

Over the years we have applied for and received permission from Parkland County for the erection of eight historical signs and have plans for at least five more. Because our membership is aging, we have serious concerns about the ongoing maintenance of these signs which are all located within the County.

The members believe our contribution to the communities is invaluable and has largely been unrecognized and our concern is for the future. We wish to bring our efforts to the attention of the County and request a meeting to discuss possible collaboration going forward.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,

[Redacted signature]

Alice Gaschnitz, President
Hills of Hope Historical Society

[Redacted address]

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HILLS OF HOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Past and the Future

The Hills of Hope Historical Society began in 1976 when a group of citizens identified the need to document and preserve the history of the region. The Hills of Hope were defined as stretching from RR 20 in the east to RR 50 in the west; the North Saskatchewan River in the south and to the north edge of Parkland County. This area falls entirely within the boundaries of Parkland County.

Initially the Society undertook to publish a community history book entitled Hills of Hope, covering the beginnings with the pioneers up to about 1940+. The book, published in 1976, includes family stories and the record of the land, governments, communities, churches, schools, labour, roads, and soldiers.

Subsequent to the publication of the Hills of Hope, the Society began the ongoing project of erecting markers for the early schools in the area. To date eight such signs have been put up, with at least 5 pending. Some of the signs are partially funded by Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. The Society has built cairns to mark area families and history at Manly Hall and Duffield Hall. Donations have been made to several churches and communities in the area to assist with memorials.

Donations have been made to the Multicultural Centre in Stony Plain, Pioneer Museum to help with the removal of Warden School to the Museum grounds and Wabamun museum received a grant from the Society to help get it started and to other projects..

Grants are currently available, upon application, to organizations within the boundaries to assist with projects that address the preservation of history in our communities.

In 2002, the second edition of community history was published under the name Hills of Hope - The Next Generation and spans the time from 1940 to 2000. The Society has donated copies to Region libraries and schools.

The first edition went to second printing and is completely sold out. It is available online through the efforts of the University of Calgary who applied for and received permission to upload the book to the web.

In 2005 Hills of Hope Historical Society received an award from the Alberta Historical Foundation for the work it has done to preserve our past. Only ten such awards were given in the province that year.

The members of the Society are getting on in age and have concerns about the future of the organization. We believe we have made an exceptional contribution to the community with little fanfare and enormous pride that we have been able to serve our communities. We will do so as long as we are able.

Prepared May 2012