

TOWN LAUNCHES NEW DONATION PROGRAM

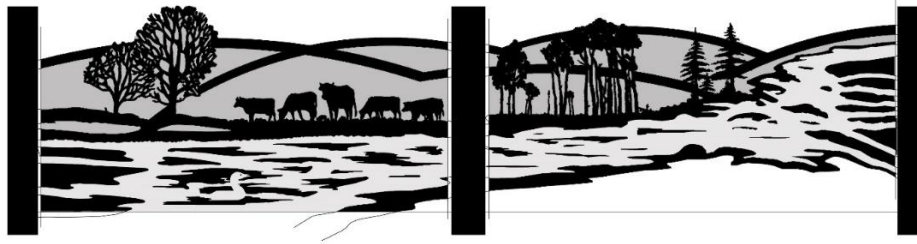


Pictured: Rick Everett, Mayor Jennifer Handley, Michael and Claire Perks

Nanton, AB: Members of Council and some special guests today inaugurated the Town's new donation installation at the Westview Pond with the planting of some trees. Going forward, public asset donations for trees, picnic tables, bike racks or other approved special requests anywhere in Town will be recognized through a plaque installed on the wall at the Westview Pond.

The first two dedications on the wall will be in memory of Rusty Everett and Nora Tighe, with Mountain Ash trees planted at the Westview Pond in their names.

The specially commissioned piece has been undertaken by the Little Monkey Metalworks Team of Okotoks. The artist Michael Perks, along with his collaborative design partner, wife Claire, have created a truly remarkable structure, drawing on the beauty of our local landscape and setting quite a high standard for public art. The cost of this memorial plaque donation structure of \$15,000 is funded from the Public Realm Reserve. The installation of the piece also utilized the skills of the Team's other members: Techno Metal Post Chinook, Jeremy Comstock of Nanton and the welding installation skills of Wild West Welding.



Art by Michael Perks (Little Monkey Metal Works team)

“Council is so excited to present this incredible piece of artwork to our community. This piece not only enhances and complements the Westview Pond area but serves a very special purpose, giving families the opportunity to purchase a lasting tribute for a loved one. This is meant to be broad reaching and attainable for all budgets and not solely limited to memorials. It could be in appreciation of someone or an opportunity for your business or family to donate to the Town’s beautification upgrades. Council is proud to be able to dedicate the first two plaques in memory of Rusty Everett and Nora Tighe, two extraordinary citizens of our town that gave so much of themselves to our community.” *Jennifer Handley, Mayor*

“People typically wish a donation plaque, often in memory of loved one, to be installed on a particular donated asset like a bench or tree in a favoured location. However, sometimes the trees don’t make it, an asset wears out or is damaged beyond repair. We are then left with a unique plaque - that is important to somebody - without a home or purpose. Going forward, many such donations will be recognized through a plaque on this installation instead. It is our hope that this piece of public art will also inspire more donations to our ‘Public Realm’ reserve, created in part to hold donated funds until we undertake a strategic annual workplan of park, trail and boulevard improvements in line with the wishes of donors.”
Neil Smith, Chief Administrative Officer



Pictured: Plaque dedication side of the installation

For more information on the Donation Program or the Public Realm Reserve, please contact the Town Office or visit the [municipal website](#). Like all registered municipalities, the Town is a qualified donee and can issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes.

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