



Town of Olds

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For Immediate Release

Olds Lions Club Works Jointly with Town to Develop a Memorial Forest in the Olds Cemetery Expansion

February 25, 2019, Olds, Alberta – News release

In 2016, it was identified that the 13 acre Olds Cemetery was reaching capacity. Plans commenced in 2017 to develop an additional 20 acre parcel immediately to the south of the existing lands.

The southern development of the Olds Cemetery is a long-term project the Town will implement over the coming decades with immediate plans for additional columbaria space and room for expanded interment options, as well as landscaping, benches for seating and other enhancements.

The Olds Lions Club, on behalf of Lion clubs in the southern half of Alberta, approached the Town in 2017 with a proposal of establishing a Memorial Forest. “The memorial forest concept fit well into the Town’s existing plans for the Olds Cemetery to include features like a gazebo and memorial spaces beyond traditional interment plots”, says Doug Wagstaff, Town of Olds Director of Community Services.

Development of the Memorial Forest within the new cemetery expansion moved forward with the Lions Club sponsoring 110 trees which were planted in 2018. A gazebo was built in the fall with the landscaping to be completed in 2019.

Lions members have committed to fund \$20,000 toward the cost of the trees. The Club is already three-quarters of the way to that goal. The Lions Club has also committed to raising funds over the next two years to cover the \$70,000 cost for the construction of the gazebo and develop a gathering area. There will be a memorial plaque placed at the foot of each tree in honor of deceased Lions Club members, and recognition signage to identify the memorial area.

“The completed project will have an impact on people - a pleasing place to visit, as the trees mature around the gazebo it will be a comforting place when people come to honour a friend or family member”, says Henry Czarnota, Zone Chairman in District C2 and local Olds Lions Member, heading up this project for the Lions Club provincially.

A memorial tree forest with a gazebo is a way to commemorate service of Lions members and at the same time develop a lasting legacy for the entire community to enjoy.

Council approved \$165,000 in the 2018 Capital Budget to develop approximately 3/4 hectare (2 ac) in the north-east portion of the 8 hectares (20 acres) of land identified for cemetery expansion. Based off the Cemetery Expansion Area Conceptual Master Plan

detailed design drawings to done for an initial expansion to include more space for columbarium placement, scattering gardens, gazebo, space for family plots, and a leg of road for a loop to be completed. A parking lot improvement on the south west corner of the existing cemetery at the entrance to the new expansion area was also completed in 2018 as part of this plan. The intent of the additions in the expansion is to create a more park-like setting as a memorial park with gathering spaces to compliment gravestones and memorial monuments.

For more information:

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