

Best Practice

War Memorial Restorations

CONTACT

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THE PRACTICE

This project involves the restoration of two war memorials in the City of Moose Jaw. The key success factor in both restorations was the energetic engagement of community volunteers in preserving and respecting the past.

THE PROCESS

In early 2010, Lt. Col. Gerry Carline took it upon himself to proceed with the restoration of one of the Moose Jaw's war memorials. Lt. Col. Carline addressed City Council in hopes to receive funding from the City to assist with his project. The memorial was exposed to the elements for over 61 years which created extensive damage. Also, Lt. Col. Carline, through his extensive research, concluded that the names of 25 local casualties were missing from the memorial and he intended to add their names during the restoration process. The City approved funding and the City also removed signage that interfered with the memorial site. In February of 2011, Lt. Col. Carline approached City Council looking for permission to install at WWI Air Force memorial. The Memorial was found in a refuse pile at a Boy Scout camp approximately 10 years prior. Council granted permission to place the memorial in a local park.

THE RESULTS

The results included a full restoration of the Peacock War Memorial which also included a rededication service. The service included a fly past by the Snow Birds Aerobatic Team from 15 Wing Moose Jaw. The rededication service took place on September 19, 2010 and included Lt. Col. Carline and several local dignitaries including elected and military officials. The Air Force Memorial's permanent placement is yet to be completed.

The process will benefit the community as a whole for many years to come and shows that the City of Moose Jaw does not and will not forget those who served our country and fought for our freedom.

LESSONS LEARNED

A lesson learned would be the importance of respecting and maintaining war memorials of all kinds throughout the community as a constant reminder of those who served our country and fought for our freedom. The key involvement and active leadership of engaged and energetic volunteers cannot be overstated.