



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution

September 21st 2019

TOWNSHIP OF RUSSELL LAUNCHES NEW HISTORICAL PLAQUE PROGRAM

Russell, ON – At the Russell Heritage Festival on Saturday, September 21st 2019, the Township of Russell unveiled the first four plaques as part of the new Historical Plaque Program.

The municipal program seeks to commemorate historically significant buildings, properties, or people within the Township of Russell. Sites recognized include the Great Russell Fire in 1915 near the Old Registry Office, the historic St. Andrew's and St. Paul's United Church Cemetery, the newly renamed County bridge in honour of the early milling industry started by the Carscadden family, and the Church Museum Building at the Keith M. Boyd Museum being the oldest public building in the Township.

Speakers included Warden Kirby, from the United Counties of Prescott and Russell; Pierre Leroux, Mayor of the Township of Russell, various members of the Russell and District Historical Society; and Barry Carscadden, representing the Carscadden family.

Each bronze plaque, designed and manufactured through John Jackson of Things Made, has a historical photo and bilingual text describing the site's historical significance. To relay the complete stories of each site, there are further details and older photos available on the Township's website. As the program progresses, additional features such as tour maps and YouTube videos of resident's stories will be incorporated.

The Township anticipates the program will grow to 20 plaques within the next 5 years, creating a network of the Township's history across all villages. The goal of this program is to tell the story of the Township, and to foster an interest and understanding of our community's roots. The program is not only an investment to preserve the Township's history, but will also be a tourism activity for visitors and residents alike.

The project was able to begin with the assistance of and through a partnership with the Russell and District Historical Society, which is why the first four locations are within the village of Russell. The Historical Society dedicated many hours to researching the events and retrieving historical photos for the plaques, in addition to financially contributing to these plaques. The Township looks forward to continue working with this group and other organizations for future historical plaques across all villages as the program progresses.

A new plaque in the program for the village of Embrun is already in the planning stages, thanks to a partnership with a local french club.

The Township invites members of the public to provide their suggestions for future sites for consideration through the Historical Plaque Program by contacting info@russell.ca. Any information regarding the suggested site is appreciated.

For additional information, please contact Megan Beehler, Communications Coordinator at meganbeehler@russell.ca or 613-443-3066 ext. 2342.