

## Peace Cairn to be relocated due to the sale of the Visitor Information Building

August 10, 2018

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – The municipally-owned surplus property at 4910 – 55A Street, Wetaskiwin—on which the Visitor Information Building and Peace Cairn sit—has been approved for sale by City Council for \$830,000, with the buyer taking possession October 15, 2018.

Moving forward, Wetaskiwin City Council has directed Administration to prepare and present a plan detailing options for the relocation of the Peace Cairn—including all proposed locations and costs associated with the move. Administration will also investigate declaring the future Peace Cairn location a *Municipal Historic Resource*, which protects historic resources from demolition or alterations that take away from their heritage value.

“Due to the significance of the Peace Cairn, a condition of the sale was to allow the City time to relocate it to its final resting place,” said Dave Burgess, City Manager. “We have until May 31, 2019 to move the Peace Cairn, and will collaborate with the four Cree Nations of Maskwacîs on the future location of the cairn, as well as any traditional ceremonies required throughout this process.”

The Visitor Information Centre located at 4910 – 55A Street, Wetaskiwin is now closed to the public, however, local brochures and Travel Alberta information can still be found at Wetaskiwin City Hall (4705 – 50 Avenue).

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For more information please contact:

Dave Burgess  
City Manager  
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## Backgrounder:

- The property located at 4910 – 55A Street, Wetaskiwin (Plan 7920904, Block 87A) has been approved for sale by City Council, with an offer of \$830,000 being accepted. We are not releasing the name of the purchaser due to FOIP.
- The Peace Cairn must be relocated by to May 31, 2019.
- Administration to prepare and present to a plan for the relocation of the peace cairn, including co-operation and collaboration with the four Cree Nations of Maskwacîs. Administration will also investigate declaring the future location of the Peace Cairn a *Municipal Historic Resource*.
- The Visitor Information Centre is now closed to the public, but local informational brochures are still available at Wetaskiwin City Hall (4705 – 50 Avenue).

## Brief History of the Peace Cairn:

- As part of the celebrations for Canada's Diamond Jubilee in 1927, the people of Wetaskiwin erected a cairn to mark the 60 years of peace between the Nehiyawak (Cree) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) Nations. Local school children each carried a rock and walked in procession to the hills (now called Peace Hills) overlooking Wetaskiwin to erect the Peace Cairn. The cairn was dedicated on the morning of July 2, 1927.
- The Peace Cairn was moved from Peace Hills to Centennial Park (adjacent to Hwy 2A) in 1980 when the province widened Highway 13.
- The Peace Cairn was relocated again in 2006 as part of Wetaskiwin's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the junction of Hwy 2A and 50 Avenue (where it is currently located).