

January 4, 2019

Greetings from the Miami Parks Board,

Happy New Year to all the citizens of Miami! I am excited to inform everyone about a major project the Miami Parks Board plans to undertake this year at the Cenetaph Park. We gave a presentation of our improvement plans at the RM of Thompson information evening last November. A display of the project plans is located at the RM of Thompson office.

Incase you did not attend, our plans include building a new arbor at the entrance gate and putting up a decorative iron fence around the entire property, which would recreate the appearance of the Cenetaph park when it was first developed. In addition to that, we plan to build a Barkman Stone retaining wall inside the park which would run the entire span of the inside border of the flower beds on the west, south and east sides of the park, creating a sunken interior, but keeping the level of the flower beds the same as the surrounding sidewalk. On the north lawn, there will be a Barkman Stone raised bed for planting a poppy garden. Along the north perimeter of the fence there will be a new lilac hedge planted. There will be a low hedge planted in front of the fencing along the entire south and east sides with mulch underneath. Four new ornamental trees will be planted on the property, three on the east side and one on the north lawn. The stone bench will be relocated to create a sitting area inside the park.

The Hills of Home book mentions the structure that was built to the right of the Cenetaph to include the names of all those who served in the Second World War. The committee that built the structure had hoped that in the future another one would be erected on the west side of the Cenetaph to name all of those who served in WW1. Currently the Cenetaph itself lists only the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice and did not return from WW1. We would like to take it one step further and list the names of the people from our Municipality who served in the Boer War, Korean War, Balkan War and Afghanistan War. Finally, we plan to have six informational plaques erected on the west lawn to include information from all six of these wars and the role Canada played in each.

This is an ambitious project, and costly, so we are starting early this year to find any grant funding that might be available, and to host some fundraising events. The first fundraiser will take place on Sunday Feb 3 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary at Miami Church. Pat Gibson of Morden, formerly of Rosebank will be speaking about a trip she made several years ago as the guest of the French Legion to honor her uncle, David Urquhart, whose plane was lost in the skies over France during the Second World War. Coffee, tea and dainties will be served, and you can enjoy music from the World War 2 era. Admission will be by donation. The next fundraiser will be held on Saturday March 9 from 2-5 PM at the Miami Church basement. We will be hosting a Paint Afternoon, where we will be led by an artist who will teach us how to paint a picture of a poppy field we can take home with us at the end of the afternoon. The cost of this event is \$40 and you must preregister by March 1 with Heather Imrie by texting 745-8858 or calling 435-0493. We will announce other fundraising events as they are planned.

Due to the size of this project, we anticipate that we will most likely not be able to raise the full amount needed with fundraising and grant applications. We may also need to make a public appeal for funding assistance. We feel that the Cenetaph Park is a public place well deserving of our community's respect and support because of what it represents, and to continue to educate the young people in our community about our freedoms in Canada and the enormous sacrifices it cost us. If anyone would like to help us out with a donation to this project, you can do so at the RM of Thompson Office, where you would be provided with a receipt for income tax purposes. If anyone has any questions about the project, please get in touch with me at 435-0493 and I will answer them the best I can.

Thank you in advance for any support you could give to this worthy project. All the best in 2019!

Sincerely,
Heather Imrie