

Community Recognition Celebration – Mayor’s Speech Thursday, July 14, 2011

About the importance of business in the City of St. Albert. Thank you Charlene.

Charlene Speaks.

Thank you Charlene. So that’s a little bit of a glimpse of what you are going to see on one of the sculptures in a little while.

Now I am going to take few minutes to acknowledge each of the recipients who are being honoured with a place in our community recognition garden. As this is the inaugural event we are recognizing one hundred and fourteen individuals, and couples and businesses. I would like to ask that you leave your applause until the end. So this is a blend of many of the past and today’s leaders and obviously it is a recognition of 150 years including today. Now this is a little bit of a challenge for me today. As I attempt to determine on how I am going to do this with speed and dignity. I decided that I am going to take the ten seconds that each one of them deserves. But is about, it is probably about 20 minutes. And I really think that it is so important and judging by the turnout this evening. First we needed sunshine and we got that. But we are going to go through them, with speed and dignity.

First recognition, and please do hold your applause. In the area of Arts and Culture, Dave Geddes, a former teacher, an author and historian and founding member of the St. Albert Singers and he has been honoured with an Albert Centennial Medal in 2005.

Mrs. Bridget Flynn who came from Ontario with her husband, John, and with five children to homestead. She was a organ player, piano player, a harpist and a violinist at her church.

Dr. Giroux and Alice Giroux They were married in 1903 and Dr. Giroux’s office was in his home. Alice gave voice and piano lessons in their home, and gave concerts in their home. And Dr. Drew’s medical office was not only a home to St. Albertans but also Namao, Villeneuve and Rivière-Qui-Barre’s residents.

Sister St. Joseph of Arimathea She was a Grey Nun, a registered Nurse, a pharmacist, a musician and she gave piano lessons and organized youth choirs.

Emile Tardif, a pastor, a founder of the drama club, a founder of the youth club, authored two books on St. Albert History, and a advocate for drama, arts and music.

Florence Lefebvre, a dedicated museum volunteer, authored an historical play, organized the Squirreltes and had a watch collection that she donated to the museum.

Ruth Horne, who contributed into the preservation of St. Albert’s history, cataloguing artefacts, fundraising activities, worked with the annual bird count, Amnesty

International, social justice and continued until the age of eighty-seven with the library and museum.

Arlene Borgstede, working as a dedicated volunteer with the St. Albert's Historical Society, worked as a volunteer with the Father Lacombe Museum, was the Chair of a Board for the Museum, organized many things such as the restoration of the mission bells.

Ray Pinco, contributions to preserving St. Albert's history and education of the community, current president of our Historical Society.

Lewis Lavoie gained international recognition. Paints to this day and his live arts performances are unbelievable, painted for Queen Elizabeth, for the Prime Minister, for the Premier, and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity.

Francis Schuchard has taught thousands of St Albertans and young area students to sing, to play piano and violin.

Dr. Lillian Upright, the founder of the original St. Albert Singers and a local piano teacher for thirty-two years.

Mr. Gerry Buccini, St. Albert Community Band Founder and builder extraordinaire and an educator for our community.

Carol Watamaniuk, contributions in so many ways to the culture and the arts of our community, has served on forty boards in our community and several terms on Council.

Pat Wagensveld, visual artist and president of the Visual Arts and Studio Association. Has worked with the Arts and Heritage Foundation, Profiles Art Gallery and Economic Development & Downtown Association.

Andy Michaelson, development of the Literary Arts Program and the cofounder of Poets Inc.

Joanna Drummond. A talented visual artist, Joanna's pottery is found around the world and pieces of her art are now at the Alberta Foundation of the Arts permanent collection.

Diedre Allen, visual artist and strong advocate for the development of arts in our community. She was instrumental in developing and forming the Visual Arts Department in the City, an incredibly creative women.

Larry Mitchell, in the area of community builder. Development of hockey and ball in St. Albert, overall contribution of community sports, renowned as a historian in the sports of St. Albert, a community builder. In the dictionary his picture is right there under community builder.

Ruth Moellenbeck, long-time community volunteer and chair of the Community Information Volunteer Centre for the past ten years.

Gareth Jones founding president and board member of the Rugby Club. He has provided the leadership to numerous provincial, national and international championships, inducted into the Alberta Rugby Hall of Fame in 2005.

Laurie Hunt, a leader of the St. Albert Nordic Ski Club. Tireless volunteer hours to the youth of this community in the cross country programs.

Edith Martin, years of volunteering as Chair with the Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel relative to aquatics. She is "Mrs. Aquatics" in St. Albert.

Dan Stoker, passionate supporter of our natural history and an infectious and enthusiastic educator. Developed the "Green Schools Program", which is now involved in one thousand Canadian schools, active member of BLESS and the River Edge Enhancement Program.

Mark McTavish, a true community builder, St. Albert Sailfish Clubs and St. Albert Nordic Racing.

And the Founders of Lo-Se-Ca doing God's work, helping all of those children and adults with disabilities.

- Armand and Ferne Carignan
- Gaston & Ada Curial
- Victor Douchay
- Keith & Patricia Hamilton
- Kay Krupa
- Nick & Mary Muntjewerf
- Yvonne Simpson
- Arnie & Marguerite Sprogis

doing God's work with Lo Se Ca.

Father Albert Lacombe. Thank you Father Lacombe. Nothing more needs to be said.

Michel Normand and Rose Plante, husband and wife, first to arrive with Albert Lacombe. They worked at the mission for years and they were entrusted with the journey of Grey Nuns.

And then there were Sisters Adele Lamy, Zoe Leblanc- Emery and Marie Jacques-Alphonse. Three of the original Grey Nuns that came to St. Albert. They worked with the oblates, nurses, housekeepers, caregivers, orphan-leaders

Christine (Lacombe) Harnois, now this is Father Lacombe's sister. I could just see, "Hey Sis, you want to come out west and help out?" She came out west and she helped build St. Albert. She was married and had children and left a legacy in our community.

Vital Grandin, The first Bishop of the Diocese of St. Albert, a strong advocate for the welfare of the Métis. He travelled to France, he was instrumental in the formation of the Mounted Rifles, and he nursed hundreds and hundreds who were affected with the smallpox epidemic.

The Métis No Aboriginal. No Métis. No French. No Métis. No Métis. No St. Albert. Thank you to the Métis.

The Engagés. The Engagés were the French equivalent of "hired hands". They did everything that was required of them to build our community. And during the 1860's most of the engagés were Métis.

The Oblate Bothers. Men who joined the Oblate Order as workers not as priests. They were labourers, tradesmen, carpenters, cobblers, blacksmiths, millers, sawyers, cattlemen and farmers. They were caretakers of our community.

Brother Anthony Kowalczyk, a brother who came to the missions in St. Albert in Alberta in 1896. He worked closely with the Métis people and he is buried here in St. Albert where many continue to visit his grave.

The Grey Nuns, The Founderists of the West. They did it all. They did everything from the school work, to the hospitals, to the orphanages, to the making sure that the sick and the elderly were taken care of.

Hippolyte Leduc, Father Leduc is buried at the crypt in St. Albert. He was elected by the community to travel to Ottawa to meet with the government to make sure that the west was represented and to make sure that the Métis were represented. And Leduc is named after Father Leduc.

Samuel Cunningham. He anglicized the aboriginal names and he was elected to the North West Territories Legislative Assembly. Well respected. He was so well respected that the men that were to run against him pulled their names out so that he could be elected by acclamation. He was also the leader of The Riflemen.

Daniel Maloney. He was elected to two terms of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly and founder of two farmer's organizations. And the First Lieutenant of St. Albert Rifles.

Alfred Arcand, Former North West Mounted Police. He returned to Quebec and he brought many French families with him. The Chevigny's, the Xavier's, the Gideon's, and The Bellisle's. One of the founders of Bellerose School and its very first teacher.

David Chevigny served on the first Town Council. And in a full page article written in the Edmonton newspaper he was named as St. Albert's Long Time Honoured Citizen.

Fleuri Perron, a businessman, owned several businesses, a hotel, a brickyard, a general store, a butcher shop. He served on St. Albert's Town Council. He was the Mayor for many years. He generously donated his time, and in the rear of his store he had a house where he clothed and fed needy people.

Michel Mérer. This community minded pastor served twenty years on the school board, elected to Town Council in 1912. And to his honour the brick school was named the Father Mérer School.

Joseph Leonard, a blacksmith, elected to Town Council, Postmaster 1894, in charge of the telephone exchange, before Blackberries.

Jacob Mauchle operated the telephone exchange 1909 – 1949. Think about that, can you imagine operating that for 40 years? Oh my goodness. But he boarded children to make sure that they were attending the convent school properly.

Walter Veness, business man, hardware, lumber, served six years on Town Council. He was appointed Police Magistrate, a position he kept for thirty years. He was the registrar for vital statistics and a school trustee.

Lucien Boudreau, a businessman, he owned the hotel. He was a four-term MLA for the City of St. Albert.

Henry McKenney, general Store, grist mill, construction, postmaster. He was on one end of the first long distance phone call between St. Albert and Edmonton. The first MLA for St. Albert was Henry McKenney.

Father Alphonse Jan, Father Jan we know him today. He cast the Father Lacombe statue. He began a national campaign to raise funds to establish a municipal park in Mission. He worked on making sure that the statue of Father Lacombe was dealt with appropriately and the museum was the first in Alberta and he was their leader for that.

Marie Woiniewicz, born in Poland. One of the original students in the brick school. She returned to teach in St. Albert for forty years. Can you imagine, forty years teaching in St. Albert? Volunteered as the town's librarian and she was one of the youngest young women who helped restore the Father Lacombe Chapel.

Michael Hogan, business man, real estate and insurance. He was elected as Mayor in 1919, a position he held for 24 years until his death. You have to wonder if being Mayor for 24 years contributed to it? He was the only Mayor in our history to die while in office and a proud member of the Knights of Columbus.

Susie Atkinson Susie was the one who began a travelling library in her car. She took her library to the Sunday School, and she took it to the local businesses of the butcher and the shoemaker before a library was established in the basement of the Community Hall in 1950. She was instrumental in making sure that the Centennial Library was ultimately open to the public in 1967.

George Gaulin, a businessman in auto service, served on Town Council for eight years, served on the school board and served two terms as chair.

Neil M. Ross, a businessman for trucking, served as the Mayor between 1946 & 51 was a charter member of the Lion's Club and of the Knights of Columbus.

Lorne Akins, a local farmer appointed to the Board of Administrators for the Town. He made sure that he was active as he helped flood the river for the community rinks, building a fire escape at the schools and he was a proud member of the Canadian Legion and the Lions Club.

Charles Joyal, a business man for the general store. He coached youth baseball and hockey, endless hours. He was always engaged in conversations with the young.

Bert Sumner, elevator agent and business, feed-mill and woodwork factory. The family sold their farm to a young Ted and Lois Hole.

Maurice Roberge, coal miner, trucker, caretaker, coached youth teams, especially hockey. He drove boys back and both, girls back and forth. Played hockey in Edmonton and worked to make sure that St. Albertan boys got to play for the Edmonton Oil Kings. Eddie Joyal, who went to the N.H.L. was with Maurice Roberge.

Harold Vague, elevator agent and sheriff. He was instrumental in the formation of the United Church, Second Scout Master of the first of the St. Albert Scouts.

Ted Tetreau, school principal, served on Town Council and the Credit Union Board. He formed the first Air Cadet Platoon, encouraged many youth, including the girls to become involved with Air Cadets.

George & Rose Lee. George and Rose Lee had five children and three foster children. A carpenter, a construction supervisor, an officer of 533 Air Cadet Squadron. Rose was a member of the Women's Institute, The Catholic League and the Alter Society.

Dan Richardson, key organizer of the Second St. Albert Scouts, served on Town Council, active coordinator and volunteer builder of the St. Albert United Church.

Leo Nickerson, a key organizer of the Second St. Albert Scouts, Cub Scouts. In a tragic accident, Leo died while attempting to rescue Cubs from drowning in a severe storm that came up on Lake Wabuman. Now the school of Leo Nickerson is named after him.

Allan Blair, teacher, principal, businessman, insurance man, on the Board of Administrators for the new town, charter member of Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus.

William (Bill) Veness, Mayor from 51 to 57, Board of Administrators of the town from 1957 – 1962. Lions Club Member and formed the St. Albert Credit Union.

Sadie Ross, The first woman in St. Albert to be elected to public office, Member of the Women's Institute, Lioness Club, Youville Auxiliary and the Cancer Society. Long term member of the Historical Society, helping out right until her 90th year.

Ed Savoie, business man, trucking service. His service was remarkable everything from the Curling Club, to Lions Club to the Community League. Ed was the Citizen of the Decade for the 70's.

Henry Terrault, first Board of Directors of the Community League, was a school trustee, Citizen of the Year in 1974 and a founding member of the Curling Club.

Pauline Vaugois. Pauline had dedicated decades of commitment as a volunteer working with the needy, helping promote bilingualism, the education and social justice. She worked with the Catholic Women's League, a long term Girl Guide leader and also a Citizen of the Year in the 70's.

Ethel Cuts, a teacher, dedicated to fitness and healthy living, founded gymnastics and badminton clubs at the Community Hall in the 1950's. Established fitness programs for the seniors and the local chapter of the IODE and was the Citizen of the Decade for the 70's.

Don Horne, tremendous leadership in the Food Bank, the Historical Society and the Friends of the Museum. Has volunteered many hours in many categories including Girl Guides, where he is now an honorary guide.

Carol Rankin, founding member of the St. Albert Community Gardens and Partners in the Parks. A modern community builder.

Bernie & Alfreda Melik, organized and developed the Knights of Columbus program and to this day continue to operate and provide leadership for the Knights of Columbus Basketball Program, forty years.

Jean and David Folinsbee, built and operated the Red Willow Badminton Club and have been doing that for over twenty years.

Sandra Fenton, Chair of the 55+ Games, worked on Appeal Boards, Assessment Boards, Friends of the Children's Festival Society and School-Parent Councils.

Wayne McCutcheon, another modern volunteer, involved in the Nordic Ski Club, the Rotary Club, and the Scout programs.

Dieter Knobloch, who we recently lost. Considered one of the most influential builders and supporters of soccer in St. Albert. He organized the building of the soccer clubhouse and helped raise the funds for it. The soccer program would not be what it is today without Dieter, a coach, a referee, a board member and a facilities manager.

Margaret Plain, CIVC Volunteer of the Decade in the last ten years, involved in so many things, everything from the Historical Society to the creation of the Black Robe's Vision and numerous hours leading and volunteering at the St. Albert Botanic Park.

Ann Conlin, contributions to the development of the arts in the community have been tremendous. Long volunteer hours with the museum, and the Heritage Sites for the Arts & Heritage Foundation and past Chair, and current president of the Friends of the Arden Theatre Society.

John Beedle, former founder and member of the Garden Club and has been a member ever since it was founded. John played a major role in the development of the Botanic Park. And now has a building, called the John Beedle Centre, named after him. John was responsible for the creation of the tree-lined streets which St. Albert has become famous for.

Richard Plain created a vision and was instrumental in the development of the Botanic Park, former mayor of the City of St. Albert and a builder in so many ways.

Elke Blodgett, a long term commitment to the environment and her efforts are unprecedented. She is an artist with forty years of experience in pottery and her work is represented in private, corporate and government collections in North America and Europe.

Len Bracko, involved in both municipal, provincial and a long term supporter of this community. Numerous provincial and national boards active in providing leadership development and a school teacher.

Ted & Lois Hole, contributions to this community in numerous areas. Including philanthropy, education, vision, volunteerism and community initiatives. Lois Hole was the Volunteer of the Decade in the 90's

Richard Fowler, CIVC Volunteer of the Decade of the 80's. A former member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Minister of the Crown in the Government of Alberta, two time Mayor of the City of St. Albert and Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta.

Hu Puffer, significant contributions to the volunteerism and advancing our community's well-being. In the past twenty years he was logged 750 rides and 2000 hours back and

forth, helping those to go back and forth to the Cross Cancer, countless hours to the St. Albert United Church.

Bob Russell, numerous, numerous, numerous volunteer board commitments, including BLESS and the St. Albert Senior Citizen's Club, former leader of the Liberal Party of Alberta and former City Councillor.

Doug Ritzen, contributes in the numerous volunteer and community organizations and causes. He is a philanthropist in almost every category of giving today and in the past in our community.

Ernie Jamison. Ernie purchased the St. Albert Gazette in 1966, without the Gazette we would not be the community we are today. He developed the paper with a focus on community and he served as Member of the Legislative of Assembly. And in working with the newspaper, Sue Gollick, Manager Editor of the St. Albert Gazette for twenty years dedicated to ensuring that readers had a clear understanding of all issues facing our community. She encouraged the development of citizen journalists long before the internet blogs and social media, committed to the recognition of community volunteers was Sue.

Rosanna LaFranchise, a post mistress. Rosanna was in charge of the post office although her husband was the postmaster. In 1939 Rosanna was the first woman officially appointed postmaster in St. Albert and thought to be the first woman post mistress in Alberta.

Andre Gate. He was a St. Albert town employee and together with John Beedle are really acknowledged as being the two people to be sure that they provided a vision of a green community. He initiated the tree planting program and also working to make sure we built skating shakes with in the town and the Mission Clubhouse.

Victor Fernandez, contributions to firefighting in South America, today a firefighter in our city. He founded the Canadian Aid for Fire Services Abroad. And now travels across Western Canada into the United States and into Latin and South America to make sure that those in need have firefighting equipment.

In the area of sports excellence, Joel Benoit, Joel learned how to skate on the ponds of St. Albert. He went on a world tour with the Trail Smoke Eaters and he played with the Montreal Canadians. Then went to war, came back and continued on with the Montreal Canadians. Played in the NHL and he won one Stanley Cup.

Hector Gervais, farmer and curling champion. 1961 Brier and World Champion, 1974 Brier Champion, 1962 and 1970 Provincial Champion. Hector Gervais, a curling builder.

Eddie Joyal, born in St. Albert. He learned to skate on the Sturgeon River, played junior hockey with the Edmonton Oil Kings, and advanced to the Edmonton Flyers, a

professional farm team with the Detroit Red Wings. Made the Red Wings in 1962, ended up playing with the Los Angeles Kings. Finished his career with 185 goals and 189 assists in a major career and he was only the second man to Benoit to play in the NHL.

Troy Murray, In 1982 Troy Murray was chosen to play for Team Canada at the World Junior Ice Hockey Championships. He was named team captain and led the team to a gold medal victory. Troy played 915 career NHL games including one Stanley Cup.

In a community builder category, while they have been shared with you by Charlene Zoltenko,

Neil M. Ross Truck Service, in business from 1935 to 1967 Perron General Store, in operation from 1935 - 1973

Hutchings Shoes, business in operation from 1967 – 1994. It happened to be the first business I stopped in when I came into St. Albert. I remember that I got brand new shoes, my first time in town.

Klondike Inn, business operator from 1965 – 1999

And as the pillar of the business awards

Danny & Sons Auto Service business started in 1954

And Holes Greenhouses and Gardens started in 1952 and moving now to the Enjoy Centre. And those papers can go. I am done with those.

Ladies and Gentlemen, those are 114 individuals, couples and businesses. Please give them a hand.

Applause

And I thought maybe we missed them. If we missed somebody that is why you are going to see sculptures with lots and lots of space for the next thousand years because there are going to be lots of builders that are maybe sitting here today. There may be people that we forgot and there is going to be people that will continue to build this community. We will continue to honour them and we will continue to etch their names forever. And ladies and gentlemen what we are going to do is ask each recipient after we are done here. Come on up Anna. And each one of the recipients or a representative of the family, you are going to be coming forward, and you use these little bags here. We are not going to hand these out individually. Just a beautiful piece of art in recognition. We are going to make sure that each family member gets one okay? So please at your leisure after you have had a chance, before you go home please take one on behalf of your family.

Now we are ready to unveil the community recognition statues. So I would like to ask. I don't know if Councillor Lemieux was able to get here. Is Councillor Lemieux is here? We have five sculptures that we are going to unveil behind you.

Also feel free to mingle and also feel free to grab something to eat. That is the end of our formal program and that's all there was. And I really appreciate you allowing me to move through quickly but I do understand that we had to do it that way we did it. And as soon as I am done counting the evening is yours. Ladies and gentlemen thank you so much for being here.

Oh oh, I missed one person; I am so sorry. Nell, please come up on stage and accept my apologies. Nell Sadie – a life award for all she has done for pottery in this community and teaching others and leading the guild. Sorry I had somehow missed reading your name and paying tribute. Please give Nell a round of applause.