

Artist submissions needed for twin arena legacy

Dawn Smith
Editor

If you have a penchant for designing, the Airdrie Regional Recreational Enhancement Society (ARRS) wants to hear from you.

ARRS has teamed up with Creative Airdrie (CAS) to create a legacy tree project for phase three, the twin arenas, of Genesis Place, and the organizations are looking for local artists to submit their designs.

"It's a community facility, and we want the community's involvement," said Megan Raaflaub O'Reilly, fundraiser support specialist with ARRS.

"We want to create a strong visual focal point to recognize our founders and our donors."

The legacy tree, which was the brainchild of ARRS, will find its permanent home in the lobby of the twin arena, which is currently under construction and expected to be completed this summer.

The organizations envision the project as a large, wall-mounted tree covered in leaves purchased by donors.

ARRS is hoping to sell a total of 400 to 600 engraved metal leaves to businesses, groups and individuals, with a target of 200 by this fall. The money will go towards the twin arenas project.

Gold leaves will sell for \$750, silver for \$500 and bronze for \$250. Youth leaves, the colour of which has not yet been determined, will sell for \$100 each.

Linda Bruce, executive director of CAS, said both organizations want to recognize youth through

the legacy project.

"They are the huge beneficiaries of phase three and certainly ... Genesis Place's programming is done with kids as the No. 1 thought," she said.

"Kids spend 10 sometimes 15 years, how many hours per week, on an ice surface, so they need to be represented in the thank-you."

Megan Raaflaub O'Reilly, who grew up in the Airdrie area, agreed, adding she is excited about the opportunity the project provides for residents.

"I think it is amazing," she said. "For all the kids and families involved in the arenas, what an amazing legacy for them to come back in 15 or 20 years and see their names and show it to their kids. It brings it full circle."

ARRS and CAS are looking for artists' submissions for the design, manufacture and installation of the project, which will fit in a 10-foot high by 8-foot wide space in the lobby of the new phase. The deadline for submission is noon, June 15.

The winning submission will be chosen by the ARRS board and will be announced June 30, with an installation deadline of Sept. 1.

ARRS will cover all of the costs of the design and installation of

the legacy tree. Artists must submit a full-cost projection that includes their own design time, material and installation costs.

Bruce said although the organizers have a conceptual idea, the design details will be left up to the individual artists.

"The trunk could be a painting or sculpture, a carving or some other form of fabrication. We are looking to the arts community for their input," she said. "The leaves themselves will have to allow for engraving and the use of multiple metallics to recognize donor levels."

Bruce encourages artists to submit their ideas.

"This is a great opportunity," she said.

"You will have your art displayed in a very, very public way. This is definitely very important for anyone that wants to start bringing their work to the public, or someone who is wanting to raise their profile in the community. The whole idea is to make sure it is well seen so people know there is a huge contribution by donors."

For more information, or to submit an idea, visit www.creativeairdrie.ca.

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It's a community facility, and we want the community's involvement

— Megan Raaflaub O'Reilly



DAWN SMITH/AIRDRIE ECHO

A City street sweeper works to clean Main Street in front of City Hall, April 19.

Residential clean sweep to start

Dawn Smith
Editor

City crews began their residential street sweeping program in the city's west, April 29, and those who ignore signs may be in for a nasty surprise.

City staff is reminding residents that its tag and tow program will once again be in place and urging residents to avoid about \$100 in fines by moving their vehicles off the street and onto a driveway or rear garage pad from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., when sweepers are in their neighbourhood.

"Watch the orange residential community signs," said Mike Avramenko, team leader of roads.

"There will be signs on all main entrances (to residential areas), but you won't see them on every street."

Airdrie staff will also post crews' progress through Twitter and at www.airdrie.ca.

The city began its tag-and-tow program in 2011, and that year there were about 400 cars towed, with owners charged a \$50 city fine and a \$45 towing fee to cover the cost of the program. Last year the number of vehicles towed decreased by over 70 per cent.

"Residents did a great job working with our public works crews to clear the streets by removing cars. The ultimate goal is to be able to eliminate the tag and tow program because all residents comply in moving their vehicles," said Avramenko.

The residential sweeping program is expected to last until the end of May, weather permitting.

According to Avramenko, city crews will remove between 600 and 650 metric tonnes of material off of roads and out of ditches this spring.

The result will be less air pollution and material going into Airdrie's waterways and better mobility for drivers, explained Avramenko, who added it will be safer for motorcyclists and bicyclists.

Mayor Peter Brown urges residents to allow crews to do their jobs.

"Read the signs, if you see a sign don't park there," he said. "Our city will be cleaned real quick and it will look great."

For more information or to view a street-cleaning map, visit www.airdrie.ca, or contact the public works department at 403-948-8415.

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