

COVID Memorial

Council Presentation
December 6, 2022

Background

July 5, 2022 Council Meeting

COVID-19 Pandemic – Memorial Options 2022/ 231

Moved by: R. Frank THAT Administration prepare a report for Council's consideration by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022 on tangible memorial options and placement locations to recognize the hardships and losses experienced by Strathcona County citizens due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DUE: Q4 2022 (December 6)

Background

A small committee made up of representatives from:

- Family and Community Services;
- Emergency Services;
- Economic Development and Tourism; and
- Recreation, Parks and Culture.

COVID Memorials

As COVID-19 has impacted communities around the world, there have been several memorials completed.

Some have been temporary installations.



National Mall Project



“In America: Remember”
by Suzanne Brennan
Firstenberg.

COVID Memorials

(continued)

Some memorials have honoured specific groups impacted by the pandemic.



Mural in Flushing Meadows, NY



Doctor's Memorial in Lima, Peru.

COVID Memorials

(continued)

Other memorials are done with the contribution of those who have lost loved ones.



Rami's Heart COVID-19 Memorial in Wall Township, NJ



National COVID Memorial Wall in London, UK

COVID Memorials

(continued)

Another type of memorial is a garden such as the London Blossom Garden.

Blossoming trees were chosen because the blossom season coincides with the start of the UK's first national lockdown.



COVID Memorials

(continued)

Local communities:

- City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council
- The Town of Edson is working on “The Resilience Project”.
- “The Healing Project” by the City of St. Albert



“The Healing Project” at St. Albert Place.

Pandemic Impact

Everyone in Strathcona County has been impacted by the pandemic. The biggest impact has been on those who have lost friends and family to COVID-19. The pandemic has also had a significant impact on:

- first responders;
- teachers and students;
- small business owners;
- families with members in long term care facilities and hospitals;
- people graduating or getting married;
- people who had children during the pandemic; and
- people working in industries shut down for months at a time.

Community Resilience

Every single person has experienced life differently due to COVID-19. Strathcona County has adapted and is continuing to recover from the pandemic which is the definition of community resilience.

This community resilience throughout the pandemic is something to be recognized. A COVID-19 memorial can reflect on not only the impacts of COVID-19, but also how the community adapted and thrived.

One element of a memorial that the committee felt was important is to create a space for reflection, connection, and mindfulness.

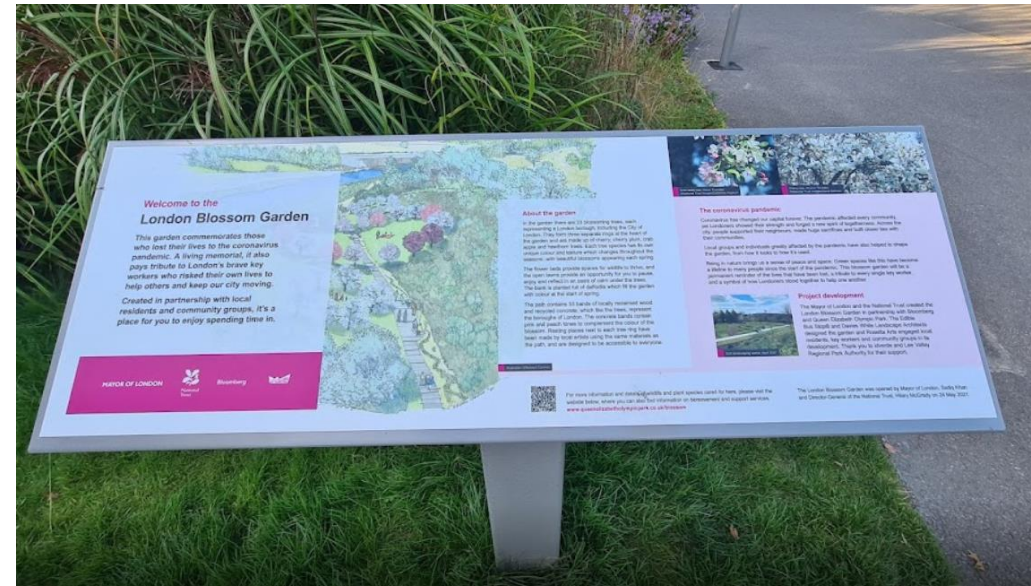
Potential Projects

Under \$5,000 (within operational budget)

- Temporary community art installation
- Interpretive sign
- Memorial plaque with bench seating



Hearts Together Project - Saanich, BC



London Blossom Garden



Memorial Sample

Potential Projects

\$20,000 - \$50,000 (budget ask)

- Mural
- Small garden
- Small water feature



Tim Okamura



Art in Hard Times- Canadian Red Cross



Small Memorial Garden



Water Feature –
Kimberly, BC

Potential Locations

Potential locations for the memorial plaque, small garden or water feature

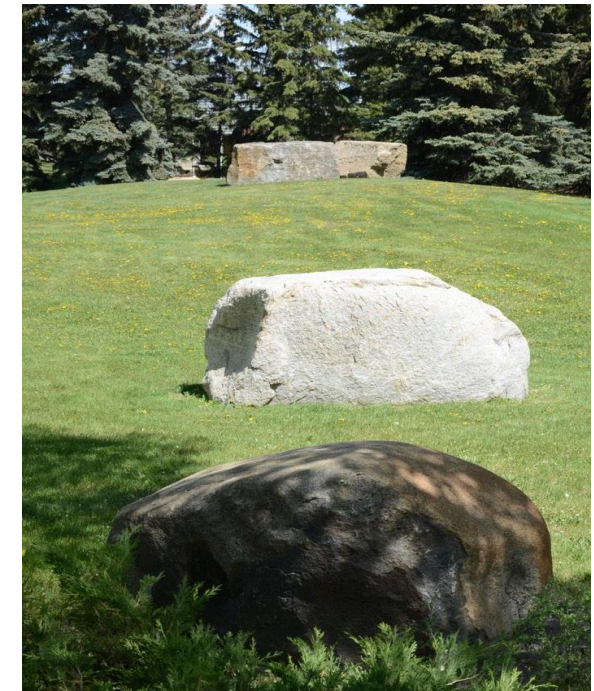
- Volunteer Plaza
- Emerald Hills Regional Park
- Broadmoor Lake Park near the Prairie Sound Garden



Volunteer Plaza



Emerald Hills Regional Park



BLP – Sound Garden

Potential locations for a Mural:

- Recreation facility

Recommendation

That Council approve a small scale temporary COVID-19 memorial, as outlined in Option 1.

Questions