

The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project



Announcement

September 28, 2006

For Immediate Release

The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society is pleased to announce that on Wednesday, September 27, 2006, the Board of Directors of Heritage Park Historical Village approved the replication of a prairie synagogue at the park. The original simple wooden building served the religious and educational needs of the Montefiore Jewish farming community at Sibbald, Alberta from 1913 until about 1925. It was one of a number of similar small synagogues built in the early years of Jewish settlement of the province. Located on a corner of Jacob and Fanny Chetner's farm, from time to time it was also the area's community centre, gathering Jews and their non-Jewish neighbours alike for events throughout the years. The Little Synagogue will join the other historical buildings at Heritage Park to tell visitors about the almost 120-year history of the Jewish people in Southern Alberta.

Before submitting the proposal to Heritage Park officials, the new society's volunteers undertook a great deal of research, and discussed the concept with individuals and organizations in the Jewish Community. Both the Calgary Jewish Community Council and the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta enthusiastically approved the project concept in principle.

The Society looks forward to working with Heritage Park staff to bring the project to completion.

To learn more about the Society and the project, or to offer to participate in the project, please contact Irena Karshenbaum by phone at (403) 669-1687 or by email [littlesynagogue@shaw.ca](mailto:little synagogue@shaw.ca).

The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society Board of Directors

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