

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
BYLAW NO. 1221-11**

**A BYLAW OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNATING THE HOLY TRINITY RUSSO GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SMOKY LAKE AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE.**

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**WHEREAS**, the Historical Resources Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. H-9, as amended, permits the Municipal Council of a municipality to designate any heritage resource within a municipality whose preservation it considers to be in the public interest as a Municipal Historic Resource, upon giving notice to the Owner of the Resource in accordance with the Historical Resources Act;

**WHEREAS** it is deemed in the public interest to designate the Heritage Resource located in Smoky Lake County on LSD 1 28-59-17 W4 as a Municipal Historic Resource; and

**WHEREAS** the Owners of the Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church of Smoky Lake have agreed to waive compensation for the designation of the Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church of Smoky Lake as a Municipal Historic Resource, now and in the future.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of Smoky Lake County in the Province of Alberta, having complied with the Historical Resources Act, and duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

**1. HERITAGE RESOURCE DESIGNATED AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

The Heritage Resource, commonly known as Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church of Smoky Lake, is hereby designated as a Municipal Heritage Resource, specifically described in Schedule "A", which is located on the lands legally described as follows:

**Legal subdivision one (1) of Section twenty eight (28) Township fifty-nine (59) Range seventeen (17) West of the fourth Meridian as shown on a Plan of Survey of the said Township, signed at Ottawa on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1908, containing 16.3 hectares (40.25 acres) more or less.**

**Excepting thereout: 0.405 hectares (1.00 acre) more or less, as shown on Road Plan 792 2799.**

**Excepting thereout all mines and minerals subject to the condition that the same shall be used for church purposes only.**

**2. PERMITTED REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS**

Subject to Section 3 hereof, the Heritage Resource hereby designated in Section 1 as a Municipal Historic Resource shall not be remove, destroyed, disturbed, altered, rehabilitated, repaired or otherwise permanently affected, other than in accordance with the terms of Schedule "B" attached.

**3. ADMINISTRATOR**

The Development Authority of Smoky Lake County is hereby appointed to administer the implementation of any matters arising from the matters set out in Schedule "B".

**Received First Reading this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Elected Official

Seal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Received Second Reading this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.**

**Received Third Reading and finally passed this day \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Elected Official

Seal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

## SCHEDULE “A”

This Statement of Significance forms Schedule “A” to Bylaw 1212-10 and provides a *Description of the Historic Place*, explains the *Heritage Value* of the building and identifies, by written description and photographs, those *Character Defining Elements* of the Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church of Smoky Lake which are regulated by the “General Guidelines for Conservation” (Schedule “B”) and must be preserved (the “Regulated Character Defining Elements”).

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## THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### HOLY TRINITY RUSSO GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SMOKY LAKE

LSD 1 -SE-59-17 W4

17308 Twp Road 594

### OTHER NAMES

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Down in the Valley Church

Russo Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity

### Description of Historic Place

The Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church was constructed following the building traditions of the prairie Byzantine church style located just north of Smoky Lake. The Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church is a wood frame church on a cruciform plan. An exceptional feature of the interior of this church is the design of the altar baldachin (the ornamental structural canopy over the altar) with its pilaster mouldings and traditional painted icons. The site includes the church and bell tower.

### Heritage Value

The Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church is an important symbol of religious and ethnic identity in the Smoky Lake district, has a significant link with the settlement period, and is an important contributing structure to the municipality’s cultural landscape. The Holy Trinity parish was one of the first institutions in Smoky Lake district. The bell tower built in 1916 remains complete with the original cross and the original bells. The 1912 hand dug well with updated concrete cribbing still serves the parish. The church itself is part on the larger religious complex that includes the priest’s house, cemetery, and community hall and bell tower. Today the 1912 two-room log priest’s house still stands. The bell tower built in 1916 remains complete with the original cross and the original bells. The 1912 hand dug well with updated concrete cribbing still serves the parish.

Constructed in 1928 the Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church is also significant for its style and method of construction as it follows the building traditions of the prairie Byzantine church style. The Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church is a wood frame church on a cruciform plan and has two small onion domes on octagonal drums that flank the west façade and a prominent central dome over the crossing, on a large octagonal drum and surmounted by an open octagonal cupola, which rests on a small onion dome and ball supporting a wrought-iron cross.

Construction of the church was completed under the direction of Harry Holowaychuk. Rev. Andrew Kokolsky was the parish priest at the time and to this day parishioners relate how Father Andrew helped lift the iron cross to the very top of the large dome where it was installed and still stands today. It remains a landmark and symbol of Orthodoxy in the Holy Trinity Church of Smoky Lake.

In addition, it is believed that the Holy Trinity site is one of the largest Russo Greek Orthodox cemeteries in Canada, with an estimated 1000 burials. Records show that 866 marked and recorded burials but there were also many, oft en of infant children during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-20, that are unknown. Many of these graves had wooden crosses which have since disappeared. The markers deteriorated with age or fires and that were set to clear the grass and brush at the cemetery before the time of mowers and trimmers.

**Character Defining Elements****Exterior Elements:**

- Form, massing and orientation of the church on its site;
- One central onion shaped octagonal dome over main nave;
- Smaller octagonal onion shaped domes over front end of nave and over apse;
- Orthodox metal cross crowns each dome;
- Panes in semi-circular windows incorporate stained glass in the shape of a cross;
- Upper circular area retains a half wheel window;
- Apse with round wheel window;
- Building is located across Highway 28 from the Town of Smoky Lake;
- The grounds are well maintained with a mixture of conifer vegetation; and
- The cemetery is located east of the church within the same gated area the bell tower, church hall, and priest house.

**Interior Elements:**

- Spatial configuration includes nave, transepts, and sanctuary separated by an iconostas;
- Decorated iconostas with main and two side entrance doors to sanctuary;
- Altar baldachin (the ornamental structural canopy over the altar);
- Pilaster mouldings;
- Traditional painted icons and paintings;
- Furnishings, fittings and fixtures;
- Decorative elements to pillars and altar using grape motif;
- Choir loft with stair access; and
- Chandelier hanging from centre of domed ceiling.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DETAIL – EXTERIOR



PHOTOGRAPHIC DETAIL – INTERIOR



## **SCHEDULE “B”**

This is Schedule “B” to Bylaw 1221-11 and identifies the “General Guidelines for Conservation” for the Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church of Smoky Lake located on LSD 1 28-59-17 W4M.

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### **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CONSERVATION**

#### **1. Approval of Development or Alterations**

As per Section 26 (6) of the Alberta Historical Resources Act, notwithstanding any other Act, no person shall destroy, disturb, alter, restore or repair a Historic Resource or remove any historic object from a Historic Resource that has been designated under this Section, without the written approval from Council or person appointed by Council of that purpose.

Council has appointed the Municipal Planning Commission as the approving Authority for this purpose. Any development or alterations affecting the Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church of Smoky Lake shall respect and conserve the heritage value and character defining elements identified in the Statement of Significance, in accordance with these General Guidelines for Conservation and as recommended in the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places.

#### **2. Compatible Uses**

Wherever possible, the use of the Municipal Historic Resource shall be compatible with the existing building such that only minimal changes are required to the building. The use of the Municipal Historic Resource for its original purpose is desirable.

#### **3. Original Character**

The original distinctive qualities and character of the building as designated by the Municipal Historic Resource Bylaw should be preserved. The removal or alteration of any historical materials or features shall be avoided whenever possible.

#### **4. The Historic Period**

The Municipal Historic Resource should be recognized as a product of its own time. Alterations which are not based on historical fact or which recreate an earlier or later idiom shall be discouraged.

#### **5. Witness to Change**

Changes to the Municipal Historic Resource may have occurred over time. These alterations are evidence of the history and development of the building. Because this evolution may have acquired significance in its own right, alterations to the original building should be recognized and respected where indicated.

#### **6. Repair and Replacement**

Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced wherever possible. Where replacement is necessary, the new material should match the original as to composition, colour, texture, design, etc. The repair or replacement of architectural features shall be based on a sound knowledge of the original characteristics of the features. Such knowledge shall be based on historical or pictorial evidence and not upon conjecture.

#### **7. Style and Craftsmanship**

Distinctive stylistic features and examples of skilled craftsmanship that have been designated by the Municipal Historic Resource Bylaw shall be preserved and treated sensitively.

#### **8. Cleaning**

In all cases, surface cleaning shall be undertaken with the gentlest means available. Sandblasting in particular, but also other cleaning methods, damage historic integrity and should not be undertaken without thorough testing prior to use on a building. Sandblasting is not recommended on brick, stone or wood. In all instances, it should be ascertained that a building exterior is really in need of cleaning prior to undertaking the work.

**9. Reversibility of Improvements**

When the introduction of new elements or materials is necessary to stabilize or preserve a municipally designated Historic Resource, alterations shall be undertaken such that the new materials, should they fail, may be removed at a later date without damage to the original fabric of the Municipal Historic Resource. Where this is not possible (i.e. use of epoxy), only those methods and materials that have been thoroughly tested and found satisfactory in situ shall be used.

**10. Recording**

Prior to undertaking any alterations, particularly in cases where alterations may threaten the building fabric (underpinning and moving structures), the Applicant shall compile a complete record of the architectural features of the Municipal Historic Resource. Measured drawings and photographs of details may prove invaluable if major features are damaged or lost during the subsequent repair work.

**11. Original Construction Details**

In some historic structures, poor construction details or inappropriate materials resulted in rapid deterioration of certain building elements. In these instances, accurate restoration of the original detail will inevitably result in the failure of the element. Therefore, restoration of the resource should be undertaken in such a fashion as to duplicate the original appearance as closely as possible while using details based on sound construction practice.

**12. Enforcement**

The Owner and the County shall enter into an Agreement to ensure that the designated structure will be maintained in such a manner as to prevent any deterioration.

**13. Improvements**

Prior to undertaking any improvements, a schedule of alterations should be prepared. This schedule should include phasing of alterations where necessary due to program or budget restrictions. The type and timing of both short and long term maintenance work shall also be included.

**14. Codes**

At no times should the life and safety of occupants of a Municipal Historic Resource be deemed of lesser importance than the preservation of the original fabric of the Municipal Historic Resource. The required life and safety standards are those required by the current Alberta Building Code. However, notwithstanding these Code requirements, where the essential character of the structure is threatened by changes for code reasons, every effort shall be made to achieve an equivalent safety standard by alternate means so as to minimize the impact on the historic fabric.

**15. Signs**

As a general rule, signs should be limited to signs that were originally present on the building. In instances where new use or interpretive functions dictate the use of additional signs, these new elements should be integrated into the general design of the project. The size, typeface, graphics and materials should be chosen to suit the period of the Municipal Historic Resource, wherever possible. All signs must conform to the Smoky Lake County Land Use Bylaw.

THIS SCHEDULE is hereby agreed to by the Owners as registered on the Certificate of Title 46Z46:

**THE RUSSO GREEK CATHOLIC ORTHODOX PARISH OF TOPOROUTZ**  
of Smoky Lake, Alberta

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WITNESS

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WITNESS