

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
BYLAW 1369-20**

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A BYLAW OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
DESIGNATING THE RUTHENIA SCHOOL AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE.

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**WHEREAS** Section 26 and 27 of the Alberta *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 Historic Resources Act.

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of Smoky Lake County has determined that the property legally described as:

**SOUTH WEST QUARTER of  
SECTION 6  
TOWNSHIP 59  
RANGE 16  
WEST OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MERIDIAN  
EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS**

is a site of architectural, historical, cultural, environmental, archeological, paleontological, aesthetic and/or scientific value;

**AND WHEREAS** not less than sixty (60) days after notifying the resource owner of this bylaw, the Council of Smoky Lake County may by bylaw designate any historic resource within the municipality whose preservation it considers to be in the public interest, together with any land in or on which it is located that may be specified in the bylaw, as a Municipal Historic Resource. A Council that designates an historic resource as a Municipal Historic Resource shall:

- a) cause a copy of the bylaw to be served on the owner of the historic resource and on the owner of any land that will be subject to the bylaw; and
- b) if the bylaw relates to or includes any land, cause a certified copy of the bylaw to be registered at the land titles office.


**NOW THEREFORE** 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. The property known as the Ruthenia School located on lands legally described as SW-6-59-16-W4M (0.809 hectares; 2.0 Acres more or less) is hereby designated a Municipal Historic Resource with the County as described in Schedule "A".
2. Council wishes to protect and preserve the original character of the Ruthenia School, while encouraging changes that will make the related buildings and structures functional. The Historic Resource shall not be removed, destroyed, disturbed, altered, rehabilitated, repaired or otherwise permanently affected, other than in accordance with the terms outline in Schedule "B".
3. The administration of this bylaw shall be under the management and control of the Development Authority of Smoky Lake County.
4. This bylaw shall come into effect after third and final reading.

READ A **FIRST TIME** IN COUNCIL THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, AD 2020.

READ A **SECOND TIME** IN COUNCIL THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, AD 2020.

READ A **THIRD AND FINAL TIME** IN COUNCIL THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, AD 2020.

  
Craig Lukinuk  
Reeve

**SEAL**

  
Cory Ollikka  
Chief Administrative Officer

## SCHEDULE “A”

This Statement of Significance forms Schedule “A” to Bylaw 1369-20 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 Ruthenia School which are regulated by the “General Guidelines for Conservation” (Schedule “B”) and must be preserved (the “Regulated Character Defining Elements”).

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**RUTHENIA SCHOOL**  
**SW-6-59-16-4**  
**0809 hectares (2.00 acres more or less)**

#### Description of Heritage Place

The Ruthenia School is a 1924, one-storey, one-room rural school. It is covered by a hip roof on three sides and features a small, enclosed front entry porch with a gabled hip roof. It is located on the northern boundary in the eastern Ukrainian area of the Victoria District National Historic Site, specifically, in the southeast corner of SW-6-59-16-W4, within a subdivided grassed yard surrounded by mature trees.

#### Heritage Value

- The Ruthenia School is significant for its association with the provincial themes of Education and Rural Development.
- Municipal value is in the resource’s association with the development of rural schools and creating community in the region; in its design and construction as a one-room rural school; and as an important landmark in the district.
- The Ruthenia School was also associated with the institution of the Ruthenian Community Center.

This building was constructed in 1924 by the Ruthenia School District to provide additional classroom space after their 1913 school, at a different location, exceeded its student capacity.

After 1950, the Farmers’ Union of Alberta Local (F.U.A.) utilized the building for meetings and in order to purchase the building, the members of the F.U.A. formed the Ruthenian Community Center organization, where it was used for various local groups, bingos, picnics, served as a polling station, and a location for dances featuring local musicians. It operated until 1980, when the remaining six members of the Ruthenian Community Center agreed to dissolve the organization, after which it was sold. The building had served as a room for senior students (while a previous Ruthenia School I served junior students) for twenty-six years and then a community center for another thirty years.

The Ruthenia School is an example of an early 1920s, multi-level, rural one-room school building featuring a gabled hip entry roof intersecting with the main roof. The five large nine-over-nine double hung wood windows provide for large fenestration openings for the entry of light commonly evident in such rural schools throughout the region. The internal configuration flows from two entries into a large classroom containing a wood floor, panel walls and wood slat ceiling, with blackboards covering two walls. A drum-shaped wood stove just inside the classroom was the only source of heat. Its modified usage over several decades demonstrates its importance to rural residents as a community facility. It also stands as a lasting landmark of the Ruthenia School District.

#### Character Defining Elements

##### Exterior:

- Form, massing, and scale
- Gabled-hip roof over the entry, and a medium-pitch hip roof on remaining three sides
- Cedar shingles
- One-storey structure on concrete foundation, with clapboard siding, and corner boards
- Five large nine-over-nine, double-hung windows, with common trim in between on the west side
- Six-pane, fixed sidelight windows on both sides of porch entry

- Six-over-six, double-hung windows on both sides of the porch
- Two fixed, six-pane windows on east side

Interior:

- Two entries from enclosed porch into large one-room classroom
- Wooden tongue-in-groove floor
- Wood-slat ceiling
- Long blackboards covering north and east classroom walls

Sources: *Smoky Lake and District Cultural and Heritage Society, Our Legacy: History of Smoky Lake and Area, 1983, 18, 43, 149-150.*

**Photographic Detail**



Ruthenia School, Photo Credit: Community Design Solutions Inc.



Ruthenia School, (2019) Photo Credit: Smoky Lake County

## SCHEDULE “B”

This is Schedule “B” to Bylaw 1369-20 and identifies the “General Guidelines for Conservation” for the Ruthenia School.

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### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CONSERVATION

#### 1. Approval of Development 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 a person appointed by Council for that purpose.

Council appoints an approving Authority to protect the integrity of this municipal heritage resource to whom the Applicant shall submit a Heritage Resource Intervention Permit Application for any proposed restoration/changes to the structure. Any development or alterations affecting the Bellis Firehall shall respect and conserve the heritage value and character defining elements identified in the Statement of Significance, in accordance with the below 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 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**

This Bylaw may be enforced, and the contravention of any provisions contained herein restrained, by the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta upon action brought by Council, whether or not any penalty has been imposed for contravention. If the Development Authority finds that a person is in contravention of this Bylaw, the Development Authority may, by written order, require the person responsible for the contravention to remedy it if the circumstances so require. The order may:

- (a) direct a person to stop doing something, or to change the way in which the person is doing it;
- (b) direct a person to take any action or measures necessary to remedy the contravention of the Bylaw, including the removal or demolition of a structure or part of a structure that has been erected or placed in contravention of the Bylaw, and, if necessary, to prevent a re-occurrence of the contravention;
- (c) state a time within which the person must comply with the directions;
- (d) state that if the person does not comply with the directions within a specified time, the municipality will take the action or measure at the expense of the person.

#### **13. Improvements**

Prior to undertaking any improvements, an Application for a Heritage Resource Intervention Permit must be submitted to Smoky Lake County. The Application shall include phasing of alterations where necessary due to program or budget restrictions. The type and timing of both short and long term maintenance work should also be included.

#### **14. Codes**

At no time 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.


**16. Claims**

All covenants, undertakings, obligations, and conditions set out in this Bylaw shall constitute covenants running with the Lands and the County may register a Caveat at the Land Titles Office against the Lands to protect its interest under this Bylaw. Smoky Lake County may grant a postponement of the caveat as to any of the land in development. Smoky Lake County will discharge the caveat promptly upon the acceptance of the various matters required to be performed by the Developer under this Bylaw.

The Developer shall indemnify and save harmless the County from any and all losses, costs, damages, actions, cause of actions, suits, claims and demands resulting from anything done or omitted to be done by the Developer in pursuance or purported pursuance of this Bylaw.

**17. Consent**

This bylaw is hereby agreed to by the Registered Owner of the Certificate of Title No. 092408555. Furthermore, the Registered Owner consents to having this bylaw registered by way of a caveat on said Certificate of Title.

  
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MARVIN BIDLOCK  
OWNER

  
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SHIRLEY LAWRIE  
OWNER