

The Red Deer Public Art Ghost Collection

The Ghost Collection tells some of the history of Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. It is a collection of 11 life-size bronze sculptures scattered around the downtown area, and is one of the largest collections of this type in Canada. They are the following:

January: "The Face-off" features two young hockey players, one a boy and one a girl, facing off in a game.

February: "Reaching Out" is a scene from the 1940s, which shows a brother helping his younger sister climb onto a granite boulder. She wears a leg brace due to the effects of polio.

March: "Sounds the Alarm" has excited horses being restrained as the driver of the fire wagon prepares to respond to an alarm.

April: "Let the Music Play" honors Keith Mann, an internationally acclaimed music director who, during his 40-year career, conducted the Red Deer Royals Marching Show Band and Red Deer College Symphonic Winds.

May: "Waiting for Gordon" shows Julietta Sorensen looking for her husband, Gordon, to arrive with the last bus of the day. In 1933, the Sorensens started a bus service in Red Deer and Red Deer County. As part of the service, Julietta operated a coffee shop.

June: "Choices" features a rail worker confronting a little dog that is standing on his hard-earned money. It is symbolic of how, after the Great Depression, many workers in Canada wanted more control over their money and Credit Unions became popular.

July: "Reverend Leonard Gaetz" honors one of Red Deer's early founding fathers.

August: "Hazel Braithwaite" was a champion for women's equality in the 1920s and beyond.

September: "Francis Wright Galbraith" became the owner and editor of the Red Deer Advocate in 1906, and was the first mayor of Red Deer after it was incorporated as a city in 1913.

October: "Doris & Mickey" features Doris Forbes and her pet beaver, Mickey. Her family found the mauled beaver in 1939 and nursed him back to health. After his story made national headlines, over 20,000 people visited the famous beaver.

November: "Francis the Pig" escaped from a local abattoir in 1990. He roamed Red Deer's parkland for almost five months before he died of injuries he received during his capture in 1991.

December: "Gordon & Julietta Sorensen" are roundels that are near the "Waiting for Gordon" bronze sculpture. Gordon is driving a bus and Julietta is working in the coffee shop.

Red Deer is a city of 100,000 in Central Alberta and is at the midpoint of the Calgary-Edmonton Corridor.

Reference: https://www.reddeer.ca/recreation-and-culture/arts-and-culture/public-art/public-art-ghost-collection/