



Whispering Signs and a Hello from Wainwright

What does Wainwright, Alberta have in common with Brentwood? Well, one day they may have interpretive signage inspired by our local Whispering Signs!

Brian Nelson, a member of the Town of Wainwright's Park Planning Committee, was visiting his in-laws in Brentwood over the recent holidays. While walking his dog along the regional pathway parallel to John Laurie Boulevard, he came across the Owls and Oxeyes interpretive sign near Whispering Grasses Walkway at 51o 06' 02.92" N, 114o 07' 27.11" W, and 1148.4 m. Brian succumbed to intense curiosity and studied the sign in great detail, including the material it's made from and how the sign is mounted, as his committee is looking at putting up similar signs around their park trails. He also works at the Canadian Forces Base in Wainwright where they are building park trails in association with managing sustainable use and development of the CFB lands.

Noting the website address indicated on all of the larger Whispering Signs, Brian next went to www.natureground.org and scoured around there for more information, including a contact email. Then he was able to ask us who our sign manufacturer was, and how they were made. He was also able to find out on Natureground.org about the signs further west along the pathway in Whispering Woods and near Dr. E.W. Coffin School, and so he went along and visited the other 33 signs!

It looks like we may need an FAQ page on the website, as Brian is not the first to ask how these panels are made and who made them! Michael O'Brien of Outdoor Museum in Calgary, www.outdoormuseum.ca, is the Western Canadian contact for these digital high pressure laminate (dHPL) panels manufactured by iZone in Texas, www.izoneimaging.com. Mike also installs panels, including ours, and provides high quality writing and design services. Our amazing graphic designers were Virri and Marr Missal of M2 Designs in Calgary, who often work with Mike.

Of course, if our website did have answers to our FAQs, we wouldn't have found out that Brian and his wife, Janis (nee Panton), who met in 1986, both graduated from William Aberhart High School, Janis in 1979 and Brian in 1982. Nor that Brian just retired from the Canadian Forces after three years as the Base operations officer and 28 years of service. He also spent 8 years with the Calgary Highlanders before joining the PPCLI. Brian used to be the Southpointe Community Association President when they lived in the Barrhaven area of Ottawa a few years ago, where he cultivated an interest in community development and urban planning.

"The youth pictures and sketches add quite a personal touch to the signs - and some pride," remarked Brian. "I'm sure there was quite a bit of community involvement to select the design of the signs. Did you work with the schools to get the youth involvement?" Yes, we had

Brentwood Community
GARDENING
GROUP



Calling All Gardeners

by Doug Horel

The Brentwood Community Gardening Group (BCGG), a fledgling group of gardening enthusiasts, is looking to get more Brentwood residents involved. I know some of you are thinking, "Community gardens are for urban areas with lots of apartment dwellers who have no room for a garden". Although our initial focus is on developing a community garden, our broader mission is to promote gardening and sustainable urban agriculture throughout the community. This group is as much about building a gardening community, as it is about building a garden. Hence the name, Community Gardening Group, not Community Garden.

- Are you interested in gardening?
- Would you like to make Brentwood a little greener, and more sustainable?
- Want to learn more about sustainable gardening, and urban agriculture?
- Want to grow more of your own healthy food?
- Want to help grow food for charity?
- Would you like to help educate our youth about healthy, sustainable food production?
- Do you have a little time to volunteer for a fun and worthy cause?
- Does your company have programs that support the volunteerism of employees?
- Do you have specific skills or access to building materials or tools suitable for a garden build, that you can donate?
- Would you be interested in renting a plot in a community garden?
- Would you like to be part of a caring, sharing, group of fellow gardeners?

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amazing connections with both the school and community for this project, and it is those personal connections that have made it all extra special to the locals. Well worth the effort to nurture these sorts of relationships!

We're very glad we put the web address on the signs. The Friends of Dr. E.W. Coffin Society took out the domain name before the sign designs were complete, and built the website after installation. There is plenty more to still be done on the website, but it already helps make the project more interactive after installation, including "meeting" Brian and his Brentwood family!

Natureground.org will soon have updates! What would YOU like to see on this school and community website? We'd love your input! Please contact us as below anytime with your ideas.

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