

143 Willow Drive
Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 2S5
April 24, 2018

City of Wetaskiwin, Mayor & Councilors
Attention:

We are dismayed to learn of word around town that City Council has decided to abandon the City Archives as part of the sale of the building in which the Archives are housed.

We hope that this is wrong, and that Council is instead planning to **move** the archival collection to another similarly safe, environmentally protected location, should a sale take place.

We are able to go to our public library to find history of Alberta, Canada and other countries as well as of world events. Our local history should also continue to remain available to us. In our own archive vaults are the stories of the events and the people who shaped our city of Wetaskiwin for the past 100+ years. Wetaskiwin's history is an integral part of the history of Alberta, and of Canada. If it is lost it will irreplaceable.

The Archives was begun as a citizen initiative to preserve documents, photos and mementos related to the development and history of our City and larger community. Over the past 40 or so years individual citizens and associations have continued to consign their personal and public documents and photos to the Archives in the confidence that they would be preserved and protected.

We would expect that the confidence that all of these citizens had in the support of City Councils should and would be honoured.

Besides records of those who in the past ran the businesses, organizations, churches, schools, as well as those elected public officials whose aspirations and achievements developed Wetaskiwin, the archives is the only place that has records of the existence of the many service organizations, (Kinsmen, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Elks, etc) whose volunteers who saw potential and took responsibility for planning and presenting extraordinary events such as:

- North-Am Snowmobile Races during the 1970s put Wetaskiwin on the international map
- 1993 Alberta Summer Games for which almost 2,400 volunteers ran sporting competitions for over 2,000 athletes over 3 days. The profits were invested and more than \$300,000 was directed back into community initiatives.

We believe that it would be a great disservice to our forefathers, our elders and especially to our future generations if this history was to be abandoned. We hope that you will recognize this in making your decisions.

We look forward to your response

Yours truly,

Russ and Sharon Aney