

GLEN LESLIE CHURCH

Provincial Historic Site

In recognition of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation, the County awarded \$100,000 worth of grants to various community groups who were planning events or legacy activities in celebration of such an important milestone. Each grant, a maximum of \$10,000, was awarded to applicants within the County's boundaries with their projects in place for 2017.



The maximum was awarded to "Bezanson Community Groups" for a Canada 150 wood-carved monument. The six-sided bench was the creation of Ryan Cook of hit TV shows such as Carver Kings and Saw Dogs. His work is now showcased by Saw Valley Carvers. Each side of the bench depicts a scene of historical significance to Bezanson. Taking centre stage was a wonderful carving of the Glen Leslie Church that was built in 1915. The little log building was completely restored by the Glen Leslie Church Preservation Group over a period of 4 years. The project culminated in 2015 at which time a Celebration was held to commemorate the restoration process and the 100th anniversary of when the building was constructed. The Glen Leslie Church Preservation Group received the Provincial Award for Heritage Conservation by the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation in recognition of outstanding achievement in conservation.

The other five sides of the bench include a carving of the Bezanson Ski Chalet, Kleskun Hills, a farmer plowing the fields with a team of horses, a farmer on his tractor and a carving of the first store at the Bezanson Townsite – Hall & Leonard's Store.

The bench will be placed in front of the Bezanson Regional Community Cultural Centre once construction is complete which is anticipated to be during the summer of 2018. The carvings on the bench depict the history of Bezanson and a tree will be planted in the centre of the bench to represent the future growth of the area.

