



PARTICIPATE **WOOD BUFFALO**

WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT ANZAC CHURCH MEMORIAL AND GARDEN BOXES

Public Works - Parks

April 23 – May 13, 2022

By Daniel Rippe | Daniel.rippe@rmwb.ca
June 3, 2022

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We humbly acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn, work and play is Treaty 8 Territory, the traditional and ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene, and unceded territory of the Métis.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Willow Lake Church in Anzac was deemed unsafe for public use and demolished in 2016. This building was a landmark providing the community with many memories and is an important piece of their history. Several items were saved during the demolition including pews, the glass cross, pump organ, the bell, wooden plaque, and stained glass. In a letter to the RMWB, the Willow Lake Community Association requested a memorial for the church be placed in its former location and proposed a concrete memorial wall as an example but mentioned they are interested in seeing other ideas.

The lot of the former church is now a developed park complete with a gazebo, garden boxes, picnic tables, benches, lighting, flag poles, walkways, and a parking lot. The footprint where the church once stood has not been built on.

Engagement played a key role in this project to ensure the memorial honours the memories of the community. Now that the engagement phase is completed, the information gathered will be provided to the Public Works department to secure an external consultant and contractor to provide a design and construction services for the memorial. Once a preliminary design has been completed, the community of Anzac will be engaged again to provide feedback on the design.

The second aspect of this project related to the current and future location of the garden boxes. Initial public engagement was completed from March 11, 2021 to April 3, 2021. At that time, some residents were not in favor of the current location of the garden boxes which are located at the park near the gazebo. This project allowed for the continuation of the conversation regarding the future location of the boxes, including finding out if there is a desire for the boxes to move.

STAKEHOLDER LIST

- Residents of Anzac
- Residents of Wood Buffalo
- Anzac Community Groups
- Willow Lake Métis Nation
- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Internal Stakeholders



COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

The project was promoted through the project's Participate Wood Buffalo page and in-person during the Anzac Recreation Centre's Open House held on April 23, 2022.

ENGAGEMENT TACTICS



In-person Information Session



Online Survey

ENGAGEMENTS

352

Online Visits to Participate Wood Buffalo Project Page

~35

In-person Information Session Participants

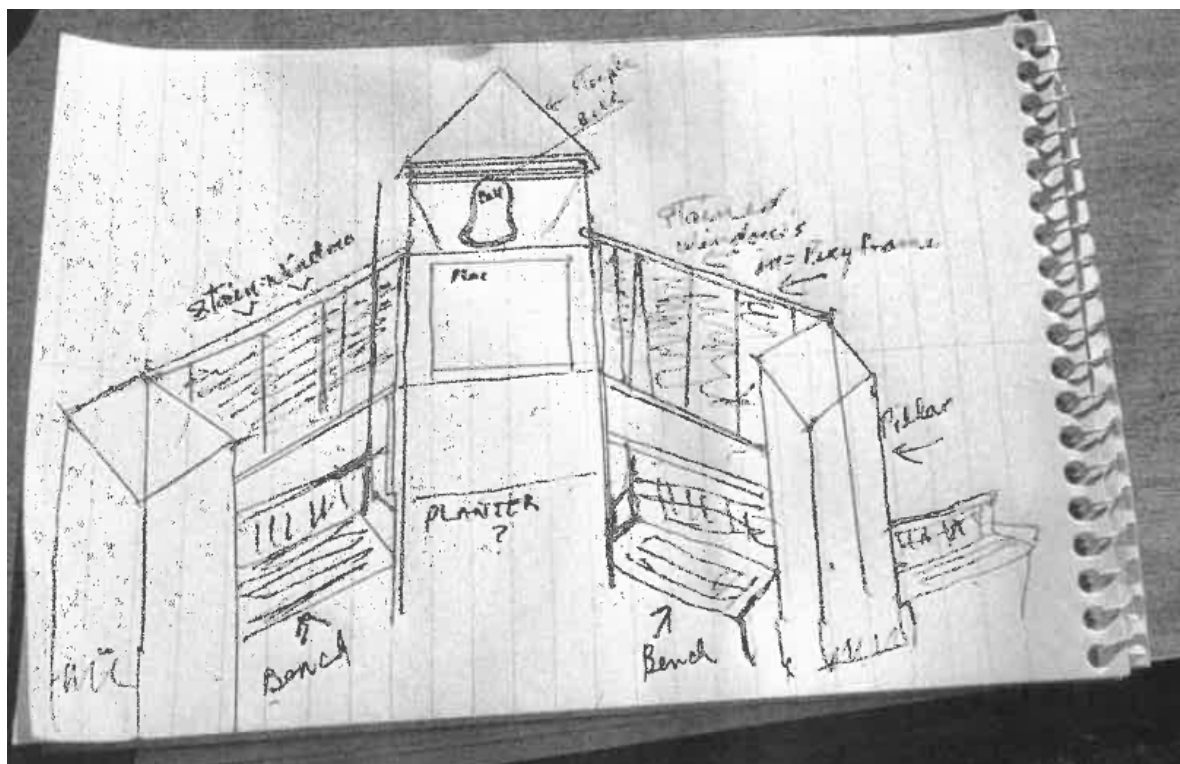
53

Online Survey Respondents

1

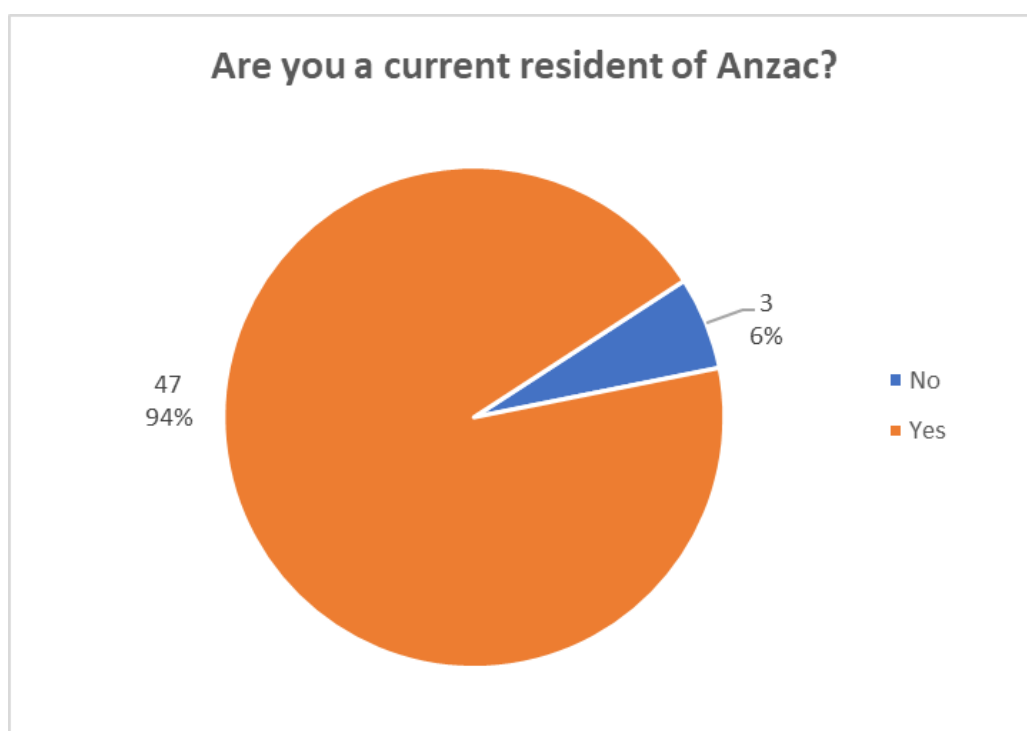
Hand-drawn Design provided by Elder Rose Pratt



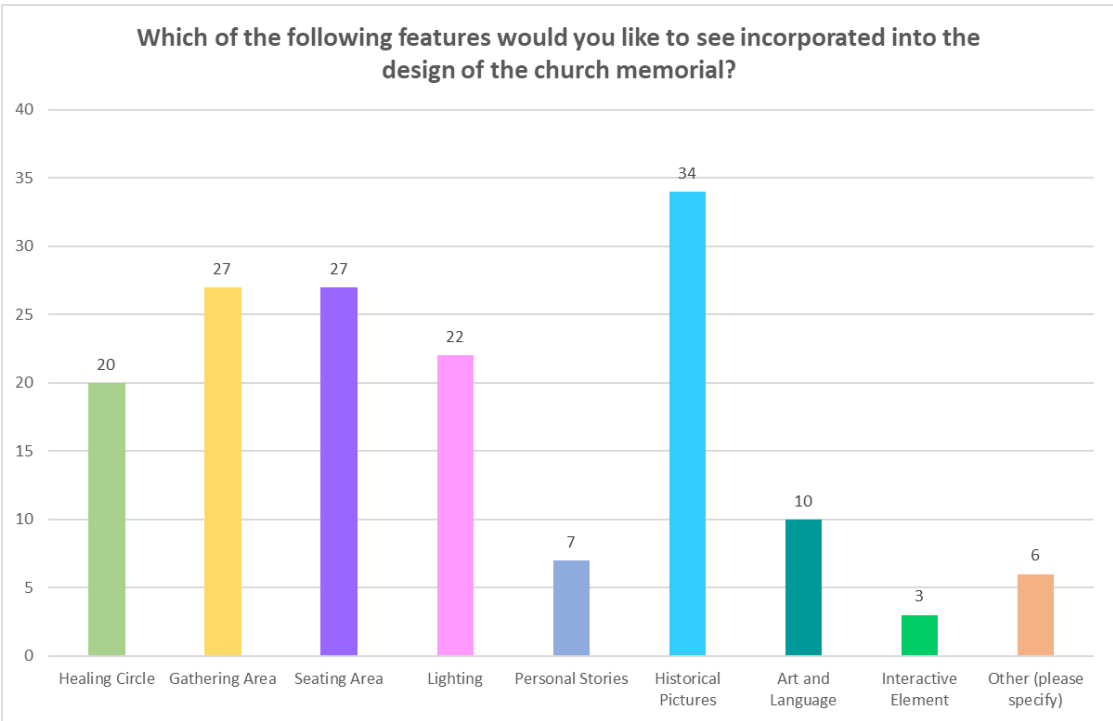


ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

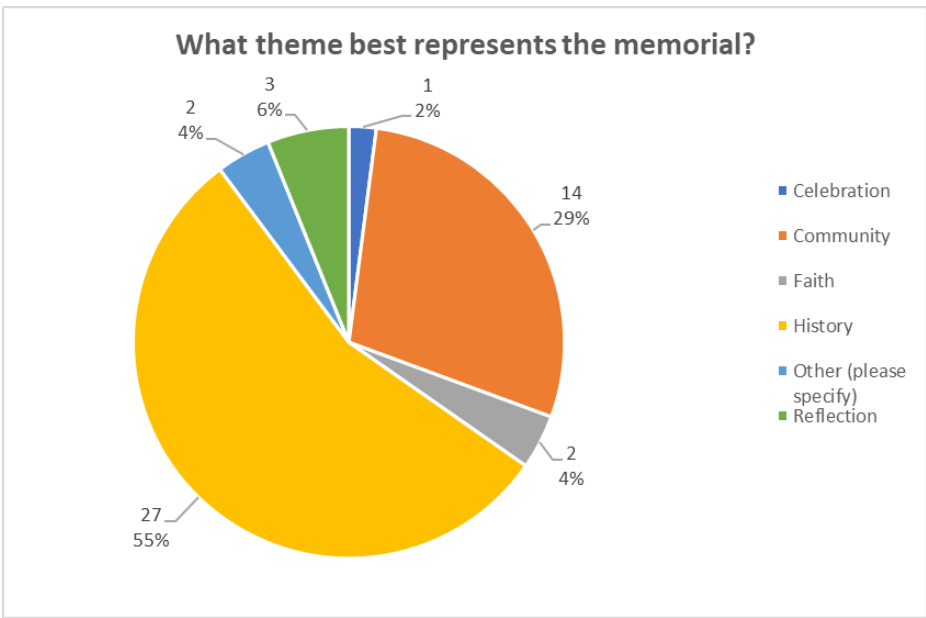
While the Anzac Church Memorial and the garden boxes are primarily for the Anzac residents, it was important to let anyone in the region answer the survey. It was important to us to find out if the people answering the survey were residents of Anzac or if they were interested parties in another community or neighbourhood.



As this memorial is meant to be a representation of what the church meant to the community, it was important to understand what features the community wanted. We gave you up to three options to choose from a list of features to understand what was important to you.



Along with the features, we wanted to be able to present the designer with a theme that best represents how the community see the church. It was a humbling experience to talk to people during the open house and hear first-person accounts of how the church impacted their lives. It came to no surprise that the main theme our respondents chose was **History**.



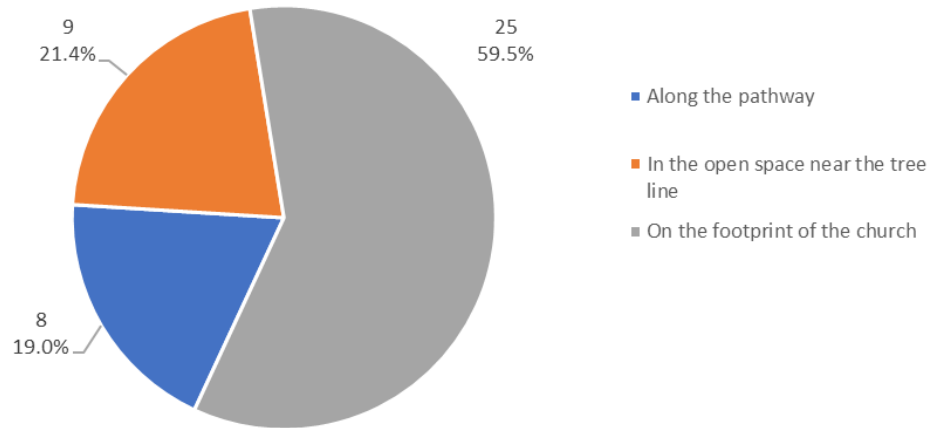
Prior to the demolition, there were items that were salvaged. We asked you to rate them, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important to you, so we can have an idea what should be considered for the design of the memorial. The Church Bell and the Stained-glass Panes were the highest ranked items.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Church Bell	2.22
Stained-glass Panes	2.88
Pews	3.08
Wood Plaque	3.15
Glass Cross	3.33

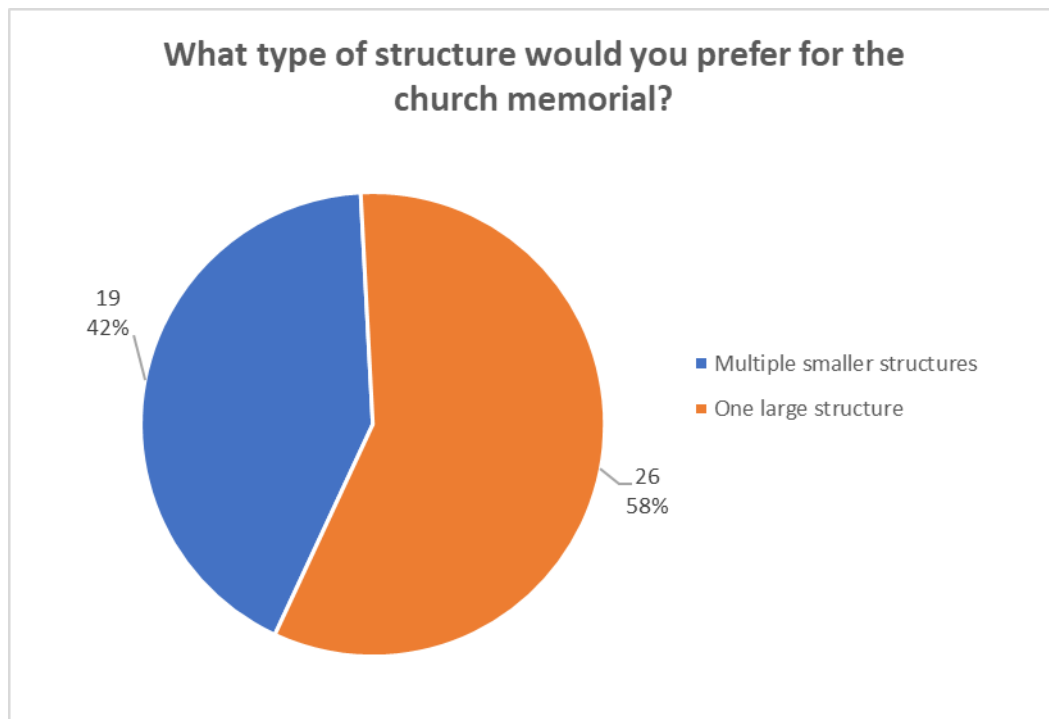
It was already established that the memorial would go in the gazebo park at the corner of Cheecham Drive and Stony Mountain Road. However, within the park, there were three locations where the memorial could go. Based on your responses, it is very clear the community would like the memorial to go on the footprint of the church.



What is your preference for the location of the church memorial?

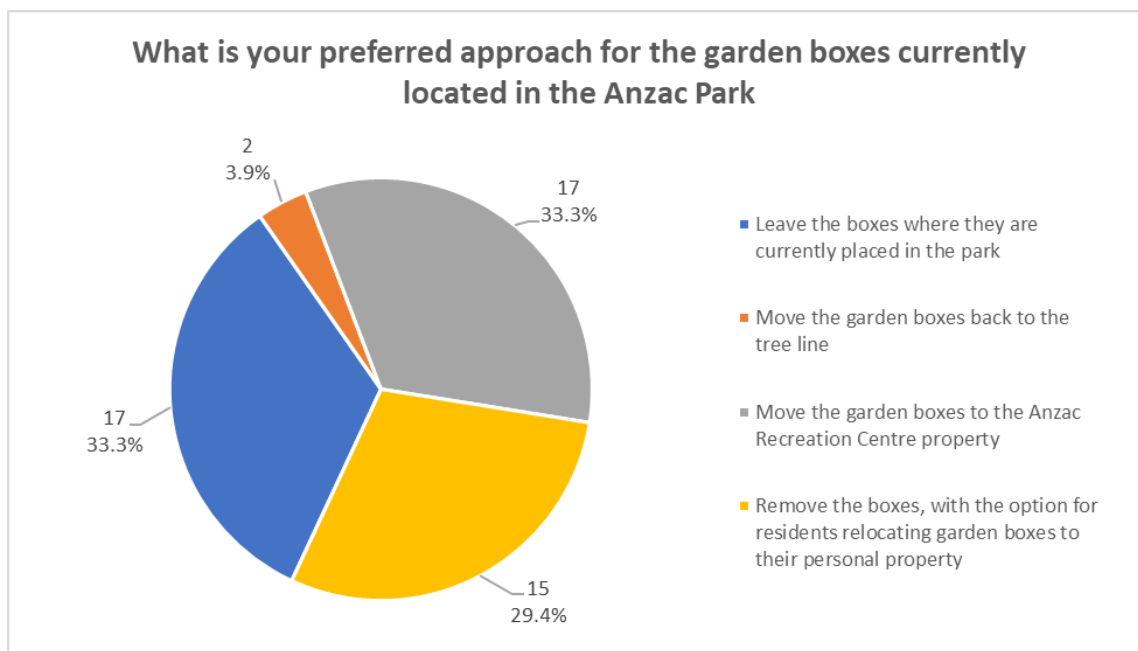


To better design the memorial, it was important to understand whether the community wanted one large structure or multiple smaller structures around the park. Most of the respondents chose one large structure.



One of the salvaged items prior to demolition of the church was the organ. We asked you where, indoor, should this organ be placed. We received a wide range of responses but three main locations that respondents seem to agree on were the Anzac Recreation Centre, the community hall or to place the organ in another church.

Lastly, we asked you, as a continuation of last year's engagement, what we should do with the garden boxes.



There was a lot of conversations related to the garden boxes. Most respondents wanted the garden boxes removed from their current location, with 66.6% of respondents saying the garden boxes should be moved. There was a split decision as to where the garden boxes should be moved to.

In the week of May 23, 2022, Administration decided to remove the boxes with the option for registered users to relocate the garden boxes to their personal property. A notice went out to all registered users later that week.



NEXT STEPS

We thank you for your input and ideas throughout the engagement process of this project. The Public Works department is carefully reviewing all the information and once a consultant has been procured, all responses will be taken into consideration when designing the memorial. Once a preliminary design has been drafted, we will return to the community for feedback on the design. To stay informed about the project, or to receive project updates visit <https://participate.rmwb.ca/anzac-church-memorial>.





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