

RED DEER REVEALED

Heritage Walking Tours of Red Deer

SELF GUIDED TOUR **1**

The Ghost Collection

Have you seen the ghosts of Red Deer? This renowned bronze art collection was initiated by the Downtown Business Association and helps tell the history of the community. It is one of the largest life-size bronze sculpture collections in Canada.

Start your tour at the Recreation Centre, and the ghosts will guide you through the downtown. As you go, be sure to stop and enjoy the variety of public art and heritage buildings.

Where do ghosts come from?

The creative genius of artists, of course! Artists begin by making a clay, wax or plasticine model of the artwork. They create a mould to enclose the model, which is removed. Molten bronze is then poured into the mould. Once the bronze cools, it is smoothed out and a patina is added to give a special colour and finish. Finally, protective wax is rubbed on to prevent deterioration.

Creating a bronze sculpture can take one to three years but, if properly cared for, a bronze piece can last thousands of years.

1 *Reaching Out* (Eldon Neufeld, 1999)

A brother helps his younger sister climb onto a granite boulder. In this 1940s scene, the girl wears a leg brace, the result of polio.

The sculpture was created to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Downtown Rotary Club and to draw attention to Rotary International's PolioPlus program.



2 *Sound the Alarm* (Robert K. Spaitth, 1999)

Excitement and tension were a big part of fire fighting in Red Deer's early days, as men and horses were called to action. The excited horses in this bronze can hardly be restrained as they are being hitched to the fire wagon and the driver hurries to throw his coat on.



3 *Let the Music Play* (Patricia Galbraith, 2003)

The late Keith Mann, an internationally acclaimed music director, is shown here in the moment just before a concert. His hands are raised. A hush is falling over the audience. During Mann's 40-year career he conducted the Red Deer Royals Marching Show Band and Red Deer College Symphonic Winds.



4 *Waiting for Gordon* (Brian McArthur, 2012)

Julietta Sorensen looks 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. They sold their town bus service to The City of Red Deer in the 1960s, leading to the city's current public transit system.



Artist Brian McArthur creates models for Julietta Sorensen and the roundels that make up the "Waiting for Gordon" collection.





5 Choices *(Barbara Paterson, 1995)*

This railway worker confronts a dog that is standing on his hard-earned money. It is symbolic of how, after the Great Depression, many workers distrusted banks and wanted more control over their money. As a result, the credit union concept of banking became popular in the late 30s and early 40s.



6 Reverend Leonard Gaetz *(Robert K. Spait, 1994)*

Reverend Gaetz, one of Red Deer's early founding fathers, gazes down the main street of the town he helped create. The minister would often be found talking with members of the community on street corners – something he appears to be doing even to this day.



7 Hazel Braithwaite *(Alan Henderson, 2004)*

In 1926, a determined young Hazel Braithwaite pushed her way through a crowd of men to exercise her right to vote. Thirty-nine years later, she was the New Democratic Party federal candidate. Braithwaite believed in women's equality and was a champion for those without a voice.

8 Francis Wright Galbraith *(DaneK Mozdzenski, 1996)*

Francis Galbraith enjoys a coffee while reading his Red Deer Advocate. Galbraith became owner and editor of the Advocate in 1906. A newspaper man and a politician, Galbraith was the first mayor of the newly incorporated City of Red Deer in 1913.



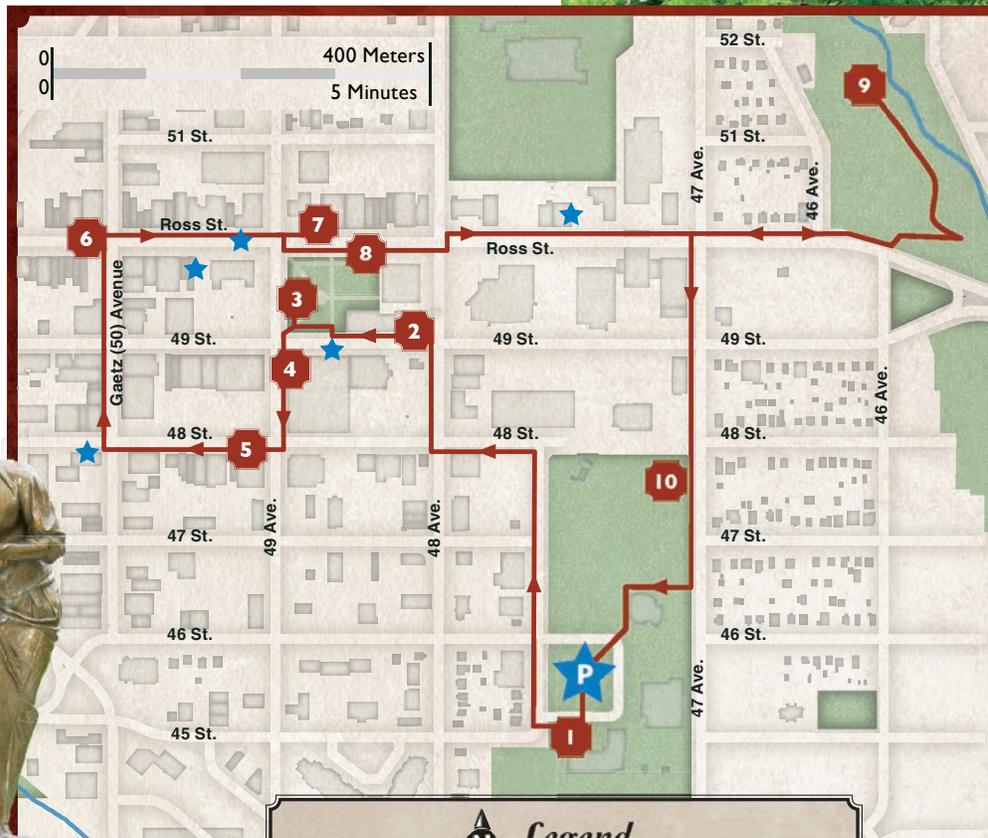
9 Doris and Mickey *(Brian McArthur, 2004)*

Doris Forbes' family found a mauled beaver in 1939 and nursed him back to health. Doris bonded with the beaver and the two became inseparable. Eventually, Mickey was banished to the garage because he loved gnawing on the wooden furniture! After his story made national headlines, over 20,000 people visited the famous beaver.



10 Francis the Pig *(DaneK Mozdzenski, 1998)*

The legend of Francis began in 1990 when he escaped from a local abattoir. For nearly five months the fugitive roamed Red Deer's parkland, eluding predators and several attempts to catch him. This freedom-loving pig was finally caught in 1991. Unfortunately, Francis succumbed to injuries he received in his capture.



Legend

Tour start Tour site

Tour route Point of interest

