



HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE BRETONA AREA

The Project

Cando Contracting Ltd., CN and Imperial Oil are storing 225 petroleum tank cars in their newly-constructed rail yard right next to 2 protected wildlife conservation areas and on an historic site in the Bretona Community.

Facts

The Bretona Community is one of the older communities in South Edmonton, and is described in substantial detail by the South Edmonton, Papaschase Historical Society (1984).

The Papaschase Indian (First Nation) Reserve No. 136 was situated a very short distance to the west of the Bretona Community. This reserve has an interesting history and was surrendered in 1888. As well, pre-European-contact artifacts have been found in significant numbers in the Bretona area. Some of these sites are recognized under the Alberta *Historical Resources Act*.

The P & H Elevator, Teske Lumber Yard, Hercules Post Office and Bretona Railway Station are but a few of the historic buildings and other infrastructure that were located in the immediate area dating back to the early 1900's (e.g., the Bretona Railway Station dates back to 1912).

A store which was moved to immediately north of the new rail yard area over 100 years ago was known as the Halfway Store for its role in oxen wagon transportation between Cooking Lake and Edmonton.

Many local residents have been involved in researching, protecting and often fighting for the preservation of both the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Bretona Community. Included in this group of local residents are the Kristensen and Trelenberg families, both of which are most directly impacted by the newly-constructed industrial rail yard.

The County of Strathcona has also been very active in protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the County, including the Bretona Community. For example, recently the County commissioned preparation of a Heritage Resource Management Plan (Donald Buxton & Associates Inc. 2008) which indicates that Strathcona County values its natural history, archaeological resources and historic community structures as important parts of its rich cultures.

In follow up to this, Strathcona County issued its Community Heritage Legacy Framework (Strathcona County 2009), which states that history and heritage are the glue that binds the community and connects it to the land. One of the guiding principles is to ensure that all developments in the County respect community heritage and the people who created it.

Among the purposes of the Legacy Framework is the strengthening of Strathcona County's commitment to preserving its history and safeguarding its heritage. Part of the framework's action plan is to identify and protect historically significant sites and to protect unique natural landscapes. Construction of the Cando rail yard has destroyed a number of opportunities in this regard.