

June 9, 2025



To: The Town of Claresholm
c/o Claresholm Town Council

Re: Support of Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show August 7 - 9,
2025

The Claresholm Bench show volunteers are busy planning for the 2025 Bench Show as part of the Claresholm & District Fair Days. The annual Bench Show started in 1907 and has run consistently – except for a few years during the thirties and most recently during the Covid pandemic. The 2025 Bench Show runs Thursday to Saturday during *Claresholm Fair Days Old West Jamboree*.

In 2023 and 2024, Claresholm Town Council generously provided us with a donation to cover the cost of our portion of the rent for the Claresholm Community Centre

We respectfully request that Claresholm Town Council support us again this year through a donation to cover all, or a portion of, the Community Centre rental fee. This will go a long way in ensuring we can continue to operate the bench show in the coming years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rita Ewen for,

Syd Gray

President, Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show

Town of Claresholm Application for Donation

(Policy 5.1.01 – Schedule “A”)

Date of Application: June 9, 2025

Date of Event: Thursday, August 7 – Saturday, August 9, 2025

(Thursday: set up and accepting entries, Friday: accepting entries, judging, public viewing, Saturday: public viewing, prize payout, entry collection, tear down)

1. Applicant Information

Name of Applicant: Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show

Address: PO Box 213, Claresholm, T0L 0T0

Contact Person: Syd Gray, President

Telephone: 403.625.2132

2. Type of Organization: Arts/Culture Recreation/Sports Event Other (specify)
Rural Fair BENCH SHOW

3. Is the Organization registered with Revenue Canada as a Charity **Yes**
The Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show is under the umbrella of The Willow Creek Ag Society which was registered on February 23, 1953 (name changed to WCAS on February 16, 1966) #119298925 RR001

4. Is the Organization incorporated as a non-profit organization **No**

5. Type of Donation (check and explain)

Community Event Special Event
Community Project Funding **Donation (Financial Assistance)**
In-Kind Contribution - Fee Waiver In-Kind Contribution – Service, Equipment of Materials
Other (explain)

Explanation

The Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show is again asking the Town of Claresholm for financial assistance to cover the cost of our portion of the Claresholm Community Centre (Main Hall and Lodge Room) rental from Thursday (8 am) until Saturday (5pm). On Saturday, we will be sharing the CCC with the Claresholm Lions Club Beef on a Bun event.

Amount (value) Requested: \$755 (as per Shane)

6. Details of how the funds will be expended:

The financial assistance from the Town of Claresholm will be used to cover our portion of the Claresholm Community Hall rental.

7. Is a copy of the organization’s operational or project budget attached? YES

8. Previous Donations

Has your organization received donation(s) from the Town of Claresholm in the past? If so, please explain the amount and use of these donations>

DATE	Amount	Use of Funds
Ongoing	Gift-in-Kind	A portion of the storage room rental at Claresholm arena
2023	\$700	Cost of Claresholm Community Centre Hall Rental Fair Days 2023
2024	\$725	Cost of Claresholm Community Centre Hall Rental Fair Days 2024

9. Organizational Information

What services or activities does your organization provide to the Town of Claresholm residents (Please attach a list of membership/executive)

The Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show gives everyone in Claresholm and area a chance to showcase their talents in a broad range of disciplines including: yard and garden, grains, forages, range plants and noxious weeds, yard and garden décor, flowers and plants, garden produce and fruits, heritage displays, foods, sewing, fibre arts, homecrafts, handicrafts, art, painting and sketches, poultry, small furry and feathered, and photography. In an average year almost 200 residents of Claresholm and the MD of Willow Creek (ranging in age from 5 to 85) enter more than 1,000 projects. The Bench Show is very well attended during the public viewing hours.

We also have a host of other activities including the President’s Pie Contest, money sand pit, petting zoo etc. The Bench Show pays out more than \$3,000 in prizes to entrants and through the sand pile etc.

The full Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show catalogue is available at:
<https://www.claresholm.ca/admin/resources/page-files/catalogue2019-2020web.pdf>

Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show organizing committee:

Syd Gray, President

Patricia Cormier, Treasurer

Lyndsey Douros Sheila Gray Debbie Lozeman

Kathy Lyster Stephanie Norby Kathy Sandy

Denise Spencer + event weekend volunteers (~50)

Describe in broad terms the principal objective of your organization or initiative:

The Claresholm & District Fair Days Bench Show provides residents (young and old) of the Town of Claresholm and the MD of Willow Creek with an opportunity to showcase their skills in a variety of interests, from agriculture and gardening to crafts and food preparation.

How will your organization acknowledge the Town's donation?

We will recognize the Town of Claresholm's donation through the back page ad in the Bench Show catalogue, our Facebook Page, through signage and verbally at the event.

10. Please provide a detailed list of all sources of funding for the organization (as of June 10).

Funding source	Amount	Recommended Use of Funds
UFA	\$400	Petting Zoo
IGA	TBD	Product
WCAS	\$1,225	General Use
50/50 Draw	TBD	Future Bench shows
Entry Fees	TBD	Future Bench shows
Public Admission	TBD	Future Bench Shows

Claresholm Bench Show 2025 Budget

	A	B	C
1	Item	Amount	Details
2	Venue Rental	\$755	Possibly offset by Town of Claresholm donation
3	Food	\$1,000	Lunch for volunteers and judges, snacks for volunteers, lunch for garden judges
4	Office Supplies	\$350	pens, binders, stamps, stationary
5	Judging	\$1,200	Honorarium and mileage
6	Memberships	\$115	Horticulture Society Membership 2025
7	Entertainment	\$1,000	During hours open to the public
8	Balloons	\$120	Decorations
9			
10	Printing	\$1,000	Bench Show Catalogues and posters
11	Sand Pile	\$110	Children's Money sand pile
12	Arena Storage	\$713	Portion of rent is a gift-in-kind from Town of Claresholm
13	Cash Float	\$7,200	Float for 50/50 and public admission to bench show + prize payout
14	Petting Zoo	\$2,000	Possibly offset by donation from UFA
15	PO Box Rental	\$196	
16			
17	TOTAL	\$15,659	
18			
19	CURRENT BALANCE	\$7,072.91	As of May 27

Council supported the Bench Show by covering the cost of the Community Centre rental in 2023 in the amount of \$700 and \$755 in 2024.