

**Public Art Committee Unveils Life-Sized Bison Sculpture Constructed by  
Local Metal Artist, Bill Keen  
October 24, 2023**

**MOOSE JAW** – The City of Moose Jaw is excited to officially announce the installation of a stunning life-sized steel bison sculpture at the Tourism Moose Jaw site. The sculpture was crafted by local metal artist Bill Keen and his wife, Laurette, and stands as a symbol of strength, resilience, and cultural significance.

In 2021, the Keens presented the idea of creating and installing a life-sized steel bison sculpture which was driven by a deep passion for showcasing our region's heritage. The Keens generously donated hundreds of hours of labour to bring this vision to life. The Public Art Committee, with approval from City Council, secured the acquisition of the sculpture in the fall of 2022, covering material costs totalling \$8,295.00.

The creative process began with a skeletal structure of steel rods, followed by the meticulous application of six to eight layers of weld to achieve the desired finish. A remarkable 450 pounds of MIG .035 welding wire was used. To give the sculpture its natural appearance, it received two coats of oil-based primer for sealing and three coats of colored paint.

In 2023, engagement sessions were held to gather feedback on the potential installation location, and it was decided that the sculpture would find its permanent home at the Tourism Moose Jaw site. The bison sculpture portrays the iconic American Bison in a powerful stance, symbolizing strength, unity, and protection. It serves as a tribute to the vast herds that once roamed North America's plains, highlighting their cultural and environmental importance. It also stands as a testament to the City's commitment to preserving its unique history and the stunning landscapes that define our region.

The City of Moose Jaw extends its sincere gratitude to Bill and Laurette Keen for their visionary efforts and countless volunteer hours devoted to creating this remarkable public art display. The acquisition of the sculpture was also made possible through the generous support of the City of Moose Jaw Public Art Committee and various community organizations that provided valuable input regarding the sculpture's placement.

The life-sized steel bison sculpture was officially installed in late July 2023, and the site's landscaping and pathway work were completed in August. In October 2023, a commemorative plaque was installed, marking the official completion of this inspiring project.

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