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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fred and Margaret Sutherland honoured with tree, plaque and street name

Rocky Mountain House, Alta. – The Town of Rocky Mountain House renamed 54 Street in honour of Fred and Margaret Sutherland during an outdoor ceremony today.

“At all times, Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland lived with integrity, demonstrating respect for each other, their friends, family members and their community,” said Mayor Tammy Burke. “They were true community builders, and Rocky Mountain House was lucky to have them for as long as we did.”

Burke was joined by Joan Norris and Jim Sutherland, two of Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland’s children, to unveil a memorial plaque at the intersection of Sutherland Drive (54 St.) and 52 Ave.

“As a family, we are especially thankful that the Town has chosen to remember both Mom and Dad in the naming of Sutherland Drive,” said Norris. “To us, they were the epitome of what a true partnership should be: each rejoicing in the other’s accomplishments, each supporting and encouraging the goals of the other and together, always together, embracing life as an adventure.”

Rocky Mountain House Town Council chose to rename 54 St. in recognition of the Sutherlands’ contributions to both the Town and Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland were long-time residents of Rocky Mountain House. Fred Sutherland retired as Superintendent of the Rocky Clearwater Forest Area in 1986. Margaret Sutherland was a professional weaver and artist with works displayed around the world.

In 1943, Fred Sutherland played a pivotal role in the Second World War Dambusters mission of the 617 squadron. At the age of 20, he served as the front gunner in the aircraft that broke the Eder Dam in May 1943, crippling Nazi efforts in the Second World War.

Fred and Margaret Sutherland married the day after he returned from war. Together, they raised three children and were married for 73 years.

Margaret Sutherland lived from Nov. 21, 1922 to Sept. 3, 2017. Fred Sutherland lived from Feb. 26, 1923 to Jan. 21, 2019.



Jim Sutherland and Joan Norris assist Mayor Tammy Burke in unveiling a memorial plaque at the corner of Sutherland Drive and 52 Ave.

Photo Credit: Laura Button | Town of Rocky Mountain House



Laurie, left, and Jim Sutherland, Joan Norris, Mayor Tammy Burke, Hugh Norris, Linda Richardson, Councillor Len Phillips and Councillor Randy Brown pictured following the street-naming ceremony.

Photo Credit: Marina Kulich | Town of Rocky Mountain House

For more information, please contact:

Laura Button

Communications Coordinator

Town of Rocky Mountain House

lbutton@rockymtnhouse.com

Main office: 403-845-2866

Direct line: 403-846-4257