

September 16, 2005

## **Government breaks ground for Lois Hole memorial garden**

Construction to begin this fall on Legislature Grounds

Edmonton...The memory of Alberta's "Queen of Hugs" and her passion for gardening will be preserved by a special Lois Hole memorial garden to be constructed on the Alberta Legislature Grounds.

The garden was announced in this spring's Speech from the Throne as a tribute to Mrs. Hole, the late Lieutenant Governor who passed away in January 2005. Construction will begin this fall following a sod-turning ceremony on September 16.

"Our goal is to create a special place where Albertans can spend a quiet, relaxing moment to reflect on the tremendous contribution Lois Hole made to this province," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "Given her passion for gardening and her service to Alberta, building a garden in her memory on the Legislature Grounds is very fitting."

A design has been finalized, and hard landscaping work, such as stonework, paths and walls, is set to begin this month. The garden will be located on the northeast corner of the Legislature Building's south grounds and will include a bronze plaque with an inscription and a raised likeness of Mrs. Hole. The plaque will be mounted on a boulder, set in a round seating plaza. The garden will feature a mix of annuals and perennials, five seating areas, wheelchair-accessible paths, and a small sculpture element. Planting work will be done next spring.

Mrs. Hole's son, Bill Hole, has been an active participant in the design process. Future decisions concerning the project will also be made in consultation with the Hole family, and the Hole family has expressed interest in donating some of the plants.

"We'll strive to make sure the garden includes some of Mom's favourites," said Jim Hole.

In addition to the memorial garden, the government has honoured Hole's life in other ways, such as establishing the [Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park](#), and commissioning her [official portrait](#), which now hangs in the Legislature Rotunda.

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