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Occoquan River Communities

Press Release

New Streetscape Unveiled in Town of Occoquan

Project is first in a public art initiative facilitated by organization dedicated to promoting the region

Occoquan, VA, September 17, 2015: Organizers from Occoquan River Communities (ORC), the Town of Occoquan and the Occoquan Historical Society today unveiled a 90-foot “streetscape” – a 90 foot scrolling silk screen featuring 15 photos that depict Occoquan from the late 19th century into the 1970’s. The installation, which covers a section of fencing fronting a currently undeveloped lot along the town’s riverfront on Mill Street, creates a sense of connectivity among businesses on the block while affording visitors an opportunity to see a depiction of Occoquan “then and now”. The project is intended to be the first in a series of public art projects facilitated by ORC – a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Occoquan region on both the Prince William and Fairfax county sides of the river

Many of the photographs used appear in the book *Occoquan*, authored by former town mayor Earnie Porta, who attended the event and spoke to the audience about the photos. Bryanna Altman, chair of the ORC public art committee said, “We are so delighted to have worked with town manager Kirstyn Jovanovich, the Occoquan Historical Society and former mayor Porta on this project. Additionally, we need to thank the property owner, Melissa Jennings Stevens, who allowed the project to be installed on her property for the benefit of all; town maintenance supervisor Bucky Brill, who was instrumental in preparing and installing the project; Polaris Press, which generously donated its design services and produced the finished piece; and Virginia Lawn Service, which donated landscaping services to further beautify the project. This was truly a community effort of which we all can be proud.”

Jovanovich said of the project: “The intent of this project is for residents, businesses and visitors to see the images of the past to offer contrast to present day Occoquan, as well as help beautify our community. It allows us to showcase and embrace our history, while celebrating our progress.”

Altman explained to the audience that the Occoquan streetscape is the first in what ORC hopes will become a series of public art installations that will add to the area’s blossoming arts and culture scene and expose more people to exciting progress in the ORC region, such as the town’s new River Mill park, the Potomac Science Center at Belmont Bay, the Rivergate apartment/condominium development and the redevelopment of the Occoquan Regional Park.

For more information: www.Occoquanrivercommunities.org; www.occquanva.gov;
www.occquanhistoricalsociety.org

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