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News Release

From: Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Society
Hillcrest Mine Disaster Memorial Committee

Subject: **110th Anniversary of Hillcrest Mine Disaster Memorial Service and Wreath Laying**

Date: June 14, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Crowsnest Pass, Alberta ... The worst mining disaster in Canadian history occurred at the Hillcrest coal mine in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta on Friday, June 19, 1914. A town of 1,000 lost 189 men and 90 women became widows, and hundreds of children were left fatherless.

To commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster, a Memorial Service will be conducted on Sunday, June 23rd starting at 1:00 PM at the Hillcrest Mine Disaster Memorial Monument at the entrance to the historic Hillcrest Cemetery in the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.

The service will be conducted by Chaplain Philip Costain with remarks by Chelsea Petrovic, MLA, Livingstone-Macleod; and representatives from the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass; Coal Association of Canada, United Miner Workers of America, Sentinel Summit Lodge #26, and Crowsnest Pass Heritage organizations.

The service will conclude with laying of memorial wreathes. Jeanne Shafer, a descendant of the Petrie family which suffered the loss of three family members in the disaster, will lay the first wreath on behalf of the families, followed by dignitaries and others.

The committee extends an invitation to all interested persons to attend.

Also, a reception will be held at the Hillcrest Miner's Club following the memorial service.

Prior to the ceremony, from 12 noon to 12:45 PM a guided tour of the Hillcrest cemetery will be available which will be conducted by staff of the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre.

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