

## RUNESTONE UNEARTHED

*Pliers still missing*

**W. Effingham Hoofnagle, staff reporter:**

A discovery by Cypress Hills rancher, Clay Baker, has set the world of archaeology on its ear.

While hunting for a pair of fencing pliers which he had thrown at a gopher in a fit of anger, Mr. Baker found an unusual rock of a type unknown in the Cypress Hills.

Baker threw the rock at the same gopher and while continuing on the hunt for the pliers he came across a much larger rock partially buried in the tough short-grass sod.

While stooping to examine the larger rock to determine if he would be able to throw it at the gopher too, Baker noticed some scratches on the rock which seemed to be letters, or runes, in an exotic foreign language.

Scientists at the University of Maple Creek department of archaeology and watch repair believe that the inscription is in ancient Norse dating back to about July 15, 1362 A.D. They have translated the inscription as follows:

*8 Goths and 22 Norwegians on exploration journey from Vinland over the west. Trying to find Kensington, Minnesota to bury a rock in farmer's field but took wrong turn. Ended up in Cypress Hills. Buried the rock here instead. Returned to our ship in Hudson's Bay and got back to Norway before Labour Day rush.*

Scientists believe the stone is 100 percent genuine and have it on display in a glass case at the Elkwater Fuel Stop where it



The Kensington Runestone  
(inscription is on the other side of it)

will be shown to all interested parties upon request. It is being called the Kensington Runestone after the town in Minnesota where it would have been found if it had been buried there instead of here. ☺

## MEMORABLE CYPRESS HILLS CHARACTER BURIED

**J. Effington Belwether,**  
staff reporter -

Long-time Elkwater resident, 85 year old Eustace ("Squawk") Mulligan, was buried last Saturday beneath his beloved Cypress Hills sod.

Family members wielding shovels sang his favourite hymn, *Waltzing Tro' The Leaves*, as Mulligan was laid to rest in the cold, cold ground. After a moving graveside eulogy, everyone retired to the Irvine bar for a memorial celebration, a shuffleboard tournament and some spicy buffalo wings.

Fortunately for Mulligan he wasn't buried very deep and he was able to

extricate himself from under the beloved Cypress Hills sod. Neighbours who saw him return home say he was really ticked off. Mulligan says he will be instructing his solicitor to change his will.

Mulligan ("Squawk" to his friends) made a fortune in the cattle business. Although he never owned a ranch he had an uncanny knack for acquiring good cattle for next to nothing, or for nothing at all, and selling them at well below market price for tidy profits.

Upon hearing the good news of his resurrection, family members celebrated by returning by bus to their homes in Calgary. ☺

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## EDITORIAL

The recent astonishing discovery of the Norse runestone is set to elevate the Cypress Hills to world-class distinction as a tourist destination. Unfortunately, envy and mean-spiritedness abound everywhere.

Elkwater Town Council has received a letter from the town of Kensington, Minnesota (we've been there; a one-horse town if ever there was one!) threatening a law-suit if we don't discontinue our claim to possess this magnificent piece of North American history.

Kensington claims to own the original and only Norse runestone and says that ours is a fake. But university of Maple Creek scientists have certified ours as genuine and they really know their stuff. Our advice to Town Council? Call their bluff!

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# PRINCE DOESN'T COME TO ELKWATER

**J. J. Fotheringham Waterbury**, staff reporter -

On their recent tour of Canada, their royal highnesses Prince William and Kate didn't visit Elkwater or the Cypress Hills. The closest they came was Calgary. A visit to Elkwater was never part of the royal itinerary and protocol dictated that the royals not diverge from the original plan.

The 4th Cypress Hills Highlanders were going to invite the Prince to become honorary colonel-in-chief of the regiment if he visited Elkwater but when it was revealed that he (the prince) had never heard of Elkwater, and wouldn't be coming here even if he had, the fighting 4th had to go to plan "B".

The regimental communications officer wrote a letter to the prince outlining the plan and suggesting that if the prince was too busy maybe Kate would consider becoming the honorary colonelesse-in-chief.

Unfortunately the invitation was returned marked "insufficient postage".

An extra stamp was put on the letter and it was re-mailed but again bad luck struck and the letter, which was mailed to Buckingham Palace, was returned, marked "not at this address".



Fourth Cypress Hills Highlanders on parade

By the time the letter was delivered to William and Kate's cottage at East Wapping in the beautiful Herefordshire countryside, they had already left for Canada.

The Cypress Hills Highlanders have decided to ask the Medicine Hat Stampede Queen to be their honorary colonelesse-in-chief instead. ☹️

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Editor:** It is hard to believe that nearly 2 years have gone by since I first came to beautiful Elkwater in these delightful Cypress Hills to let the dust settle on some trumped-up legal entanglements in the East. If the municipal grader had really been worth that much I would have held out for a much higher price. Time has flown by so quickly, almost in a blur, much of which I don't even remember.

I have been the grateful recipient of Cypress Hills hospitality. In the Spring I accepted an invitation to a branding. I will never make that mistake again.

I will forever be indebted to the good people at the **Elkwater Fuel Stop, Mat Heller, Stephanie Heller, Dalena McNamara,**

**Travis Sailer, Colton Weiss, Jewelisa Watson and Oliver Martinez** for their hospitality. They have let me sleep in the woodshed when space was permitted by a diminishing supply of firewood. On many nights I drift off to sleep with the scent of pine to perfume my dreams.

The chef at **Twelve-Thirty Four** has generously allowed me to test some of his new recipes. I have completely forgiven him for the mushroom incident.

I am still in search of gainful employment. I have re-submitted my application to the **Elkwater Eyeopener**, the first one having gone astray. I understand how unreliable the mail can be.

Sincerely, *Cyril Mulrey, b.r.o.k.e.*