

TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE

Public Consultation Session

February 3, 2009
Mayerthorpe Diamond Centre

1. What makes you proud to be a part of the Town of Mayerthorpe?

Group 1

- ❖ The people of the community
- ❖ Small town atmosphere
- ❖ Close enough to Edmonton yet we can listen to birds
 - away from big city
 - not close enough to be a bedroom community
- ❖ A lot of kids activities
- ❖ Excellent schools and hospitals
 - external care and lodges too
- ❖ Good doctors
- ❖ All services available
- ❖ Spirit of the town
- ❖ Potential for services and recreation
- ❖ Talent
- ❖ Accomplishments of people
- ❖ Lots of wisdom and experience
- ❖ Large enough to start up initiatives
 - yet some don't fly because too small
- ❖ Small town that accomplishes big things
- ❖ Potential: cross roads of two major highways

Group 2

- ❖ Health facilities; lots for size of town
- ❖ Small town atmosphere
- ❖ Good people
- ❖ Sense of security
- ❖ People try to support the town by participating
- ❖ Things for children
- ❖ Long history of families
 - multi-generations
- ❖ Resilience
- ❖ People support people in need
- ❖ Good volunteer group
- ❖ People watch out for/support seniors

Group 3

- ❖ People
- ❖ Our youth - good schools
- ❖ Positive volunteer base
- ❖ Good health facilities
- ❖ Good mix of generations
- ❖ Pride in business leadership
- ❖ Resiliency
- ❖ More activities for young kids
- ❖ School activities
- ❖ Young people moving into town
- ❖ Good place to make a living
- ❖ Highway twinning
- ❖ On important intersection
- ❖ Near airport, mountains
- ❖ Close to major medical care
- ❖ Desire to grow
- ❖ A safe community
- ❖ Roads getting safer
- ❖ Highway twinning
- ❖ People of the community
- ❖ People want to make the town better
 - desire and commitment

Group 4

- ❖ We have lots of community spirit
- ❖ There is lots to do
- ❖ Good health care
- ❖ This is an agriculture community
- ❖ My business is here
- ❖ Grassroots people live here
- ❖ We have awesome volunteers
- ❖ The Town/people are helpful
- ❖ Very personalized, friendly service
- ❖ Great location (with highways twinned)
- ❖ Our airport, railroad
- ❖ We are on the main market route to the north
- ❖ Is a safe community
- ❖ RCMP detachment
- ❖ Have a hospital; it is very good
- ❖ Good schools
- ❖ Good recreation area, sports
- ❖ Good seniors facilities
- ❖ Small town atmosphere is good
- ❖ There is room to grow
- ❖ Restoring our grain elevator
- ❖ Fallen Four Memorial Park
- ❖ Lots of service groups

- ❖ Close enough to Edmonton to use their amenities
- ❖ Cheap real estate

2. What are some issues or concerns you have about living or working in Mayerthorpe?

Group 1

- ❖ Infrastructure
- ❖ Prevalent attitude that Mayerthorpe will die
 - nothing happens here
- ❖ Health care shortage and bringing in workers equals not enough places to accommodate them
- ❖ Community groups seem to be divided
 - hard to get help to run things
 - no one wants to work together
- ❖ Seniors transportation (and handicap)
- ❖ Hearing aids and glasses → more access to these kind of services
- ❖ Privacy and confidentiality
- ❖ Opportunities for youth
 - not enough
 - activities, work, etc.
- ❖ Street drugs in town
 - more needed to protect youth
- ❖ Options not offered in school
 - shop, construction, welding, etc
- ❖ Some academic areas are not offered either
- ❖ Some items are hard to get here in town
 - furnace filters, lettuce
- ❖ Streets and sidewalks (lack of)
- ❖ Business expansions – lack of

Group 2

- ❖ Arena/pool
- ❖ Skate Board Park
 - will we get a new one?
- ❖ Housing starts, businesses leaving
 - regressive rather than progressive
- ❖ Funding for services
- ❖ Taxes keeping them down
- ❖ Employment opportunities – growing employment
- ❖ Nothing new coming in to attract new business
- ❖ Hard for teens
 - i.e. volunteer, opportunities, etc.
- ❖ Things are costly for single families
- ❖ Crime
 - vandalism on the rise, not sure if it is more here
- ❖ Drugs not sure again
 - about future – safety fear

- ❖ Doctor shortage/retention
- ❖ Our image as a town
 - no curb appeal
- ❖ Town doesn't develop before the community builds
- ❖ Costs to live here are too high
- ❖ Playgrounds looking old – vandalized
- ❖ Need to work together better
 - Inter-agencies
- ❖ Daycare lacking
- ❖ Volunteer burnout

Group 3

- ❖ The arena – replacing it
- ❖ The pool also to be replaced
- ❖ Trying to get business to move to town
- ❖ Too many organizations not collaborating more
- ❖ Our businesses have to compete with those from other areas
- ❖ Not enough loyalty to business
 - not enough shopping locally
- ❖ To be able to attract families and keep schools strong
- ❖ Medical clinic is too heavily used
- ❖ Post secondary training lacking
- ❖ Doctor burnout
- ❖ Keeping our hospital
- ❖ Lack of new seniors facility
- ❖ Not having a long range vision
- ❖ Affordable housing needs
- ❖ How the town is to develop, how do we get development to occur according to our planning
- ❖ Recreation activities for kids that are free
- ❖ Keeping people here
- ❖ Getting people here
- ❖ Keeping our facilities
 - hospital, clinic, schools, etc.
- ❖ New library
 - could be added to new facility

Group 4

- ❖ Poor swimming pool
- ❖ No arena
- ❖ No young people to take over
- ❖ Young people are too busy to be involved
- ❖ Less desire to volunteer
- ❖ Little volunteer recognition
- ❖ Poor roads
- ❖ Long term care and lodge facility is old
- ❖ Poor sidewalks
- ❖ Not disability centered or designed

- ❖ Lots of people on welfare
- ❖ Slum landlords
- ❖ The town lost some businesses due to Whitecourt expanding
- ❖ Agriculture sector troubles
- ❖ No activities for young people
- ❖ Lack of communication within town and outside of town
- ❖ Lack of funding from provincial and federal government
- ❖ Lack of funding for everything
- ❖ Lack of involvement
- ❖ Lack of news coverage
- ❖ Population is shrinking
- ❖ No major industry
- ❖ Young people can't get into farming

3. What can be done to improve the town and to ensure our community thrives?

Group 1

- ❖ Attract business
- ❖ Allow growth
- ❖ Partnerships – hospital and extended care
 - sharing positions
- ❖ A few less buildings on Main Street
 - some need to be torn down
- ❖ Expand housing
- ❖ Need rentals (better ones)
 - apartments
- ❖ Attract families – accommodate them as well as business
- ❖ A town that looks alive and has vitality
 - whole town, not just Main Street
- ❖ Focus on roads – paving
- ❖ Sidewalk repairs
- ❖ Pavement to hospital
- ❖ Sidewalk by extended care
- ❖ Focus on more than just Main Street
- ❖ Business beautification
- ❖ Sports complex
- ❖ More options (academic and trades, etc.) in schools
- ❖ Transportation for seniors and handicap
- ❖ Volunteers
 - try to get young people
 - < 45 years
 - encourage volunteering
- ❖ Need to open up and allow change
 - attitude shift
- ❖ Allow new ideas and opportunities in
- ❖ Tax incentive to attract businesses and industry
- ❖ Explore home-based businesses options
 - support them

- ❖ Day home/day care model
 - it appears to work well
- ❖ Support and encourage groups in the community
 - like Kinettes, etc.
- ❖ Think big re: new arena complex
 - will attract families
 - good way to support families and youth
- ❖ Attract youth to come back after their schooling
- ❖ Promote family farming for youth → expose kids who don't get out to farms
- ❖ Community gardens
 - link into the regional initiative bio mile
- ❖ Start a farmers market to attract people in
- ❖ Build on/revitalize the Fair
 - clean up safety and drug issues
 - involve community groups
- ❖ Celebrate the successes we do have
 - acknowledgement and recognition
- ❖ More access to view school sports
- ❖ Encourage more groups like Communities in Bloom
 - plant more
 - beautification
- ❖ Encourage volunteerism
- ❖ Community bulletin board
 - community events
 - sports
 - school events
 - at entrance to town
- ❖ Automatic car wash

Group 2

- ❖ Hold more planning meetings with public
- ❖ People need to buy in
- ❖ Show progress
- ❖ Get public involved in curb appeal
- ❖ Bring in some industry
- ❖ Focus on one initiative
 - rally around something
- ❖ Paid individual to look for government grants
 - search out grants
- ❖ Want to see timeline of our progress on projects
- ❖ More communication on what's happening on delivery projects
 - through paper and radio, school
- ❖ Engage youth in some project to be proud of their town
- ❖ Older kids helping younger kids
 - mentoring
- ❖ More fundraising

- ❖ Business and organizations work with schools for work experience
- ❖ Lack of motivation
 - set an example, lead by example
 - be a model
- ❖ More support around parenting
- ❖ Increase recreational initiatives
 - walking path! never becomes a big priority
- ❖ Big dreams without resources equals disappointment
- ❖ Need government allotments
- ❖ Plan to meet community needs
- ❖ Need jobs to attract people
- ❖ Leadership must come from town
- ❖ Attract doctors or other service providers to live in town
- ❖ We have to advertise the town as a positive place
- ❖ Need more than recreation to do
 - i.e. live theatre
- ❖ Money/incentive to start a business here
- ❖ Shop locally
 - businesses need to practice this too
- ❖ Focus on youth
- ❖ Offer mortgage incentive
 - okay affordable housing
- ❖ Get something going on housing development regarding vacant lots
- ❖ Refurbish older homes
- ❖ Look at programs like Habitat for Humanity
 - Drayton Valley has group Humans Helping Humans building houses
- ❖ Downtown revitalization
 - street lights
 - store fronts
- ❖ Is there fines for not complying to cleanup
 - Including store owners

Group 3

- ❖ Educational outreach programs utilizing available technology facilities
- ❖ Looking at using the high school as a possible venue for a post-secondary educational programming
- ❖ Looking at education consortium branch office in town
- ❖ Try to develop trades courses using community facilitators
- ❖ Looking at making the town “peddler friendly”
- ❖ Encouraging farmers markets
 - i.e. sponsored by the Legion
- ❖ Local groups need to work together better, rather than compete with each other
- ❖ The arena and the pool need to be high priority
- ❖ Need to encourage a larger business based to increase the tax base
- ❖ Partner with Counties to reduce operating costs
- ❖ Town has to be more friendly to new businesses

- ❖ Getting highway lands developed
- ❖ Getting MLA to be a more effective advocate
- ❖ Involve youth in development initiatives
- ❖ Brainstorm what types of businesses we want
 - i.e. attracting semi-retired, part-time business, as well as technology type businesses
- ❖ Determine what buildings we need to attract business
- ❖ Highway hotel, restaurant, etc.
- ❖ Improve the image of the town
 - better roads, Main Street, etc.
- ❖ Organizations and groups need to work together toward common goals
- ❖ Providing resources to young parents for child care so they can be more involved in the town
- ❖ Look at Ag Society, Pool Society and Arena Society working better together or even amalgamating, or working with Sports Grounds Society (as an umbrella society)
- ❖ Develop better business base
- ❖ Developing the other side of the highway
 - Service Center?
- ❖ More events
 - Ag Fairs, etc.
- ❖ Hotel base
- ❖ Community groups working better together

Group4

- ❖ Be positive about town, be a good ambassador
- ❖ Develop a promotional DVD
- ❖ Better advertising for events and activities
- ❖ Upgrade website to promote town
- ❖ Stop band aid fixes and fix things right the first time
- ❖ Improved seniors facilities would increase others moving in
- ❖ Work with volunteers and service groups
- ❖ Share a grant writer position with rural municipalities
- ❖ Construct a year round sports facilities
- ❖ ATV trails should be built
- ❖ Have things for kids and adults to do/lots of variety
- ❖ Let town know about activities that are happening
- ❖ Put suggestion boxes around town
- ❖ Phone the newspaper to include activities/news; send articles and photos
- ❖ Increase communication
- ❖ Advertise whole area, not just town
- ❖ Develop business park/promote the lots
- ❖ Work with the region for solutions, not just the town
- ❖ Develop partnerships with surrounding counties
- ❖ Pick up garbage; clean up the town
- ❖ Have an anti-idling bylaw
- ❖ Use recycled material
 - e.g. sidewalks

- ❖ User recycling services that come in once every two
- ❖ More beautification of town
 - use 'Adopt a Block' program
- ❖ Start up the Dinner Theatre group again
- ❖ Start up an Arts Council
- ❖ Preserve our agriculture history
- ❖ Utilize the Arts Club
- ❖ Promote outside businesses to come here 1 or 2 times a week
 - e.g. health services
- ❖ More accessibility for elderly
 - e.g. health services
- ❖ Have more people run for town council
- ❖ There is no steady interest in Council
- ❖ Advertise on radio for upcoming events
- ❖ Build the new arena the right way
 - attach a pool
 - use geo-thermal
 - accessible to old people
- ❖ Build a multi-use facility
- ❖ Ask for funding from the surrounding Counties for operating costs for recreation facility
- ❖ Hold a public forum for recreation facility
 - design and costs
- ❖ Work with service groups for input on the recreation facility
- ❖ Ozone water for pool
- ❖ Road accessibility; more than one road coming into the arena
- ❖ Talk to outside businesses to get them to come in
- ❖ Get a Tim Horton's
- ❖ More tourism
- ❖ Increase recreation to bring in tourism, and advertise events
- ❖ Have hotels in town to hold people here
- ❖ Host major sporting events
 - hockey
- ❖ Not asking to volunteer: ask them to become involved
- ❖ Get people to support town
- ❖ Be proud of town
- ❖ Improve roads
- ❖ Better grader services; improve roads to town
- ❖ Increase involvement in activities
- ❖ Have restaurants stay open during major events
 - in mornings and weekends

Highlights

Group 1

1. Encourage volunteerism and build volunteer base
 - incentives
 - recognition

- attract < 45 year olds
2. Ways to keep youth here
 - activities, work
 - after they go to school
 - bring them back here
 - opportunity (career oriented)
 - career development partnerships
 3. Presentation of the Town
 - beautification
 - infrastructure
 4. Focus on services for seniors

Group 2

1. Clean up the town
2. Town development
 - housing/business
3. Developing our youth
4. Focus on a common goal
 - get the town rallied
 - really rally the volunteer spirit
5. One person to coordinate a coming together

Group 3

1. Highway twinning
2. People of the community
3. People want to make the town better
 - desire and commitment

Group 4

1. Stop band aid fixes and fix right
2. Improved seniors facilities would increase others moving in
3. Increased communication
4. Increased involvement in activities