

Prairie Lily Public Library Community Leader Responses: Compiled Answers

Date: August 2013

What we are doing:

The Central Saskatchewan Regional Library is gathering information about your community's opinions, needs, challenges and assets. Our intent is to use this information to assist the Prairie Lily Public Library in positioning itself to better meet the needs of your community. We contacted you on the advice of the local library board as they identified you as a community leader. Your responses will be kept confidential.

1. What attracts people to this community?

- Small town atmosphere: nice community and people, personable hometown feeling, peaceful, tranquil, slow pace of country life, friendly, low crime rate.
- Employment: Pig barns, Oil fields, farming, potash
- Good school attracts families
- Amenities: rink, retirement facility, theatre, beautiful gardens, park, drop-in centre, BBQ pits.
- Affordable
- Location: close to lakes and bigger centres

2. What are the challenges about living in this community?

- Volunteer base is getting smaller.
- Lack of amenities and activities: no swimming pool, bowling alley, shopping (clothing, hardware, shoes, children's clothing), healthcare, local business.
- Declining rural population.
- Location. We are a half hour from larger communities and an hour and a half from a city.
- Winter weather.

3. If you could change one thing about this community what would it be?

- More family activities and family friendly events, pool
- Increase the number of businesses (hardware store)
- Grow the community
- Encourage more volunteerism
- Access to healthcare
- Faith-based activities

4. What activities are of most interest to the people of this community?

- Curling
- Hockey, skating
- Fastball, swimming
- Children's sports
- Agricultural fair
- Library for older residents especially
- Community Hall functions (musical entertainment)

- Theatre
- Gardening
- Farming
- Church
- Hotel and bar (great steaks)

5. What are the hot button issues of this community?

- Local healthcare situation
- Keeping the K-12 school
- Survival of businesses
- Fundraising fatigue (new projector for the theatre, fire truck, ambulance, concrete floor in the rink)
- Declining rural population
- Street repair

6. What is this community's perception of the public library?

- Very positive perception.
- Would be nice to have more hours (currently only open two days a week).
- Fairly well frequented by the community.
- Older age group uses it a lot.
- Used by those who don't have a computer.
- Staff are very good and helpful.
- Outreach to seniors is excellent.
- Volunteers and staff work hard to provide kids programming, encourages reading.
- People may not realize the hours of operation.
- Very important. I wouldn't have moved here if the village didn't have one.
- I myself do not use the library a lot.
- I don't know if enough people use the library.
- I think it is varied. I know people who use the library a lot and greatly rely on it. Others barely know the library exists.

7. What do you want this community to be for the next generation?

- A safe place to raise children.
- Attractive to businesses.
- Keep the local school.
- Residents who appreciate what we have and then build on it rather than going elsewhere for everything.

8. How long have you lived in this community?

- 1, 5, 10, 14,14, 15, 38,40,42, 50+

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions and, **thank you for your service to this community.**