



Age-Friendly Rosetown



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What is Age-Friendly?

The Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) responded to the call from the Public Health Agency of Canada to participate in the Age-Friendly Communities project which “seeks to engage older Canadians and their communities in making their communities better, healthier and safer places for seniors to live and thrive. In an age-friendly community, policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable

people to ‘age actively’ - that is, to live in security, enjoy good health and continue to participate fully in society”.

(Age Friendly Saskatchewan: Becoming an Age-Friendly Community)

be used to set priorities on what we as a community can do help our fellow residents be healthy, safe and included.

As we travel along in this journey, we will try to keep you informed and involved.

Watch for us!

Rosetown became involved with Age-Friendly in February, 2016. A volunteer committee has formed in order to assess what makes our community a great place for people of all ages to live, as well as what can be improved on. This information will then



you will see, many positives were identified as well as areas of concern. That is a good thing: a solid base to work from and room to improve and thrive!

How Can You Help?

- Give us your ideas on what can better make Rosetown an Age-Friendly place to live.
- Assess how Age-Friendly your place of business or property is and take steps to improve it.
- Volunteer at a project put on by the Age-Friendly Committee
- Be watchful for ways you can help out a fellow Rosetown resident— regardless of their age!

Survey

In August and September the Age-Friendly Rosetown Committee asked residents of all ages to fill out a survey. It included the 8 areas addressed in the age

friendly movement. The response was even greater than we had hoped for. Thank you! Your answers have been compiled and summarized for you in the following pages. As

Survey Results



Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

The condition of the streets and sidewalks was a common concern for most, with many comments on the hazard they pose for those walking, with or without assistive devices. However, there was recognition of the grinding work done by the Town on the sidewalks this past year. There were also positive comments on the system of snow clearing for the downtown and other high use areas. Snow removal and

vegetation overgrowth in residential areas was stated as an issue, though. Another main topic of concern was accessibility. Those most commonly mentioned were difficulty getting into some public buildings and businesses, the need for more curb cuts and assistive supports at recreational facilities (eg: handrails at ends of bleachers at sports ground). The need for additional benches in and on

route to public spaces was suggested in many cases, making it easier for seniors to walk to services on their own. Having more accessible public washrooms was a frequent suggestion as well.



Transportation

Again, the condition of the streets was brought up by many of the respondents. This is of particular concern for those who rely on walkers and scooters to get around town. The main streets were thought to be well lit, but

other areas could be better, whether because of the lights themselves or blocked by trees. It was generally felt more reserved parking spaces on main street would be helpful for those who have mobility

issues. It was felt there are transportation options in Rosetown, but the loss of the taxi service leaves a big hole. The volunteer driver service is appreciated—just want to advertise the program better as there are many who are not aware of its existence. Cost is also a concern to many, particularly those who do not have family to help, regardless of the option.

*All community residents, including older persons, persons with disabilities, children and youth deserve to fully and meaningfully participate in and contribute to the social and economic fabric of our community.
Town of Rosetown Resolution, Oct 2015*



Housing

There are some services available to help seniors stay in their homes, however, not enough people who offer those services at a cost they can afford. Information on who does maintenance work would be beneficial, though. Rules on who can access the

seniors' housing was a common concern. People felt the process was long and does not meet the needs of residents. Regardless of where people live, respondents noted that many older persons look after each other, creating their

own sources of support.





Social Participation

The majority of respondents said there are a range of activities available to them and that efforts are made to make them accessible to seniors. The older buildings in Rosetown do make this difficult at times, but groups do what they can with what is here. Some seniors said they would be able to do more if the spaces (building or sporting venues) were more accessible. There has been an end to previously offered activities such as dances and bingos, though, which is missed by many.

Other stated concerns were the declining number of volunteers in service clubs and churches and the question of how to reach out to those who may be feeling isolated or how to even find out who needs the extra help.



Respect and Social Inclusion

Almost every respondent said they feel they are treated with respect in Rosetown. It is appreciated how some organizations make a special effort to help older adults to attend events



and be involved in the community. There was interest expressed in increasing the opportunities where seniors are consulted for their ideas and participation in community events and programs.



Civic Participation and Employment

There are a wide range of volunteer opportunities available to older persons, allowing people to choose how little or how much they wish to participate. Some did say age appropriateness and health matters can be a deterrent in some cases. Most did not know if there

were job opportunities in Rosetown for seniors. The comments were a mix of some would like a job but there are perceived barriers (age appropriateness, types of jobs available, ability), while for others this was not even a consideration.





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Communication and Information

- Most reported they thought community events and services were communicated in a way easily accessed. Written information was the preferred method, with only half of respondents saying they use a computer to gather information.
- That being said it was suggested various ways be used so that however a person accesses information, it is still simple for them. As stated throughout the survey, there were often times respondents asked for 'helping' services to be better promoted and made aware of to residents.



Community Supports and Health Services

- The availability of health services and delivery of helping services (meals, groceries, etc.) was acknowledged by almost all respondents. Many stated they appreciated the variety of services provided without having to find ways to get to Saskatoon to have their needs met all the time. Accessibility was a frequent concern, in particular at the Health Centre. The cost of some services was also mentioned as a barrier to access. Once again, where to get information on services was a problem for some and these services while available, do not meet everyone's specific needs.

Summary

As you can see from the summaries provided on the 8 areas highlighted in the survey, there are a number of common themes throughout. These include:

- Generally there is a sense that Rosetown is a good place for people of all ages to live and have their needs met.
- There are a variety of services available.
- Accessibility can be an obstacle to being able to fully participate in some activities and access some services.
- There is a concern over the affordability of some

services. This includes for transportation, housing and services.

- There is a need for more information being received by older adults on what services are available and how they access them.

As stated at the start of this report, there are many positive things happening in Rosetown, just as there are areas that require some work. We look forward to consulting with and working with many of you in the near future to build on these successes and improve on the areas requiring a bit of work.

