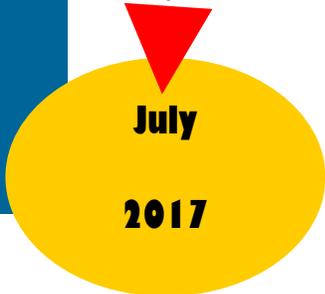




Age-Friendly Rosetown



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What is Age-Friendly?	1
Survey	1
Actions Taken	2-4

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)

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

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!



pages will give you a clearer picture of what has happened in the last few months.

This is only the start for Rosetown!

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

If you graciously helped us out last fall by completing a survey on how age friendly you think Rosetown is, or even heard about it, you may be wondering if anything was ever

done with the information. Please know that the Age Friendly Rosetown Committee did take action on a number of concerns brought forth by you. The following

Actions Taken



Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

For Age Friendly, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings looks at how people work, play and live in their community. It takes into consideration the ease in which a person can get around and to the places they need to be, the visual appeal—what makes a person want to be there, and whether there are sufficient outdoor spaces to gather or partake in recreational activities.

In order to get a clear picture of what Rosetown residents thoughts on our outdoor spaces and buildings are, the survey asked you to comment on such things as:

- Sidewalks and streets maintained and snow cleared
- People with assistive devices being able to get around
- Benches or resting areas in public areas and

- Accessible public washrooms.

Read on to see what actions have been taken by the Age Friendly Rosetown Committee in response to your comments.



Benches

The need for additional benches at and on route to public spaces was suggested by many of the survey respondents. Reasoning given was the benches make it easier for seniors, young children and those with mobility issues to walk to services on their own.

The Age Friendly Rosetown Committee has started a Community Bench Project. This project encourages, and makes it easy for, local businesses, service clubs, families or individuals to design and purchase benches that will be placed around the town for public use. They can be used for advertising, in

celebration of an event, in memoriam or other community appropriate messaging.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can sponsor a bench, please contact Crystal at 306-882-2672 ext 2237 or crystal.storey@hrha.sk.ca.

Public Safety Concerns

There was some concern expressed over the ease, or lack of, of entering some buildings in Rosetown. The Post Office was one mentioned as a source of frequent injuries.

Canada Post stating concerns over the lack of an automated system on their heavy main door. The Committee has since received notice that the concern has been shared with the regional manager, who is looking into it further.



We will keep you posted on this!

A letter was written to

Sidewalks

There were both positive and concerned responses in regards to the state of the Rosetown sidewalks: concern over the unevenness caused by ground heaving and positive comments about the sidewalk shaving project that was undertaken by the Town last year.

The results of the survey was shared in its entirety with the Town of Rosetown, including your thoughts on the condition of the sidewalks. Due in part to this

presentation of your concerns, the Town decided to expand the sidewalk shaving project. This will enable them to smooth out a greater number of areas where the sidewalks are deemed difficult to walk on without fear of tripping and falling.

Your concerns are being heard and making a difference to your quality of life in our great community of Rosetown!



Housing

For housing to be considered age friendly, it requires more than is their housing. It looks at if housing is available, is it safe and provides comfortable shelter all year around, can modifications be made for special needs, is the housing affordable and if the community has services to help people live in their own

homes for as long as possible.

Since housing is such an important component of everyone's life, it is no wonder it was a hot topic. The main concern was the criteria to get into McNab Place and Lions Manor. Many were worried about the

vacancies and the rules for acceptance preventing many people from benefitting from living there.



Housing Advocacy Campaign

This was another finding of the survey the Town Council found useful. They decided to investigate further, which led to discussions and a letter campaign to pertinent provincial governmental bodies. The Age Friendly Rosetown Committee also wrote letters with a similar

message to these individuals. Responses were received from a few and the NDP MLA, Ryan Meili, brought the issue up at a legislature



session. This is not a Rosetown specific concern as many rural communities are affected. We are unaware of any action taken by the provincial government at this time, but work will continue on highlighting its importance to those who oversee Housing.



For More Information, Contact:

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E-mail: crystal.storey@hrha.sk.ca

AGE-FRIENDLY ROSETOWN

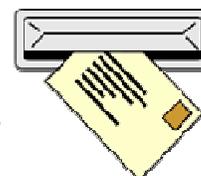


Respect and Social Inclusion

- Respect and social inclusion takes into account how local services, organizations and residents show respect to older adults. It also considers whether residents of all ages have opportunities to provide input and participate in community discussions. To gather your opinions on this, the survey included questions on respect shown to seniors, whether local organizations help seniors to attend community events and if seniors are asked for their ideas and participation in community programs. Overall this category received positive feedback, but there is always room for improvement!

Intergeneration Pen Pals

- One thing we heard numerous times in the survey was there was limited interaction between older adults and children and youth if did not have close family living in the area. That is why we are starting a pen pals program between students at the elementary school and adults of any age. We are currently looking for adults to participate as we start the letters in the fall. If you are interested, please keep reading!



Letter Writing Volunteers Needed

The Age Friendly Rosetown Committee has already found lots of young people to make a new friend, share what is going on in their lives and learn about someone else's. All we need now is community members who want the same. Could it be you?

This is an easy volunteer opportunity, with a small time commitment but big rewards!

The students at Walter Asestine School will write their first letter in October and you can pick up the letter from your new friend at the Pharmasave, where a 'mail' bag will be. You

then have a month to write and drop off your letter at the same location. This will continue until June.

Pamphlets (to the right) can be picked up at the Pharmasave pharmacy counter. They include the letter writing schedule on the backside. Tell your friends—don't let them miss out on the fun!

For more information or to sign up, contact Crystal at: 306-882-2672 ext 2237 or crystal.storey@hrha.sk.ca



Growing up didn't you love receiving a letter?



Starting the fall of 2017!
 Correspond with a younger person in our community and help to: develop their social, reading and writing skills.
 Make a new friend and enjoy the experience yourself!
 Low Commitment from you!
 (Only 1 letter a month.)
 No cost and no travel required!
 For more information call:
 Crystal @ 306 882-2672 Ext. 2237