Town of Irricana
Communities in Bloom
2016
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Town of Irricana
Communities in Bloom Agenda

July 27, 2016

10:00 am  Meet at the Town Office (222 – 2nd Street)
          Meet and Greet with Judges:
          ➢ Marie Wenger
          ➢ Debby Gargus
          Introductions, Tour of Town Office, Gladys Taylor Bldg

10:30 am  Tour :
          • Pioneer Acres
          • Tree Farm
          • 2nd Street Flower Beds

12:30 pm  Lunch In Founder’s Park (weather permitting)

1:30 pm   Tour of Irricana
          • Water Plant/Green House
          • Cemetery
          • Walking Path (in-development)
          • Tour of Residences
          • Harold Knight Park/Walker Park
          • Mural Tour

4:00 pm   Judges’ Quiet Time taken to Pioneer Bed & Breakfast

6:30 pm   Dinner
          • Judges will be picked up by Events Co-ordinator
          • Meet Council & Public Works

8:00 pm   Judges return to accommodations at Pioneer Bed & Breakfast
The town Public Works employee’s work tirelessly mowing the green spaces, maintaining the flower bed and planters.

During the summer we take advantage of the Summer Employment Grant program to hire summer students to assist in the maintenance of the town while the senior Public Works staff maintain the working components of the town.

2016 Municipal Information Form

General Information
Municipality: Town of Irricana
Population: 1,140 (as per 2011 census)
Total Municipality Area: 273 Hectares
Parks and Green Spaces Area: 98 Acres
Communities in Bloom 2016

Irricana History

Originally settled in the early 1900’s, Irricana started as a major agricultural based trading and business centre serving the expansion of the railways in Alberta. In 1908-1909, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway built branch lines through this region. At the same time, Canadian Pacific dug a series of irrigation canals from the Bow River to within a few miles of the village site. These canals provided the inspiration for the name Irricana to the early settlers (derive from the contraction of the words irrigation and canal). Irricana was incorporated as a village on June 9, 1911.

The old hotel built on 2nd street in 1909 or 1910 was a hub for this bustling town and it didn’t take long for a town to spring up around it. A bank, restaurant, barber shop, pool room, post office, lumber yard, butcher shop, blacksmith shop, garage and a general store to name just a few, adorned the main street of Irricana at one time.

Just down from the old remaining hotel was the Irricana supplies building, now called the Irricana centennial centre which was designated a historical landmark in 1999. Built in 1929, the Irricana supplies building was originally a local general store and on the upper level, a theatre and dance hall. It is now home to the town office.

Continual population growth provided the opportunity for the “village of Irricana” to formally adopt a new status; “Town of Irricana” on June 9, 2005. The Town also created a white picket fence as its logo and “Squeaky” the country mouse for the town’s mascot to signify the community’s identity. The town has undergone substantial changes over 100 years and residents today are largely those wishing to escape the big cities to live in a quaint yet vibrant town.

Surviving fires, droughts and economic down turns, the “Town of Irricana” manages to retain a deep sense of community and upholds its rural roots. Over the years it has been the people in and around Irricana that have made this community what it is today. Community groups, clubs and events organized by the people, attended by the people and shared by the people is why Irricana remains as strong today as it was in the early years.

(Taken from Irricana 1911-2011 Moments in Time)
Sustaining the Environment

The Town of Irricana values the stewardship of its environment. Tree planting, pruning and removal when necessary are part of our annual budget expenses.

As required, arborists are called in to prune or remove dead trees from the campground and cemetery. This year a number of trees were removed from the campground. One in particular had signs of lightning strike and when it hit the ground it exploded.

We have our own Certified Applicator to help deal with weeds.

Tree Farm 2013

Tree Farm - To assist the town a small tree farm has been set up to assist the growth of new trees until they can be transplanted to new locations around town.

With the severe hail storm that hit in 2013 it caused damage to trees which caused many to have to be removed and replaced. This resulted in a depletion of our tree farm.

Trees were being transplanted in large amounts and our tree farm in the spring of 2016 was in need of replenishing.
The Town of Irricana was one of six recipients to receive a $2,500 Grant from the Fortis’ Green-Up Grant. A submission outlining the work that has been done by our Public Works employees to be environmentally sustainable and maintain our trees and bushes within the town and the need for replenishing awarded us with $2,500. The funds came at the perfect time.

The funds allowed us to replenish our tree farm and also assisted to purchase a roto-tiller for the maintenance of the tree farm and our 26 flower beds. The Fortis representative was provided with a tour of the tree farm to see the set up and where their money will be used. As a result of the grant and the purchase of plants to replenish our tree farm we will have a supply of trees maturing for transplanting in the next couple of years.

Tree Farm - April 2016

Black Knot - "Black Knot" has been identified in our community and information has been shared with our residents to educate them. A Notice was produced to inform our residents about this problem it was published in our Gazette which is distributed with the utility bill so each household will have received a copy.
It helped educate our residents' about the issues of "Black Knot" and explained how to deal with it. We advised our residents to contact the town office and we would have our workers come by to collect the affected branches/trees and take to our lagoon area where the pile is burned when conditions are approved by the Fire Department.

*IMPORTANT NOTICE*
BLACK KNOT TREE FUNGUS in IRRICANA

Please help by destroying diseased wood immediately.
Black Knot Fungus kills trees.

What is Black Knot?
Black Knot, caused by the fungus *Apiosporina morbosa*, is a very common disease of plants in the genus *Prunus* (See Table 1). A survey in Alberta revealed a significant and widespread distribution of Black Knot found in commercial, municipal, private and natural plantings. This disease reduces the aesthetic value of affected specimens, as infections spread rapidly; high levels may result in the eventual death of the plant.

How can you recognize Black Knot?
The most distinguishing symptom of Black Knot is the characteristic black, tar-like swellings that develop on branches of the infected plant.

Initially, a small, olive-green gall or swelling will develop at a succulent growing point or fruit spur (as a result of spores landing and infection taking place). This swelling will grow until it is mature after 2-3 years. The mature galls are hard, black, 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 inches) and may be somewhat ruptured. Mature galls will produce and release a vast amount of spores during the bloom period, resulting in a rapid increase in infections. The fungus continues to grow internally and externally, with the branch eventually becoming girdled and dying.

What can be done to control Black Knot?

- Removal of sources of inoculums (prevents population build up)
- Prune out all knot-bearing branches during late fall, winter or very early spring when plants are dormant and knots are easy to see
- Remove infected branches to at least 1.5-20 cm (6-8 inches) below knot. NOTE: It is preferable to prune an infected branch further back to an appropriate location, such as a healthy collar, rather than leave a stub
- As a precaution, cutting blades should be cleaned and disinfected after pruning, if possible, especially if cuts have been made through obviously infected material
- For knots on scaffold branches or trunks that can’t be removed, cut away diseased tissue down to good wood and at least 1 cm (1/2 inch) beyond the edge of the knot
- Failure to remove branches beyond the internal growth will result in re-growth of the fungus
- **DISEASED WOOD MUST BE DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY** (burned, buried or removed from site). Diseased knots can produce and release spores for up to 4 months after removal. Proper composting can help to accelerate the breakdown of infected materials
- Ensure plants are healthy and free from stress (not a guarantee from disease)
- Regular monitoring
- Ensure adequate canopy ventilation through proper pruning
- Chemical control (preventative not curative)
- May include use of more resistant selections, ensuring adequate buffer zones between plantings and wild stock, or potential employing biological control products (limited)
- Consider hiring a trained professional for pruning activities
- (Find a Certified Arborist)

Thank you for helping keep our community free of this harmful disease.

If you see any black not in Irricana please report it to the town office. 403-935-4672
Recycle

In October 2015, the Town Council added Blue Bin recycling to the curbside pick up program. Each residence has a black and blue bin. Garbage and recycle are picked up alternating Monday mornings. The amount of garbage allowed by residents has been reduced from up to 4 bags per household per week to one bin every second Monday.

Council is looking to introduce Organics in the near future to the curbside program.

Water Conservation

To reduce the consumption of the chemical metered water, the Public Works use the well located at the Water Treatment Plant for the watering of the trees, plants and greenery in the Town of Irricana. The water is not treated and reduces the impact to the taxpayers as the water is not coming from the hydrants which are connected to the main water supply.

The Public Works have been working with the Rocky View Fire Department which is located in Irricana to also use the well for their fire training. The pump truck can be filled quickly from the well connection and it reduces the wasting of metered water and chemical water from going down the sewer drains.

The Town implemented Bylaw 3:2000 to protect the availability of water and the supply to Irricana

VILLAGE OF IRRICANA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
BYLAW 3:2000

BEING A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF IRRICANA IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO INSTITUTE WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES. WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1980 and amendments thereto, the Municipal Council is authorized to pass Bylaws regulating the operation, maintenance, management and conduct of a public utility.
AND WHEREAS, the Village of Irricana owns and operates a water system as a public utility.
AND WHEREAS, the Municipal Council deems it necessary and advisable to institute certain water conservation measures.
NOW THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Village of Irricana, duly assembled, enacts as follows:
1. That this Bylaw be referred to as the Water Conservation Measures Bylaw.
2. All Building Permits issued for new construction will be required to have water efficient plumbing fixtures which meet the following minimum requirements:
   - All flush type toilets must be either of the “ultra low-flush” type or fitted with water conservation devices to provide for a water usage not exceeding 1.6 US gallons or 6.05 litres per flush.
   - All shower heads must be rated not to exceed a flow of 2 US gallons or 7.57 litres per minute at a pressure of 75 pounds per square inch.
3. This bylaw hereby repeals Bylaw 9:93.
4. That in any area of the Village of Irricana where static water system pressures exceed 75 pounds per square inch, individual services shall be equipped with a pressure regulator pre-set at not more than 65 pounds per square inch.
5. That this Bylaw shall come into force and effect upon the date of final passing thereof.
Energy Conservation

Solar Lighting - In order to lessen the amount of electricity used by the town, the use of solar lighting was incorporated with the support of grants into some of the landscape designs and pathway systems. This economically efficient practice adds a very nice aesthetic to our green areas during the evening hours. The solar lights are along the walking path to Walker Park at the Cemetery entrance and also in Harold Knight Park.

Fire Hall

Our fire hall has had the lighting replaced in the truck bay with high-efficiency lighting. Previously we were replacing fluorescent light bulbs consistently. Since the new lighting has been installed, the bay is brighter and fewer bulbs are being replaced and sent for disposed.
First Impressions and Floral Displays

A Picture Says a Thousand Words

Flower Beds in and Around Irricana - Our Public Works and summer students have the best job. They have the opportunity to be outside and enjoy the never ending opportunity to tend to the multiple flower beds and green spaces that are around Irricana. There are 23 flower beds and 45 planters within the Town that are maintained. The concrete planters were provided by donations from residents. Planters have also been created out of recycled animal feeders.

The maintenance of the flower beds and planters along with the maintenance of the soccer fields, ball diamonds, campground and green space keeps for busy days when it is not raining.

Our flower beds and planters are watered using well water which reduces the consumption of metered water and provides moisture to the plants with no chemicals.
Some highlights of Irricana:

Entering Irricana off Highway 9 there is a row of 10 flower beds. These gardens greet individuals as they enter the town. Each flower bed is 25 x 60. The beds are a photographer’s delight as the different colors and decor provide for beautiful shots for the beginner to the advanced. The bird houses on the poles with the solar lights were built by one of the Town Residents.

Walker Park greets you with a flower bed and is home to the town’s Inuksuk.
Communities in Bloom 2016

Irricana Cemetery is over 100 years old. It is a peaceful retreat for individuals. At the centre of the cemetery is a tree surrounded by flowers. The pathways branch out from the centre. A number of trees have been transplanted to replace the trees that were removed earlier this year due to age and health.

Harold and Hilda Knight Garden Dedication –
Two of our important rural volunteers recently passed away (Harold Knight in 2013 and his wife Hilda in 2014). In commemoration of Harold and Hilda, friends and family members wanted to have a garden dedicated to their memory and so one was built by Public Works park staff in the previously named Harold Knight Park in Irricana. On July 24th, 2014 a garden dedication was held to remember those who have helped build our community.
Founder’s Park has two flower beds upon entrance to the community hall and campground. The park is dedicated in appreciation of the Community Spirit and the dedicated people that made the project possible. It is home to our campground, ball diamonds, riding arena and George Brook playground which has been commented on for the quiet relaxing atmosphere.

Gaillardia – Irricana’s hardy flower – many of our town managed flower beds have a common plant. The Gaillardia is a bright, hardy and resilient plant. This is something that Irricana resident’s can relate to. We have survived many storms and erratic weather and still bounce back and love our gardens.

The Town purchased a supply of Gaillardia seeds and had them available for residents to pick up from the town office while supplies lasted. We also offered to provide to residents some of the many plants that were filling up our flower beds at no cost.
Green House - Everyone knows the value of a first impression. What better way to help improve this than having an abundance of gardens and flowers in your community. To help with costs associated with "brightening up the town", a small green house at the Water Treatment Plant was built which uses the heat and excess water in this location to start our own bedding out plants in the spring.

Community Garden - One of the most successful and easiest new programs initiated is community garden adjacent to the east access road coming into Irricana. The garden space is a piece of land on loan by a developer who owns the property. A non profit group coordinates the community garden and its policies and ten or more residents are given garden plots and become the caregivers of this area each summer.

The current plots are 10 x 30. Next year the group will look at offering a starter size of 10x15 with a meeting for new planters to give them some information on what grows best, what will be required and what the benefits of their work can be.
Community Involvement

Murals - As part of an Economic Development and Tourism/Main Street Beautification strategy, over 20 murals have been produced by volunteer artists. Ten of these murals were designed by a local artist who engaged local volunteers to produce them (many of the volunteers being children). The philosophy of engaging youth with the painting of the murals was to help decrease any vandalism and encourage youth volunteerism.

Over time weather has started to wear on the murals. A young local artist was hired to touch up and bring the life back to the murals.

Splash Park Mural

This mural was painted in 2006 as part of an Economic Development and Tourism initiative. This colourful mural depicts children playing outside and can be found adjacent to the Irricana Splash Park located at the south recreation green space off Henricks Drive.
The carousel mural is located on the south side of the Municipal library on 3rd street and was another community painted mural, designed and coordinated by local artist Brenda Campbell. Brenda has been able to use her Graphic arts background to design the town murals in a simple way in order to be able to encourage numerous local volunteers to help paint. Incorporated into the design is a white picket fence which is associated with the town's logo and hidden in this mural is a mouse representing the town's mascot “squeaky”.

Garage Mural

This mural was painted in 2007 again as part of an ongoing Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. Twenty people helped paint this mural, eighteen of which were local children. This mural is located on the west side of Norm’s Stop and Go convenience store/gas station and depicts an old fashioned gas station and a 1953 Chevrolet pick-up truck.

The Sunflower mural is painted on the east side of 233 2nd street (Main street) and is one of the few early murals painted directly on the building’s exterior wall. Utilizing her background as a graduate of the Alberta College of art and Design in Calgary, Brenda Campbell campaigned for an on going mural program in Irricana to help brighten up Irricana and enhance the local economy. As well as the large bright yellow sunflowers there is a hint of a white picket fence, as well as a hidden mouse in this mural. This large painting is the end result of many local community volunteers and many volunteer hours.
Planning for the future
Bylaws, Policies and an Assortment of Other Thick Documents

The Town Council over the past years have valued the importance of leaving a healthy, strong and viable community for future generations to enjoy. This philosophy has been engrained and imbedded into all town policies, bylaws and written documents.

They are currently in the process of reviewing and updating the Animal ByLaw and Community Standards ByLaw

Presently, our Community Standards Bylaw 07:2012 provides the opportunity for our ByLaw Enforcement to ensure that the town properties (Private or Public) of Irricana are maintained and do not allow the opportunity for a property to become delinquent in its maintenance.

SECTION 4 – PROPERTIES - UNSIGHTLY

4.1 No Owner or owners of Premises shall cause, allow or permit the Premise to become or to continue to be Unsightly or Untidy as defined in this bylaw.

4.2 No person shall dump or cause to be dumped any rubbish, garbage, waste, either solid or liquid, petroleum products, industrial or commercial waste products or by-products or to dispose of any material whatsoever in, about, near, or upon any Premises within the Town except at such place or places specifically designated by Council and in such a manner as may be prescribed from time to time.

4.3 All Premises shall be kept free of animal feces, debris and/or rubbish.

4.4 Trees, plant and vegetation shall be maintained in a healthy and vigorous state of growth, and so as to not become unsightly, unsafe or a nuisance to neighboring properties.

4.5 No person and/or Owner of any residential Premises shall allow on the Premises the accumulation of building materials, whether new or used, unless that person or Owner can establish that a Construction or renovation undertaking is being carried out on the Premises and that:

   a) the project has begun or the beginning of work is within thirty (30) days;
   
   b) the materials found on the Premises relates to the project taking place on the Premises in a quantity reasonable to complete the project; and
   
   c) the work on the project has not been suspended for a period in excess of one hundred and twenty (120) days.

4.6 A person and/or Owner of Premises shall ensure that all building materials stored on a Premises, that are not in contravention of Section 5.6, are stacked or stored in an orderly manner;

4.7 It shall not be an offense of this bylaw to store a small amount of neatly stacked material on a Premise for basic property maintenance.

4.8 Any vehicle, automobile parts or mechanical equipment or object on any Non-Residential land which is in a wrecked or dismantled condition shall be removed from the land, unless a storage area is defined and enclosed with an approved fence and visually screened which prevents the object(s) from being viewed from any neighbouring or public areas, to the satisfaction of the Designated Officer.

4.9 Any outdoor storage area on Non-residential land shall not be permitted unless the outdoor storage area is the subject of an approved Development Permit and is visually screened to the satisfaction of the Designated Officer.
4.10 All Residential Premises shall be kept free of any vehicle, trailer, or object which is in a wrecked, discarded, or in abandoned condition.

4.11 A person being the owner, lessee, tenant, agent, manager, or occupant of any residential land or Premises within the Town shall allow a dilapidated vehicle to remain on the aforementioned land or Premises provided that:

   a) the vehicle is contained within a structure, approved under the Land Use Bylaw for the Town, which prevents it from being viewed from any neighbouring property or public area.

   b) the vehicle is covered by a tarpaulin or other device acceptable to the Chief Administrative Officer which prevents it being viewed from any neighbouring property or public area.

4.12 No owner or occupier of a Premise shall allow a refrigerator or freezer to remain outside on the Premises without first ensuring that the hinges and latches, or lid or doors of the unit have been removed.

4.13 No owner or occupier of a Premise shall allow any appliance to remain on the Premises such that the appliance is visible to a person viewing from outside the property.

4.14 Any structure shall be kept in good repair and shall be free from health and fire hazards.

4.15 Every person and/or owner of a Premises shall ensure the following areas are maintained in Good Repair;

   a) Fences and their structural members;

   b) Structures and their structural members, including:

      i) foundations and foundation walls;
      ii) exterior walls and their components;
      iii) roofs;
      iv) windows and their casings;
      v) doors and their frames;

   c) protective or decorative finishes of all exterior surfaces or a structure or fence, and
   d) exterior stairs, landings, porches, balconies and decks.

4.16 In the event that an owner neglects to repair or maintain damaged or deteriorating fencing, the Town may require the owner of the subject Premises to repair, rehabilitate or replace their portion of the fence through the enforcement of this bylaw.

4.17 Once any rear-yard to rear-yard fence has been constructed by a subdivision developer to the Town’s satisfaction, it shall become the property of the lot or lots upon which it is situated, and maintenance shall be the responsibility of the respective property owner.

4.18 No person shall create or apply Graffiti.

4.19 A Designated Officer that finds Graffiti displayed as indicated in this section may give written Notice to the owner or occupant of the structure to remedy the condition within a reasonable time period specified in the notice.

4.20 If a building normally intended for human habitation is unoccupied, then any door, opening or window opening in the building should be securely closed or may be covered with a solid piece of wood to prevent any unauthorized entry into the building.

4.21 No Person and /or Owner of a Premises shall allow an excavation, drain, ditch or other depression in the ground to become or remain a danger to public safety.
Landscape

If You Look Far Enough on the Prairies, You Can see the Back of Your Head

**Turf Management** - Despite the fact that Irricana is a small community in size the town still maintains a large amount of green spaces and grassed areas. A certified herbicide and pesticide applicator is now one of our staff members to help maintain weeds in our public spaces. To be a little more environmentally friendly, our Public Works staff use a vinegar solution to kill weeds in smaller areas and pathways as required.

Our public works department are responsible for all of the ongoing grass cutting and maintenance around the town which is a large portion of their duties from May to September.

- In total they maintain: Six Main Parks - Founders Park, Walker Park, Harold Knight Park, the Splash Park, the Millennium Park and the Lions Centennial Park
- Three baseball diamonds
- Five playgrounds
- Three soccer fields
- Two main entrance way green spaces,
- And several other lots and small green spaces.
Pioneer Acres Museum - A strong part of the community of Irricana is its Arts, History and Culture. Located on the north side of the Town of Irricana is the Pioneer Acres Museum Site. This site is home to 50 acres dedicated solely to the history of farming and rural Alberta history. Pioneer Acres Plowmen & Threshermen's Club of Alberta was established in 1972 as a non-profit organization and is mainly run by a volunteer board and members to this day. The museum site is open May through to September annually. They are most known for their educational tours for school groups and seniors and their annual show held each August. The 2014 show will feature John Deere as its main attraction. Thousands of people will come to experience real working antique farm machinery and rural Alberta that weekend.

Historic "Long' House - One of the main exhibits on the site is the Historic "Long" House which has been used by many film companies for several different feature films. This home was built in 1914 by John Thomas and was lived in by three generations of the Long family. Originally located just to the north of the present day museum site, it was eventually moved onto the museum grounds and is now one of their main exhibits.
Irricana Centennial Centre - Built in 1929 the building now referred to as the Irricana Centennial Centre is home to the Town of Irricana Municipal Office. It was originally named the Irricana Supplies Building in 1929 when it was built. This historically significant building was a general store and dance hall (in the upper level) and was one of the main features of Irricana's main street for almost a century. Renovated in 2012 to suit the needs of the Municipal Office, it is now once again, one of Irricana's most notable main street buildings.

Old Smoky - Located on Main Street in front of the old hotel is "Old Smoky". This sculpture is one of the many pieces of Irricana's art and culture inventory. Commissioned in 1991 by Mel Brown, "Old Smoky" has been a popular icon on Irricana's main street by visitors to our community.

Gladys Taylor Building – This building now houses the Municipal Library. It was named after Gladys Taylor, a resident of town who passed away in 2015 recognition of all the efforts she put forth for the town. She was a teacher by profession and an award winning author who had won many awards in her distinguished career. Her first two novels were Pine Roots and The King Tree. Her other novels included Alone In The Outback, Valinda Our Daughter and Alone In The Boardroom. Her Outback book was made into a movie called Over The Hill starring Olympia Dukasis.
The building was purchased by the town in 2015 and completed the renovations in the early part of 2016.

Irricana's council and community as a whole, values its past and its present and are planning for its future.