The Hamlet of

WOKING

Profile 2016
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*With special thanks to Denise van Rootselaar and Mary Knoblauch for their photographs

*Thanks to Saddle Hills County Staff Serena McNeil and Michael Archer for compiling the CiB book...
Itinerary

Woking Communities in Bloom

ITINERARY
July 14, 2016

M.C. Grace Sadowitch

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Reception & Refreshments

Meet & Greet the Judges:
Lorna McIlroy
Maureen Sexsmith-West

Welcome Message from Saddle Hills County Reeve Alvin Hubert /Councillor John Moen

Acknowledgements:
Sponsors
Woking School Leadership Class
Saddle Hills County Staff Serena McNeil & Mike Archer (Profile Book)
Saddle Hills County Administration and Public Works Staff
Denise van Rootselaar (Photos & News Articles)
Volunteers

Presentations in Profile Book:
Woking School & Municipal Library
Allen & Gitte Bulhofner
Tiny Town
Westmark Hall

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tour of Municipal Properties

Woking School & Municipal Library
Jandell Residential Development
Recycle Site at Transfer Station
Stop at Woking General Store

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tiny Town (Norm & Char Young)

Dignitary Lunch at Woking Community Hall

1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Tour of Hamlet

Return to Woking Community Hall
Windup Meeting/Refreshments
Map

Hamlet of Woking

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM
HAMLET OF WOKING

SCALE: NTS  DATE: JULY 2016  JOB:
FIGURE: 1
Hamlet of Woking

Woking is located 55km north of Grande Prairie, Alberta on Highway 677.

The population of Woking is 106 as per (2011 census) and there are about 55 dwellings in which people reside.

Settlers arrived here in the late 1920’s and began to develop their homesteads.

Over the years Woking has had many successful establishments.

A Thriving Community

These establishments include general stores, garages, farming operations, elevators, butcher shops, a gas station, a hotel, and a pool room.

Woking is still a thriving community. It is home to a school, municipal library, general store, postal service, community hall, skating rink, farming businesses and municipal fire hall.

Woking is a community that continues to grow and develop.

One of the ways that this is happening is through a collaboration with Saddle Hills County and Jandel Homes.

They have been working together to develop empty lots in Woking. This collaboration has brought several new families to the community.

Woking is always looking to new ways to grow and bond as a community.
Saddle Hills County Municipal Officials

Chief Administrative Officer  Joulia Whittleton
Council Reeve  Alvin Hubert
Councillor Ward 7  John Moen
Assistant CAO  Shayne Steffen

Message from Alvin Hubert, Reeve

On behalf of Council I would like to congratulate and thank the people of the Hamlet of Woking who have put together such a beautiful presentation for Communities in Bloom. The residents and businesses of Woking have shown what a community can accomplish when they come together and showcase their community on the national stage.

Council wishes Woking the best of luck this year during the judging.
Communities in Bloom Committee

Communities in Bloom (CiB) hosts an annual Woking Christmas Tree Light Up at the Hall, which includes hospitality, activities, sleigh rides, ice skating, and a visit from Santa.

There is an unremitting commitment made by CiB committee to maintain an aesthetically pleasing Hamlet.

The committee has put extra emphasis this year on having the school and the kids much more involved in the community-in-bloom process.

They have participated in a coloring contest in support of compost week as well as participated in the hands on work of planting and caring for flowers, trees and other plants.

Committee Members

Mary Knoblauch
Grace Sadownik
Shirley Wurm
Garry Wurm
Shirley Meyaard

Acknowledgments

“Special thanks to all the volunteers and residents for your community spirit"
2016 Municipal Information Form

General Information

Municipality: Woking a Hamlet of Saddle Hills County
Population: 106
Municipal Budget: $ 5,450 contributed to CiB
Total Area: 0.22 mi²
Parks and Green Spaces Area as a % of Total Area: 10%

Municipal Plan

Strategy

Advertising is an important tool in preparing the community for judgement day. Forms of advertising that are utilized are the local paper, bulletins, Facebook and Twitter. The web page is also one of the County’s most important tools when communicating with the public. The web page will feature a story on the Judgment day events and what residences can do for their community in preparation for this day.

Community Involvement

There are many volunteers within the community that participate in preparing Woking for judgment day. Everyone brings something a little different whether it is beautifying their own yard or if it is getting involved by volunteering with the CiB directly. There are also many local sponsors that without their support CiB would not be possible.

Getting the school and community youth involved this year is another way that the community is getting involved.

On July 14, 2016 Woking CiB is hosting a breakfast for the CiB judgment day, in which all members of the community will be invited. Residents will have the opportunity to meet the judges and mingle amongst one another about the day’s events.
2016 Participation Information

Population: 106
Website: www.saddlehills.ab.ca
Contact Name: Mary Knoblauch
CiB Committee Chair Contact: Mary Knoblauch
Area in Square Miles: 0.22 mi²
Volunteer Coordinator: Committee Members

Past Participation

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4 Blooms</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Friends</td>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Knoblauch</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mknoblauch@abnorth.com">mknoblauch@abnorth.com</a></td>
<td>780-774-3975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>780-933-1936</td>
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<tr>
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<td>780-774-3730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Reeve</td>
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<td>780-864-0554</td>
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Thank you to our generous sponsors
Tidiness
Municipal

Saddle Hills County has a committed schedule for their seasonal employees to mow and trim the ditches and municipal properties in the Hamlet. Public parks, rest areas, sign areas, and the community hall parking lot are included in the plan.

Strategically located garbage containers in the Hamlet serve as disposal sites for picnickers, cyclists and pedestrians. The containers are periodically emptied by the Transfer Station attendant.

Council has recently committed to increase Woking’s transfer station hours by including Saturday 10:00am to 6:00pm to better accommodate residents.

Businesses/Institutions

School students participate in the annual town spring cleanup. Their endeavours are recognized by the community, and a complimentary lunch is provided by Saddle Hills County. Litter containers are situated at the Community Hall and local general store.

Residential

The County has also in recent years established curb side pick-up. Each Resident has been assigned a garbage bin for household garbage. Residents continue to maintain and beautify their properties. Community volunteers contribute to the tidiness of the municipal properties and are often seen cutting grass in the public parks and trimming around the community flower barrels.

Judges Recommendations

In previous years one of the recommendations was that Saddle Hills County work more collaboratively with the railway company to take action against the weeds that continue to grow and spread. Saddle Hills County entered into an agreement with CN Railway on June 14, 2016 to take action on this issue.
Urban Forestry

Municipal

Hill Top

Hill Top Lake is located southwest of Woking and has much to offer. There is a campsite, day use area, shelter facilities and boating. The campsite has 10 stalls equipped with picnic tables and fire pits.

The day use area consists of picnic tables, horseshoe pits and a playground for children. The group use shelter offers picnic tables and an exterior fire pit.

The beautiful lake is great for swimming and boating. The lake serves canoes and non-motorized boats.

Other amenities include hand water pump (non-potable water), outdoor washrooms, no user fees, and free fire wood.

Hill Top Lake is a great cost friendly place for family and friends to gather and enjoy the great outdoors.

Utilizing the group area can be great for any celebration or just as a place where everyone can gather.
Businesses & Institutions
Woking Fire Hall

The Woking Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1981 preceding the construction of the hall’s original structure.

The formation of the department was possible with the financial support of Improvement District No. 20 now known as Saddle Hills County.

With the support of municipal funds an addition was built in the year 1995 to better serve the community’s needs.

The Department’s fleet once consisted of two fire trucks, however; as of June 20, 2016 the Department will be adding a third truck to their fleet, to help better serve the community.

The Department currently has 15 volunteer firefighters that graciously donate their time to serving their community.

Having a local volunteer fire department makes it possible for Woking and the surrounding area to have the best possible response time in the case of an emergency. Having the support of the municipality and the community of Woking, makes providing this service to the Hamlet of Woking possible.
Residential

Allan and Gitte Bulhofner have a beautiful yard, where they have attributed many hours of their time. What can be found in their beautiful yard is their shelterbelt, which was planted in 1973 with the PFRA shelterbelt program.

They have over the years made some additions which have only enhanced its appearance. Further story see page 36.

There are many other residents within the Hamlet that also have many trees and shrubs that they take care of and maintain within their own yards.

Community Development

The CB members and other members of the community take on the responsibility of the care and maintenance of the trees and shrubs that exist within the community.
Environmental Action
Municipal

In 2008 Saddle Hills County established Bylaw 168 titled “Unsightly Premises Bylaw” addressing unsightly premises.

The County is in the process of hiring a Bylaw Enforcement Officer to address these situations and to ensure their enforcement.

The County has expanded the collection of materials at the local Transfer Stations.

The list of accepted items are tires, metals, white goods, plastics, household waste, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, cans and electronic waste.

By extending the list of items that are accepted the transfer station is able to better serve the people of Woking and area.

Neighboring Municipal District #133 hosts a hazardous collection day on a bi-annual basis. County residents have the opportunity to dispose of their unsafe products.

Business/Institutions

Business and institutions recognize that they play an important role when it comes to taking environmental action. They are careful to utilize the disposal services that are provided by the County. In addition they are diligent to take the proper measures to tend to garbage and other items.
Residents are mindful of conservation practices by way of rain barrels, clothes lines as opposed to dryers, and wood burning stoves for heat.

On a weekly basis the recycle bins at the Woking Transfer Station are available to community residents to recycle mixed paper, cardboard, cans, lumber, metal and printers. Compost bins are also a practice in the community.

Recommendations

Woking CiB received previous recommendations that we expand our large item pick up to twice a year so that residents will ensure that these items are disposed of in the best manner.

This year Council has revisited the way that it manages waste and they determined that they would be discontinuing the spring and fall clean up.

In lieu of this however, they will be adding an additional day of operations for the Woking transfer station. In the near future they will also be expanding the list of items that the locations accept, making it possible for residence to dispose of large items weekly in a proper manner.

Another Recommendation made was to become more involved promoting organic gardening practices, mulching and composting. This year the CiB has become much more involved with the school, as one of their initiatives they sponsored a coloring contest in promotion of compost week. In addition the school received a small grant to put towards an indoor green house to enhance the quality of the schools science program and its curriculum.
Heritage
Municipal

Saddle Hills County provides annual maintenance grants to cemeteries, community halls and the skating rink. The County has provided a capital grant to the Westmark Hall Board to assist with the upgrading of their well-known community hall. This German-founded community hosts its annual Oktoberfest function – in October of course. Delicious food, good music, wine, beer and hospitality truly guarantee a wonderful time for all.

Construction is under way on the Westmark hall, with a new addition to the east side of the Westmark hall which is 30 X 50 feet; the addition includes a meeting room, fully functional kitchen and modern washrooms facilities. It will be equipped with running water and sewer, and the addition will be heated on a year round basis. It is connected directly to the existing hall.

Northmark Cemetery

Northmark Cemetery is located outside of Woking and in recent years has received a number of grants from Saddle Hills County. These grants have made it possible for the organization to install a chain link fence with a brass plaque.

In addition they added an ornamental gate with a sign. Having the support to make these changes has been a huge development for the organization.

They have expressed much gratitude for the support received to make these changes.
**Business/Institutions**

Woking’s General Store is the remaining notable site in the hamlet and continues to provide services to the community and area. The store was built in 1955 and present owner is Dorleen Campbell. General goods and post office services are available.

The old post office can be found on the main street in Woking. It was constructed in 1949 offering postal service to residents until its closure in 1986. Residents now obtain their postal services at the Woking General Store and outlying rural residents receive their mail by rural route.

There are also two churches located in the area the Greek Orthodox Church and the St. John’s Lutheran Church. For a more complete story on the St. John’s Lutheran Church see page 30.

**Residential**

Our community recognizes two antique tractor collectors with valuable collections dated as far back as 1927. The Antique Tractor Club participates in old fashioned farming practices by threshing grain and sod plowing. Featured this year is Allen Bulhofner’s vintage tractor collection see page 36.

**Community Involvement**

“Burnt Embers” was compiled by ten local members of the Woking and Area Historical Society. It was published by Friesen Printers in 1985. This book documents as much of what was known in 1985 about the settlement of Woking, stating that “Another old timer has left our midst. A sense of urgency strikes us, and the realization comes again, that these pioneer stories should have been recorded before this.” This book establishes for the reader the best possible visual of how the formation of Woking began and how it has grown and developed throughout the years. Burnt Embers if available for reading at the local Municipal Library.

*Photo by Denise Van Rootselaar*
**Landscape**

**Municipal**

In 2012, Saddle Hills County began the Woking paving project. Throughout the course of the project they paved, replaced manhole covers and upgraded water lines. The manhole covers where replaced for sewer and storm water. Residents received paved entrances to their driveways; when the work was completed the County re shaped and reseeded the ditches. The project was at a cost of four million dollars to the County coming from capital reserve.

The County has also recently passed General Traffic Bylaw 254-2016. A bylaw to control and provide regulations and penalties pertaining to Highways, Roadways and Streets within the Saddle Hills County, for the orderly and safe movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and for the Parking of vehicles on the said Highways, Roadways and Streets. These restrictions will assist in maintaining all the work that was put into the Woking paving project.

Saddle Hills County provides snow removal on the streets and public parking areas. Private driveways within the hamlet are cleared as needed with a backhoe. Summertime streets are swept and ditches are trimmed.

**Businesses/ Institutions**

The Woking skating rink was a great addition to the community. The rink serves the community but it also draws people from other places. People come with friends and family to enjoy one of the greatest activities the winter months can offer. The rink is also utilized by the school as a part of their physical education curriculum. The ice surface and change rooms have time censored lights making it possible for the facility to be used during the evening.

They have installed regulation basketball nets so that the space is still being used during the spring and summer months. There has been discussion on other ways that the space could be used to its fullest potential. Volunteers have also donated much time in the improvement of the grounds around the skating rink.
Residential

Neighbours and volunteers maintain the Woking public playground. Making it an enjoyable place for children to gather and play.

Residents have over the years adopted a knowledge of how trees, flowers and other plants work based on what each plant needs to thrive. In doing this residents are able to develop an optimal place for all their plants to grow.

Woking is distinctly an agricultural community, cattle and grain operations being of vast numbers. Wheat, barley, oats, peas and canola are all crops that can be found in the fields that surround Woking.

Community Spirit

Residents donate their truck, tank, and time to irrigate the blooming barrels around the Hamlet. The County supplies the water pump.

Other Volunteers can often be found helping with the maintenance of community landscapes.

Recommendations

One of the previous recommendations made was that perhaps some new landscaped areas could be designed with the Xeriscape.

Some residents in Woking have certainly taken this into account.
Floral Displays
Municipal

Saddle Hills County continues to provide an annual budget for CiB to plant and maintain the community floral displays.

This year the County budgeted for a new trailer, hose and reel to accommodate the pump that was purchased in 2014.

A water tank has been donated and volunteers continue to maintain the trees and floral displays. Thank you folks for your unending dedication!

Maureen and Nikki exhibit their horticultural talents with the floral containers at the Woking Water Treatment Plant. In addition this year the Council allocated an extra 1000 gallons of water for each residence in the months of June and July to assist in yard beautification.

Businesses & Institutions

Woking School is a 5 classroom school including a gym, special education room, library and computer room. The school has an average of 55-60 students and provide education for grades Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Woking School students’ peaked interest in community involvement has been welcomed with open arms by the CiB committee.

In addition, Mrs. Beaupre of Woking school applied for a grant with CF Industries in Rycroft. CF Industries is a global leader in fertilizer manufacturing and distribution. They set up a Classroom Mini Grant Program for schools in our area.
The Woking school was awarded a grant in the amount of $1500. “Mrs. Beaupre stated that they would be looking at purchasing an indoor greenhouse and various other materials to help cover the Science curriculum objectives on life cycles, plants and just an opportunity to interact with nature.”

Birch Hills Colony Greenhouse supplies greenhouse stock to the CiB and Woking School. The local General Store kindly provides extra water when needed for the planters.

This year the Woking School Leadership Class was involved in the amendment of the soil in the floral containers. Preparation in way of cultivating, adding new soil and fertilizer will contribute to the explosion of petunias.

**Residential**

There are many residents in Woking that take pride in creating and maintaining a beautiful yard. Residents are involved in greenhouse gardening, and seeding “wild flowers” in their gardens. Prolific flower arrangements continue to be a great part of the residential showcase.

**Community Development**

Community involvement is one of the most important ways that CiB in Woking flourishes. Woking being a community of small population every little bit helps.

Volunteers participated in planting of forty-four floral pots in anticipation of a dynamic display.

This year the horseshoe pits and settee were restored. A set of horseshoes is available on the grounds for anyone wishing to challenge a game of horseshoes.
Judges Recommendations

In previous years one of the recommendations was that Saddle Hills Work more collaboratively with the railway company to take action against the weeds that continue to grow and spread. Saddle Hills County entered into an agreement with CN June 14, 2016 for take action on this issue.
What is Happening in CiB

Christmas Tree Light Up

CiB hosts an annual Christmas tree light up. The event includes hospitality, activities, sleigh rides and ice-skating.

It is a wonderful time for both children and adults.

Woking CiB takes great pride in this event as it really brings the community together to celebrate the holidays.

Blooms for Birds Bees and Butterflies

This year the CiB created a new planter for the community to enjoy. This new project’s title is Blooms for Birds, Bees and Butterflies; where it is now home to many beautiful flowers and insects.
Colouring Contest

Woking CiB also sponsored a composting coloring contest with the Woking School. This coloring contest was a fun and creative way to bring awareness to youth about the environmental benefits of composting. The winners were awarded with tickets to a library movie night and a gift bag sponsored by RBC, ATB financial and AFSC.
Woking Willing Workers and Their 60th Anniversary
A Brief History of Our Roots

It was back on November 23, 1956 that the Woking Willing Workers (WWW) ladies club started and was named by Mrs. Mable Tracy shortly after it was formed. Its first executives were Harriet Herrick as President and Ursula Delfs as Secretary-Treasurer. Part of the reason the club was formed was due to the disbanding of the Legion Auxiliary.

The club has been involved in various projects in the community over the years. They were the driving force behind the installation of the water and sewer to the Hamlet of Woking, back in 1979-80. And again for the installation of the two generators, one at the water plant and one at the lift station, in 2014. These generators ensure that the Hamlet’s service of water and sewer will not get disrupted during power outages.

They have also supported many organizations, including canvassing for the Red Cross and Cancer Society. They donated monies for the purchase of a resuscitator for the Spirit River Central Peace Hospital, and have monetarily supported the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Grande Prairie, the Pleasant View Lodge in Spirit River, the Woking School, the Woking Municipal Library, STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society), Compassion House and several others. This year they are supporting the Fort McMurray Wildfire fund. The WWW offers the hall rent free to support local non-profit groups & functions, including events put on by Woking CiB, Woking Municipal Library, Westmark Farmer’s League and Woking Skating Rink Association as well as meetings held by community organizations.
They have contributed to the A.C.T. Telethon and supported the youngsters of the community by donating to field trips and sponsoring delegates to Gold Eye Lake youth seminars.

The operations and maintenance of the Woking Community Hall has been the responsibility and major concern of the WWW for over 30 years. When it was evident that the hall could not continue to be used as it stood, and costs of repairs and renovations to bring it up to fire and building codes were prohibitive, the decision was made early in 1983 to erect a new and larger hall. With a land lottery, grants from the government, and WWW savings, they were able to build the existing hall. A large portion of the labour was donated by volunteers from the community, which was greatly appreciated.

The WWW has hosted an assortment of events at the hall, over the years, such as New Year's Eve parties, Sadie Hawkins dances, and the ever popular Annual Harvest Supper, which has been enjoyed by all, near & far, for 50 years.

Today, along with the Harvest Supper, the variety of events held at the Woking Community Hall throughout the year, include Woking CiB Christmas Tree Light Up, Woking Municipal Library Monthly Movie Event, WWW Spring Fling Dine & Dance and Westmark Farmer’s League Mother’s Day Breakfast. As well, the hall is utilized for public and private events, such as wedding & funeral receptions, community & municipal meetings, birthday & anniversary parties, Moms & Tots, fitness activities and educational courses.

This spring, thanks to a generous recreation grant received from Saddle Hills County, the interior of the hall is getting a facelift. The walls and ceiling are currently being repainted, and the floors will be stripped and waxed. This winter the hall joined the long list of community centres throughout the Central Peace to bring in the Little Bookshelf Program provided by the Central Peace Early Childhood Coalition (CPECC). CPECC is supplying facilities with a little bookshelf filled with books for all ages to be borrowed or taken & kept, as well as kids tables and chairs. They restock the bookshelf as needed.

This year marks the 60th Anniversary for the WWW and to celebrate they will be hosting a ‘50s themed dinner and dance on November 12th with music performed by Night Ryder.

The WWW has always been and will continue to be very committed to the growth and prosperity of Woking and keeping the community connected through the hub of the Hamlet, the Woking Community Hall.
The library in Woking opened its door in March of 2012. In the 4 years it has been in operation the library has evolved and grown with the community.

Today the library has a collection of over 2200 books and a small, but growing, collection of DVDs; patrons have the ability to access any book, DVD, etc. in Alberta. In addition there are a variety of programs available to anyone with a library card.

- Hoopla – download movies, TV shows, music albums and some audio books
- Overdrive – downloadable eBooks and audio books
- Zinnio – favorite magazines online
- Mango – learn a new language such as French, Spanish, Italian and many more.
- Grant Connect – a search tool for available grants in your area
- Ancestry.ca – Research your family tree

The library has been hosting Craft Saturday held the last Saturday of each month. Crafters have created amazing pieces of art such as memory jars, friendships bracelets and numerous other projects; this little Hamlet is home to some very great talent!

The library, with the support of WWW, has also introduced monthly movies for the enjoyment of everyone near and far. Movies are held at the community hall with a little concession stand complete with lots of treats. From Cinderella to Star Wars the movies appeal to a variety of ages and interests.

The summer of 2016 begins a new venture for the library. A MacBook Pro has arrived at the library (in house use only). With the MacBook the library now has access to Garage Band and iMovie. A green screen is also being donated for the library’s use over the summer. The summer program this year will have participants selecting a book and making a music video about the book. The program runs on a drop in basis during library hours over the summer and is open to ALL ages. We are SO excited to see the end results of everyone’s imaginative translation from book to video.
Summer Fun
AT WOKING MUNICIPAL LIBRARY!

Beginning July 4
Open to all ages

Turn your favourite book into a music video
Do it on your own
or collaborate with your friends!

Must be Rated G

Use Garage Band
Make your video using
Garage Band
to create your own music
iMovie

Love Pirates of the
Caribbean?
Stand at the helm
of the Black Pearl
with the magic of
GREEN SCREEN

All you need is imagination...

Library Summer Hours:
Monday 10:00 to 1:00
Tuesday 6:00 to 7:00
Wednesday 10:00 to 1:00

Make a video...
... share it with your family
... show support for our neighbours in Fort MacMurray
... or make your very own personalised Christmas
gift with the gift of music

The possibilities are endless!
Churches and Bible

St. John’s Lutheran Church of Northmark

The founders of St. John’s Lutheran Church were Lutherans of German decent, however they all came from different ethnic backgrounds.

The Settlers formed a loose congregation in the early 1930’s, holding services in private homes. The first service was led by Pastor Fenske who traveled many kilometers from Edmonton.

In the early years, pastors that served the congregation were not local and would travel on foot from Spirit River or by horse and buggy from Hines Creek.

Pastor Querengesser became the first tenured pastor, he served his community from 1935-1939.

The current Minister is Pastor Dave Friesen, who leads two services a month.

Other services are led by members and guest speakers or guest pastors. Everyone is welcome to attend services and the church offers an open communion.

It was in October of 1945 that the church was relocated to its current location and the current structure was erected. This structure continues to serve the community, however it was in 2004-2005 that it was determined that the foundation needed to be rebuilt.

At the time of the foundation rebuild, it was also concluded that a reconstructed basement could provide the community a place to gather for certain events such as Goodwill Quilters, Sunday school, and fellowship hour and funeral receptions.

In addition a new stairwell was installed and an expanded area was built around the existing pulpit and altar. Two new windows, on each side of the altar, were enhanced with internals lights and creative embellishment with a sandblasted design by Lori Coombs.
In 2012 members of the church decided that to further serve their community it would be an asset to construct an addition. The new addition serves as a gathering place for many events as its amenities include a reception area, a kitchen and restrooms.

St. John’s Lutheran Church provides support to many worthy causes. Some of these include Lutheran World Relief Program, Wings to the North, Joy Chapel Ministries, Fort McMurray Red Cross and Central Peace Ladies Auxiliary.

The church hosted the World Day of Prayer for the Women’s Group in Egypt, and has also sponsored a missionary from Alberta, in El Salvador.

Today, services are usually attended by 30 people, with many being descendants of the original parishioners.

**Peace Lutheran Bible Camp**

Peace Lutheran Bible Camp purchased 40 acres of land from St. John’s Lutheran Church in 1973, and is governed by five member churches, including St. John’s.

It consists of one dorm style cabin that sleeps 28 people, six cabins that sleep 9-12 people each, lots for RV parking (including 8 with electrical hook-ups), a fully functional kitchen, a dining hall with a 100 person capacity, a Quonset for various indoor activities from sports to fellowship, and bathrooms with flush toilets and showers.

Outside landscaping includes a large fire pit with three long benches set around it. There is a spacious grassed area for outdoor activities and a play station for young children. The Bible camp is currently utilized and rented for reunions, an adult bible camp, birthdays, anniversaries, church meetings, jamborees, and retreats.
History of the Goodwill Quilters

A group of local women started a quilting group in the basement of St. John’s Lutheran Church in 2008. Some supplies are purchased, but the bulk of their fabric comes through donations. They sew mostly single and children’s size quilts.

A variety of tasks are completed, including cutting fabric, ironing, sewing, and finally tying the quilts (all done with donated yarn).

Anyone can join in, no special skills are required, and you do not need to be a member of St. John’s Lutheran to attend.

From mid-November to the end of April each year, this small group of enthusiastic women meet every Wednesday, from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

It is a day of fun and socializing, as well as creating much needed quilts for many different charities.

This past year saw an average of 8 women almost every week, sometimes more, a few times less.

They completed 77 quilts, which were donated to Crossroads Women’s Shelter, The Metis Elders’ Shelter, FCSS Christmas hampers, Aurora House, and the Hospital Auxiliary, with the last 41 quilts going to the Red Cross, to help with the Fort McMurray fire disaster.

So far the Goodwill Quilters have made over 540 quilts since they started in 2008.

All are welcome!
Jandel Homes

Saddle Hills County Community Development initiated collaborative housing development planning with Jandel Homes in April 2014.

The collaborative planning process led to the acquisition of six vacant lots within the Hamlet of Woking, subdividing them into four larger lots and relocating all utility services to each of the four lots.

The joint Master Marketing Agreement was put in place in August 2014, followed by the delivery of the “Show Home” and a grand opening mid-fall 2014.

As of June 8, 2016, three homes have been sold and several more vacant lots have been purchased to be made ready for sale by early fall 2016.

The next phase of development will further enhance the appearance of Woking by evaluating infill lots that have vacant homes and where possible, place new homes on them.

Developing these lots in Woking creates a positive growth within the Hamlet as it has drawn in many new faces.

It has also become a part of Saddle Hills County’s “Safe, Strong, Sustainable” mission statement promoting a growing Hamlet.
Chinook Valley Golf Course

Chinook Valley Golf Course is located on the Burnt River, just 5km west of Woking. The golf course was built by local entrepreneurs, in 1990. Through planning and design, a farm field and gravel yard was constructed into a splendid course, using the natural lay of the land. Current owners, Diane and Randall Reiman, have operated this nine-hole golf course since January 2005.

The course is made up of several different kinds of grass. The greens are made from bent grass which is cut each day. The fairways are made out of a blend of Creeping Red Fescue and Kentucky Blue Grass.

The course is quite esthetically pleasing and has a nice view as it runs along the Burnt River. The course has a number of water holes and several sand traps that cause the course to be more challenging. The watering holes and well-kept grass makes for a beautiful landscape.

The junior program began on May 30 and runs for 5 weeks. They have 30 registrants of all ages and each week’s lesson covers a different golf skill ending with a mini tournament and BBQ.

They host a number of tournaments starting off the year with the Oilmans on June 2nd next is a Couples tournament on July 9 and a Glowball tournament on July 29th.

They also host the Compassion House tournament which will be held Aug 20 this year and the Kinettes Hole in One tournament in early September. They offer golfing, camping and a licensed food service clubhouse. They are continually looking to improve the golf course. This year they are cleaning up their irrigation ponds for more efficient water usage and improving the tee box on Hole # Two.

They are exploring the option of increasing their camping and hope to be putting these plans in motion in the near future.
Mighty Peace Vintage Tractor Club

Allen Bunhofner explains “I remember quite vividly an afternoon in April of 1954 when my Dad, brimming with pride, drove a brand new Super W6 McCormick tractor into our farmyard.

“I was nine years old at the time. I learned to drive this tractor at a young age, and it sparked my interest in McCormick tractors.

My interest in collecting and restoring vintage tractors started about 15 years ago, when my wife, Gitte, and I were holidaying in the Nicola Valley near Merritt, BC.

While at the Quilchena Ranch we noticed a small line of antique McCormick tractors in their farm shed.

It dawned on me that I could do something like this. Since then I have restored 5 tractors, and have 6 more projects in various stages of restoration.

I belong to the Mighty Peace Vintage Tractor Club. We have our annual meeting in April in the Woking hall, and it totally amazes me that 40-50 “old guys” turn out every year to talk tractors and plan another “Plow Day” for next June.

I hope to pursue this hobby on into retirement. These tractors are yesterday’s technology; something that I know and understand.

And so ... as you travel the highways, keep your eyes open for the next ‘jewel’ that may be parked in somebody’s windbreak.”
The Bulhofner’s - Allan & Gitte

Allan and Gitte have dedicated many hours to the beautification of their yard, it is a place in which they take great pride. Gitte is known for the precision she takes throughout her yard, and with each project she undertakes.

Their yard contains a variety of flowers which can be found in both beds as well as an assortment of pots. The flowerbeds comprise of a great number of perennials and shrubs which are well tended to each year. Many of the annuals can be found in their pots and floral barrels these annuals bring bursts of color to the yard.

Beautiful Shelterbelt

Allan and Gitte have many beautiful trees, these trees make up their shelterbelt. They were planted the spring of 1973, through the PFRA Shelterbelt program.

They were about 12" high when they got them. They have a row of Northwest poplar, a row of green ash and a row of spruce. The outside row of honeysuckle was added at a later time.

Vegetable Garden

They also have a beautiful vegetable garden which they plant each spring and harvest each fall.

This is another area of their yard where they spend a great deal of their time.

Rose Plants

One of their more recent projects is their rose plants, which include Blanc Double de Coubert (white), Champlain (dark red), Hansa, (pink), 2 Morden varieties, Therese Bugnet (pink) and Adelaide Hoodless (red).
From Safeway ... To The Windowsill ... To The Garden

As well, she has about a half dozen mini roses in the garden.

Most of these were bought at Safeway for Gitte’s mother, and she kept them on her windowsill at the lodge till they stopped blooming.

Then they came home with Gitte and were planted into the flowerbeds.

Most of them survive our winters, and the blooms are much bigger than they were originally.

Green Thumbs

Allan and Gitte’s green thumbs are clearly expressed throughout their yard.

They have and will continue to devote their time to the beautification of their yard for their enjoyment and for the enjoyment of all that visit.
The Young’s
Tiny Town

Norman and Charlene Young began the construction of Tiny Town in 2007. Their passion for wood working and the (Wild Wild West) inspired their design. They have gradually developed “Tiny Town” over the years.

The name was developed by their children and grandchildren as it was the name they used when referencing the creation to their friends.

Today, there are 16 buildings consisting of a Coffee Shop, Saloon, Jail House, Blacksmith Shop, Apparel Shop, Dress Shop, Livery, Supply Shop, Outhouse, Chapel & Schoolhouse and Hotel.

There are, also, less conventional buildings, for that era, which include a playhouse, a private oasis with a hot tub and sauna, a work shop, and storage buildings. However, they are all constructed and designed with the same style.

The buildings are all furnished with collections from stores, garage sales, specialty shops, etc. They are known by many throughout Alberta and BC for their distinct taste in western memorabilia and furnishings.

Their family has been able to utilize the area for a wedding as well as spending Christmas’ in the Livery, which has a beautiful, warm ambiance.

They welcome anyone wishing to stop by for a visit, and enjoy talking about the creation and development of Tiny Town as well as anecdotes of their travels.
Summary

Woking has been participating in Communities in Bloom since 2009. The community of Woking has been enthusiastic about their CiB endeavours and hope that this carries on into future years.

CiB would like to thank the residents of Woking for their continued devotion to the community and to CiB. We would also like to thank Saddle Hills County for their continued support, as they are a huge part of Woking CiB Success.