

Evaluation Form

2016

**Town of Ituna,
Saskatchewan**



2016 Evaluation Form

2016 Evaluation Form



Community: Town of Ituna

Province: Saskatchewan

Category: Up to 4,500

The evaluation is based on 8 criteria, divided into the 6 following sections, assessing 4 sectors of the community:

Tidiness	131.50	/	150.00
Environmental Action	122.00	/	150.00
Heritage Conservation	121.00	/	150.00
Urban Forestry	149.00	/	175.00
Landscape	166.50	/	200.00
Floral Displays	156.00	/	175.00
	Total		846.00 / 1000.00

Percentage : 84.60%

Bloom rating: 5 Blooms - Bronze

Bloom rating: Up to 55%: 1 bloom. 56% to 63%: 2 blooms. 64% to 72%: 3 blooms. 73% to 81%: 4 blooms. >82%: 5 blooms.

National and International Edition, for evaluated communities only.

82 to 83.9%: 5 Blooms. 84 to 86.9%: 5 Blooms (Bronze). 87 to 89.9%: 5 Blooms (Silver). 90% and over: 5 Blooms (Gold).

- A community does not have to be entered in a competitive category, but will need to be evaluated.

Mention : Pristine Prairie Pride

Representative (s) of Community

Name: Carol Korchinski Function : Co-Chair, ituna CiB

Name: Geri Kreway Function : Town of Ituna & Co-Chair of CiB

Name: _____ Function : Committee

Name: _____ Function : _____

Judges

Name: Roger Younker Name: Karri Loadman

Evaluation

date: July 26, 2016

2016 Evaluation Form

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Evaluation is adjusted to the climate and environmental conditions of the community.

Some aspects of the evaluation might not be applicable: scoring will be prorated.

The score will vary from the previous year based on the facts that the evaluation form is subject to modifications each year and that the evaluation is based on the perception of the current judges.

SECTORS OF EVALUATION

Municipal:

- Municipal properties, parks and green spaces, streets, streetscapes
- Properties owned and run by municipality such as museums, historical sites

Business and Institutions:

Properties owned and managed by

- **Business** : commercial sector, shopping centres, commercial streets, industrial parks, manufacturing plants
- **Institutions**: schools, universities, churches, hospitals, service and community organization buildings (such as YMCA, Legion), private museums, government and crown corporations buildings (such as Canada Post)
- **Tourism bureaus and Chamber of Commerce offices**
- **Farms** : in rural communities, farms can be considered in this section

Residential:

- Citizens and citizen groups acting within their own properties
- Residential property owners, rate payer groups

Community Involvement:

The principle of community involvement is so fundamental to the program that it is considered in each segment of the evaluation.

- Individuals, community organizations and citizen groups – all contributing to various aspects of community improvement, including municipal spaces maintained through the efforts of volunteers and community
- Organized clubs such as horticultural societies, garden clubs, community associations
- Service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist
- Participation (financial and/or in-kind or employee participation) by the municipality, businesses and institutions.

2016 Evaluation Form

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The judges were welcomed by the Communities in Bloom Committee Co-Chairs, Carol and Gerri, who picked them up in Regina. On the way to the Town of Ituna, the judges got to get to know the opportunities and challenges that face this small, yet dynamic rural community. The Special Mention of “Pristine Prairie Pride” is clearly evident in every aspect of the community. Ituna’s involvement in the Communities in Bloom program has had a positive impact on their daily activities that make this small town special.

Ituna is never short of volunteers to pitch in and get the job done whether it is to do some maintenance around the community or cook up a breakfast for an event. The profile of the community has been raised since being involved in the evaluation program. Each year homeowners and businesses are supporting the efforts of the CiB committee by keeping their properties in pristine condition and choosing plant colours to tie into the yearly theme.

The Communities in Bloom Committee is an energetic group of women who are passionate about their town. They work as a team to bring about a community that is consistently strong in all of the criteria. Elaine, Lorraine, Diane, Yvonne, Helen, Catherine and Lynda all pull in the same direction. They shared their love of the community and why they have chosen to make this small town in Saskatchewan their home. Most of these women were born in Ituna, and either left and returned, or stayed in place to create a strong sense of community.

Thank you to these women for cooking and organizing the spread of food that included many traditional Ukrainian dishes. The cooking was done by these women going from each other’s homes, getting food into the ovens, bringing them to Helen’s house, and sharing their connection with their heritage with the judges. The use of name tags for people we met along the way was extremely helpful in remembering everyone throughout the first day.

There are approximately 270 school children from K-12 in Ituna. This bodes well for the future of the community. While so many small towns across Canada are losing their schools due to declining enrollment, Ituna is increasing their intake each year. Apparently, according to the locals, this may have something to do with the long winters. The daycare in Town is full, with a waiting list. Maybe there is an opportunity for the business to expand by purchasing a larger space and hiring additional staff.

The community has an EMS office, RCMP Detachment with one full-time member on staff who lives in Ituna, a medical lab open five days’ a week, and a doctor who comes to Ituna a couple of days a week. The Town could benefit immensely with a nurse-practitioner. There are enough residents to support this form of medical care.

Karla Sauve, the Economic Development Officer, is one of the young Town champions. She is actively involved in the promotion of her community. When the judges first met her, Karla had just finished getting things organized for the Community Breakfast. Karla is new to her role and is focusing on ways to have the Town grow without losing their identity to the past.

The Knights of Columbus are very active in the community. They do major fundraising for various activities and programs. This includes the Hawaii night, where the grand prize is a trip to Hawaii. Each year they select a project, or projects, to support in Ituna. This year they are contributing to the cost of an electronic sign for the school.

2016 Evaluation Form

As there are more newcomers to Ituna, there is a need to welcome and inform these new residents. The Town is currently putting together a welcome package of vital information and contacts to make the newbies integrate into the community on a positive note.

Nate and Kristin Beselaire are two recent additions to the community and are very involved in the activities, programs and pitching in to support events where possible.

Similar to other small towns, many of the service groups are no longer in existence. This is due, in part, to the aging population and work schedules of the younger residents. In Ituna, the Lions Club no longer exists.

The pool has several lifeguards from the community including Stephanie and Abby. They are two well-spoken young women and represent the future of Ituna. They are preparing to leave the community to further their education and hope to return to participate in the future growth of Ituna.

The judges enjoyed meeting Heidi Spilchuk, of the Ituna News, at the Community Breakfast. Heidi conducted a thorough interview with the judges on the program and Ituna's involvement in CiB.

The Town slogan of 'better place to live' captures the essence of the people who make Ituna their home. Many residents are very engaged in the numerous community activities and events. The electronic sign at the Administration Office is a great addition to the community. It highlights events, meetings, and information on important topics.



The judges recommend that the Communities in Bloom Committee continue to expand their group to include newcomers to further the program into the future. The Profile Book will benefit greatly by the inclusion of information provided by a wider voice.

It is critical to provide the Profile Book to the judges in advance of the tour, which the Town of Ituna did. This allows the judges to offer greater assistance in the program structure, observations and recommendations. Thank you to Geri who put together an informative and easy to read Community Profile book.

We suggest that the recommendations in this evaluation be copied into a do-list format. The community can then use the list as a strategic plan for following years. Complete the list and identify what was done, what was possible, what was not possible, and what is planned for the future.

2016 Evaluation Form

It is also beneficial to make sure that everyone has access to the Profile Book and evaluation so they can add valuable input to the program. Spending time at the CiB website to learn about possible awards, programs and sponsorship would greatly raise the profile of Ituna.

The judges also wish to encourage that the Communities in Bloom Committee travel as a group within Ituna to understand and observe criteria examples in the Town under evaluation. This would include the public works yard, landfill site, cemetery, and other properties. As well, it would be beneficial to have everyone walk the community to provide feedback for areas of improvement and possible future projects.

The judges thank the CiB Committee, and the Town, for the hospitality shown to us during our visit to Ituna.

On behalf of Communities in Bloom, the judges wish to congratulate Ituna; your excellence has driven you to be awarded the winner status in your category in 2016. Well done!

2016 Evaluation Form

TIDINESS		
<p>Tidiness includes an overall tidiness effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community. Elements for evaluation are parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Tidiness, order, cleanliness and first impressions	10	8.50
Community anti-litter awareness programs	10	8.50
Effective bylaws, programs and policies and enforcement; litter control, unsightly private property maintenance by-laws, graffiti prevention and eradication, graffiti removal kits to residents	10	9
Cleanliness of public green infrastructure: parks, streetscapes (sidewalks, planters, urban signage and furniture such as benches, litter and recycling containers etc.)	15	13.50
Visual appeal, and condition of municipal buildings and properties (including City Hall grounds),	15	14
Business & Institutions		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness and first impressions	15	12.50
Condition of buildings (exterior maintenance), grounds, sidewalks and parking lots	15	12
Condition of urban furniture: benches, litter and recycling containers	5	4
Residential		
Tidiness, order and cleanliness	20	18
Condition of buildings, grounds and yards	15	13.50
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street tidiness, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance (including promotion, organization, innovations involving youth and seniors, etc.)	10	9
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community clean-up programs	10	9
Tidiness Total	150.00	131.50

2016 Evaluation Form

TIDINESS

Observations:

The Town of Ituna is an extremely tidy and clean community. It offers a pristine first impression that continues on throughout the Town. It is pleasing to see an absence of garbage in the outlying areas and in the downtown core.

The entrance signs at all three access points are bright and well maintained with good choice of materials. This includes pots with the chosen floral arrangements, Karl Forrester grasses, and xeriscaping. This selection and theme is carried on throughout the community at most signs, monuments, and public spaces.

The location, visual appeal, and condition of the Town of Ituna Administration Office, right at the main intersection as you enter the downtown core, is excellent. The other municipal buildings and properties in Ituna are equally tidy, clean, and well-maintained. The Crossroads Park, across from the Administration Office, has excellent signage, plantings, artefacts and benches depicting the importance of agriculture in the rural community of Ituna.

Ituna is fortunate to have effective by-laws, programs and enforcement for litter control. They have a By-law Officer who monitors, documents and enforces the clean-up of unsightly private properties. The Town of Ituna has not experienced much graffiti and the one time it was noticeable, the artists were identified and made to clean up the area and take responsibly for their actions.

The Town of Ituna has very clean public green spaces including the Regional Park, Community Golf Course, Cemeteries, and Churches. Many of these spaces are maintained by volunteers. Each streetscape, whether residential, commercial, or the industrial pockets in the Town, are well-maintained. The sidewalks, planters, signage and furniture are in good condition.

The main street of Ituna has many small businesses that provide a wide variety of shopping opportunities for residents. These properties are neat and tidy and provide a good first impression. Most of the buildings are in good condition including their grounds, sidewalks and parking lots. There are benches in key locations as well as litter and recycling containers.

Street after street, the residents are taking great pride in their homes. Residential areas are extremely tidy and clean with interesting landscaping. Lawns, flower beds, trees, and homes are in excellent condition, considering that many of these homes were built many years ago.

Ituna is a community that has a very high level of public participation in community and neighbourhood street tidiness, clean-up programs, activities and annual maintenance. Many of the clean-up activities are organized by the Communities in Bloom Committee. They are well supported by the community, including the youth and senior members. Most of the work is done by volunteers, however there is good financial support from the municipality, businesses and residents for these community clean-up programs.

2016 Evaluation Form

Recommendations:

Continue to maintain the high standards of tidiness.

As the Town is poised to attract new people to the area, it would be prudent to invest in garbage, 3R recycling bins, and cigarette butt containers.

While the Town is lucky not to have a dog debris issue at this time, it may be prudent for the installation of doggie bag dispensers to be placed around the Town to proactively manage the potential situation as the Town grows in population of both people and pooches.

Businesses in the downtown core and in the pockets around the community, including in front of the nursing homes, could be more diligent with their weed control.

The school grounds are in good condition with the exception of the tennis and basketball courts. They appear to have been neglected for long periods of time. Clearing the weeds around the courts, installing nets and painting lines, may prove to be a valuable addition to the many recreation activities the Town has to offer.

It is unfortunate that some of the best kept properties are adjacent to piles of car parts, refrigerators, and other miscellaneous metal trash. The community may want to engage with the Regional Municipality and/or Province to determine the requirements for RM properties to keep their properties tidy.



2016 Evaluation Form

2016 Evaluation Form

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION		
<p>Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to: policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, and environmental stewardship activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Sustainable development strategy: policies, programs, guidelines, long-term planning / vision; effective bylaws / policies and their enforcement; and public education programs and activities	20	16
Waste reduction to landfill and results (3-R : reduce, reuse and recycle), municipal composting programs, including activities such as composting sites, yard waste collections, mulching of wood debris (Christmas trees, hedge trimmings, etc.), reclamation of cut trees, and handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection and reuse of compost material	20	17
Water conservation and use-reduction programs such as or promotions, efficient irrigation, use of non-potable water, water restriction policies	15	13
Energy conservation programs such as alternate forms of energy (ex. geothermal, biomass, wind, solar), and initiatives such as: efficient appliances initiatives, shielding for night skies issues, efficient street lighting	15	13
Environmental initiatives, innovations and actions such as: - Development and expansion of sustainable mobility and active transportation network such as bike lanes and multi-used pathways; Horticultural practices such as green roofs, green walls, green lanes, living fences, buffer zones; re-use of sites; engineered wetlands, bio-swales, permeable surfaces and rain water management - Brownfield redevelopment, remediation, land reclamation - Air quality programs such as anti-idling, reduction of greenhouse gas emission (carbon reduction).	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Participation in the environmental effort : such as waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle), water conservation, energy conservation, brownfield management	10	8
Corporate environmental innovation / stewardship, initiatives, activities (ex. environmental clean-up activities)	10	7.50
Residential		
Participation in the 3-R (reduce, reuse and recycle) initiatives and composting	10	8
Adoption of water conservation practices such as rainwater collection and rain gardens	15	12
Community Involvement		
Public participation in public forums and policy development on environmental issues	5	3.50
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual street environmental activities and programs (including promotion, organization and evidence of taking ownership), etc.)	10	8
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions in public environmental activities and programs	10	8
Environmental Action Total	150.00	122.00

2016 Evaluation Form

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Observations:

The Town of Ituna has sustainable development programs using long-term planning and a shared vision. These include effective bylaws, policies and enforcement within the Town limits. The Town Office has materials available to the public to educate and promote the many environmental activities.

The reduction of waste to landfill and the 3-Rs to reduce, reuse and recycle are actively promoted and practiced in Ituna. There are municipal composting programs including composting sites, yard waste collections, and the mulching of wood debris. SARCAN provides a site, centrally located in Ituna, for the handling of hazardous waste including e-waste collection. Kim Lasch who operates the SARCAN center has won several awards for the work being done in Ituna.

The burn pile has been separated from the non-burn pile, and most of the plastic has been separated from the tree pile. Information regarding landfill operations is included in the quarterly water bills, on the electric sign outside of the Administration Office, and in the Ituna newspaper.

Ituna has an honour system for residents to use the composted tree mulch for their properties. The Communities in Bloom Committee purchases mulch for all of the community properties that they maintain, such as the tree orchard and flower beds.

All homes are metered to support the water conservation and use-reduction programs. The Town pumps up a day's worth of water to their water tank and only on very rare occasions has there been the need to do a second pump up of water. Most residents are very water conscience and use water only as needed to maintain their properties in good condition.

The community pool uses solar for heating the water. A black membrane is on the roof of the adjacent seating area and as water moves through the tubes it is heated across the roof line. This process has cut the cost of natural gas usage in half and provides a steady temperature for swimmers.

Street lights are placed in strategic areas in the Town. This provides an excellent night sky. When light bulbs do burn out, SaskPower comes in to replace the bulbs. The Town of Ituna is working on replacing bulbs with LEDs as they burn out and as the budget allows. Almost all of the seasonal lighting is now LED.

Ituna is very walkable. There are connections between each street and short blocks; well maintained properties allow ease of access down the street to enjoy inviting landscape projects. There is a substantial buffer of naturalized green spaces in many locations in the community. This provides a welcome natural vista from many doorsteps.

The municipality takes action to deal with derelict properties and addresses brownfields with remediation and land reclamation where feasible for alternate uses.

The fire hydrants are well-maintained and visible from a distance with the bright red paint. There is one fire hydrant on each block in Ituna.

Businesses participate in the environmental effort, such as waste management, the 3R's, water conservation, energy conservation, and brownfield management where practical. Many businesses are reusing existing

2016 Evaluation Form

buildings in the downtown core. The business community is actively involved in the clean-up activities in the spring and fall as well as supporting other environmental initiatives throughout the year.

Residents actively participate in the reducing, recycling and reusing programs initiatives and composting. The residents have adopted water conservation practices such as rainwater collection.

The Town of Ituna has a high level of public participation in environmental issues, activities and programs. There is a high level of financial support by the municipality, businesses and organizations in the many environmental activities and programs.



Recommendations:

Continue to maintain the pristine green spaces throughout the community.

The Town of Ituna is considering some long-term options for the use of the Chain Lakes and Scott's Lake. These could be utilized for kayaking, canoeing, paddle boards, and other water activities. Possible access could be through the golf course or at the rear of the Ituna School.

It is unfortunate that the stockpile of car bodies, refrigerators (with doors on them and may contain ammonia), and various other scrap metal is adjacent to the Chain Lakes. The community may want to engage with the Regional Municipality or Province to investigate the environmental hazards of the leaching into the water system as well as pest and rodent issues.

Presenting new residents with a welcome package that outlines the services of the community and the processes and procedures for recycling, mulch program and using the landfill site will assist in the continuation of a well-organized program.

The Town of Ituna may want to consider marking the rat bait stations at the landfill with large poles with coloured flags/ribbons so that when the compacting contractor comes into the area the stations are not damaged by the machinery. Identification signage for each area of the landfill is essential.

The railway ties used at the Community Orchard should be removed from the area as they contain toxic creosote that could be leaching into the soil. If the orchard needs to be protected from large trucks parking adjacent to the garden, the solution may be utilizing large boulders to outline the edge and provide a barrier. This would be in keeping with the theme of the boulder in the downtown park.

2016 Evaluation Form

It would be wise for the Town of Ituna to develop and implement some additional basic environmental bylaws that could include idling of vehicles, vehicle leaks on streets, burning, and stockpiling of materials on properties.

The Town may want to make contact with the owner of the old gas station property to see if there is an opportunity to purchase the land and then reuse it for something that does not require the removal of the tanks.

Continue the good works of switching out the lights to more efficient LEDs. Encourage businesses and residents to do the same.

2016 Evaluation Form

HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve natural and cultural heritage within the community. Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies and conservation groups are considered.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Natural heritage policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	10	7
Natural heritage management plans and preservation initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk, support for at risk pollinators, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, and wildlife	15	12.50
Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development / tourism) including activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	13
Cultural heritage polices, by-laws and plans and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments , heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	12.50
Cultural heritage initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8.50
Business & Institutions		
Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	12
Conservation, restoration and , reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	7.50
Residential		
Conservation / restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands.	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs including developing policies and plans, site improvements and management, conservation and education initiatives.	15	12
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community initiated natural heritage activities and programs.	15	12
Public participation in community, neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community initiated cultural heritage activities and programs.	10	8
Heritage Conservation Total	150.00	121.00

2016 Evaluation Form

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Observations:

The Town of Ituna has natural heritage policies, by-laws and they are enforced by the By-law Officer. These natural heritage management plans and preservation initiatives include the protection of sensitive habitats, and the support of pollinators, grasslands, and wetland. The Town also supports urban agriculture, farming, and the inclusion of spaces for natural vegetation to encourage wildlife.

Ituna has cultural heritage polices, by-laws and preservation initiatives. These include plans for the protection of heritage buildings where possible and the reclamation of building materials to be used in other heritage initiatives. The cemeteries, artefacts, museums, and monuments are extremely well-maintained and integrated within the community. There are heritage trees including large blue spruce and gardens (floral and vegetable) integrated throughout the community.

Cultural heritage initiatives are offered and supported throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs of this traditionally Ukrainian community. The museum is almost finished with renovations and is slated to re-open in 2017.

Businesses and institutions are integrated into the community in the downtown core and pockets throughout the Town. These enterprises are practicing conservation, restoration and integration of the natural heritage, including trees, landscapes and naturalized areas.

Many businesses are reusing heritage buildings and artefacts to set up shop in Ituna. These businesses are well integrated into the built environment and add value to the built environment and those in the pockets outside of the downtown core are aware of the value of the green landscapes that encompass the community.

Crossroads Park at the entrance area of Ituna features many items representative of farming in the area. The site is a work in progress with plans for signage to recognize those who donated the farm equipment, and also signs to describe the items and their place in the history of Ituna. The backdrop to Crossroads Park is the mural on the side of Anderson's Market. The mural is painted by Marianne Weber-Rokosh. It was started in 2015. There are a few details left to finish. The Business Association supports this initiative and has provided the paint for the project. Murray, Leanne and Shalayne Anderson have been in Ituna for over 23 years and are extremely proud to have the mural on their building.

The judges toured the four churches in Town: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church; St. Stanislaus R. C. Church; Lakeside United Church; and, the Sacred Heart Church. As with other communities some of the regular weekly services have been reduced to monthly occasions. In some cases this is largely due to the lack of membership and the number of officiators available in the area.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church built in 1921 was renovated in 1986 along with an addition to the front of the building. The judges met Pauline and Nettie who are active church members and have lived in Ituna for most of their lives. There are no musical instruments used during the singing of hymns, only the beautiful voices of those in attendance. The ceiling of the church is stunning in shades of blue with depictions of the religion.

The restoration of the Sacred Heart Cemetery is a brilliant solution to maintaining the property to a high standard of excellence. The installation of concrete lanes and the relocation of the headstones to these pathways was not an easy feat. The results are stunning and the perpetual maintenance fund left by John Zatwarniksy will continue to ensure a peaceful and pristine cemetery.

2016 Evaluation Form

The Ituna Theater built in 1946, is a great example of preserving an historic building and operating in its original use. Doreen Carrier has updated the projection room to digital movies. The theatre operates Thursday to Saturday and features the standard theater seats, as well as movie lounge chairs that recline. The most popular movies are kids, cartoons, and comedies. Most movies are good for the whole family and on a good night over 75 people are in attendance.

Residents are also conserving and restoring older buildings in the community. Many homes have been in Ituna for many years. The heritage is preserved in their well-maintained exteriors and landscape.

The public participation in natural heritage programs is extremely high in Ituna. From the very young to the senior population, residents organize, support and participate in heritage activities and programs.

The social calendar of Ituna includes many year-round heritage community events, activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs of the first settlers. The municipality and businesses also provide financial and in-kind support for these cultural programs.



Recommendations:

The Town of Ituna may want to adopt a heritage conservation by-law. With newcomers to Town, many may want to set up businesses in the area reusing existing heritage buildings. It would be prudent to have policies and procedures in place prior to any exterior alterations taking place.

Ituna may want to utilize techniques (such as tax incentives) found in other communities who are working to maintain, restore and support municipal heritage.

Communities in Bloom is working to identify heritage buildings in the community with a recognition plaque to be placed on the building. The plaque could include the date of the building, first owners, first purpose and possibly a period photo of the building.

Once the heritage plaques have been completed, as time and money permits, the Town of Ituna could put together a walking map of a self-guided tour through the community. This tour could also include all of the municipal, church and recreation facilities as well.

When the red brick school is removed, the Town could utilize the bricks from this heritage building to create pathways and greater accessibility at the Cenotaph and link spaces in the Town representing the history.

2016 Evaluation Form

As the pioneers of the community are aging, it would be prudent for members of the community to do interviews with these residents of Ituna. This could also include the history of the Churches. The remaining members would be able to talk about a time when the buildings were full and there were weekly services in all.

It is extremely concerning that the stock pile of cars and other scrap metal is adjacent to such a beautiful wetland area of the Chain Lakes and Scott's Lake. The Town of Ituna would be wise to research the situation, identify hazards, and develop possible solutions to this matter. Ducks Unlimited may be a good source of information as they restore wetlands to provide habitat for many species of water fowl.

A backless bench under the large evergreens at the Ukrainian Holy Ghost Parish would provide a great place to sit and contemplate while overlooking either the Chain Lakes or the pristine cemetery.

2016 Evaluation Form

URBAN FORESTRY		
<p>Urban Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator friendly tree selection, tree inventory, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), heritage, memorial and commemorative trees.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Overall impact, benefit and first impression of the urban forest	10	8.50
Policies, regulations and tree by-laws, tree protection and planting on public and private lands	15	13.50
Urban forestry plan and design, including integration with overall green infrastructure landscape plan, and measures to preserve, protect, manage and expand overall tree inventory, including woodlots.	20	18
Plan of action: procurement, species diversity (including native trees), selection of hardy and pollinator habitat tree species, recommended tree list and tree planting standards.	10	8.50
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Plant HealthCare (PHC): plan of action for invasive pest detection and control, information on current infestations and diseases	10	8
Public information programs: good planting techniques, best practices and maintenance programs	15	12
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	8
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	5	4
Business & Institutions		
Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by business and institutions.	15	12
Maintenance programs, best practices with proven results: watering, pruning, IPM	10	8
Residential		
Contribution to expanding overall tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties	15	13
Maintenance best practices with proven results	10	8.50
Community Involvement		
Public participation in tree planting and conservation programs such as Green Streets Canada, Arbor Day, Maple Leaf Day, and other tree planting and maintenance programs and activities on public lands (including promotion, organization etc.)	20	18
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation or promotion by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community tree planting and conservation programs on public lands	10	9
Urban Forestry Total	175.00	149.00

2016 Evaluation Form

URBAN FORESTRY

Observations:

The vast number of large trees provides a strong overall first impression of the urban forest in Ituna. There are policies, regulations and tree by-laws protecting the existing trees and require the planting of new trees on public and private properties. The urban forestry policies preserve, protect, manage and expand the overall tree inventory, including woodlots.

It is unfortunate that the money spent recently to purchase trees for the woodlot did not result in obtaining the trees. To recoup the money or to get the trees would be a legal matter that could be expensive and the money could be better spent on making new arrangements to purchase trees in the future.

There is a plan of action to purchase trees and expand the diversity of species including native trees. When new trees are planted they are selected based on the hardiness of the species and the impact the tree will have in the future as they grow and large existing trees come down. The diversification of the tree species will assist greatly in the management of infestations and diseases.

The Town of Ituna has personnel, including seasonal summer staff, to plant and maintain the trees. When there is a need for additional training the municipality encourages the existing staff to expand their knowledge and in many cases, cover the cost of the courses.

Businesses are also contributing to the overall tree inventory, with consideration to design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees, on properties owned by business and institutions. The drainage issues for the trees at the Roman Catholic Church are now monitored. The culvert has been unblocked and if water should build up at the base of the trees, it will be pumped out.

Contributing to the expansion of the tree inventory, with consideration of design and diversity including native and hardy species of trees on residential properties is evident by the number of properties that are well-maintained.

There is a high level of public participation in tree planting and conservation programs as well as financial support by the municipality and businesses. The Community Orchard is a fine example of the public creating a dynamic space that can be accessed by all members of the community. The orchard features a wide variety of fruit trees and berry bushes.



2016 Evaluation Form

Recommendations:

The Town of Ituna could work towards creating a tree inventory. This could possibly be a project for the high school students' science project to document and count tree species.

Once the tree inventory is complete, Ituna would be better informed on the number of trees and species currently in the community.

Select a few varieties of trees that would work well for the replacement of trees that need to be removed, or for memorial trees.

The seating area out front of the Ituna School would benefit from trees for shade. The students could plant trees during Earth Day celebrations, or another tree planting initiative.

While there was lots of involvement in the planting of the Community Orchard there is a lack of knowledge on the maintenance of the fruit trees and berry bushes. There will need to be a pruning of the trees in the spring of 2017 to get the trees into a healthy state. The Town would be wise to train a few members of the Communities in Bloom Committee in pruning, maintenance, and spraying techniques to assure these trees mature over time.

The dead tree at the Ukrainian R. C. Church cemetery needs to be removed.

Continue the maintenance of the trees in the community and congratulations on the successful mulching program.

Develop a memorial tree (and bench) program to assist in the planting of trees and the addition of seating in Ituna. The Town should identify what type of benches and variety of trees serve the community best. The location of future trees and benches should be developed by the municipality.

2016 Evaluation Form

2016 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE		
<p>Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks and green spaces suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include: native and introduced materials; balance of plants, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of all sectors of the community. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wildflowers along with turf management.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
First impressions of the community including gateway / entrance treatments	10	9
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, suitable plant varieties (including pollinator friendly) , traffic calming, bank stabilisation	10	9
Urban and civic design standards for streetscape and public places: flags, banners, public art, fountains, site furnishings, signage, seasonal design and décor, walkways and paving materials	10	9
Landscape Plan: integrated and implemented throughout the municipality	10	8
Turf management programs, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Plant Health Care (PHC), alternative solutions to diseases and infestations when appropriate, increased naturalization and adapted maintenance programs	10	8
Landscape maintenance policies, standards, best practices and programs	10	8
Landscape maintained to appropriate standards, specifications and best practices.	5	3.50
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	7.50
Demonstrated year-round opportunities and programs for education and use of parks and green spaces (urban agriculture, community gardens, parks and recreation programs)	10	8
Business & Institutions		
Sustainable designs (seasonally adjusted year round): energy efficient, use of green materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, alternate groundcovers, urban agriculture	10	8
Contribution to urban and civic design and public green spaces above requirements: such as public art, streetscape, site furniture, fountains & innovation in concept & design	15	12
Adequate ongoing life cycle management (ongoing maintenance, ground & asset management, rehabilitation & replacement) of all landscape elements	10	8
Residential		
Streetscape appeal of landscapes (year-round, seasonal, themed)	15	12.50
Maintenance of properties: lawn care, trees and shrub maintenance (with proven results)	15	13
Selection of plant material (native, local, innovative, edible and pollinator friendly plants)	10	8
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community programs such as: urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination & decoration (promotion, organization, etc.)	20	17.50
Recognition (by municipality and/or by volunteer groups) of volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including activities in all evaluated criteria	20	17.50
Landscape Total	200.00	166.50

2016 Evaluation Form

LANDSCAPE

Observations:

The Town of Ituna has By-laws that are meant to be followed to protect the rights of property owners rather than being punitive. The Nuisance Abatement By-law provides for the abatement of property activities or things that adversely affect the safety, health and welfare of people in the neighbourhood. Maintaining properties in an attractive, well-manicured condition free from clutter and weeds enhances property values and people's enjoyment of the community.

Ituna presents a pristine first impression including the gateways and entrance treatments. The community is using sustainable designs, which are seasonally adjusted year round with decorations that utilize energy efficient LED lighting, green materials, xeriscaping, and the planting of suitable plant varieties.

There is a high level of design standards for streetscape and public places that include flags, banners, public art, furnishings, signage, and seasonal design and décor. The walkways and paving materials are in very good condition.

The established relationship with the members of the community who work for CN Rail has resulted in the clean up along the CN tracks, especially at the crucial entrances. There is a greater willingness to keep these areas clean.

Thomas and Kerri Kentz donated six new benches to the community through the CiB program. Two of these benches are in Avena Park at the entrance to the town and another two are at the Cenotaph. Later this year, the remaining two benches will be installed at the Community Orchard under a shade tree.

The exceptionally maintained turf in municipal properties is managed by a dedicated team of public employees and volunteers. Ira Martin, Regional Park Manager, plants trees, maintains the community pool, campsite, and various other recreations spaces at the park. He recently planted over 100 blue spruce saplings to eventually provide a canopy at the park when the poplar trees are removed. Ira is lucky to have summer student employee Kyla Zrymiak who is proficient on the mower and other maintenance requirements needed at the Regional Park.

The community golf course is meticulously maintained by volunteers. The annual fee is nominal and the concession is based on the honour system when it is not manned. The course is adjacent to Scott's lake, flanked by large evergreen trees, and has both turf and sand greens.

The playground spaces are extremely tidy and well-utilized. The equipment is in excellent condition, even the older equipment purchased many years ago. The play area is loose sand providing a safe place for climbing, swinging and bouncing activities. Lions' Park playground is maintained by the Town as there are no longer active members in Ituna. The mound of soil in the Park would be a great place to create a Bees Matter space in the summer. It is utilized by the students in the winter as a sledding hill.

The curling rink has four sheets of ice and is very active in the winter months. Students begin to learn to curl in grade three. There are several leagues and bonspiels throughout the season. Next to the curling rink is a natural ice skating rink that is utilized during the months where the temperature permits the ice to be frozen. The rink sees hockey, figure skating, and learn to skate programs for approximately 90 days each season. The building is one of the few remaining structures of its kind in Saskatchewan. There was some damage to one of the side walls where some graffiti was found. The judges are certain that will be taken care of by the Town in short order.

2016 Evaluation Form

Avena Gardens was made possible by a grant from the CN EcoConnexions. It is located at the main entrance to the community across from the Administration Office and kitty-corner to Crossroads Park. The park has two of the six benches donated by local residents. It includes roses, Karl Forester grasses, heritage plaques, and a wheat sculpture that is eye-catching and extremely well-maintained. It has proven beneficial for the Town to have a couple of residents working for CN. They have assisted in the clean up along the tracks by the entrance areas and behind homes and businesses.

Sustainable designs including naturalization, xeriscaping, and alternate groundcovers are being incorporated into the landscape by businesses and institutions. Businesses are positively contributing to the urban and green spaces by incorporating public art, furniture, and plantings. Several businesses are investing in improving their appearance by rehabilitating their buildings and landscape elements.

The residential streetscapes are very appealing. Many are themed and exceptionally maintained including lawn care, trees, and shrub maintenance. The selection of plant material incorporates native, local, edible and pollinator friendly varieties.

The public participation in community programs such as urban agriculture, community gardens, "yard of the week", volunteer park maintenance, holiday illumination and decoration is outstanding. There are opportunities and events that recognize the volunteer efforts in all aspects of the Communities in Bloom Program including activities in all criteria.

Katherine Ross painted the Bitamo (Welcome) sign at a corner that features the Ukrainian cultural icons such as the colours red, blue, white and yellow. Eggs are strategically painted in black and white along the adjacent wall. There are plans to colour the eggs in the future, however, the black and white eggs do draw the eye to the concrete wall. Either way, this is a nice area that is well-maintained and inviting.



Recommendations:

The challenge is to continue the maintenance of the landscaping efforts and achievements made in Ituna.

Consider planting a backdrop to the roses in the Avena Park such as a tight planting of Karl Forester grass. This would not only feature the existing roses better; it would tie into the theme of these grasses in other key areas in Ituna.

2016 Evaluation Form

The roses at Avena are struggling and a better choice may be hardy roses developed in Morden, Manitoba, which are generally hardy, disease and insect resistant, and with good height. This would add vibrant colour throughout the growing season.

With the vast amount of playing fields and turf areas, it may be wise to send key members of the Parks Maintenance team to take sports field management training.

Work together to develop a strategy and action plan to manage the unsightly regional municipal properties that flank Ituna including the industrial areas near the Sacred Heart Cemetery and the stockpile of cars and scrap metal beside the lakes and across from the pristine grounds of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Create an access to the Chain Lakes behind the school and at Scott's Lake at the Golf Course to provide an opportunity for water recreation such as kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boards. A possible event could be a cardboard box boat event.

It would be advantageous to develop a plan for the space occupied by the red brick school prior to its demolition so that when it comes down, the action plan could be implemented.

The mural on the Anderson Market wall is a visual delight. The Business Association could support these initiatives on other buildings in Town and in the windows of vacant buildings. This will draw attention to the buildings in a positive manner.

The Communities in Bloom Committee could implement a 'yard of the week' program where the Committee would select the first recipient and after that the award would be moved around the town by residents who pass along the achievement to fellow residents. The Business Association could choose a Business of the Month Award and then the recipient of the award could pass it along to the next month's choice. Such strategies have proven to be successful in other small communities and bring about a sense of community building.

2016 Evaluation Form

FLORAL DISPLAYS		
<p>Floral displays evaluates efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain floral displays of high quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony This pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes.</p>		
	Max	Actual
Municipal		
Integration into overall landscape plan and distribution through community. Concept and design including sustainable design	15	13.50
Diversity of displays: flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, carpet bedding, mosaics	20	18
Diversity of plants: annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, woody plants, natural flora, pollinator friendly plants	10	8.50
Quality, maintenance to appropriate specifications and standards, best practices: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	20	18.50
Qualified personnel (including seasonal staff) and/or in place training programs	10	8.50
Business & Institutions		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on grounds	15	13.50
Contribution to, and integration with, overall community floral program	10	8.50
Quality of planting and maintenance: watering, weeding, edging, dead heading, etc.	10	8.50
Residential		
Concept and design (including arrangement, diversity, colour of display and plants) on residential properties Pollinator gardens and/or inclusion of pollinator plants in gardens	20	18
Quality of planting and maintenance with proven results.	15	13.50
Community Involvement		
Public participation in community projects, volunteer initiatives, outreach programs in floral displays (including promotion, organization, etc.)	15	13.50
Support – financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions for community floral displays activities	15	13.50
Floral Displays Total	175.00	156.00

2016 Evaluation Form

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Observations:

The floral theme of Ituna is extremely well-integrated into the overall landscape plan and fully distributed throughout the community. The concept and design to choose a colour palette provides a strong visual impact. Many flowerbeds, raised beds, planters, hanging baskets, and window boxes are supporting the theme and also provide diversity of plants that are best suited for the climate.

Annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, and woody plants are seen at the entrance signs, in front of the Town Hall, and at many key locations throughout Town. The vast amount of natural flora as buffer areas between properties and around the extremities of the community adds to the value of the planted materials. The overall quality and maintenance of the floral displays is exceptional.

The colour selection of pink and purple creates a vibrant streetscape. Next year the Communities in Bloom Committee is considering a red and white theme to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Canada. The Karl Forester grasses planted throughout the Town at key locations mimics the oats grown in the area. The planting of oats is problematic because they spread and sprout causing considerable extra maintenance.

Businesses are also incorporating the theme for arrangements of plants including the colour palette. This adds to the overall impact seen in the downtown core and other locations in the community.

Louise Filarczuk has a local greenhouse and market garden. She grew the flowers that are used in the floral displays in Town.

Residents are adding value to their properties by incorporating designs, arrangements, and diversity that showcase the surrounding natural vegetation. The floral displays are exceptional.

The public participation in community projects and volunteer initiatives in floral displays including the promotion, organization, and financial support is heavily subscribed by all members of Ituna.



2016 Evaluation Form

Recommendations:

The Communities in Bloom Committee may want to consider adding blue to the colour selection next year. Not only will the blue add a vibrant splash of colour to the red and white theme, it would also tie into the Ukrainian connection to the community.

The Communities in Bloom Committee may want to consider trying a mosaic in the Ukrainian colours. It is wise to select annuals that will be in bloom during the same time frame to get the full impact of the plantings.

Turning the hanging baskets one ¼ turn to face on-coming traffic will greatly increase the visual wow-factor as people drive down the main street.

Continue the maintenance program of weeding and watering the floral displays in the community.

Equally important to adding more plant material, is being able to maintain the existing arrangements at the high standard of excellence currently in place and managed by the volunteer Communities in Bloom Committee, local businesses, and parks staff.

2016 Evaluation Form

2016 Evaluation Form



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

“Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, communities involved in the Communities in Bloom program can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions and benefit all of society.”

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

The commitment of local, provincial and national volunteers

The support of elected officials and of staff in municipalities

The dedication of our judges, staff and organizations

The contributions of our sponsors and partners