



VILLAGE OF DUCHESS

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 2020





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Prepared for the Village of Duchess

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VILLAGE OF DUCHESS

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

The Village of Duchess has initiated the preparation of its first Municipal Development Plan (MDP). Pursuant to section 632 of the *Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26*, an MDP is a statutory planning document that is adopted as a bylaw by the municipality and is one of the tools a community can use to manage growth and future development.

The Municipal Development Plan will outline the goals and objectives that a municipality has for future development and creates policies that will aid in achieving them. An important component in the MDP preparation process is soliciting public input from the citizens of the municipality.

As a method of determining citizens' concerns and opinions, the Village of Duchess chose to deliver individual questionnaires to each household during the month of June, 2020. The questionnaires were returned to the Village of Duchess by July 15, 2020. The questionnaire was designed to provide Village Council information concerning the direction Duchess should pursue in the future.

A total of 358 questionnaires were circulated throughout the community, 13 were returned due to incorrect addressing on file. Of the 345 questionnaires delivered, 48 surveys were completed and returned to the Village office representing a 14 percent response rate. This document is a summary of the results of the completed questionnaires received by the Oldman River Regional Services Commission. The questionnaires were analyzed and a statistical breakdown with commonalities and recurring themes are summarized below.

Highlights from the Questionnaire

- Approximately 58.0 percent of the respondents were male and 42.0 percent were female.
- Approximately 58.9 percent of respondents were from the 50-69 age group.
- Approximately 45.8 percent of respondents have lived in Duchess for 15 years or less.
- Major Likes:
 - Small/quiet/safe town
 - Community spirit and atmosphere
 - Quality of facilities
- Major Dislikes:
 - Lack of bylaw enforcement and police presence
 - Needs more commercial activity
 - Road and infrastructure maintenance
 - Derelict buildings and private properties

- What attracts people to Duchess:
 - Lifestyle
 - Low crime rate
 - Family
 - Large lots
- Types of facilities needed in the community:
 - Recreation facilities (i.e. walking paths, community pool)
 - Restaurants/cafes
 - Seniors housing
- Future economic growth of Duchess:
 - Grow slowly
 - All future growth occur within current village limits
 - More commercial, recreational and residential development
- The following services meet and/or surpass community expectations:
 - Curbside Garbage Collection
 - Recreation Centre
 - Rescue Services
 - Village Administration
- The following services should receive more attention:
 - Recycling programs
 - Medical and health services

Complete survey results are found starting on page 3.

1. What do you like most about Duchess or do not want to see changed?

After reviewing the responses, the citizens of Duchess have determined the following characteristics to be the most notable aspects of their community:

- Quiet, clean and safe
- Community spirit
- Quality of facilities and services
- Small population

This would suggest that Duchess is a family-orientated community with many cultural and community characteristics, which makes Duchess very attractive to its residents.

Comments:

- Well maintained, quiet, safe. Good infrastructure.
- That it is a small community, not overcrowded!
- Friendly people; but growing fast.
- The quiet prairie, how calm this little village is. Please don't commercialize it. It's quiet and peaceful here. Some drivers here at night get carried away with speed?
- Great, safe place to raise a family. Great schools. Nice people. Great parcels.
- Quiet and affordable.
- Peace and quiet.
- Do not want to see street lights.
- The facilities in the Village are great. I like the way the Village functions as is.
- The residential population. We don't need to aspire to be a 'big' town. Brooks is close enough for that.
- Excellent community to call home - best place in the County. Public works does an amazing job to keep the town maintained from snow removal to mowing, fixing potholes to Canada Day flags. I'm so impressed with the effort put in. Well done!
- I like the size of the community but I know that growth is needed for it to be sustainable. Sound policy is needed for appropriate planned growth.
- How fast services are complete, i.e. snow removal, garbage pickup, general maintenance.
- Family oriented safe community. Good management and support staff - summer and winter.
- Very friendly atmosphere!!
- The size of this Village and the low crime rate.
- The streets are kept nice. Pavement is good. They spray the parks and school grounds for weeds. It's kept up nicely.
- Flower boxes around town are always well maintained, like that walking path gets cleared in winter, streets are cleared often in winter, and Rec Centre is amazing.
- The quiet small town feel - low crime rate.
- The quietness.
- Small community; rec centre; helpful village employees going above and beyond helping out village residents.
- Our town is very clean and quiet. The streets in the winter time are always cleared of snow. Great town for raising a family and retirement.
- Space, green-space, no multi-level buildings, i.e. 2 storey limit.
- I like the size of our village, me and my wife wouldn't want to see it expand too much.
- Quiet and clean.

- We like the small town atmosphere, the recreational facilities and that we have a K-12 school. We also appreciate that we have a clean, well-kept community.
- Quiet and friendly people. Town staff is awesome.
- Beautiful people, kids and adults, people that stop and chat. Many different paths for daily walks. My garden. The birds in the bird feeders in the trees.
- The peace and quiet, originality of the community, safe and low crime rates.
- Quiet for the most part.
- It's quiet and peaceful.
- We enjoy the small-community atmosphere, the proximity to open land and the distance from Brooks.
- Like the small town atmosphere.
- Small town atmosphere - people are mostly very neighbourly.
- Quiet and peaceful village.
- The hands on the way the village is operating.
- Keep the school, rec centre, pharmacy, bank, store.
- It's clean.
- Walking paths. Need more.
- Love the parks for children, the way street maintenance is maintained cleaned, snow removal, parks mowed, general appearance of Village very appealing.
- Small village, quiet, community united.
- Amount of facilities available for use.
- I like the community spirit. It's great to see neighbours coming together. I feel my kids are safe and people look out for each other.
- Small town atmosphere. Like the back alley pickup.

2. What do you like least about Duchess or feel needs to be changed?

Following is a list of issues and concerns that respondents have with the community:

- Bylaw enforcement and lack of police presence
- Needs more commercial services
- Road and infrastructure maintenance
- Derelict buildings and private properties

Comments:

- Needs archery range.
- I would like an engine retarder ban. They cut the tree bottoms and vehicle noise is very loud (would be nice to have a sound fence from stop sign to car wash).
- The wind, sometimes it's just too much. The Hotel and Chinese restaurant look so very down.
- Drainage system.
- Road repairs.
- No control of recreational vehicles (motorcycles, ATV, snowmobiles) south of town. No control of weeds. Lack of consistent vacant lot mowing (do it right). Always the poorest solution to resolve issues. CHEAP!
- Railway Ave. is super noisy! Trucks, racing cars, bikes etc. Would like to see this patrolled more. Especially after hours! Also, would like carwash to follow after-hours noise bylaw and close their doors.

- Bulldoze that big dirt pile in the southeast part, in that big open area. It's an eyesore. Get pressure on the owners of vacant properties to keep their grass/weeds under control, or charge \$250 to clean it up for them.
- I like that the town has a family atmosphere. I would not want to see developments that would attract more transient, unstable groups (apartments, town houses, trailer parks). I would also like to see the back alleys improved/cleaned up. Trimming trees back to property lines would be appreciated.
- I'd like to see another access into the village from Hwy 873 - at the southern border with the County.
- Nothing. Duchess is amazing.
- Taxes are too high - you have a brand new office. Stop the high end expenditures and let's concentrate on roads and lowering taxes.
- Duchess needs some seniors housing!!
- There is nothing I don't like.
- Some back yard are pretty sad. Vehicles or campers not off the back allies. There are a lot of cats all over Town. People turn out at night using for yard for a litter box.
- More garbage cans, more trees in park, sidewalk all along centre street all the way. Stray/free cats are numerous, enforcement of dog poop picking up somehow, playground zones need some speed enforcement.
- Not much, it's a pretty awesome place to live!
- No fibre optics for better internet. Parking lot at the hockey arena. More areas for walking paths. Bartman yard - need cleaned or move his sandblasting business.
- Smarten up Centre Street.
- We would like irrigation water that is unlimited.
- We are happy with things as they are - no changes needed.
- Needs more sidewalks without raising taxes.
- The abusive opinions of some people to their neighbours generally known as sinit. Therefore sometimes means me.
- Cookie cutter communities - houses with small lots that end up looking the same in one area.
- Rules have changed/got lax. Quads, dirt bikes rip around, campers on streets/driveways and block crescents, no respect.
- Invest/partner in high speed internet technologies.
- Expansion of residential development.
- Village needs to keep spending in check. Is it wanted or needed when using tax payer dollars - value for money spent.
- Community spirit - to some extent Duchess feels like a bedroom community for people working in Brooks. I think that contributes to residents not being that invested in our community.
- Bylaws for chickens, no roosters and up to six hens allowed per household. Supply your own eggs and meat, they are perfect entertainment, confine to your yard.
- More business attraction for tax base.
- Eye sore of the restaurant and bar. More sidewalks, walking paths. Paved parking lot at arena.
- More police presence!
- Stray feral cats. Noisy neighbours. Too many unregistered vehicles.
- I would like to see more business in town - incentives to bring in commercial area - no more trailer parks.

- There is nothing to complain about in my world!
- Some of the village workers need open their eyes to the community.
- I wish our Jr/Sr High School was big enough to offer students more options.
- Road up keep.

3. Why do you choose to live in Dutchess? (check maximum of three)

Reason(s)	# of people	Total %
Family	22	17.1
Low Crime Rate	30	23.3
Lifestyle	37	28.7
Property Taxes	3	2.3
Schools	7	5.4
Large Lots	12	9.3
Employment	2	1.6
Recreational Opportunities	8	6.2
Others: (please specify)	8	6.2
Total	129	100.0

Other (please specify):

- Quiet peacefulness
- It's not Brooks!
- Enjoy small town atmosphere
- Quiet
- The chance to help others
- The quiet
- Quiet living
- Quiet

The top three reasons why individuals move to Dutchess are as follows:

- Lifestyle
- Low Crime Rate
- Family

4. In the future, would you like to see residential development in Dutchess: (check one)

Choices	# of people	Total %
Remain the same size	8	17.0
Grow slowly	20	42.6
Grow moderately	18	38.3
Grow rapidly	1	2.1
Total	47	100.0

The data indicates that a slight majority of the respondents want residential development in the community to grow slowly. However, the chart also indicates that a sizeable percentage of the community wants to see the community to continue growing at a moderate rate.

Comments:

- I don't want to lose the small town/country feel.
- Traffic and noise have doubled in last 6 yrs.
- People move to quiet areas to get away from noise, busyness of big city. It would be nice to have a grocery store, movie theatre or drive-in, a museum, swimming pool.
- A larger population will increase the tax base and possibly provide more volunteers to help keep the facilities running.
- One reason we live here is so that it does not become too big. When we want bigger, we'll visit a place like Brooks or a real City.
- I like the criteria the village has in place to ensure that new developments meet the standards and culture that duchess has established.
- I'd like to see growth continue to the south. At the same time, the lots on the north side, west of the golf course path need to be serviced.
- It would be nice to have retirement/low maintenance homes for our parents so they don't have to leave Duchess.
- There are still a few empty lots for sale therefore I don't think we need further development.
- Keep area separated trailers vs houses.
- Might help with taxes.
- Have the new subdivision full or close to full before going ahead with another one.
- Most people commute back and forth to Brooks.
- To enable the infrastructure to keep up to the development.
- Finish lots they already have.
- I love seeing new faces and welcoming new neighbours.

5. In the future, would you like commercial and industrial development in Duchess: (check one)

Choices	# of people	Total %
Remain the same size	5	10.6
Grow slowly	21	44.7
Grow moderately	20	42.5
Grow rapidly	1	2.1
Total	47	100.0

The data shows that the majority of respondents would like to see commercial and industrial development grow slowly (44.7%), or grow moderately (42.5%).

Comments:

- Nice small community should stay as is or as was 10 yrs. ago!
- Not really no, maybe a few more necessity commercial development. I would hate to see this turned into another tourist commercialized city?
- Again tax base.
- It wouldn't hurt to have a few more local businesses.
- I would like to see businesses develop and flourish in the community. They contribute well to the tax base and help support events as well as provide employment.
- Again, sustainable planned growth. No noxious industry.
- I/we am/are super proud of the businesses in town. We try and support them as much as we can. It would be nice to see more 'downtown'.

- I believe we have enough industrial in Dutchess.
- To help employment and tax base.
- It would be nice to see more commercial development but not just any development - it should be the kind of development that complements our community.
- Close to Brooks makes commercial/industrial development more difficult.
- Always nice to have more availability in your home town for employment, recreation, etc. as long as it's sustainable.
- Long range plans should include industrial park with incentives to bring in business.

6. Please rank in order of priority where Dutchess's future growth should occur.
(Rank 1-5 with 1 = should occur first, 4 = should occur last)

Choices	Rank 1		Rank 2		Rank 3		Rank 4		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Within the Existing Village Boundaries	36	81.8	3	6.8	2	4.5	3	6.8	44	100.0
North of Village through Annexation	2	4.7	10	23.8	10	23.8	20	47.6	42	100.0
South of Village through Annexation	7	16.6	14	33.3	15	35.7	6	14.3	42	100.0
West of Village through Annexation	2	4.5	14	31.8	14	31.8	12	27.3	44	100.0

As the numbers suggest, the majority of Dutchess residents would like to see future growth to occur within the existing community limits. However, if the village needed to annex more land, residents would prefer the village to expand towards the south.

Comments:

- I don't think that any should occur west or north.
- There are 40+ odd lots existing - use them up!! Don't waste money developing any more til these are sold and occupied.
- It should stay the way it is.
- No opinion.

7. Would you like to see more, the same amount, or less of the following types of development in Dutchess?

Options	More	%	Same As Now	%	Less	%	No Opinion	%	Total #	Total %
Residential	23	48.9	18	38.3	3	6.4	3	6.4	47	100.0
Commercial	31	66.0	14	29.8	1	2.1	1	2.1	47	100.0
Industrial	20	45.5	18	40.9	4	9.1	2	4.5	44	100.0
Recreational	15	32.6	29	63.0	1	2.2	1	2.2	46	100.0

The data would suggest that the residents of Dutchess would like to see the community focus on developing more locally based businesses and residential development. Although a large portion of respondents would like to see an increase in industrial development, a similar portion of respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the current amount of industrial development. The data indicates that residents are generally satisfied with the current amount of recreational development.

8. Do you think any of the following are an issue in Duchess? (check one for each topic)

Options	Major Issue	%	Minor Issue	%	Not an Issue	%	No Opinion	%	Total #	Total %
Housing Costs	5	10.6	17	36.2	21	44.7	4	8.5	47	100.0
Seniors Services	12	25.5	16	34.0	6	12.8	13	27.7	47	100.0
Youth Activities	8	17.0	21	44.7	15	32.0	3	6.4	47	100.0
Economic Development	11	23.4	20	42.6	12	25.5	4	8.5	47	100.0
Education	3	6.4	16	34.0	21	44.7	7	14.9	47	100.0
Community Planning	2	4.3	23	48.9	17	36.2	5	10.6	47	100.0
Access to Local Planning	3	6.7	9	20.0	29	64.4	4	8.9	45	100.0
Bylaw Enforcement	10	21.7	18	39.1	18	39.1	0	0.0	46	100.0

The main issues that Duchess residents have with the community are as follows:

- Seniors Services
- Economic Development
- Bylaw Enforcement

Comments:

- Cats!! So many stray cats!!!
- Engine retarder brake signs up.
- They need to keep the preschool open.
- Dirt bikes ridden in the Village.
- Community planning is very important. I don't know the state of our community plans, hence the 'no opinion'.

9. Do you believe that more facilities and services in Duchess would benefit residents?

Options	#	%
Yes	34	72.3
No	10	21.3
No Opinion	3	6.4
Total	47	100.0

If 'yes', please list what types of facilities and services would you like to see locate in the Village?

- Seniors housing. Personal services.
- Archery range. Sledding hill. Water Park.
- Swimming pool, theatre, bigger grocery store, clothing store, history museum. I just don't want to see too much that the quiet is compromised.
- Preschool needs to stay open. The hall should not have raised the rent.
- Sports of all types.
- Swimming pool.

- There is pretty good facilities and services for a village this size.
- It would be nice to have a registry office, just on employee outlet.
- Walking/bike paths, water parks/splash parks, dog parks, outdoor pool/community pool.
- Duchess has sufficient facilities and services for a community of this size.
- Coffee shop, spa, community gardens.
- I believe Duchess has everything what is needs.
- Hardware and lumber yard.
- More reasonable priced grocery items. More options for recyclable items, senior focused exercise groups.
- Kids skate and scooter park.
- Fenced in dog park.
- Jobs.
- Tennis courts, more retail, coffee shop.
- We don't have any specific ideas but would like facilities or services that enhance our community.
- Those that would provide positive outlets for our energy other than crime, social abuse and self-annihilation.
- Medical clinic, shuttle service out of Village, fenced off leash park.
- Outdoor rec facilities.
- A restaurant that could be a hang-out for local teen and young people.
- Updated community hall.
- Yes, more would be great, but what we have now is reasonable for our size. More green spaces would be nice.
- More services (ex. Businesses) could increase employment in the village and possibly reduce residential property taxes.
- Grocery store.
- Restaurant.
- Good restaurant.
- Seniors housing. I think Duchess would be a great place to retire.
- Pool.

The majority of residents believe that more outdoor recreation facilities and personal services (i.e. Restaurants, small retail, etc.) would benefit the community.

10. Do you believe that more business and industries in Duchess would benefit residents?

Options	#	%
Yes	33	71.7
No	10	21.7
No Opinion	3	6.5
Total	46	100.0

If 'yes', please list what types of businesses and industries would you like to see locate in the Village?

- Personal services - bakery that stays, spa, good restaurants, specialty store, coffee shop, registry office.
- Employment and same as above - skate board park for older kids.
- Business of all types.
- Grocery store.
- We live right in a farming/ranching area, so a business or two that caters to those would be good, i.e. agri-businesses. Not just mechanic shops, but perhaps some manufacturing.
- Restaurants, café/coffee shop, bakery.
- Not so much industry, but commercial business would be good. Loved the bakery! I don't think Duchess Council should try to attract any specific business, but could write the Land Use Bylaw and MDP to accommodate new ideas and business opportunities.
- Same as above.
- Large grocery store.
- We have everything what we need. For me, Duchess is the perfect village in size and how it developed.
- Fast food establishment.
- Any type.
- Low impact businesses would create more employment and tax benefits. Small business.
- Any.
- Businesses that would provide services or recreation for kids and to employ teens.
- Providing jobs closer to home.
- Restaurants, cafes, small retail - no chain stores.
- All types.
- I think it would be healthy for Duchess to have more light industry (fabrication, service companies, etc.). Retail would likely follow.
- The kind that employ people.
- Seniors home, flower shop, swimming pool (outdoor), small bottle depot.
- Hair dressers, doctors office, dentist office.
- Anything commercial or industrial.
- Service type agencies - daycare, seniors services.
- Light industry, more commercial (boutique).

The majority of residents believe that more small-scale businesses, especially those offering personal services (i.e. hair dresser, daycares, food establishments), would benefit residents and provide employment opportunities.

11. Do you agree or disagree that the Village should actively promote “economic development” (the growth of businesses and industries) in Duchess?

Options	#	%
Agree	29	61.7
Disagree	11	23.4
No Opinion	7	14.9
Total	47	100.0

If you agree, please list what types of businesses and industries the Village should spend money to attract to the Village?

- Those that will help the community.
- My fear is that if we promote, we will lose the quiet character of Dutchess.
- Small business local owners.
- Grocery store.
- Oil service companies. Ag service companies. Again there are good services for the population size.
- Agri-business. Offer them better land purchase/rent prices than anywhere else in Newell County. Go after light manufacturing in particular, i.e. diversify, and be a leader in this.
- Same answer as 10. By attempting to attract specific business, we may be blocking other business ideas. We want to promote the opportunity.
- Family-friendly, community engaged and 'mom and pop' ran businesses.
- As above.
- Licensed lounge.
- Unknown.
- Any type.
- As above, small businesses, medium sized looking for lifestyle and lower taxes.
- Any.
- Maybe some services that keep residents from going into Brooks.
- All types - provide incentives such as 3yr tax relief.
- More employment is good, to a degree. Growth goals should be modest. Losing the local flavor means Dutchess loses its appeal.
- Would not be cost effective - too close to Brooks where there is a lot of subdivisions shovel ready.
- Light manufacturing, I wouldn't be too fussy, as long as it diversifies the tax base and maybe creates some jobs.
- Anything viable and sustainable to keep our residents in Dutchess.
- Hard to attract businesses when we are so close to Brooks.
- It has to be a self-sustaining business.
- Service type agencies.
- See above.

A majority of Dutchess residents would like to see the community promote economic development within Dutchess. Specifically, respondents indicated that they would like the Village to promote small-scale retail and locally owned business ventures.

12. Do you have access to high speed internet and are you happy with the level of service?

Options	#	%
Yes	27	58.7
No	19	41.3
Total	46	100.0

While the majority stated that they have access, respondents indicated that while there is access to the internet, it is quite costly for the quality (see comments below).

Comments:

- Could be better as it is slightly slow and freezes often.
- I don't consider 15 MBPs and 0.6 MBPs download to be 'high speed'. We need TELUS to include Duchess in its fibre roll-out. TELUS has stated that towns wish to get their optic fibre network need to get vocal about getting onto and then moving up their priority list.
- No we are not happy with it.
- Could be better.
- EID very happy.
- Not happy.
- Have access but service is slow by todays standard.
- EID is awesome.
- Yes have access, not happy with level of service.
- Yes but not happy with the service.
- Yes have access, not happy with level of service.
- Yes I have access, I am not happy with the level of service.

13. Would you be willing to pay a local improvement tax to cover the costs of improving access to high speed internet in the Village?

Options	#	%
Yes	20	43.5
No	26	56.5
Total	46	100.0

A small majority of respondents are not willing to pay a local improvement tax to cover costs of improving access to high speed internet. Those who were willing to pay indicated that it would be dependent on the cost of such a tax (see comments below).

Comments:

- We don't need more wireless towers, we need a fibre optic cable!! I don't believe we need to pay more. I pay \$90/mo. for TELUS 'high speed'. For that price in Calgary I'd be getting 300 MBPs upload and download speeds! What we need to do is pressure TELUS to expand their fibre network along the Trans-Canada, then the mere 15 km north to us. Asking the provincial government to get involved might also help.
- You are already skimming with the municipal franchise fees on gas and power!! Fix the potholes.
- Maybe - how much?
- Needed to attract businesses.
- If cost is reasonable.
- 1000%.
- At a reasonable rate.

14. How would you rate the following? (check one for each category)

Options	Excellent	%	Good	%	Average	%	Poor	%	No Opinion	%	Total #	Total %
Road Maintenance	17	36.2	19	40.4	7	14.9	4	8.5	0	0.0	47	100.0
Curbside Garbage Collection	33	70.2	11	23.4	3	6.4		0.0	0	0.0	47	100.0
Police protection	6	12.8	20	42.6	15	31.9	3	6.4	3	6.4	47	100.0
Community Peace Officers	6	12.8	16	34.0	15	31.9	6	12.8	4	8.5	47	100.0
Rescue Services	27	57.4	14	29.8	5	10.6		0.0	1	2.1	47	100.0
Schools	12	25.5	20	42.6	9	19.1	1	2.1	5	10.6	47	100.0
Library	11	23.4	19	40.4	11	23.4	1	2.1	5	10.6	47	100.0
Medical and Health Services	3	6.4	14	29.8	13	27.7	8	17.0	9	19.1	47	100.0
Village Administration	24	51.1	15	31.9	5	10.6	2	4.3	1	2.1	47	100.0
Village Website	7	14.9	16	34.0	8	17.0	3	6.4	13	27.7	47	100.0
Municipal Water Systems	19	40.4	17	36.2	8	17.0	2	4.3	1	2.1	47	100.0
Municipal Sewer Systems	17	36.2	19	40.4	8	17.0	2	4.3	1	2.1	47	100.0
Storm Drainage	10	21.3	19	40.4	14	29.8	4	8.5	0	0.0	47	100.0
Recreation Centre	32	68.1	10	21.3	4	8.5	0	0.0	1	2.1	47	100.0
Curling Rink	11	23.4	18	38.3	7	14.9	1	2.1	10	21.3	47	100.0
Community Hall	12	25.5	28	59.6	6	12.8	0	0.0	1	2.1	47	100.0
Golf Course	21	44.7	18	38.3	4	8.5	1	2.1	3	6.4	47	100.0
Arena	15	31.9	21	44.7	7	14.9	0	0.0	4	8.5	47	100.0
Municipal Parks	21	44.7	17	36.2	8	17.0	0	0.0	1	2.1	47	100.0
Recycling Program	7	14.9	16	34.0	11	23.4	10	21.3	3	6.4	47	100.0

The majority of residents of Duchess rated the following services and/or facilities as excellent:

- Curbside Garbage Collection
- Recreation Centre
- Rescue Services
- Village Administration

At the same time, the residents of Duchess feel that the following services should receive more attention for the administration:

- Recycling Program
- Medical and Health Services

This last set of questions will provide the Village with a better understanding of the different needs of individuals and how different groups view Dutchess's future. Please be assured all responses are anonymous.

15. About yourself:

Gender	#	%
Male	28	58.3
Female	20	41.7
Total	48*	100.0

Majority of the respondents were male.

*Three surveys were filled out by two people; two respondents did not submit this information.

Age	#	%
Under 20	0	0.0
20-29	4	8.0
30-39	2	4.0
40-49	11	22.0
50-59	14	28.0
60-69	14	28.0
70 and over	5	10.0
Total	50**	100.0

The majority of respondents (56%) were from the questionnaire were from the 50-59 (28%) and 60-69 (28%) age groups. No respondents were 20 years old or younger.

**Three surveys were filled out by two people.

16. How long have you lived in Dutchess? _____ years.

Length of Time	# of People	%
0-5 Years	7	14.9
6-10 Years	5	10.6
11-15 Years	10	21.3
16-20 Years	10	21.3
21-30 Years	9	19.2
Over 30 Years	6	12.8
Total	47	100.0

Majority of respondents (42.6%) had lived in Dutchess between 11-20 years.

17. Where did you live before you moved to Duchess?

	# of People	%
Always lived here	2	4.3
Previously lived out of town	44	95.7
Total	46	100.0

Only a small number of respondents have always lived in Duchess and nearly 96 % have moved to the community from other areas.

Place	# of People	%
Bassano	2	4.5
Brooks	10	22.7
City in AB	8	18.2
County of Newell	6	13.6
Lethbridge	2	4.5
Surrounding communities	8	18.2
Other Province/Country	8	18.2
Total	44	100.0

According to these calculations, most of the residents relocating to Duchess have relocated from the City of Brooks

Always lived here	2
Previously lived in...	
Bassano	2
BC	2
Brooks	10
Calgary	3
California	1
Coaldale	1
County of Newell	6
Cypress	1
Edmonton	1
Fort Saskatchewan	1
Grande Prairie	1
Hanna	1
Leduc	1
Lethbridge	2
Patricia	1
Ponoka	1
Red Deer	1
Rosemary	1
Red Deer	1
Saskatchewan	5
Slave Lake	1

18. Do you work in Duchess?

	# of People	%
Yes	9	18.7
No	30	62.5
Not Applicable	9	18.7
Total	48	100.0

Majority of respondents did not work within the community.

If no, please specify which municipality you work in.

	# of People	%
Brooks	11	50.0
County of Newell	5	22.7
Southern Alberta	2	9.1
Northern Alberta	1	4.5
USA	1	4.5
Occasionally in surrounding area	2	9.1
Total	22	100.0

Please provide any additional comments you think would be useful to Council in considering the future of Duchess.

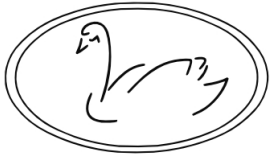
Comments:

- Please don't lose the small town feel! (and set up an archery range)
- We need a sound fence from the corner of 862 to the car wash. Traffic is high and vehicles speed and cause noise in AM and PM going and coming from work. Slower speed limit would keep noise down and allow sleep.
- I would love to see a few more essential businesses in Duchess which are needed; however, I fear that if it becomes too commercial, the quiet nature of this little village will only be like the rest of the noisy towns and cities.
- Heavy rain always an issue. Young family. Not having a preschool would be a huge loss. Can't believe they would raise rent on the only thing that will rent the hall.
- Street lights on Lousie. Upgrade old sidewalks and put sidewalks on both sides of the street. Fix walkway by post office. Sidewalk is on the opposite side of crossing.
- I feel the bylaw officers hanging out trying to catch people could use their time better. They could patrol the Duchess Drag Strip at night for instance.
- Completing the north circuit of the paved path (around the golf course, then connecting it to NW end of town) would be nice. I've heard rumours about a possible retirement community at east end of Emerson Ave / south of Thom's. I know that many retirees would rather live here than in Brooks, i.e. those from here. What's the status on that? Has it even been officially proposed? Thankfully, incidents of noisy, speeding dirt bikers and quadders is rare, but is there a peace officer who actually lives in and patrols the Village? Whom we could phone instead of the RCMP, when there is a problem?

- Having all the streets paved and maintained. Sidewalks fixed and repaired, grass mowed and watered makes this town in class above most. The friendly atmosphere of a place that's safe and comfortable to live/raise children is very appealing. Council, administration, and public works is doing a great job. Please keep doing what you're doing!
- Having a solid Land Use Bylaw and MDP in place is critical to setting vision and goals for the community. Kudos to Duchess Council for their forward thinking.
- Good luck, and thank you for all you do for our community.
- Duchess is perfect the way it is. Kids can graduate there. Lots of nice and well maintained parks (3 in total). Activities like Golf Course, Recreation Centre, and Hockey Arena etc. Duchess has a post office, wash bays, liquor store, a new very good Pharmacy, Fire department, garages. Administration is approachable. I can't think of more what might be needed. Everything else what might be missing... Brooks is 15-20 mins away.
- There are some unbelievable junky back yards and crippled vehicles in back yards or alleyways. It will just keep getting worse if not addressed.
- Would be nice to see a space where local artisans could display/sell their wares/crafts/art to help promote their own businesses that do not have a store front. Village should showcase someone monthly on their website. These are often the people that donate to auctions/fundraisers etc. A compost pile would be nice.
- New signage for Village. Include some 'please drive carefully' in our community.
- Keep up the great work - Council and admin has provided a nice place to live and raise a family. Try to minimize tax increases if possible, as you have done in the last number of years.
- Having another access of egress to/from the South part of town would be something to look at in case of some kind of disaster on north part of town. Streets are too narrow to try and get out in a hurry.
- People parking too close to yield signs etc., going to cause an accident.
- Yvonne is the best! With the internet and econ dev you will never get even 60% of the people to agree. Please show leadership and push for these projects.
- Please don't think we all believe more population is better. I didn't choose Duchess in the hopes it would grow to rival Brooks.
- Village needs to live within its means, know the difference between wants and needs (the LED sign by Village office was there any value in this! just one example). Keep costs under control, town vehicles how many are required, can they be ran longer before replacement, replace with a basic model, etc. Order items in bulk. Grass mowing: instead of every 7 days try 10 days. Just remember the tax payer doesn't have endless pockets.
- I appreciate the work our council does and that they put out this questionnaire. Thanks. I have had job offers to move elsewhere but our lifestyle here in Duchess was a factor in staying here.
- Give us the choice to raise our own eggs (fenced in area) (no roosters) (max 6 hens). Essential part of my environment as they eat bugs so I don't need to use pesticide.
- Some sort of senior's villa so long time residents don't have to leave. Sidewalks on all streets. Possibility of more walking paths. Blue roll out bins for grass clippings, weeds, leaves, tree branches, etc.
- Police presence!!! I live right near an x walk and it is only a matter of time until someone gets hit at that walk way. Have complained about this before and still NO POLICE PRESENCE!!

- The Ag Society is on verge of bankruptcy - town should raise taxes to keep these facilities running smoothly. You cannot rely on volunteers to do the work the town should be doing.
- A couple of the councilors could get their noses out of the air and realize their position does not make them more important than other citizens.
- Thanks for the survey.
- I bought my house in Dutchess while I was working in Brooks. After my retirement I kept the house to be rented. I noticed that my property taxes are increased by \$300 - because of this, I keep my rent low to help people in Dutchess so that they have a roof over their head (COVID). I think it is unfair to be charged for this increase.

Community Survey Form



VILLAGE OF DUCHESS

VILLAGE OF DUCHESS
MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
COMMUNITY SURVEY



The Government of Alberta has mandated the preparation and adoption of a Municipal Development Plan for every municipality in the province. In response, Council is working to develop a Municipal Development Plan, which will help direct future development within the Village. The Municipal Development Plan is a statutory document that serves as a basis for decision-making and guides development toward the community's desired future.

Your opinions are essential in helping Council establish goals, objectives and policies that will achieve the desired future. Council wants to hear from you! Please take some time to fill out this important survey and return it to the Village Office.

PLEASE RETURN THE SURVEY PRIOR TO: July 15, 2020

1. What do you like most about Duchess or do not want to see changed?

2. What do you like least about Duchess or feel needs to be changed?

3. Why do you choose to live in Duchess? (check maximum of three)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Crime Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Lots | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify) |

4. In the future, would you like residential development in Dutchess: (check one)

- Remain the same size Grow slowly
 Grow moderately Grow rapidly

Comments:

5. In the future, would you like commercial and industrial development in Dutchess: (check one)

- Remain the same size Grow slowly
 Grow moderately Grow rapidly

Comments:

6. Please rank in order of priority where Dutchess’s future growth should occur. (circle rank for each) (1 = should occur first, 4 = should occur last)

	Should Occur:			
	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Within the Existing Village Boundaries	1	2	3	4
North of Village through Annexation	1	2	3	4
South of Village through Annexation	1	2	3	4
West of Village through Annexation	1	2	3	4

Other: _____

7. Would you like to see more, the same amount, or less of the following types of development in Dutchess?

	More	Same As Now	Less	No Opinion
Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Do you think any of the following are an issue in Duchess? (check one for each topic)

	Major Issue	Minor Issue	Not an Issue	No Opinion
Housing Costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seniors' Services (housing, care, transportation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to Local Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bylaw Enforcement (junk, weeds, dogs, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other: _____

9. Do you believe that more facilities and services in Duchess would benefit residents?

- Yes No No opinion

If yes, please list what types of facilities and services would you like to see locate in Village.

10. Do you believe that more businesses and industries in Duchess would benefit residents?

- Yes No No opinion

If yes, please list what types of businesses and industries would you like to see locate in Village.

11. Do you agree or disagree that the Village should actively promote "economic development" (the growth of businesses and industries) in Duchess?

- Agree Disagree No opinion

If you agree, please list what types of businesses and industries Village should spend money to attract to the Village.

12. Do you have access to high speed internet and are you happy with the level of service?

- Yes No

13. Would you be willing to pay a local improvement tax to cover the costs of improving access to high speed internet in the Village?

- Yes No

14. How would you rate the following? (check one for each category)

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No Opinion
Road Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curbside Garbage Collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Peace Officers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rescue Services (Fire, Rescue & Ambulance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical and Health Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Village Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Village Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Municipal Water System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Municipal Sewer System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storm Drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curling Rink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Municipal Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This last set of questions will provide the Village with a better understanding of the different needs of individuals and how different groups view Dutchess's future. Please be assured all responses are anonymous.

15. About yourself:

Gender:

- Male
- Female

Age:

- Under 20
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70 and over

16. How long have you lived in Dutchess? _____ years.

17. Where did you live before you moved to Dutchess?

- Always lived here
- Previously lived in _____ (please specify municipality)

18. Do you work in Dutchess?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

If no, please specify which municipality you work in _____ (please specify municipality)

Please provide any **additional comments** you think would be useful to Council in considering the future of Dutchess.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. THE VILLAGE OF DUCHESS GREATLY APPRECIATES YOUR INPUT.