



NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY MEETINGS 2009

Speak Up Thompson!

In response to feedback from the community received by the current Mayor and Council, seven community neighbourhood meetings were held during the fall of 2009. Each meeting took place consequentially in each of Thompson's six elementary schools with the final meeting held as an open forum in R. D. Parker Collegiate.

Mayor Tim Johnston, and various City Councillors attended each meeting with City of Thompson Administration; Randy Patrick, City Manager, Gary Ceppetelli, Director of Planning and Community Development, Angela English, Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Valdine Flaming, Communications Officer attended every meeting. Several other City Managers attended relevant meetings to their departments and areas of supervision and spoke on behalf on their expertise in corresponding community neighbourhood meetings.

All community meetings, with the exception of Burntwood School were recorded and televised by Shaw channel eleven –representation from the Thompson Citizen was present every meeting as well. Mrs. English took minutes at each meeting as City Councillors took turns recording opinions of residents on chart paper. Each community neighbourhood meeting was themed around a current issue of importance to Thompsonites.

Westwood School – *Finance & Budget*

The presentation at Westwood School began with an introduction to the meetings and comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the budget process and expenditures of the City of Thompson. Feedback from the half dozen members of the public revolved around concerns of Recreation department facilities as well as maintenance and modernization of facilities. An anti-litter campaign was also mentioned as a priority for Thompson.

Ecole Riverside School – *Community Pride*

The presentation at Riverside involved several guest speakers from community organizations such as Thompson Unlimited, Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, Thompson Urban Aboriginal Strategy, the Chamber of Commerce and Spirit Way spoke on their respective community pride initiatives. Feedback received from members of the public focused on litter along the highway and within city limited, strategically targeting area and apartments with garbage and recycling cans and educating the public on social responsibility regarding litter and recycling. Schools and businesses were also mentioned as potentially being part of a litter and cleanliness community challenge.

Deerwood School – *Infrastructure and Development*

A short presentation on Public Works, Infrastructure and Community Planning was given at Deerwood School, followed by comments focused on encouraging the City as an organization to question the process and timelines of Budget, RFP's and water breaks by reviewing best practices. Pedestrian corridors as well as sidewalk renewal were also issues of concern. The maintenance of roads and city facilities was brought up as a concern.

Juniper School – *Public Safety*

A presentation outlining public safety work done by the RCMP, PBLE and TFES was provided by each respective manager and feedback received from the public ranged from issues with local crosswalks and the need for a standardized crosswalk program in Thompson to possible speed limit restrictions in residential areas. Education for litter prevention and pedestrian traffic was mentioned as a concern. Uncontrolled left turns in Thompson intersections as well as maximum alcohol purchase and the 'look' of downtown were all expressed as issues of concern.

Wapanohk Community School – *Housing*

A presentation over viewing the Mayor's Housing Task Force recommendations and city's involvement was given and the discussion for the evening revolved around the new UCN campus and impact it would have on the corresponding ball diamonds and Thompson Zoo.

Burntwood School – *Recreation and Services*

Following the format of each community neighbourhood meeting, a PowerPoint presentation was given by the Director of Recreation and Chairperson of the Recreation Committee. Feedback received from the community focused on no cost or low cost, multi-use recreation opportunities and incorporating the concept of a dog park into the Master Parks Plan being developed. Maintenance, lighting and safety of outdoor recreation facilities and trails was mentioned in several instances (rinks, ski and walking trails)

R. D. Parker Collegiate - *Open Forum*

A brief presentation over viewing the process to be undertaken for the Sustainable Community Presentation was given, and some slides of flyers soon to be delivered to homes regarding automated waste collection and the 2009 snow clearing procedure were displayed. The discussion focused on needed traffic and pedestrian studies in the City of Thompson as well as the new automated waste collection system and reducing our environmental footprint. Justice, crime and gangs were mentioned as concerns as well as the need for low income housing. A crosswalk assessment as well as handicap friendly walkways should be addressed.