



CLEARWATER COUNTY AND VILLAGE OF CAROLINE

COMMUNITY VISIONING SESSION REPORT

INTRODUCTION

A joint open house and community visioning sessions for the future of the Village of Caroline and surrounding Clearwater County community was held the afternoon and evening of both August 29 and August 30. Two visioning sessions were held both days, with the intent of gathering community input for both the Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) and Municipal Development Plan (MDP) vision statements.

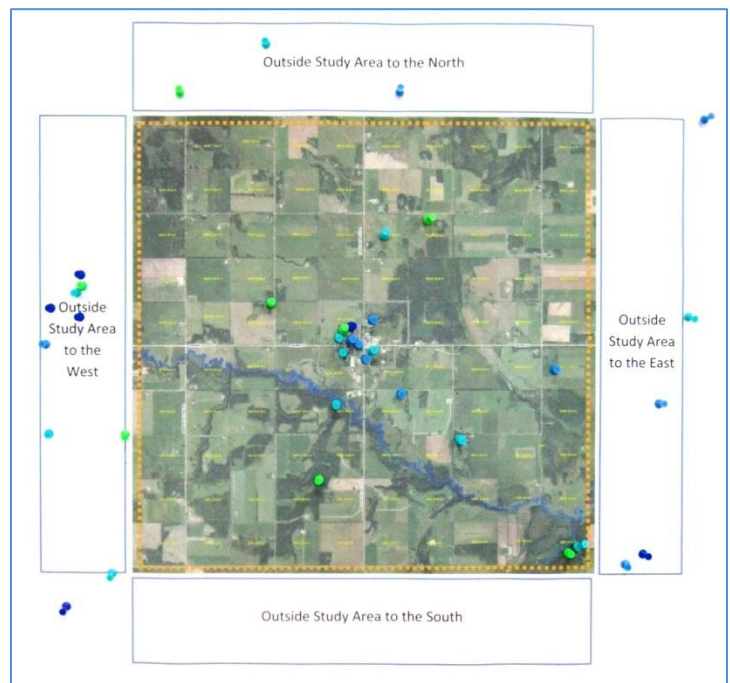
The purpose of the open houses and visioning sessions was to gather the community's ideas about what the Village of Caroline and surrounding area should look like in the future, being 30 years down the road or the community they would like to leave for future generations. The visioning sessions were facilitated by Clearwater County staff Kim Gilham and Dustin Bisson, and Craig Teal and Natasha Wright of Parkland Community Planning Services.

EVENT ATTENDANCE

The total number of participants at both the open houses and visioning sessions over both days was 92 people; 48 people attended August 29 and 44 people attended August 30. Of the total participants, 76 people identified as County or out of County residents, and 16 people identified as Village residents.

Upon entry into the event both days, participants were asked to place a pin on the IDP plan area map indicating where they reside. The August 29 map had 37 pins placed, with 19 falling within the plan area and 18 outside of the plan area. Of those pins placed in the plan area 9 were within the Village boundary and 10 were within the County area. The August 30 map had 33 pins placed, with 16 falling within the plan area and 17 outside of the plan area. Of those placed within the plan area 7 were within the Village boundary and 9 were within the County area.

Figure 1: August 29 Pin Board



VISIONING SESSION SUMMARIES

A total of 4 visioning sessions were held over the course of the 2 days, an afternoon 3:00 session and an evening 6:00 session. The sessions were each 1 hour in length and consisted of a short presentation about the purpose of the session and background context, followed by 2 themed discussion sessions. Participants in each visioning session were divided into small discussion groups with a facilitator. For each theme participants were given 20 minutes to discuss their values and ideas for the future of the community.

Participants were given a few minutes to independently brainstorm their ideas and values for each session, and then present their ideas to the group. Each group was then tasked with identifying their top 3 to 5 priorities for each theme from the ideas discussed. At the end of each visioning sessions, each discussion group reported back their top priorities to the remaining discussion groups.

Each session addressed 2 main themes with guiding questions for participants:

1. Physical Components

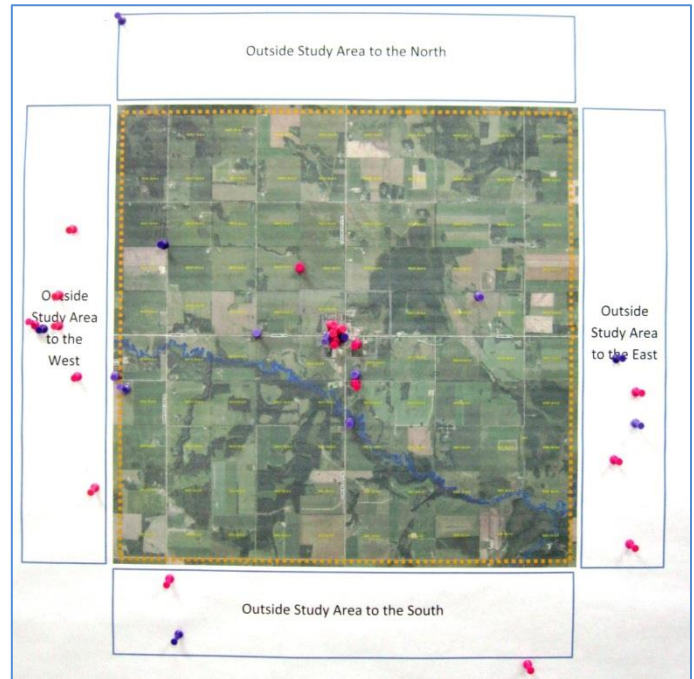
- a. What types or mixes of land uses do you envision?
- b. What types or mixes of housing do you envision?
- c. What about recreation, school and other cultural facilities or open spaces?
- d. What about the impacts of human activities on natural features?

2. Social/Community Components

- a. What will community members need in the future?
- b. What forms of meeting/gathering places might be present?
- c. What employment opportunities should be available?
- d. What about community accessibility?
- e. What might be done to reduce the costs of infrastructure (roads, utilities, street lighting, etc.)?

The following is a summary of the ideas presented and considered by the attendees. Each of the four visioning sessions is being reported separately, along with the attendance record of each session. Every participant was not captured on the registry for the visioning sessions, so there is a discrepancy between the total number of attendees and their home municipalities.

Figure 2: August 30 Pin Board



SESSION 1 – AUGUST 29

The first session held the afternoon of August 29 was attended by 20 people; 4 identified as Village residents and 10 identified as County or out of County residents. The participants were divided into 4 discussion groups.

Physical Components

Priority Themes

The table below contains the top priorities or values identified by each discussion group at the session.

Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Facilities • Trails – for recreation and connectivity • Development Ready Lots – services installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Residential Use • Mix of Housing Options – seniors housing • More Parking for Recreation Areas – purchase land west of Hub for parking
Discussion Group 3	Discussion Group 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment/Jobs – reason to come (industrial) • Residential Opportunities – country residential, supporting attractions and services • Trail/Path and School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Aesthetics – community standards and main street streetscape • Senior Living Options • Walking Trails – splash park • Car Wash and Sani-Dump Station

Discussion Points

The list below contains all of the different ideas presented by all discussion groups.

- Family Support Services – intergenerational daycare
- Accessible Housing
- Senior Housing – supportive living, people can’t age in place
- Condos, multi-family housing
- Maintain integrity of natural surroundings
- Diversified farming – new practices
- Multi-use nature trail network - 4 season walking, biking, XC skiing, interpretive Fire Smart/Habitat
- Make development ready lots – improve services/septic
- Commercial and Industrial uses to attract employment
- New Fish Hatchery – include fish manure facility for farms etc., include geothermal power initiatives, develop 12 month green houses for locally grown food and employment. Raven Rearing Station est. 1926 – soon to be 100 years old, has trails, tours, disc golf, needs a museum/historic site, U fish ponds for families, riparian corridors and habitat management for the Raven River, Beaver Creek and Rown Springs

- Long term plan for protection of surface water and ground water - natural springs, Raven River, Clearwater River, Beaver Creek, Raven Springs, Stonebrook Springs Riparian Corridors
- Medical Facilities
- Update existing playgrounds, add a trail system
- More parking
- Community standards enforcement for Businesses and residential
- No vacant residential rentals or seniors housing
- Allow County Residential subdivision in 2 mile area around Caroline – more people than 1 acreage per parcel
- Growth from employment in the village and area, focus on industrial attract through low cost
- Hotel should be converted to seniors housing
- Lower taxes in rural area – too high compared to facilities
- Create attractions for families and tourists

Social/Community Components

Priority Themes

The table below contains the top priorities or values identified by each discussion group at the session.

Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Care – doctors, dentist, chiropractor • Senior Housing • Child and Family Services • Employment Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors Housing and Supportive Living • Medical Services and Facilities • Professional Services Office Space • Industrial Development
Discussion Group 3	Discussion Group 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support/Rec Programs for future residents • Attractions for Residents and Tourists • Access to services/transportation/connect to internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted living and seniors living • Large scale employers • Community Accessibility to new comers is good

Discussion Points

The list below contains all of the different ideas presented by all discussion groups.

- More health care – regular basis, Medical, dentist, chiropractor, pharmacy
- Senior housing
- Child and family services
- Library – good for community accessibility
- Need more sidewalks and trails
- School – enrolment is consistent
- Childcare needed

- Training opportunities for youth
- Good connectivity to highway and tourism
- Have competent youth
- Policing – more required in the community
- Clean up Brownfields
- Taxes are high for age and state of infrastructure
- Recreation/swimming pool/exercise – young person focus
- High speed internet needed for residents and businesses

SESSION 2 – AUGUST 29

The second session held the evening of August 29 was attended by 11 people; 1 identified as Village residents and 9 identified as County or out of County residents. The participants were divided into 2 discussion groups.

Physical Components

Priority Themes

The table below contains the top priorities or values identified by each discussion group at the session.

Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place Making• Walkability – walking trails• Seniors residences• More types of residential housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seniors facilities – assisted and independent• Medical Facilities• Variety of Housing – seniors, young families, affordable housing• Adequate public spaces – parks and trails

Group Discussion Points

The list below contains all of the different ideas presented by all discussion groups.

- Need a car wash and more commercial uses
- Improve aesthetics of village – main street
- Swimming pool needed
- Picnic area near the Raven River
- More and newer single family dwelling and multi-family
- Protect agricultural land

Social/Community Components

Priority Themes

The table below contains the top priorities or values identified by each discussion group at the session.

Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walking Trails• Employment Opportunities• Tourism Industry – diversification of tourism• Increased Community Pride• Seniors Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation/Tourism – performance space, community garden, indoor riding arena, trails• Industry – manufacturing non-oil and gas (something consistent)• Medical Services• Additional Policing

Discussion Points

The list below contains all of the different ideas presented by all discussion groups.

- Guided Tours
- Lack of accessibility and safe accessibility, upgrade sidewalks and unpaved parking lots
- Greater population needed to disperse taxes
- Need internet connections, and better quality
- Encourage farm businesses
- Theme for the community – Wild west
- More RV parking required
- Main street aesthetics – flowers, benches, trees, projecting signs

SESSION 3 – AUGUST 30

The third session held the afternoon of August 30 was attended by 18 people; 2 identified as Village residents and 6 identified as County or out of County residents. The participants were divided into 3 discussion groups.

Physical Components

Priority Themes

The table below contains the top priorities or values identified by each discussion group at the session.

Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Spaces – parks, trails, links to nature, good ag land • Facilities to Attract and Keep Residents – rec, school, culture, employment • Housing – for seniors and multi-family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors Housing • Place Making – gardens • Use of Recreation Facilities for Seniors • Affordable Housing
Discussion Group 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing – variety for seniors • Maintained Trails – outdoor activities and maintain Raven River for natural activities • Industry and Manufacturing jobs, Independent Businesses High Speed Internet 	

Group Discussion Points

The list below contains all of the different ideas presented by all discussion groups.

- Use land efficiently – keep land for farming
- Space for wildlife
- Sani-Dump
- Good Motel
- Outdoor recreation for camping, proper sports fields
- Up to date school facilities more gym space, bus drop off, parking issues
- Dark Sky initiatives
- Fine Arts Facility
- Community Gardens
- Bathroom facilities for Tourists
- Adult/continued learning school
- Manufactured Home development
- Highway 54 Bypass south of Caroline
- Medical Services
- RV campground by Raven River

- Keep development 100m from Raven River
- Focus on Residential development, quiet village

Social/Community Components

Priority Themes

The table below contains the top priorities or values identified by each discussion group at the session.

Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events and Activities for Variety of Interests – places to hold them • High Speed Internet • Positive Community Identity – to draw people in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Expansion – capitalize on it • Internet • Options for Seniors • Maintain Infrastructure
Discussion Group 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Policing and Enforcement • Advertising Community Events – increased participation • Variety of Housing for seniors • Walkability 	

Discussion Points

The list below contains all of the different ideas presented by all discussion groups.

- High speed internet
- Improved sidewalks
- Main street appearance upgrades
- Hunting and Guiding
- Amalgamation of municipalities
- More community events, and variety

SESSION 4 – AUGUST 30

The fourth session held the evening of August 30 was attended by 17 people; 2 identified as Village residents and 11 identified as County or out of County residents. The participants were divided into 3 discussion groups.

Physical Components

Priority Themes

The table below contains the top priorities or values identified by each discussion group at the session.

Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodeo Grounds • Seniors Housing • Recreation Facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Space – parks, trails and rec • Mix in Housing Options – regulate manufactured homes, affordable options • Mix of Future Land Uses – residential, industrial and commercial, no concentration of 1 use
Discussion Group 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artisan Facilities • Multi-unit housing • Encourage Industrial Development • More Recreation Spaces for outdoor activities 	

Group Discussion Points

The list below contains all of the different ideas presented by all discussion groups.

- Indoor/outdoor riding arena
- Brewery
- Enticement to stop, not enough parking
- Youth attractions
- Car wash, mini-golf with museum/campground
- Walking biking trails
- Tiny house development
- Day care near seniors centre
- Protect trees
- Open spaces
- Youth camps
- Village Theme

Social/Community Components

Priority Themes

The table below contains the top priorities or values identified by each discussion group at the session.

Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Opportunities • More Commercial Services • Natural Landscapes and Surroundings with Great People 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Opportunities – specialized education and trades • Tourism – attract people • Place Making – create sense of community by all working together
Discussion Group 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Services • Tourism • Child care facilities • Industry employment, and tourism and recreation 	

Discussion Points

The list below contains all of the different ideas presented by all discussion groups.

- Firefighting school, train other municipalities
- Value added agriculture and food growing industries
- Large truck parking
- Major food store/commercial
- Lo cost utilities and internet service
- Town Square – public area for activities and festivals and recreation
- Sidewalk upgrades
- Improve campground and accessibility
- Encourage small businesses, niche/unique businesses
- Agricultural/show facilities
- Recreational and community facilities – music
- Theatre facility for dance clubs

COMMENT SHEET SUMMARY

During the two day event, 9 completed comment forms were returned. Below is a summary of the comments submitted by attendees.

1) *What is your vision for the future of Caroline?*

- Better identity, theme to attract tourists while going west
- Clean up main street – keep it small, practical and appropriate
- Focus on small community living with the essentials
- Focus on natural surrounding and take advantage of green spaces
- Thriving small town with services, very family friendly
- Lots of recreational activities in Village, maintain the west country
- Love to see a swimming pool or spray park, excited about plans to clean up Highway 54 and the old gas station
- Car wash would be great
- Clean Village that appeals to residents and tourists alike. Cowboy Trail themed or sasquatch.
- Main street area becoming upgraded, more eye pleasing for tourists
- Residential properties becoming more eye pleasing/attractive for future residents
- Parking for visitors along main street
- Card lock sewer dump for RV's
- Activates for tourists
- Full time campground attendant
- Enhance the natural beauty, don't over develop

2) *What suggestions do you have about future land uses and activities?*

- Preserve dark sky, new lights at NE on Town Hall disrupting night sky to Crammond Hall
- Focus industrial in one area, hide it from tourists
- Do not expand industrial to Raven River
- Seniors housing development
- Regulate activity out west while allowing access
- Supportive of development plans, more job opportunities in the community and more reason for traffic enjoying the west country
- Community gardens, adequate funding just need location
- Trail systems within and surrounding village
- Sidewalks from Trailer Park along 50 Street to 51 Ave, for students walking to school
- Seniors services – dependent and independent living
- Tourism – facility dump for RV's
- I believe Caroline has potential to become a beautiful tourist community, either passing through or visiting the community.
- Move industrial to the north, don't surround residential with industrial development

- Sewer needs to move to the south east
- Stop signs on all entry and exit on Highway 54, slow down everyone

3) *What other advice would you give those who are preparing the plans for Caroline and Area?*

- The low number of young demographics and low employment is a problem
- Keep development balanced with preserving the environment
- Keep families in mind and the values that are important to them
- Sidewalks for safety
- Ensure community engagement at all levels
- Use old County yard to expand existing lagoon
- Fantastic job on the process
- Go back for more public input again, and again and again
- Bypass road, 22-Cramone Road to Burnstick South

4) *Any other comments or suggestions?*

- Thank you for seeking input!
- Need quality hotel
- Keep development moving north not south
- Better use of what we have, ball diamonds, HUB, golf course, rodeo grounds
- More special events
- Community gardens instead of flower beds at Edna Topp park if unmanageable; the beds are beautiful and would be nicer with flowers vs. weeds. Great parks in Town!
- Planning session and collaboration with the County is fantastic, both village and county are striving for improvements, Way to go!!
- Businesses do not belong on acreages



GRAFFITI BOARD COMMENTS

During the open house portion of the event, a graffiti board was available for attendees to add their thoughts about the future of Caroline and area. The board was left up for both days to accumulate responses, and allow others to review comments and offer suggestions. A summary of the input received on the graffiti board is presented below.

- Would like to see a theatre built for things like plays, dance recitals etc.
- Capitalize on the Tourist industry “Gateway to the West Country”
- A cohesive look amongst businesses
- Great tourist opportunity in Caroline, Village needs a wild west theme, store fronts, murals, flower boxes, trails
- RV dump, parking
- More family friendly areas, activities etc to attract and retain families
- High speed internet for future growth, will have a direct correlation with future growth and development of the community
- Lean/Bias Industrial, attractant energy toward recreational businesses

