



Hard work, perseverance builds booming Didsbury

Town revolves around services offered

BY JODI STYNER
Didsbury Review

Alberta's economy is booming and business here in Didsbury is better than ever. But don't think for a second that any of it came easy. Our business community was built on a strong history of hard work, tenacity and a lot of hope. In the early settlement years of the late 19th century, development growth in Didsbury was moving at a mere crawl. But by 1901 three general stores had emerged, along with a hotel, and the business pace continued to pick up over the next few years, signaling a bright future for the town.

But when a fire ravaged Didsbury's mainstreet businesses in the early hours of New Year's Day 1914, 35 businesses were left in ashes. The easiest solution might have been to relocate to a neighbouring community like Olds or Carstairs, but instead, Didsburians fought to keep this town and its basic services alive, by beginning to rebuild immediately. That perseverance resulted in most of the businesses being re-opened by the end of the year, and put Didsbury back on the map as an independent and viable community. Today the birth of the frontier-style business street is still evident, and although the town has grown and

changed, the heart of its small-town business ideology remains the same. The businesses here offer our community a good quality of life and economic security. And the people running these businesses, providing Didsbury residents with essential services, are rooted in the community. They call Didsbury home, not just as a place to do business, and every day they are filling a need. This is important because a healthy mix of local businesses, especially in a small town, increases economic security, keeping our dollars in our community and protecting the town from too much influence from big business.

Large corporations try to make their mark, squeezing local businesses out of their communities, but rest assured that when it comes to business, the grass is mighty green right here at home. Didsbury revolves around the services it offers. We see that literally, in its physical layout, and in our everyday dealings. And Didsbury's strong character has a lot to do with the presence of its business community. It's come a long way since that devastating fire nearly a century ago, and it will continue to flourish with your support. Let your local businesses know you appreciate what they've done for Didsbury by shopping with them as often as possible.

Much to see and do in regional centre

130 retail and service businesses located here

As a major agricultural service centre located in the heart of mixed farming country, Didsbury is ideally situated to provide the luxury of country living with outstanding up to date, "urban" facilities. Because of Didsbury's prime location near the QEII and proximity to Calgary and Red Deer, more and more people are discovering the community of 3,500 where they can safely raise their children with excellent educational and recreation facilities. Entrepreneurs are finding the area ideally suited to their lifestyle while still offering rich opportunities at less cost, and retirees are locating here in a community which offers a host of support facilities and active service clubs. After work, residents can play a round of golf, enjoy a tennis game, lawn bowl, or just relax in one of the six spacious and lush parks located throughout the community.

On weekends, a one hour drive can take fishermen to the best rivers and lakes in Alberta, rafters and canoeists to wild or moderate rivers, and campers to some of the most scenic nature spots in the country. The rolling plains and mixed parklands immediately surrounding Didsbury are crisscrossed by river channels dipping into picturesque coulees which add to the "postcard" quality of Didsbury and district. Mild winters and sunny summer skies also add to the quality of living in Didsbury. Residents can travel to Calgary or Red Deer for alternative goods, services, and entertainment but Didsbury has a wide variety of entertainment and services to satisfy all tastes. As the county seat and regional centre, Didsbury has 130 retail and service businesses which offer goods and products to a large market area (20 mile radius) of about 10,000 people, while giving highly personalized service and small town hospitality.

A rich, diversified agriculture base, combined with abundant reserves of oil and gas, has nurtured steady growth for the town of Didsbury. This allows Didsbury to maintain a strong local economy. This will ensure continued support for the services and facilities needed to guarantee a high quality of life for future residents. This commitment is reflected in its newly established Economic Development Department. The department actively works with local businesses for expansion. It also seeks industry for diversification in growth areas with the agricultural sector. Didsbury is committed to establish sustainable industry as much as possible by taking advantage of new technologies and employing them to utilize the abundance of local materials.

Town of Didsbury

Directory

A Gallery of Floors pg. 5	Didsbury Dry Cleaners..... pg. 4	Gilded Gallery pg. 4	Potentials pg. 6
Aesthetics Landscaping pg. 6	Didsbury Esso..... pg. 5	Good Mahoney Lawson pg. 3	Reimer International pg. 6
AG Foods pg. 5	Didsbury Golf Club pg. 5	Grasse Lumber pg. 6	Remax Realty-Cindy Tippe .. pg. 7
ATB Financial pg. 4	Didsbury Home Hardware.... pg. 6	Hi Ho Gas & Grocery pg. 5	Remco Memorials pg. 7
BJ Custom Metals pg. 8	Didsbury Liquor & Beer pg. 6	Howie's Trucking & Backhoe pg. 8	Res-Q Towing & Transport .. pg. 8
Blondies Bistro pg. 3	Didsbury Meat Processing ... pg. 6	JD's Restaurant pg. 8	Ribbons & Bow pg. 5
Brian Forestell Law pg. 6	Didsbury Mini Storage..... pg. 8	Kidsbury Daycare pg. 4	Rose's Stuff pg. 8
Carlson Wagonlit-Don's Travel pg. 8	Didsbury Outreach School ... pg. 4	Krebs & Co. pg. 8	RPM Automotive pg. 3
Carousel Cottage pg. 5	Didsbury Pharmasave pg. 7	Land Lovers Lawn & Yard Care pg. 6	Spectrum Art Studio pg. 3
Checker Auto Parts..... pg. 3	Didsbury Review pg. 7	Look for the Rainbow Pizzeria pg. 8	The Green Bamboo pg. 8
CIR Realtors..... pg. 7	Double R Exteriors pg. 4	M. Lennox & Associates pg. 6	The Hollow General Store ... pg. 5
Contemporary Graphics pg. 7	Feeg's Propane Ltd. pg. 7	MacKay's Country Meats pg. 8	The Laundromat pg. 6
Corner Stone Beauty Shoppe pg. 5	Fitness FX pg.5	Marko's Bistro & Bakery pg. 3	Timeless Treasures pg. 3
Curves..... pg. 4	For Sight Vision pg. 7	Movie Gallery pg. 7	Top Note Music pg. 7
Cut 'n Loose Hair Design..... pg. 5	For Trees pg. 3	Mtn. View Credit Union pg. 4	Unique Stained Glass pg. 8
Dicks Auto Service pg. 3	Fountain Tire pg. 3	Mtn. View Motors pg. 3	Vanda Agencies pg. 6
Didsbury Bottle Depot pg. 4	Front Porch Realty pg. 7	Mugs Coffee House pg. 4	Wander Wash pg. 3
Didsbury Computers pg. 4	George McDonald Agencies pg. 5	On the Grow pg. 4	Ward Value Drug Mart pg. 7