



Councillor Blog February 2023

Welcome back fellow residents of White City (and those reading from the surrounding area) for the February 2023 edition of the White City Councillor Blog. This month's blog will focus on the education in the region, specifically the possibility of a high school located in White City.

During my years living in White City, the idea and desire of a high school to service our local community has always been a priority among residents and elected officials. It has long been the Town's position that we need a high school in our community to service our local population. White City's population grew from 3099 in 2016 to 3821¹ in 2021 – a 23.3% increase. But what is even more impressive is the youthfulness of our population. 27.6% of White City's population is 14 and under, that is approximately 1055 residents in our community. Of those, approximately 380 residents are between 10 and 14 and will be moving into high school over the next four years. Worth noting is none of the above data includes the residents of Emerald Park and the RM of Edenwold #158.

White City Population Statistics

2021 Population – **3,821**

Growth since 2016 – **23.3%**

Population 14 & Under – **27.6%**

Population 10-14 – **10.3%**

“We've done the research, and we know the best option for this region is a new high school.”

Janet Kotylak
PVSD Board Chair
Jan 23, 2023 Press Release

While the ultimate approval of a high school is in the hands of the provincial government, past and current Town Councils have ensured community planning that puts the Town in the best possible position to attract a high school to our community. A key strategic objective in our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan is to support and expand education services within the community – specifically to continue to advocate and prepare for a high school located within the community. To that end, White City has been making progress on our 'high school readiness'.

Working with the developers of the Town Centre, we are in the process of completing the final legal requirements to allocate a 27.64 acre parcel of land for the future development of a High School and Multi-Use Recreation Centre. This parcel will be formally identified as a site suitable for the development of the high school. In the future, this parcel will include also a significant investment into indoor and outdoor recreation in our community that can be jointly-used by the high school, our residents, and visitors from near and far.



¹ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/amendments-modifications-eng.cfm>



Additionally, as part of Council and Administration's efforts to meet our strategic objectives, we continue to meet with the Ministry of Education and ensure regular communication with Prairie Valley School Division to keep them apprised of ongoing planning. On Monday January 23, 2023, Prairie Valley School Division announced the construction of a high school in the White City/Emerald Park area as its top priority – a priority the Town wholeheartedly agrees with!

On Friday January 27, 2023, I had the opportunity to have a conversation with Prairie Valley School Division member Judy Bradley, Vice Chair, Subdivision 8. Ms. Bradley indicated that letters of support **ABSOLUTELY DO HELP** when the ministry is prioritizing capital expenditures. With a new provincial budget in the works, now is the time for all residents of White City and Emerald Park to row in the same direction.

We are asking that as many residents as possible write the Minister of Education. While form letters are of value, individual letters get more attention and carry more weight. I encourage everyone to put your thoughts and comments in writing via regular mail or email – please make sure to send copies to Prairie Valley School Division, Town of White City and RM of Edenwold No. 158.

Send your letters to:

Email: minister.edu@gov.sk.ca
Mail: Room 361, 2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Email: info@edenwold-sk.ca
Mail: 100 Hutchence Road
Emerald Park, SK S4L 1C6

Email: reception@pvdsd.ca
Mail: 3080 N Albert Street
RM of Sherwood, SK S4K 0A8

Email: townoffice@whitecity.ca
Mail: Box 220 Station Main;
White City, SK S4L 5B1



“ This is the only Saskatchewan community with a population over 5,000 that doesn't have a high school, and with the area projected to continue growing, the need is clear. ”

Janet Kotylak
PVSD Board Chair
Jan 23, 2023 Press Release



If you have any questions, have a comment, want more information, or want to suggest a topic for a future blog please email townoffice@whitecity.ca or call 306-781-2355 – we look forward to hearing from you!

- Mayor Brian Fergusson