



# **2024 Community Profile**





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## **Welcome to Calmar**

Calmar is small town living for all it's worth—a better place of raw opportunity better placed within the heartland of Alberta's agriculture and oil field industries; gratefully out of touch with a grinding shoulder-to-shoulder and bumper-to-bumper existence while just minutes from big lake recreation, including swimming, fishing, boating, camping and snowmobiling, at both Wizard Lake and Pigeon Lake, and the even bigger city amenities and attractions of Leduc and Edmonton.

Pretty and straight-forward down the highway and by the numbers, the town of Calmar is better placed within the greater Edmonton and Leduc regions to safely, securely and responsibly raise your growing family. Whether taking a stroll down historic Main Street with its stunning murals and award-winning floral displays, stopping for a picnic in Woodland Park, or enjoying the area's beautiful walking trails, stay put and afford yourself a little breathing room among kindred spirits who truly see, understand and appreciate your desire to keep it real and simple and more meaningful. From low housing, business, and living costs to exceptional health, recreation and educational experiences far removed from the daily bump and grind of the big city, yet easily within reach of essential amenities and attractions, this is all natural, wholesome small town life for all it's worth.

The town of Calmar offers residents a growing assortment of local amenities, including an elementary and secondary school, a public library and seniors' housing. The town is served by its own Fire & Rescue department, and excellent health, dental and chiropractic care are available at the town clinics. Residents keep active with local recreation clubs and sports venues including a community arena complete with a curling rink.

- [www.calmar.ca](http://www.calmar.ca)



# Who We Are

Calmar's Community in Bloom (CIB) Society is a not-for-profit organization operating within the town of Calmar, Alberta, Canada. We work in partnership with town administration and other community groups to focus on the goals of Communities in Bloom: community appearance, environmental action, heritage conservation, tree management, landscape, and plant and floral displays.

## Our Mission

To cultivate community pride and active volunteerism through the coordination and execution of ongoing beautification and conservation projects of public spaces within the town of Calmar.

## Our Society in Numbers



Ideally located in the County of Leduc #25, Calmar has a population of 2,300 and is the perfect place to stay put and see the world in the hands, the faces, and the stories of those who are looking to keep it calm and simple and slow their role, even as they get busy living life for all it's worth. - [www.calmar.ca](http://www.calmar.ca)

Calmar CIB is one of 19 committees and boards that operate under the umbrella of Calmar Town Council. We work in partnership with Council as funds allocated in the annual budget for procurement of plants and supplies.

Our Town Council representative for the 2024 season is  
Councillor McKeag-Reber



Calmar's CIB Society currently has 7 elected board members; 4 executive and 3 directors.

We meet monthly, at various locations, to discuss immediate and long-term plans to support the vision and mission of the Society.



# Evaluation Criteria

## Overview

When coordinating and executing projects, the Society considers the evaluation categories of community appearance, environmental action, heritage conservation, tree management, landscape, and, plant and floral displays put forth by Communities in Bloom. These categories must then be applied to the sectors applicable within the town of Calmar. At present, we mainly consider municipal, business and institutions, residential and community involvement.

The scorecard below outlines areas we have self-identified as well underway, in planning stage, and where additional focus is required. This scorecard is not reflective of how we would judge ourselves in relation to categories and sectors, it is a reflection of work underway at this snapshot in time.

## 2024 SCORECARD

		CATEGORY					
		CA	EA	HC	TM	L	PFD
SECTOR	M						
	B/I						
	R						
	CI						
	TB						
	CC						

## ACRONYMS

### Category:

CA: Community Appearance  
 EA: Environmental Action  
 HC: Heritage Conservation  
 TM: Tree Management  
 L: Landscaping  
 PFD: Plant and Floral Display

### Sector:

M: Municipal  
 BI: Business and Institution  
 R: Residential  
 CI: Community Involvement  
 TB: Tourism Board  
 CC: Chamber of Commerce

	Effort is organized and ongoing		Efforts are visible
	More investigation required		Unable to score



# Community Appearance

Community appearance reflects an overall effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community to create great first impressions and a sense that there is continuous attention and upkeep to critical elements of a community that benefit quality of life and economic vitality Elements for evaluation are: parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets; municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter clean-up (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti prevention/removal and vandalism deterrent programs. Specific examples of projects and initiatives underway include:

## MUNICIPAL

- Creation and enforcement of bylaws for yard and storefront appearance.
- Deploy year-round maintenance crews.
- Coordination of bi-annual town clean-up to rid yards and homes of excess waste.
- Identification of areas for improvement and fund capital projects.
- Collaborate with community groups.

## BUSINESS & INSTITUTION

- Adhere to bylaws.
- Keep storefront and commercial property neat and tidy.
- Façade improvements.

## RESIDENTIAL

- Adhere to bylaws.
- Keep personal property neat and tidy.
- Seasonal decorations according to personal taste.
- Participation in bi-annual town clean-up.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Individuals, groups, and business owners are encouraged to tidy up around community.
- Market community livens up main street every Friday evening in the summer months.
- Calmar's CiB Society volunteers to improve the overall appearance of Calmar.



# Environmental Action

Environmental action pertains to the impact of human activities on the environment and the subsequent efforts and achievements of the community with respect to environmental stewardship, policies, by-laws, programs and best practices for waste reduction and landfill diversion, composting sites, landfill sites, hazardous waste collections, water conservation, energy conservation, and activities under the guiding principles of sustainable development pertaining to green spaces. Specific examples of projects and initiatives underway include:

## MUNICIPAL

- Weekly waste pick up, bi-weekly recycling, weekly yard pick-up.
- Spring/Fall clean-up (reuse/recycle).
- Planning stages of waste reduction program for 2025.
- Recipient of Alberta Municipal Environmental Award for 2023.
- Solar investment and EV charging station at arena.

## BUSINESS & INSTITUTION

- Two businesses centered on resale retail.
- Calmar Bottle Depot.
- Used item drop-off.
- Industrial businesses focused on refurbishment/energy efficient products.

## RESIDENTIAL

- Allowance of rainwater collection.
- Encourage participation in recycling program.
- Compost
- Backyard chicken program.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Community garage sale at Calmar Days.
- Clover lawns.
- Communal garden.
- Bottle drives.



# Heritage Conservation

Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation represents the “persona” of a community and refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies, traditional cultural groups, and conservation groups is considered. Specific examples of projects and initiatives underway include:

## MUNICIPAL

- Heritage plaques.
- Cultural murals.
- Calmar Days every August; parade and mega-market.
- 125th Anniversary.
- Canada Cup on Canada Day.
- Future plans for naturalized areas.

## BUSINESS & INSTITUTION

- Many businesses operate in buildings that have served many purposes over the existence of the community.
- Calmar Legion preserves local veteran history and hosts annual Remembrance Day ceremony.

## RESIDENTIAL

- Preservation of original neighbourhoods and maintenance of older growth trees.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Longstanding community groups (sporting clubs, Legion, 4-H, school associations).
- Senior’s club.
- Zyp Art Gallery.



# Tree Management

Woodlands, Canopy Management, Urban and Rural Forestry includes the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions, and residents with regards to written policies, by-laws, standards for tree management protection (selection, planting, and maintenance), long and short-term management plans, tree replacement policies, pollinator-friendly tree selection, tree inventory including heritage, memorial, and commemorative trees, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. Specific examples of projects and initiatives underway include:

## **MUNICIPAL**

- Development of urban forest plan is underway.
- Selection, planting, and maintenance of zone-appropriate trees.

## **BUSINESS & INSTITUTION**

- Adherence to bylaws for property maintenance, which would include trees.
- Contracting specialists for maintenance and disease control.

## **RESIDENTIAL**

- Adherence to bylaws for property maintenance, which would include trees.
- New developments require planting of trees in the front yard of new home builds.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- CiB will collaborate on the Urban Forest plan developed by Calmar Town Council.
- New Humble Community School partners with Wizard Lake Watershed Association on annual initiatives.



# Landscape

Landscape includes planning, design, construction and maintenance of parks, green spaces and cemeteries suitable for the intended use and location on a year-round basis. Elements for evaluation include native and introduced materials; biodiversity, materials and constructed elements; appropriate integration of hard surfaces and art elements, use of turf and groundcovers. Landscape design should harmonize the interests of all sectors of the community and provide safe and secure public spaces. Standards of execution and maintenance should demonstrate best practices, including quality of naturalization, use of groundcovers and wild-flowers along with turf management. Specific examples of projects and initiatives underway include:

## MUNICIPAL

- Welcome to Calmar signs, community parks and flower beds.
- Capital planning budget to improve aging landscape infrastructure.
- Trail master plan and walking paths for safer ambulation throughout the community.
- Host information sessions about noxious weeds.

## BUSINESS & INSTITUTION

- Local option to rent landscaping equipment at Hayduk Lumber & Hardware.
- Sponsors of CiB initiatives, which lead to investments in landscaping.

## RESIDENTIAL

- Residents are encouraged to landscape yards to their personal taste.
- New developments require landscaping to be completed.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Community members are welcome to submit ideas to Town Council.
- CiB identifies areas for improvement and executes plans where appropriate.



# Plant and Floral Displays

This category evaluates the efforts of the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents to design, plan, execute, and maintain plant and floral displays of high-quality standards. Evaluation includes the design and arrangements of flowers and plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses, edible plants, water efficient and pollinator friendly plants) in the context of originality, distribution, location, diversity and balance, colour, and harmony. It also pertains to flowerbeds, carpet bedding, containers, baskets and window boxes. Specific examples of projects and initiatives underway include:

## MUNICIPAL

- Provides annual budget for purchase of plants and supplies.
- Provides manpower to water and maintain displays.

## BUSINESS & INSTITUTION

- Sponsor barrels and beds.
- Encouraged to display their own flowers.

## RESIDENTIAL

- Residents are encouraged to plant annuals and perennials to their personal taste.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Community members are welcome to join monthly meetings to assist with selecting flowers for the coming year.
- CiB hosts an annual planting day to prepare barrels and flower beds.





## Future Goals

Calmar is straight-forward with main access roads from the north, east, south, and west. No matter the season, Calmar is a clean and tidy town that represents the intersections of agriculture, tourism, industry, and oil and gas. In the summer months Calmar is bright and beautiful as the main streets, highways 39 and 795, and parks are lined with floral displays. If you travel off the main roads, you will see the pride in the community extends into public spaces, businesses, and homes.

The future is bright in Calmar. With a young demographic and energized community, we seek to enhance the following areas in the immediate future:

- Building out a Communal Garden program to rent out garden plots
- Enhancing collaboration with schools and community groups
- Woodland Park upgrade
- Urban forest initiative

## Quick Links

[Town of Calmar](#)

[Leduc County](#)

[Communities in Bloom Alberta](#)

[Communities in Bloom Canada](#)



# Thank-You

We would like to express our gratitude the following businesses, community groups, individuals, and families who sponsored flower beds and barrels for the 2024 season:

ATB and Direct Line Insurance

Calmar Bakery

Calmar Bank of Montreal

Calmar Burger Bar

Calmar Chevron

Calmar Chiropractic Clinic & Rise Wellness Massage Therapy

Calmar Compounding Pharmacy

Calmar Co-Op

Calmar Dental

Calmar Food Town

Calmar Medical Clinic

Calmar Mint Health + Drugs

Calmar Seniors

Calmar Subway Ltd.

Chris Feist Remax Real Estate

Councillor McKeag-Reber

Councillor Don Faulkner

Country Cannabis Store

Deb & Babe Ruth

Dew Drops Daycare

Dyck Insurance

Ed Frankiw

Edmonton International Raceway

For the Love of Perogies "N" Stuff

Hayduk Lumber & Hardware

In Loving Memory - Lola Coombs

In Loving Memory - Maddie McKerracher

Just Fix It Interior & Exterior Services

Lacy Kuhn, Real Estate Professional

Leduc County Fire Services

Lee's Family Restaurant

Loganberry's Antiques and Curiosities

Maggie Moo's

Mayor Sean Carnahan

MJS Repair Services

New Humble Community School Association

Nik 'N' Nak & All That

Rhooster Tail Hair Salon

Ridley Law

RMS Electrical Services Ltd.

Route 39 Public House

The Country Barber

TnT Boat & RV Storage

True North Apiary

## Special thanks to:

- Joslyn Black for the exceptional photographs.
- Marie Wenger and Bob Cote for joining us for our 'Friends Evaluated' journey in August 2024.
- The Calmar CiB Society Board for their ongoing dedication to the beautification efforts in and around Calmar.



# Contact Us

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