

# CHERRY DIONNE

ЧЕРРИ ДИОННЕ

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

# Houses, trailers called bad mix

By SUZANNE LUNDRIGAN  
Herald-Tribune staff

A Clairmont resident has vowed to fight county council's decision to mix trailers and houses when it opens new lots in the hamlet's northeast subdivision.

Cherry Dionne says zoning the lots for both trailers and houses is a further step down a misguided path.

The 20 new lots make up the second half of an existing subdivision.

Clairmont is plagued by haphazard planning and county council missed a golden opportunity to start cleaning up the mess, said Dionne.

"They have a new area, why not start it right?" asked Dionne.

She says putting houses beside trailers willy nilly hampers the development of the Clairmont and deters would-be homeowners from moving in.

"If they need trailers, then re-zone it for trailers, but I don't think they should make it houses and trailers," she said.

"We have a beautiful trailer court; that's where trailers belong."

Separating houses and trailers would make for much more orderly development in the hamlet, she said.

The two-year Clairmont resident says council should establish stricter zoning and building rules for the hamlet and capitalize on the little settlement's full potential.

"This is a chance to make Clairmont what it should do. I love my house there; it's a beautiful place."

Clairmont's close proximity to Grande Prairie (10 kilometres) and the beautiful lake in the hamlet should make it the "the Sherwood Park of this city," said Dionne. "We need a get-tough policy."

Re-zoning the second half of the subdivision would make all the difference, says Dionne.

"A start is a start. If we can get it zoned right there's hope."

Pointing to yards littered with farm equipment, Dionne called for stricter rules governing lot maintenance and building codes.

As a homeowner, Dionne says she constantly comes up against a negative attitude towards Clairmont.

"People see my house and say 'Too bad it's in Clairmont,'" she said.

Coun. Kelly Sutherland says Dionne's suggestion has some merit, but says it is too late to change the rules for the existing subdivision.

"This is the second half of the development and the ground rules are already in place. They've allowed trailers here before," Sutherland said.

Council could take another look at the issue when it next expands the hamlet, he said.

Meanwhile, Dionne says she won't give up on the 20 lots.

"I like it," she said. "I'm a fighter and I don't quit."



CHERRY DIONNE

# Zoning 'mixed batch of spaghetti'

Herald-Tribune staff

Cherry Dionne believes past zoning practices have given the hamlet of Clairmont a black eye and she wants to see County of Grande Prairie council apply the ice pack.

Dionne, who's lived in the hamlet of 500 for about two years, appeared before council yesterday to argue against the mixed development of a new 20-lot section of the community.

Houses and mobile homes should be kept separate, maintains Dionne.

The county had been preparing to put the lots up for sale within two weeks but council decided to postpone that until Clairmont residents reach a consensus on the issue.

Zoning in Clairmont has been "scattered like a mixed up batch of spaghetti," said Dionne in

an interview. She's calling on council to put Clairmont on the road to a "new image" by allowing either houses or mobile homes to be built on the new lots – not both.

Dionne told council mixed zoning is forcing would-be Clairmont residents to look elsewhere.

"This is what keeps (the hamlet) in a bad light," said Dionne, vice-president of the newly-created Clairmont Advisory Board.

County manager Ron Pfau said current plans are to allow both houses and trailers in the new subdivision but pointed out that a dividing line is being considered.

He also cautioned council that delaying the sale of the lots could potentially force builders to miss the height of the construction season.

Council was told that most inquiries about

the new lots have come from those interested in mobile homes.

In previous years, trailers have "actually cleaned up the hamlet and given it quite a facelift," said Pfau, who noted that mobile homes have replaced older houses in the community.

Dionne told the Herald-Tribune she has nothing against trailers. Her gripe is with the way mixed zoning has hurt her assessment.

A public meeting was held last week at the Clairmont Seniors Centre but "no clear consensus" on what should be done seemed to emerge, Pfau said.

Council has given the Clairmont Advisory Board until the end of the month to find a united voice.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Tue, Apr 3, 1990 Page 3

## Cherry Dionne

**Occupation:** Owns and operates a hair styling salon in Clairmont

**Age:** 47

**Family Status:** Married with one daughter.

**Incumbent:** No

**Dionne** is seeking election in County of Grande Prairie Division 2 (Clairmont and area). Born near Bezanson, **Dionne** has lived in Clairmont for the past 10 years. She's also lived in Edmonton, Grande Prairie and New Westminster, B.C. over the last 30 years. Much of **Dionne's** platform focuses on quality-of-life issues. She says zoning, such as that in rural subdivisions, towns and the Wapiti Dunes, is becoming particularly important.



"Residential and recreational areas are important for our quality of life and need bylaws and enforcement to protect that quality for present and future generations," she says.

**Dionne** also supports increased law enforcement within the county's borders and would like to see improved animal control as well.

She says stray and homeless dogs have been barking, wandering around and causing a nuisance in Clairmont for more than 30 years.

**Dionne's** other issue is communication – specifically between the county council and its constituents, whom she thinks have become disillusioned.

"People don't believe what they have to say can make a difference," she says. "If people and communities banded together they could be the driving force that makes things happen, but they have to be convinced they are not wasting their time, talent and energy caring. There are a lot of pluses in our county right now. We just have to bring them out."

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Fri, Oct 16, 1998Page 29](#)

# Wedding planners ease the stress

PEGGY SUE IRONSIDE  
Herald-Tribune staff

Unless the bride and groom are planning to elope, getting married can involve months of planning and detailed preparation. For some couples, the experience can be overwhelming. The ceremony location is just the first step in what can seem like a never ending to-do list.

Fortunately, there are wedding consultation and preparation services available to

help smooth the way and ensure the marriage day is a joyous event.

Bobbi with the Basics and Cherry's Creative Occasions is just such a service. By combining their creative talents, Cherry Dionne and her daughter Bobbi Dionne-Loos are able to provide couples with a complete wedding day package that includes catering (meal and dinner wine), personal wedding cake, disc jockey (dinner and dance) and/or reception hall decorating and clean-up.

"Some people enjoy all the running around and planning, they want to be involved in every detail, which is great," said Dionne. "We provide a service for those people who find the situation stressful. We take some of the load off their shoulders, allowing them to enjoy the occasion without worry."

Bobbi with the Basics has provided disc jockey services in country halls around Grande Prairie for the past decade. The company has three different DJ packages that cover small, medium and large hall sizes. Music provided covers a full range of different occasions: Weddings, anniversaries, Christmas parties, curling bonspiels, Ukrainian New Year's, even local school dances.

"We have any kind of music you can imagine; the school dances, we make sure we're up-to-date with the latest and most popular songs."

Throughout the years, the Claremont-based duo have become familiar with most local community halls.

"We know hall capacities, what kind of sound system is needed," Dionne said. "Things you have to overcome with decorations, what has to be covered and hide from sight."

Flowers, streamers, balloons and table-centre pieces are traditional wedding decorations. With the exception of table-centre pieces, Dionne recommends using artificial flowers.

"Real flowers are nice, but they're expensive and tend to wilt."

Extra decorating might include balloons netted over the dance floor, cloth napkins and tablecloths or anything else the couple might want.



Cherry Dionne (right) and her daughter Bobbi Dionne-Loos provide couples with a complete wedding day package.

Reception halls are normally decorated the night before, and it usually takes this mother/daughter team about three hours from start to finish.

More time might be needed if decorating includes covering unsightly areas with lattice and ivy.

During more than 30 years of baking wedding cakes, Dionne has seen the style go from fruit cake, with bride/groom figures crowning the top, to styrofoam rentals decorated with anything from flowers to teddy bears.

"Nowadays, not many people eat the wedding cake. It's more for picture taking," she explained. Couples do still order real wedding cakes, but often it's a small, plain cake that's eaten after photos are taken with the decorative styrofoam replica.

Many country wedding dinners tend to be simple affairs: a buffet with turkey, ham or roast beef. Salads are usually kept to two or three varieties. "People tend to lean more toward cabbage rolls, corn fritters or perogies in addition to the basic meat, potatoes and vegetables."

A traditional midnight lunch includes buns, cold meat cuts, pickles, cheese and veggie trays.

Dionne recommends booking a caterer as soon as the reception hall has been chosen. "And don't forget your marriage and liquor licenses, a photographer, the invitations, guest gifts . . ."

The Daily Herald-Tribune

Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Thu, Jan 25, 2001 Page 32