

Municipality of West Hants

Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

Table of Contents

Part 1: Introduction	
1.1 Purpose	1
1.2 Background	1
1.3 Public Engagement	2
1.4 Community Profile	3
Part 2: Community Vision Statement	4
Part 3: Environmental	
3.1 Goals	7
3.2 Watercourses, Shorelines, and Wetlands	11
3.3 Public Water Systems	13
3.4 Wells as Water Supply	15
3.5 Wastewater Systems	16
3.6 Rural Character	18
3.7 Energy	22
3.8 Public Transit	26
3.9 Climate Change	27
3.10 Storm Water Management	28
3.11 Solid Waste	29
Part 4: Economic	
4.1 Goals	30
4.2 Resource Industries	31
4.3 Growing and Selling Food Locally	33
4.4 New Technology	35
4.5 Home Based Businesses	36
4.6 Tourism	37
Part 5: Social and Cultural	
5.1 Goals	38
5.2 Recreation	39
5.3 Community Groups and Organizations	40
5.4 Festivals and Heritage	41
5.5 Volunteerism	42
5.6 Active Transportation	43
5.7 Police Services	44

Part 6: Regional Co-operation	
6.1 Regional Co-operation	45
6.2 Windsor-West Hants Industrial Park	46
6.3 Volunteer Fire Departments	47
6.4 Library Services	48
6.5 Emergency Services	49
6.6 Windsor – West Hants Joint Advisory Committee	50
6.7 Joint Council Meetings	50
6.8 Information Technology Services	51
Part 7: Regional Sustainability Issues	52
Part 8: Statements of Provincial Interest	53
Part 9: Implementation- ICSP Projects	54
Part 10: Health and Education	56

Schedule A	Summary of Comments, Seniors Forum
Schedule B	Summary of Comments, Students Forum
Schedule C	Results of Public Workshops
Schedule D	Blueprint for Water Management in Nova Scotia
Schedule E	Summary Table
Schedule F	Report Card

Part 1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Sustainability is increasingly becoming the focus of municipal efforts in Nova Scotia as well as throughout the rest of Canada. There is a growing realization that we must change our ways if we are to address the critical issues of climate change, energy use, and environmental stewardship. By formulating and implementing innovative and beneficial sustainability plans, municipal leadership will not only make policy decisions to foster a prosperous and healthy community but will set an example for its residents to embrace sustainability principles and actions.

Municipal sustainability efforts are aided by encouragement and incentives from the provincial and federal governments. The Canada-Nova Scotia Gas Tax Agreement of 2005 provides for the transfer of revenues from the federal excise tax on gasoline to municipalities. These funds are intended to be directed towards environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure projects. To participate in this funding program all municipalities are required to prepare an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

1.2 Background

In the spring of 2009 the Municipality of West Hants engaged the services of the 4Site Group to help Council prepare a stand-alone Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

Council formed a Sustainability Committee to oversee the preparation of the ICSP. The first order of business for the Committee was to select the means of engaging the public in this important initiative. The Committee decided to prepare and circulate a brochure which provided a brief description of the ICSP

process and the ways in which all residents may get involved. The brochure was mailed to every household in July of 2009.

1.3 Public Engagement

The Committee also began to plan two community workshops which were held in September of 2009. In addition the Committee decided to partner with the Town of Windsor to seek the views of seniors and youth.

On September 14, 2009 a session to engage seniors was held at the Gladys Senior's Complex in Windsor. Most of the comments related to the Town. The results of the session are contained in an excerpt from the draft ICSP for the Town of Windsor. (Please see Schedule A). Although few seniors from the Municipality attended this workshop, a number of them attended workshops held in Summerville and Falmouth held later in September.

On September 18, 2009 a session to engage the students of King's Edgehill was held. The results of that session are attached as Schedule B.

Two public workshops were held, one on September 21, 2009 in Summerville and the other on September 28, 2009 in Falmouth. The comments received at the workshops are summarized in Schedule C.

The ICSP process was also posted on the Municipality's website and comments were invited to be submitted.

In 2008, the Municipality adopted a new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law. These documents were the result of a major undertaking by the Municipality. The public consultation process for the preparation of these documents transpired over a seven year period. The documents address many of the sustainability goals and objectives raised by the public.

References to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law are frequently cited in this ICSP.

After the public workshops were held in September of 2009, a preliminary draft of the ICSP was prepared. Over the winter, the Committee met a number of times to review the draft. The review was quite extensive and resulted in a number of changes to the document.

In February of 2010, the Committee approved a final draft and held a public meeting to present the ICSP and to receive comments. The public meeting was held on March 3, 2010. The only change that was suggested by those who attended was the preparation of a “report card” as a tool to keep Council on track in fulfilling the goals of the ICSP. A Report Card was subsequently prepared and is included as a schedule.

Although formal adoption of an ICSP is necessary, Council considers it to be a “living document” and will welcome all further comments and suggestions from residents and groups. Council will also provide regular updates to its citizens on the steps being taken to implement the ICSP.

1.4 Community Profile

The Municipality of the District of West Hants, incorporated in 1879, is a primarily rural municipality bordered by the Municipalities of East Hants, Kings, Chester, Halifax Region and the Town of Hantsport. Development is concentrated around the Town of Windsor in Three Mile Plains and Falmouth, and in communities near Highway 101.

Overall, the population of West Hants has increased by 5,587 people between 1901 and 2006. The population has grown steadily since 1941 with the exception of slight decreases recorded in the 1981 (-1.5 %) and 2001 (-0.1%) censuses. The current population is 13,881 (Statistics Canada, 2006).

West Hants has an aging population. The baby boomers, born after World War II, are reaching their 40s and 50s and early retirement. Older people, especially women, are living longer. The lower populations in the 15-19 and 20-24 cohorts can be explained, in part, by young people leaving home for education and work.

In 2006, almost 45 percent of the population of West Hants was above the age of 44 with a fairly even distribution between men and women.

Part 2 Community Vision Statement

One of the first steps to be undertaken in the preparation of an ICSP is to think about the long term potential of the municipality and prepare a vision statement. It is important to have a sense of how citizens envision the future of their community so that the right steps can be taken to meet their aspirations.

The Municipal Planning Strategy went a long way toward fulfilling this function. As well, the two community workshops held in September of 2009 had a visioning exercise, where attendees were asked to give a one or two word description of their hopes for the Municipality in the decades to come. From these sources the Municipality prepared a Vision Statement.

Community Vision Statement

Looking at a horizon of 20 to 30 years the Municipality of the District of West Hants will strive to become more sustainable, a place where residents of all ages live active, healthy, vibrant lives and are highly engaged in their communities.

The factors which will contribute to this vision include:

- encourage most people to live in growth centres, villages, and hamlets;
- the preservation of a quiet, natural atmosphere in the rural areas;
- food security and safety;
- all citizens feel safe, engage in a healthy lifestyle, and participate in community life;
- there is little or no carbon footprint;
- affordable public transportation is available to all;
- locally owned firms and businesses play a major role in the economy
- the environment is healthy

The ICSP recognizes the four pillars of sustainability, Environmental, Economic, Social and Cultural (Social and Cultural have been combined in this document). It is important to note that issues/opportunities that fall under one pillar may also relate to one or more of the other pillars.

The following Parts contain the goals for each pillar, background information pertaining to each goal, and a response to address each goal. In some cases the response is an affirmation of the steps the Municipality has already taken; other responses call for action. The latter responses are expanded upon in Part 8: Implementation to address such matters as priority and timing and the identification of other stakeholders.

Part 3 Environmental

3.1 Goals

The environment has proven to be a key area of sustainability. There is an increasing realization that a healthy environment is paramount to a high quality of life. Environmental initiatives will also help in the battle against climate change.

Many of the environmental goals identified in this ICSP relate either directly or indirectly to water. The importance of water to Nova Scotians is aptly described in a provincial document entitled “Water for Life: Toward a Water Resources Management Strategy for Nova Scotia” which states

There are many reasons why we value water. It is essential for the health of people and communities. It is also the life-blood of the natural environment. Water has been fundamental to the heritage of our province, it is central to our daily quality of life, and it will sustain our future prosperity.

Using the “Water for Life” discussion paper, the province has received valuable comments and advice from residents and groups about managing the water resources of the province. A Water Resources Management Strategy is scheduled to be released by the Department of Environment in 2010.

This ICSP mirrors many of the goals and objectives of the province. In particular, Council believes taking a holistic watershed approach will in the long term be the most effective in the management of our water resources.

The Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law already use watersheds for the protection of water supplies for public water systems. This approach also has many advantages for all watersheds as everyone who resides within a watershed shares in the responsibility of its management.

Creating a culture of stewardship will be instrumental for the protection of the water resources in the Municipality. This is a shared stewardship: Governments, communities, stakeholders, and the public will all take part in the protection and conservation of our water resources. Watershed-stewardship committees will play an important role.

Excerpt from the “Water for Life” document:

Watersheds

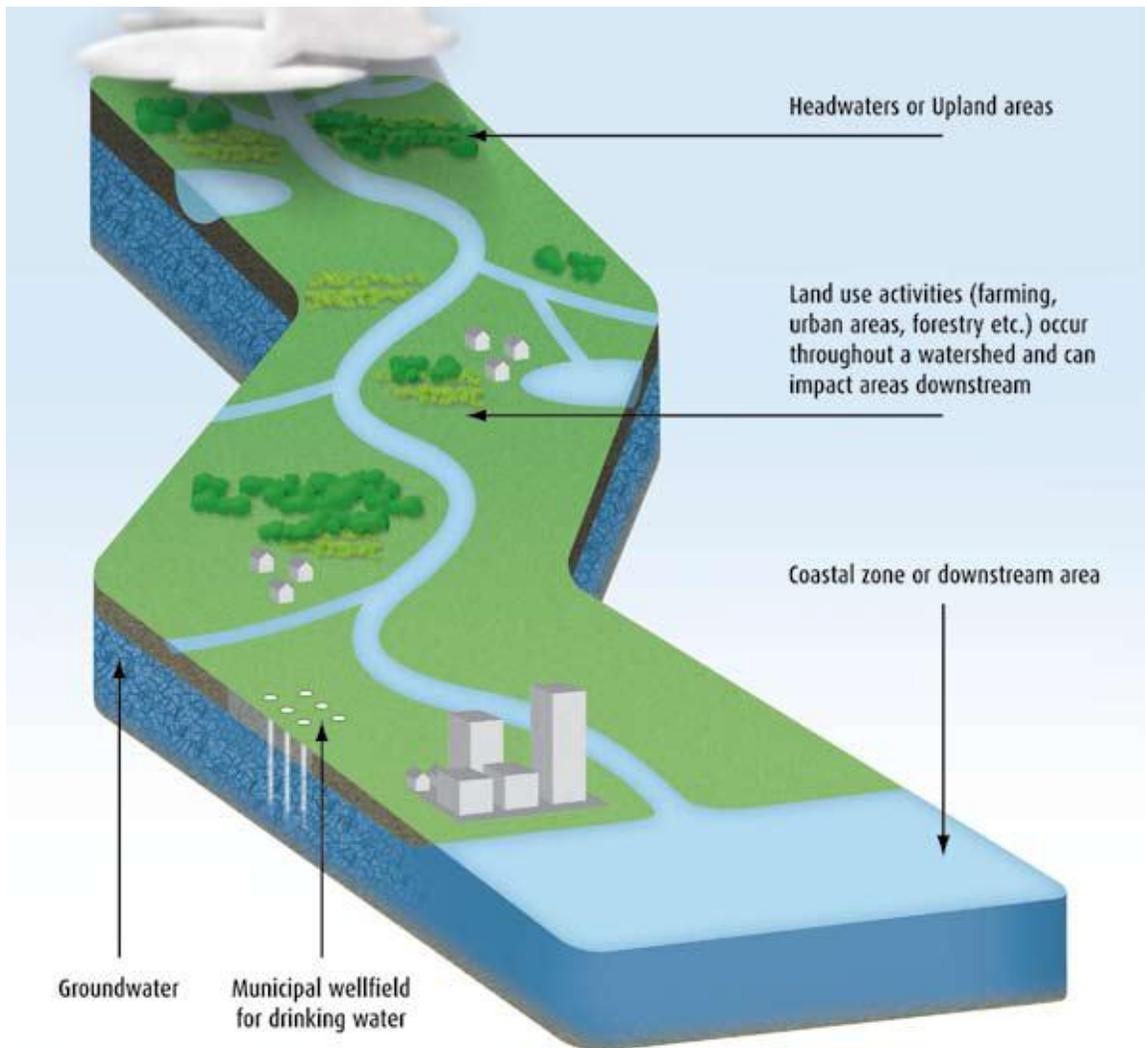
A watershed describes an area of land that drains down to the lowest point. A watershed acts like a funnel, guiding all water into a river system and finally to the ocean. Components of a watershed include streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, upland areas such as forests and meadows, and downstream areas such as shorelines.

Activities in the upper parts of a watershed can be felt downstream. For example, oil and gasoline, dripped onto roadways from cars, can wash off into ditches, make its way into nearby streams and lakes, and eventually into the ocean. Managing our water resources is a complex task because although everyone lives, works and plays within one, a watershed’s boundaries are not the same as the boundaries of a municipality or county.

An integrated long term water resource management approach that considers the health of the entire ecosystem and balances competing interests is an important objective. Land-use planning based on watershed capacity would be part of this initiative.

A graphic of a watershed from the “Water for Life” document is shown on the next page.

From “Water for Life”:



Embarking on a watershed focused approach will take time and public education. The key elements and the identification of responsibilities have been prepared by the Water Caucus – Nova Scotia Environment Network in a chart entitled “Blueprint for Water Management in Nova Scotia” (Please see Schedule D).

Of the 46 primary watersheds categorized by the Department of Environment in 1981, West Hants includes parts of the Kennetcook, St. Croix, Gaspereau, and East/Indian River watersheds. More detailed watershed mapping will be needed as watershed planning goes forward.

More specific water resource goals are contained in the following list, together with other environmental goals relating to energy, rural character, and public transportation. These goals are then addressed in detail.

- Goal 1 Protection of watercourses, shorelines, and wetland
- Goal 2 Provide good quality drinking water in the serviced areas
- Goal 3 Protect the source of public water supplies
- Goal 4 Encourage testing of private wells
- Goal 5 Continue to effectively treat wastewater in the serviced areas
- Goal 6 Encourage proper maintenance of on-site sewage disposal systems
- Goal 7 Encourage responsible forest management
- Goal 8 Preserve the rural character of the Municipality
- Goal 9 Reduce the municipality's energy consumption
- Goal 10 Support energy conservation
- Goal 11 Encourage the use of renewable energy sources

- Goal 12 Participate in a rural public transit system

- Goal 13 Prepare for climate change

- Goal 14 Consider preparation of a storm water management strategy

- Goal 15 Continue to provide efficient solid waste services

3.2 Watercourses, Shorelines, and Wetlands

Goal: Protection of watercourses, shorelines, and wetlands

Watercourses and shorelines are important resources of the Municipality and need to be protected. The Nova Scotia Department of Environment has policies and regulations in place to protect watercourses and wetlands. The Municipality can also take steps to complement the efforts of the province and in some ways can more directly regulate land uses which may adversely affect wetlands and watercourses. The Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law have already taken steps in this regard. There are large lot size and frontage requirements in the resource zones which have the effect of limiting development. As well, a minimum setback from watercourses has been established for all zones.

Council would like to consider taking further steps to protect its water resources. These steps may include larger setback requirements, requiring studies prior to issuing development permits and requiring the retention of vegetation adjacent to watercourses. There have been discussions about undertaking a study to examine this issue and Council would like to include the study as a project in its ISCP.

With respect to the coastline, the Province has recently released the State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report. The Report is designed to communicate baseline information on Nova Scotia's priority coastal issues: coastal development, working waterfronts, public coastal access, sea-level rise and storm events, coastal water quality, and, sensitive coastal ecosystems and habitats.

The Report is intended to initiate a process by the Government of Nova Scotia to engage Nova Scotians in a dialogue about how to take action to address the priority coastal issues. Municipal input in this process will be critical in the development of a Coastal Strategy and West Hants will be part of the process.

There is an increasing recognition that protecting wetlands is critical to preserving the environment. The filling in of wetlands can seriously affected wildlife habitat and cause or worsen flooding problems.

Many of the wetlands in the province have been mapped by the Department of Natural Resources; but this mapping is not complete for West Hants. The Planning Department uses this information when processing land use by-law amendments and development agreements with the objective working with the Department of Environment to protect these areas. Better information as to the location and extent of the wetlands is needed. The Province is planning to take the necessary steps to address this issue. As well, in the summer of 2009, the Province released a Wetland Conservation Policy for public comment. The deadline for comment has recently expired. Council will review the formal Policy when it becomes effective and consider further municipal action at that time.

Response – Protection of Lakes and Rivers

Council will undertake a study to determine what further measures are necessary to protect these important resources.

Response – Coastline Protection

Council will participate in the process to be established by the Province following the recent release of the State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report to address key priority coastal issues.

Response – Wetland Conservation

Council will review the formal provincial Wetland Conservation Policy when it becomes effective with the objective of identifying and implementing any municipal action to conserve wetlands.

3.3 Public Water Systems

**Goals: Provide good quality drinking water in the serviced areas
 Protect the source of public water supplies**

3.3.1 Water Systems

Three Mile Plains/Wentworth Utility

The Three Mile Plains Water Utility currently consists of approximately 28 kilometers of distribution main and 842 service connections. The Utility purchases wholesale water from the Town of Windsor and resells it to its customers.

Falmouth Utility

The Falmouth Water Utility operates a surface water treatment facility located at 238 Eldridge Road. The distribution system currently consists of approximately

22 kilometers of distribution main and a water storage standpipe. The system has approximately 722 service connections.

Recent studies have identified the upgrades necessary to continue to provide a high quality of potable water to Three Mile Plains and Falmouth.

Response:

Council will continue to take the steps necessary to provide water meeting municipal drinking water standards to residents of Three Mile Plains and Falmouth.

3.3.2 Sources of Public Water Supplies

There are three municipal water supply areas in West Hants: French Mill Brook which supplies the serviced area of Falmouth; Mill Lakes which supplies the Town of Windsor and the serviced area of Three Mile Plains; and Davidson Lake which serves the Town of Hantsport.

Council began working with these neighbouring municipalities years ago to protect all the watersheds in its Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law. French Mill Brook and Mill Lakes have been designated as protected water areas under the *Environment Act*. Davidson Lake is close to having this designation as well.

A Watershed Advisory Committee is in place for each of the water supply areas and West Hants is a member of all three committees. The Committees have been responsible for preparing Source Water Protection Plans for each water supply. The Source Water Protection Plan for Falmouth's Water Supply is complete; Windsor's (Mill Lakes) and Hantsport's (Davidson Lake) are still in progress.

West Hants has also been acquiring land in the French Mill Brook watershed. Council will continue with this practice as opportunities arise and any necessary funding is available.

Response

Council will continue to work with all stakeholders to protect the water supply areas located in West Hants.

3.4 Wells as Water Supply

Goal: Encourage testing of private wells

The majority of the residents of West Hants rely on individual wells to meet their domestic water needs. Although these wells are the responsibility of the home owner, Council would like to see that all residents have clean drinking water.

Council recognizes that a good supply of water from wells is not available in all areas of the Municipality. Also, in many areas the quality of well water is poor; anyone planning the construction of a new home or business should investigate the potential for getting a good quality and good quantity of water from the ground.

The Department of Environment recommends that people test their drinking water periodically. Many residents throughout the province including West Hants do not test their water as often as they should, often because it is not convenient to do so. Currently a company located in the Windsor/West Hants Industrial Park has water testing capability. Council would like to encourage its residents to test their well water more regularly.

In addition to encouraging more water testing, Council is concerned that investigating the potential for an on-site water supply (most often but not necessarily a well) should be done at the beginning of a construction project not at the end as is so often the case.

Response

Council will investigate ways of encouraging homeowners to test their drinking water on a more regular basis.

3.5 Wastewater Systems

3.5.1 Public Systems

Goal Continue to effectively treat wastewater in the serviced areas

Three Mile Plains

The Three Mile Plains Wastewater Collection System with 875 connections currently consists of approximately 20 kilometers of sanitary mains, 6.5 kilometers of force mains and 12 sewage lift stations transferring the sewage to the Town of Windsor where it is treated.

Falmouth

The Falmouth Wastewater collection System with 584 connections currently consists of 9 sewage lift stations transferring the sewage to the Falmouth Wastewater Treatment Plant where it is processed.

In the past year the plant received some upgrading but still requires major work in order to increase its capacity.

Council is aware of the importance of providing adequate treatment of wastewater and considers it to be a priority in service delivery.

Response

Council will upgrade the wastewater treatment plant in Falmouth and undertake other necessary works as funding becomes available.

3.5.2 Private Systems

Goal Encourage proper maintenance of on-site sewage disposal systems

Most development in West Hants utilizes an on-site sewage disposal system to treat wastewater. The regulations which govern the installation and maintenance of these systems are administered by the N.S. Department of Environment.

Maintaining on-site systems is the responsibility of the property owner and continues to be an issue throughout the province. Failing on-site systems cause pollution not only on the property on which they are located but neighbouring properties and watercourses. Regular pumping out of systems goes a long way toward their lifespan and reduces the likelihood of failure. Municipalities are empowered to adopt a by-law to require the pumping out of on-site systems but no municipality has done so.

Recognizing that on-site systems come under provincial jurisdiction, Council would nonetheless like to do its part to encourage the proper maintenance.

Response

Council will encourage the proper maintenance of on-site sewage disposal systems through education.

3.6 Rural Character

Goals: **Encourage responsible forest management**
 Preserve the rural character of the Municipality

A number of comments received at the public meetings related to the importance of the rural character of the Municipality. Protecting farmland, the forestry resources and the scenic beauty of the area was emphasized in both meetings. Maintaining a "quiet, rural atmosphere" was also seen as important to the respondents of a survey conducted in 2002 as part of the review of the Municipal Planning Strategy.

With respect to protecting farmland, Council has already taken important steps in its planning documents. Part 8 of the Municipal Planning Strategy is devoted entirely to agriculture and includes methods of protecting it.

The management of forests is outside of municipal jurisdiction. A municipality can regulate development associated with forestry, such as sawmills, but cannot control logging. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for forestry operations and administers regulations to control forestry practices.

Council is concerned about the level of clear cutting that is occurring in West Hants. Clear cutting has become an issue shared by other stakeholders throughout the province and has led the Department of Natural Resources to review its forestry regulations. Council supports this review and is hopeful it will lead to a resolution to this issue.

Council has also adopted policies which go a long way in helping to preserve the rural character of the Municipality by establishing a growth centre, a village, and a hamlet designation in the Municipal Planning Strategy.

These are areas which provide varying levels of services in which new development is encouraged to locate. In the growth centres, wastewater services are not permitted to extend into the adjacent rural area.

Not only do these MPS policies help preserve the rural character in the rest of the municipality but by directing growth in this compact way the Municipality will experience a more cost efficient way of delivering services. And reducing the need of residents to travel by car to receive services is good environmental stewardship.

Even with encouraging growth into the growth centres, village, and hamlets, a certain percentage of the population will opt to build homes in the rural areas. There are two basic ways this growth occurs.

The most common way takes place on the existing road network of the Municipality and is sometimes referred to as ribbon development. This option is attractive to landowners because there is no road cost associated with developing the land. However over time as more and more land becomes developed, a transition from rural countryside to an urban or semi-urban environment occurs. There is an increase of traffic on these roads and a loss of natural vegetation.

In addition to the loss of rural character, this type of growth has a negative effect on transportation. Roads which had the primary function of getting people from one part of the municipality to another relatively quickly and efficiently will become more like local streets.

The planning documents take some steps toward restricting this type of growth in agricultural areas but no such restrictions exist in the rest of rural West Hants.

As long as a property has a safe access point and is capable of supporting an on-site sewage disposal system, the subdivision and development of lots on rural roads will continue.

Council has been aware of this issue for some time and has considered taking further steps to restrict this type of development. But public opposition to take such measures has been difficult if not impossible to overcome. Rather than losing sight of the issue Council will monitor this growth and periodically review its options. Discussions with the N.S. Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal should take place. The Department is the owner of these roads and still has an interest in providing an efficient transportation system throughout the province apart from the 100 series highways.

The second way growth occurs in rural areas is through the construction of new “subdivision” roads. In West Hants these roads have been private roads although there is nothing to prevent new municipal roads in all but the agricultural areas of the Municipality. The 16 municipal public roads totaling 4.2 kilometers happen to be located in the growth centres, no doubt due to market conditions and the much greater density that is possible in serviced areas.

This type of development is a major step up from ribbon development but still has its drawbacks. Traditionally the subdivision consists of large lots as each lot must be capable supporting an on-site sewage disposal system. Much more road is required as opposed to the small lots in a serviced area.

The Municipal Planning Strategy provides for an alternative to this method of rural development. Instead of each lot having an on-site system, grouped dwellings may be approved on what is called a cluster system.

Rather than an on-site system for each dwelling, the dwellings are clustered, with the sewage being piped from them to a common treatment area sometimes referred to as an in-ground communal system. As a result much less road is required. Also, maintaining the cluster system can be undertaken in a more efficient manner.

This development has the effect of leaving a greater part of the site, and ultimately the municipality, in a more natural state. If the development is on a new municipal street, the cost of providing services such as solid waste collection and road maintenance is significantly reduced.

The key to the cluster system approach is having a responsible entity owning and managing the treatment system. Condominiums fulfill this role. Municipalities may also do so through the formation of a “Wastewater Management District”.

To date no municipality has established a Wastewater Management District except for communities experiencing failing on-site systems. Municipalities have not used this approach for new development possibly because on-site systems, even communal ones, have solely been under provincial jurisdiction. With a Wastewater Management District the Province would still be responsible for approving the treatment system proposed for a development but on-going maintenance would be a municipal responsibility. The cost of the maintenance will be charged to the users to the system in much the same way an area rate is charged to those on a public wastewater system.

Having the Municipality responsible for maintaining a system serving a number of dwellings should be more efficient than having homeowners responsible for each individual system.

Response

Council supports a review of the provincial forestry regulations to address in particular a concern that an excessive amount of clear-cutting is taking place in the province, including West Hants.

Response

Council will continue to direct the majority of new growth to the growth centres, villages and hamlets as designated in the Municipal Planning Strategy.

Response

Recognizing that growth will occur outside of growth centres, villages, and hamlets, Council will

- **continue to encourage an alternative to traditional rural growth on new roads by providing for cluster development of grouped dwellings,**
- **consider amending the planning documents to provide for Wastewater Management Districts, and**
- **monitor growth on existing roads to determine the impact on the quiet, natural atmosphere of the rural areas.**

3.7 Energy

3.7.1 Municipality Energy Reduction

Goal Reduce the municipality's energy consumption

A first step to meet this goal Council has participated in a municipal program “EcoTrust for Clean Air and Climate Change”. This program began in 2007, when the Province announced the Municipal Clean Air and Climate Change Program to assist municipalities in building capacity around energy and emissions management, and to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions. The program will also help municipalities reduce their energy costs.

An inventory and audit has recently been completed and the Municipality has applied for funding for four projects. Project grant amounts will be limited by the ability of the Municipal Program to maximize the number of recipients and the environmental benefits. The program is structured into two pots of money – funding for corporate projects (those that focus on reducing greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions from municipal operations only) and/or community projects (those that aim to reduce emissions from the community as a whole). The Municipality has not yet received word as to the status of their applications for funding.

While participation in this and possibly other programs is important, Council believes that there are many small steps that councilors and staff can take to conserve energy, from turning out the lights to using less paper. A focus on energy efficiency for new public buildings will not only conserve energy but will serve as an example for businesses and homeowners.

Response

Council will reduce its energy consumption by all means possible including participation in programs such as the EcoTrust for Clean Air and Climate Change.

3.7.2 Private Energy Reduction

Goal: Support energy conservation

Council realizes that it will take the efforts of all citizens to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Municipality and many are rising to the challenge. The Province is encouraging these efforts. In 2006 the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* was adopted. The Act contains targets for new home construction and uses the federal EnerGuide system to measure these targets. The provincial *Building Code Regulations* have also been amended to require more energy efficient methods of home construction.

Financial incentives are also available from the senior levels of government to encourage energy efficient construction for residential as well as other uses.

Although the Municipality cannot dictate private methods to help in the fight against climate change, Council would like to encourage all residents to employ ways of reducing energy consumption.

Response

Council will encourage private energy reduction by providing information and by communicating to the community the steps the Municipality is taking to reduce energy consumption.

3.7.3 Wind Energy

Goal: Encourage the use of renewable energy sources

The largest sector of renewable energy in Nova Scotia is wind energy. There are two types of wind turbines, generally known as utility wind turbines and domestic

wind turbines. Utility wind turbines are big structure which tie into the grid while domestic one are much smaller and provide energy to individual homes and businesses.

Council supports wind energy and has taken the steps to encourage its use in West Hants. Domestic wind turbines are permitted throughout the Municipality subject to such restrictions as location and height. Because of their greater impact on residential uses, the location of utility turbines is subject to a more rigorous evaluation in a development agreement process.

Response

It shall be the policy of Council to permit wind turbines in the Municipality provided appropriate measures are taken to protect adjacent residential uses.

3.7.4 Tidal Energy

Goal: Encourage the use of renewable energy sources

Efforts are being undertaken to tap the energy potential of tidal power. Test turbines have recently been installed in nearby Minas Basin. Council would like to encourage these steps wherever it can.

Response

Council is supportive of the steps to harness the energy of tidal power.

3.8 Public Transit

Goal: Participate in a rural public transit system

West Hants is a participant in the Kings Transit Bus Service which operates through Annapolis Valley from Hants County to Digby County. The Municipality together with the Towns of Hantsport and Windsor, and the Municipality of the County of Kings is funding a route from Brooklyn to Wolfville. The cost of West Hant's contribution to this service is \$155,000 for fiscal year 2009/2010.

The service provides an important transportation choice for many of West Hant's residents. The Town would like to encourage more people to take the bus and will therefore investigate ways of supporting the service. One idea that has generated preliminary discussion is to consider providing service from communities not on Highway #1 to feed into King's Transit.

Dial-A-Ride also operates in West Hants. Dial-A-Ride Nova Scotia is a support network of non-profit, community-based transportation systems located throughout Nova Scotia. The primary objective of the Dial-A-Ride program is to interconnect inclusive transportation services that are safe, affordable, and accessible to all members in a community including disabled, disadvantaged, elderly and any other person in need of transportation.

Response

Council will continue its participation in Kings Transit.

Response

Council will investigate ways of further supporting public transportation in West Hants.

3.9 Climate Change

Goal Prepare for climate change

Climate change is considered by many to be the most serious threat facing us today. The senior levels of government are taking steps to address this critical issue and municipalities are following suit.

The Town of Windsor and Municipality of West Hants are participating as municipal partners in the Nova Scotia portion of the Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative (RAC) program. The program is a Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) initiative, the purpose of which is to get the regions working together to address common climate change adaptation goals. In Nova Scotia, the partners include various provincial government departments, academic researchers from COGS, St. Mary's, Dalhousie and St. FX, along with municipal partners in six pilot communities, one of which is the Minas Basin area. The workplan includes risk and vulnerability assessments for each area that will provide a basis for incorporating climate change adaptation into land use planning, infrastructure design and maintenance, and emergency planning at the provincial, municipal and professional levels. The project is expected to begin early in 2010 and be completed in March 2012.

In addition municipalities across Canada have formed an organization known as "Partners for Climate Change". From their website:

"The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change.

PCP is the Canadian component of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) network, which involves more than 900 communities worldwide. PCP is a partnership between

the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. PCP receives financial support from FCM's Green Municipal Fund.

Why act locally on climate change?

Municipal governments have an important contribution to make to climate protection. Up to half of Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are under the direct or indirect control or influence of municipal governments. By 2012, communities could cut GHG emissions by 20 to 50 Mt from municipal operations and community-wide initiatives with investments in environmental infrastructure and sustainable transportation infrastructure.”

In Nova Scotia, thirteen municipalities have formally joined the organization and many more are considering it. West Hants will investigate this resource as a way of complementing other efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

Response

Council will actively participate in the Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative (RAC) program.

Response

Council will consider joining Partners for Climate Protection.

3.10 Storm Water Management

Goal: Consider preparation of a storm water management strategy

The serviced areas of the Municipality do not have a piped storm water system. Storm water is accommodated by means of open ditches. Recently there have been a number of complaints about storm run-off in these areas.

Before committing resources to install a piped storm water system, Council believes the first step to be the preparation of a storm water management strategy.

Response

Council will consider the preparation of a storm water management strategy for the serviced areas of the Municipality.

3.11 Solid Waste

Goal Continue to provide efficient solid waste services

From the MPS:

“West Hants has a comprehensive recycling and composting program. Recycling is picked up every second week. All recycling goes to a collection contractor who is responsible for the sorting and sale of the recyclables. The Municipality does not receive payment for the recycling but has a reduced charge for collection. Residents are responsible for composting using backyard composters. The same contractor collects garbage on alternate weeks. The garbage goes to the West Hants Landfill Site on the Walton Woods Road in Cogmagun.”

The landfill is a second generation constructed through a public/private partnership and is operating effectively. West Hants is a member of Region 6 Waste Management and has surpassed the provincial net target of 300 kilograms of waste per capita.

Response

Council will continue to provide efficient solid waste services in the Municipality.

Part 4 Economic

A strong economy is vital to the lives of all residents. Although there are limits to what a municipality can do to ensure a prosperous and growing economy, Council may take some actions to improve economic conditions

Several of the goals and objectives relating to economic development call for regional effort and partnership and are contained in Part 6 Regional Cooperation.

4.1 Goals

- Goal 1 Support local resource industries
- Goal 2 Protect farmland
- Goal 3 Support the “Buy Local Food” movement
- Goal 4 Encourage backyard and community gardens
- Goal 5 Embrace new technology
- Goal 6 Encourage home based businesses
- Goal 7 Promote tourism

The following economic goals are addressed in Part 6.

- Goal 8 Work with the neighbouring municipalities to foster economic opportunities
- Goal 9 Retain and encourage new industries and businesses

4.2 Resource Industries

Goals: **Support local resource industries**
 Protect Farmland

4.2.1 Agriculture

This topic was covered to some extent in Part 3, Environmental, as a way of preserving the rural character of the Municipality. There is also clearly an economic and a long term food security aspect to this important resource.

Council has taken steps in its planning documents to protect the agricultural lands of the Municipality from incompatible development but there are other aspects to this industry. In order to improve their economic viability, today many farmers sell their produce directly to the public through farm markets, establishing U-pick operations, and by establishing other businesses relating to agriculture. Although these activities could be considered commercial uses, Council believes they should be permitted and encouraged and has provided for them in its planning documents.

The Province has also recognized the importance of agriculture. The *Municipal Government Act* contains a Statement of Provincial Interest which calls for the protection of farmland. There is also right to farm legislation which protects farmers from nuisance court actions from adjacent residents.

These actions also support the “Buy Local Food” movement but much more needs to be done. Other initiatives are contained in Section 4.4.

Response

Council will continue to support the agricultural industry by protecting farmland and by providing for commercial uses related to the industry.

4.2.2 Forestry and Mining

Council's concern about clear-cutting is contained in Part 3, Environmental. Even with this concern Council recognized that forestry is important to the economy of West Hants. The Municipal Planning Strategy has established a Resource Designation which applies to land used for forestry and mining. Other uses are also permitted in this designation but the intent of the Strategy is "to minimize potential conflicts and to treat resource activity as paramount in these areas."

The Municipal Planning Strategy has the following to say about mining:

"West Hants has significant gypsum deposits which have supplied mining operations for over 200 years. Fundy Gypsum Company operates two extraction sites and owns large tracts of land. The gypsum industry plays an important role in the economy of the area; however, it not only consumes a large amount of land, but also involves significant changes to the topography. It is important to West Hants to work with Fundy Gypsum and other mining companies to promote the reclamation of closed mine sites and to reduce land use conflicts between mining operations and adjacent uses."

Any new mining activity or expansion of existing operations is regulated by the Province and not the Municipality.

Natural gas exploration is also taking place in the Municipality. If this exploration leads to the production of natural gas, Council would like to see a priority placed on the local use of this resource.

Response

Council will provide for the resource industries in the municipal planning documents.

4.3 Growing and Selling Food Locally

Goals: Encourage backyard and community gardens

Support the “Buy Local Food” movement

Support for the “Buy Local Food” movement was clearly evident at the public workshops held by the Municipality. Most of the discussion related to the food industry and concern about food security and safety was expressed.

The N.S. Food Security Network and Steering Committee describes food security as a situation that exists when all people, at all time, have access to sufficient, nutritious, safe, personally acceptable and culturally appropriate foods that are produced, procured and distributed in ways that are environmentally sound, socially just and sustainable.

"A sustainable food system “means that food [in Canada] must be harvested, produced, processed, distributed and consumed in a manner which maintains and enhances the quality of land, air and water for future generations, and in which people are able to earn a living wage in a safe and healthy working environment by harvesting, growing, producing, processing, handling, retailing and serving food” (Food Secure Canada 2006).

Healthy and safe food ties into a sustainable food system, one does not work without the other. A sustainable and whole food system also includes processing, transportation, and restaurants. Courses on food safety have been held and will continue to be important.

In addition to the Municipality's agricultural policies, Council would like to consider other steps to advance the "Buy Local Food" initiative. The farmer's market in Windsor is supported. Local farm markets are encouraged in the planning documents. Home based businesses include the growing and selling of produce.

Other possibilities include the holding of special events to highlight the importance of buying local food and the establishment and/or promotion of community gardens. For new subdivisions, five percent of the land being subdivided is required to be conveyed to the Municipality as open space. There may be an opportunity for the residents of the subdivision to establish a community garden or orchard in this space. The municipal website could have an inventory of places where local food is available.

An opportunity related to the growing and selling food locally is to encourage backyard gardens in the growth centres, villages and hamlets. The produce is not only used by the resident but is often sold to other people in the community.

Council is supportive of this movement. There is a concern that the selling of the produce is a commercial use not suitable in residential areas. But as long as the commercial aspect is small, Council would like to encourage this activity.

Response

Council will consider sponsoring or holding events to promote the "Buy Local Food" movement in the Region.

Response

Council will encourage the establishment of community gardens in the more urban areas of the Municipality.

Response

Council will support backyard gardens and the selling of locally grown produce throughout of the Municipality.

4.4 New Technology

Goal Embrace new technology

Council believes that it is important to keep up with technological advances. High speed internet is now available throughout most of the Municipality and enables residents to work from their home.

The Valley Community Fibre Network (VCFN) network is up and running. Internetworking Atlantic Incorporated (IAI), the company responsible for managing the network, is offering ultra high speed internet and networking services to local businesses on the VCFN network. The VCFN provides tremendous capacity for data transfer and telecommunications that can be used to attract large scale businesses, especially those in the field of high technology, to the area.

As well, municipal operations are progressing towards completion to have all of network connections via the VCFN.

New technology is also happening in other sectors including energy and communications. It is a key element of new economies that municipalities must embrace in order to promote employment and a high quality of life for their residents.

Response

Council will embrace technological advances which are crucial to a strong local economy.

4.5 Home Based Businesses

Goal: Encourage home based businesses

There are many home based businesses throughout the Municipality. This type of business will continue to grow especially as high speed internet is made available throughout the municipality.

Council would like to encourage further development of this kind but will limit these businesses to those which do not create an unreasonable adverse affect on adjacent residential uses.

Home based businesses not only contribute to the economy but are also good for the environment. The businesses are conducted in a building which is already heated and travel by automobile is significantly reduced.

Response

Council will continue to encourage home based businesses subject to conditions designed to mitigate their impact on adjacent residential uses.

4.6 Tourism

Goal: Promote Tourism

There are many scenic areas and attractions in West Hants which draw tourists to the area. The tidal bore brings visitors to various locations in the Municipality.

There are areas where the Ram's Head Lady Slipper, which is the official emblem of West Hants, may be sighted. The Avon Peninsula is an area of great diversity.

West Hants Council supports the Windsor-West Hants Visitor Centre Information Centre. The Avon River Heritage Museum has a tourism component and will be promoting a celebration of the New England Planters in 2010. Many people come to West Hants because of genealogy, which is discussed in more detail in the Festivals and Heritage section. An inventory of historical sites could be developed and displayed on the municipal website.

The Hants Regional Development Authority promotes the region as a destination for tourists. Tourism is a thread that runs through many of the Authority's projects to foster economic growth. For example the Authority has prepared a Hants County Lifestyle document which extols the advantages of a rural lifestyle and provides information about the amenities and festivals of the area.

Council would like to explore additional opportunities to increase tourism. Better signage, interpretive centres, bicycle routes, salt marshes are a number of areas that may warrant further investigation to attract visitors.

Response

Council will investigate opportunities to attract more tourists to the Municipality.

Part 5 Social and Cultural

In many ways the social and cultural aspects of a community are valued the most. Communion with fellow citizens and having a sense of a shared history and heritage are often the mainstays of a society.

As with the economic pillar, several of the social/cultural goals call for regional co-operation and are addressed in Part 6.

5.1 Goals

- Goal 1 Provide recreational programs and opportunities for all residents
- Goal 2 Support community groups
- Goal 3 Promote and participate in festivals
- Goal 4 Explore opportunities to celebrate heritage
- Goal 5 Encourage volunteerism
- Goal 6 Promote active transportation
- Goal 7 Provide for the safety of all citizens

The following social/cultural goals are addressed in Part 6.

- Goal 8 Support the volunteer fire departments
- Goal 9 Provide library services
- Goal 10 Provide emergency measures services

5.2 Recreation

Goal: Provide recreational programs and opportunities for all residents

Recreation forms an important part of a high quality of life. The Municipality has a robust Recreation Department. The services it provides include the following:

- administers the West Hants Recreation Grant Program that supports over thirty five volunteer community groups
- assists volunteer groups with completing various grant applications and leadership development
- assists volunteer groups with special events when requested
- actively involved with the organization and implementation of the annual Hants Senior Games event
- organizes and implements the annual Volunteer Awards Banquet
- offers direct programming during the summer months
- organizes and implements the West Hants After School Program that is offered in our six rural elementary schools
- is responsible for the maintenance of: Kempt Quarry Recreation Site, Hobarts Beach Recreation Site, Ste. Croix Recreation Site, Eldridge Road Recreation Site, Falmouth Mini Park, Halewood Drive parkland and the Irishman's Road Recreation Site
- jointly with the Town of Windsor form a Pool Governance Committee for the Hants Aquatic Centre & cost shares in the operating deficit for the facility
- recently formed a committee of Council to look into the construction/upgrading of trails in West Hants

One of the current focuses of the Recreation Department is the development and maintenance of trails. Another project to consider is the development of a parks and open space plan to identify future needs of recreation facilities and open space in our communities.

Response

Council will continue to provide a high level of recreation services to the residents of West Hants.

Response

Council will consider the preparation of a Parks and Open Space Strategy for the Municipality.

Response

Council will continue to support volunteers and the groups they represent.

Response

Council will consider entering into partnership in the provision of recreational services.

5.3 Community Groups and Organizations

Goal: Support Community Groups

In addition to the recreation groups referred to in the previous section, there are other groups and organizations which form the backbone of many communities in West Hants. They are non profit and are kept functioning only through the dedicated efforts of volunteers.

The challenges facing many of these groups today are not easily resolved. Liability insurance is increasing. Volunteerism is down. Young people are not becoming involved.

The Municipality provides grants to a number of community groups. These grants total over \$100,000 per year. A significant amount of staff time was also devoted to assisting these groups.

Council is aware of many of the issues community groups must address in order to continue to be a strong community presence and would like to do more to provide assistance to them.

Response

Council will explore ways in which the Municipality can be of further assistance to community groups and organizations in the Municipality.

5.4 Festivals and Heritage

Goals: Promote and participate in festivals
Explore opportunities to enhance heritage

Festivals were cited as a way of celebrating the social and cultural heritage of the Municipality. Festivals are also important to tourism. There are a number of festivals such as the Teddy Bear Jamboree held by various groups taking place every year in West Hants. Music events are held every year and are also well attended by residents and visitors alike. Interest has been expressed about holding a regular bluegrass festival. A list of festivals and events may be found on the Hants Regional Development Authority's website.

As stated in the Tourism section the Avon River Heritage Museum is taking the lead on the Planters 2010 celebration and provides assistance to anyone

interested in pursuing other historical endeavours such as genealogy. The West Hants Historical Society Museum has an extensive genealogy collection and provides research assistance to those interested in finding their roots. The Municipality would like to consider providing more support for festivals and heritage pursuits.

Response

Council will consider ways of providing more assistance to festivals and heritage projects.

5.5 Volunteerism

Goal: Encourage volunteerism

Volunteers play a vital role in our communities and will be needed even more as we face the challenges of tomorrow. Although volunteerism has been declining in some respects, there are encouraging signs more recently particularly with respect to the youth. Schools are promoting volunteerism to a greater extent than in the past. Employers are recognizing that those who take part in their community make better employees.

The Municipality supports programs such as Volunteer Leadership Development and Volunteer Banquet Awards. Council intends to continue and to look for new ways to encourage more people to take up this very worthwhile pursuit.

Possibilities include the development of a “Resource Bank”. A Resource Bank is essentially a list of people who are willing to volunteer their help to community groups and organizations. To encourage people to put their names forward information as to the area of expertise that is needed and details on what is expected could be prepared.

As well, the Hants Regional Development Authority has prepared a “Volunteer Resource Guide” which contains great information about many aspects of volunteerism.

Liability is an area of concern for volunteers. There may be steps the Municipality can take to address this issue.

Response

Council will continue its support of volunteerism and will investigate new ways to encourage people to volunteer.

5.6 Active Transportation

Goal: Promote active transportation

Active transportation is environmental and economic as well as contributing to a healthy lifestyle. The Municipality owns and maintains a number of trails in West Hants as do other organizations. Expanding the number of walking trails may well be an objective in a parks and open space strategy. Indoor walking trails are also important; one has been incorporated in a recently constructed civic centre.

One of the long term municipal plans is to provide a full range of services in the growth centres. Encouraging new residential growth in these centres will make it much easier for residents to access these services by foot and not have to depend on the automobile to do everyday chores.

In addition to walking, bicycling is another form of active transportation. It is done mostly for recreation but could also be used to get to work and for shopping for a small amount of items.

Bicycle lanes are not common at present but could be required as part of new road construction pursuant to the Municipal Subdivision By-law. With respect to provincial roads, Council would like to encourage the Department of Transportation and Infrastructural Renewal to include provision for bicycles on highway renewal projects.

Bicycle routes could be established and promoted. Even where there is not sufficient road width for bicycle lanes, erecting signage directing drivers to “share the road” and be mindful of people on bicycles will help encourage bicycle use. Enforcement of speed limits is also important in this regard.

Response

Council will consider amending its subdivision by-law to require sidewalks and/or bicycle lanes for new municipal public streets.

Response

Council will encourage the province to provide for bicycle use as part of highway renewal projects, except for controlled access highways.

Response

Council will explore the potential of designating a number of roads in the municipality as bicycle routes and promoting their use.

5.7 Police Services

West Hants is well served by the RCMP for its policing needs. There was no concern expressed by the public about any lack of safety in West Hants. Council considers this service to be an essential one and will continue to see that a high level of service is provided.

Response

Council will continue to provide a high level of police service.

Part 6 Regional Co-operation

A number of the goals identified under the pillars of sustainability in this document can more effectively be met through partnerships with neighbouring municipalities. West Hants has a long history of working with other municipalities to foster economic development and more efficiently deliver services.

6.1 Hants Regional Development Authority

Goal Work with the neighbouring municipalities to foster economic opportunities

West Hants is a member of the Hants Regional Development Authority. The following is taken from the Authority's website.

“The Hants Regional Development Authority is a forward-looking organization established to support and advance community economic development in Hants County. From its offices in Windsor and Elmsdale, the Hants RDA works with businesses, community groups and all three levels of government to champion the interests of Hants County locally, regionally and internationally.

The Hants RDA is one of 13 Regional Development Authorities in Nova Scotia. It was incorporated in 1997 under the Regional Community Development Act at the request of the four municipal governments in Hants County. Governed by a volunteer board of directors, we receive funding from the municipalities of East Hants and West Hants; the Towns of Windsor and Hantsport; the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency; and the provincial departments of Economic & Rural Development and Community Services.

Our key task is to develop and implement a regional strategy. The current strategy, “Connected. 2008-2011.”, was developed in 2008 through extensive public and stakeholder consultation.

It focuses the Hants RDA on “making the connections that help Hants County achieve sustainable prosperity.” To this end, we connect new tourists, residents and entrepreneurs to Hants County through Regional Promotion. We connect our clients to new skills and resources through Community Development and Business Development. And we connect Hants County to outside decision makers through Advocacy.”

In addition to encouraging new businesses to locate in the region, it is also important to support existing businesses so they will stay in the area.

The RDA is embarking on an Investment Readiness Project for Hants West. This project is looking at attracting business through partnerships and is exploring the possibility of another joint industrial park. West Hants is an active participant in the project.

Response

Council will continue to be an active partner in the Hants Regional Development Authority.

6.2 Windsor-West Hants Industrial Park

Goals Work with the neighbouring municipalities to foster economic opportunities

Retain and encourage new industries and businesses

From the Municipal Planning Strategy:

“The Windsor-West Hants Industrial Park, located at the Highway 101 - Wentworth Road interchange was constructed jointly by the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the provincial agency, Industrial Estates Limited, in 1980. The Industrial Park consists of approximately 100 acres. In 2003, there were 35 firms operating in the park employing over 320 full-time workers. The park is promoted and marketed by Nova Scotia Business Inc., as well as by the two municipal units. As of 2007, the majority of land in the park was developed.”

There is little doubt that the partnership between the Town and the Municipality to develop and manage this industrial park has been very successful. The question now facing the Municipality is whether to undertake an expansion of the Park, either as a continuation of the partnership or on its own. More information and study is required before Council can make an informed decision on this matter.

Response

Council will investigate the merits of expanding the Industrial Park.

6.3 Volunteer Fire Departments

Goal: Support Volunteer Fire Departments

The volunteer fire departments deserve a special mention in this report. Not only do they fulfill an important duty by providing fire protection they are increasingly expanding their role as first responders to car accidents and other emergency occurrences.

Volunteer fire departments also greatly contribute to the social life of the communities in which they are located. The local fire hall is often the only facility available for events in many communities.

West Hants has provided fire services through a partnership with the Town of Windsor for areas adjacent to the Town.

West Hants, as with other municipalities in Nova Scotia, will face great challenges in providing fire services in the years to come. Replacing the volunteers who retire from the fire service is becoming more difficult. Council would like to see the Province take a stronger role to help municipalities meet this challenge.

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities has recently passed two resolutions in this regard. One calls on the Province to investigate a program that would provide reimbursement to volunteer fire departments for expenses incurred from the provision of first responder services.

The other resolution was passed by West Hants and the Towns of Hantsport and Windsor and strongly requests provincial funding for services and costs over and above that for which the Fire Services Departments were established.

Response

Council will continue to support the volunteer fire departments in the Municipality.

Response

Council will support UNSM efforts to request the Province to become a more active partner with municipalities in the provision of fire services.

6.4 Library Services

Goal: Provide library services

West Hants participates in the Annapolis Valley Library Board. A bookmobile currently provides library services to the Municipality but the Board has been investigating other options, such as using existing facilities which may be available in some communities. Even in this age of multi-media Council believes library services to be an important aspect of community life.

Response

Council will continue to provide library services in the Municipality.

6.5 Emergency Services

Goal Provide emergency measures services

The Municipality has joined with the Towns of Windsor and Hantsport to form a Regional Emergency Measures Organization (R EMO) for this region.

The Regional Emergency Measures Advisory Committee has the responsibility for the safety, health and welfare of its citizens should a threat arise from any emergency or disaster. Any effective emergency response requires a regional plan to fully integrate the use of all available resources and capabilities; public and private, and provides for the proper coordination of these elements.

The aim of the Regional Emergency Measures Plan is to establish arrangements and procedures necessary for the earliest possible coordinated response in order that the following be assured:

1. minimizing the effects of an emergency or disaster on the region and its citizens.
2. the safety and preservation of health, private property and the environment; and
3. the restoration of essential services.

Response

Council will continue to be an active member of REMO in order to provide for an effective response to emergencies.

6.6 Windsor-West Hants Joint Planning Advisory Committee

In 1970, West Hants and the Town of Windsor formed the Windsor-West Hants Joint Planning Advisory Committee. Full-time planning staff were hired in 1973 to form the Windsor-West Hants Planning Department. The Planning Department provides planning, development control and building inspection services to both the Municipality of West Hants and the Town of Windsor.

The partnership has worked very well over the years for both municipalities. Joint Planning Council meetings are held as needed.

Response

Council will continue to provide planning and development services through the Joint Planning Advisory Committee.

6.7 Joint Council Meetings

The Municipality of West Hants, the Town of Windsor and the Town of Hantsport meet on a regular basis, usually once a month, to discuss issues of joint concern to the three municipal units. These meetings provide an opportunity for the three to show a united front when seeking policy changes from the province or federal government, or presenting a position to the UNSM. The joint meetings also provide a forum for individuals, community groups or others to present to all three units at once, rather than one unit at a time.

Response

Council will continue to hold joint council sessions with neighbouring municipalities.

6.8 Information Technology

West Hants has entered into an inter-municipal partnership with the Towns of Hantsport and Windsor for the provision of IT services. The partnership has enabled all municipalities to deliver this service more cost effectively.

Response

Council will continue to provide IT services through an inter-municipal partnership.

This concludes the parts of the ICSP which identifies the goals, and responses as organized under the pillars of sustainability. A table which summarizes these goals and responses is contained in Schedule E – Summary Table.

Part 7 Regional Sustainability Issues

There are sustainability issues that are regional in scope. Reference has already been made to watershed management and the fact the watersheds cross municipal boundaries. *A Background Study for Integrated Community Sustainability Plans, Annapolis Valley Municipalities*, prepared by Jacques Whitford in 2008, looked at the Valley region and identified a number of regional issues. Regional co-operation have addressed some issues but there are others that require attention.

The Town of Kentville organized several meetings in 2009 to discuss regional issues. Good ideas were put forward at these meetings but there was a general recognition that there was not sufficient time for individual ICSPs to address the issues. The lack of a regional body to tackle this matter was also seen as a challenge. However there was general agreement among attendees that after the ICSPs are adopted, efforts would be made to act regionally. Good communication will be a key factor to make this happen.

Part 8 Statements of Provincial Interest

The provincial guidelines for the preparation of an ICSP call for it to be reasonably consistent with Statements of Provincial Interest which have been adopted by the Province. The Province has adopted 5 separate statements respecting the following: the quality of water within municipal water supply watersheds; protection of public safety and property in designated and recognized floodplains; the protection of agricultural lands; the efficient use of municipal water and wastewater infrastructure; and the provision of housing opportunities which meet the needs of communities.

With respect to municipal water supply watersheds and agricultural land, West Hants has for some time protected both of these resources in its planning documents. The ICSP refers to these protection measures.

There are no floodplains designated in West Hants. However dykeland has been identified and protected in the planning documents.

The MPS promotes the efficient use of municipal water and wastewater infrastructure by providing it only in growth centres and the joint industrial park. There is a wide range of housing opportunities throughout the municipality.

Part 9 Implementation - ICSP Projects

The ICSP contains many undertakings to help the Municipality become more sustainable in the decades to come. Some call for substantial funding in order to be implemented. The federal government is providing the revenue from the gas tax to help municipalities fund sustainability projects. The Municipality has been receiving gas tax revenues since 2001. To date the Municipality has expended \$365,657 of the gas tax revenue on Phase 1 of the Falmouth Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. This upgrade is one of the issues identified in the ICSP

As is to be expected, the cost of financing all the projects which flow from the Municipality's sustainability policies will be much greater than the amount of revenue the Municipality will receive from the gas tax. It is therefore necessary to indicate which projects receive priority over other projects.

The following is a list of projects Council feels are necessary in order to meet the goals of this ICSP. They are in order of priority. It is important to note that the projects and their order of priority may be changed at any time due to such matters as changing circumstances and public input. New projects may also be added to the list.

- 1. Improvements to the Falmouth Wastewater Treatment System**
- 2. Eco Trust applications and Energy Projects**
- 3. Development of Trails**
- 4. Expansion of public transit services and opportunities**
- 5. Support for community groups**
- 6. Upgrading/retrofit of community fire stations**
- 7. Falmouth and Three Mile Plains Water System Upgrading**
- 8. Strategy for better communications with residents**
- 9. Support public education on sustainability**
- 10. Designation of bicycle routes**

One of the most challenging aspects of long term planning is to identify and maintain a process to measure the progress being made, not only in the completion of the projects listed above but in reaching all of the goals contained in the ICSP. To help in this important task, a Report Card has been prepared and is contained in Schedule F.

Part 10 Health and Education

Communities need a strong health and education system in order to achieve and maintain a high level of sustainability. These systems fall almost exclusively under provincial jurisdiction. As a result the ICSP focuses on areas in which the municipality has the authority to make a difference.

That is not to say that Council does not have an interest in seeing that a health care system is responsive to the needs of the people and that educational opportunities are available for everyone. Council may therefore from time to time find it appropriate to provide input and comment to the Province with respect to the delivery of these important services.

Schedule A

Summary of Comments, Seniors Forum

The following is a summary of the comments received from a session held jointly with the Town of Windsor. The session took place at Gladys Senior's Complex in Windsor on September 14, 2010.

“Seniors

Most small towns in Nova Scotia have relatively older populations because of the propensity of young people to leave in pursuit of educational opportunities and employment in larger centres. The age of Windsor's population, however, is augmented by the presence of several retirement homes and the apparent attraction of the town for the elderly. Seniors Focus Group participants clearly appreciate the benefits of the community for their needs. Most were either long-time residents of the town or had a connection to the community earlier in life either as their birthplace or as a place of employment.

Like other residents, seniors appreciate the small town atmosphere and the availability of services. Services are probably more important to the elderly than others because of their greater requirement for health care and their reduced mobility. Windsor offers a hospital and a full range of retail, personal service, and recreation opportunities in a relatively small area, which is very beneficial to older people.

That being said, the one issue of over-arching importance raised by seniors was transportation. Most acknowledged that the town and immediate area provided many opportunities for recreation and to socialize but noted that it was often very difficult to get to the locations of activities that interested them. Many older seniors do not drive anymore and must rely on alternative transportation for their needs. Seniors in the Gladys Manning complex in which the Focus Group session was held noted, for example, that College Road on which they are located has no sidewalk and no trails to connect the area to the centre of town. Some participants in the session also suggested that Kings Transit should offer a greater variety of routes in the town. Several also noted that Gladys Manning is at the end of College Road on a long cul-de-sac that provides only one access to the facility. There is a clear concern that access could be cut off in an emergency event.”

Schedule B

Summary of Comments, Students Forum

The following is a summary of comments received from students at a session held at King's Edgehill on September 18, 2009.

Session conducted by Grant Cooke and Raymond Parker

15 students and Headmaster Joe Seagram were in attendance. There was a good mix of students, from the local area, other parts of the province, and overseas. Some of the students were taking courses related to sustainability.

A brief introduction about the ICSP was given. Because the session was limited to 45 minutes, it focused on two questions. The first being what the students liked about the community, the community being the Town of Windsor and the Municipality of West Hants. The second question was what they didn't like or felt was needed. Most of the students provided comments which are summarized as follows:

What they liked about the community:

- the scenery
- strong sense of community, neighbours help each other
- the recycling program, a student from overseas commented that the program was far ahead of that in her native country and that it was an important sustainability practice
- the parks and walking trails
- the exhibition grounds
- the tradition of being the birthplace of hockey
- the opportunity to participate in sports
- Martock ski hill
- Kings Transit

What they didn't like or felt was needed:

- there were lovely older homes in the community but they needed to be better maintained
- although construction projects on roads are necessary, the timing of them could be improved
- lack of recreation
- lack of an Arts presence
- improvement of public schools, smaller class size, better maintenance, too much time lost because of closure for weather (although the safety concerns were recognized)
- more public playgrounds
- new rink
- there seemed to be programs/activities/facilities for younger age groups and older age groups but not so much for their age group
- small movie theatre, arcade
- more sidewalks, walking is often the only option for students
- promotion of tourism, building on the natural beauty of the area
- bring back the skate park
- better signage, directions are terrible
- greater effort needed to increase employment, attract industry and at the same time maintain the quiet small town and rural atmosphere of the area, diversification is important
- better transportation system, particularly for biking and walking
- looking well into the future, a train service could be a great asset not only for moving people from place to place but also to attract tourists, i.e. they would stay in Windsor and take the train into picturesque rural areas, perhaps a link with cruise ships

- lack of cultural diversity
- some areas do not “feel safe”, some young people loiter about, they need more opportunities to fill their time, need educational and employment opportunities

Schedule C

Results of Public Workshops

The following is a summary of the comments received at two public workshops: one on September 21, 2009 in Summerville and the other on September 28, 2009 in Falmouth

The comments on **Vision** were a response to the question “Please give a short description of how you would like to see your community evolve in the next 20 to 30 years.” The responses were written on a flip chart and attendees were given 5 dots and asked to place the dots on the response(s) they considered most important. The numbers are shown after each response below.

The remainder of the comments relates to each pillar and fall under “Assets”, “Gaps/Challenges” and the resources/plans needed to meet the challenges.

Vision

** - means illegible word

- Healthy (23)
- Fully employed locally (16)
- Sustainable (13)
- Fed locally (13)
- Future for youth (12)
- Access to land for agriculture (12)
- Energy self-reliance (10)
- Farmers Market (9)
- Public transport (8)
- Culturally stimulating (7)
- Public transportation available (rural) (7)
- Resource – watershed protection (6)
- Vibrant downtown (6)
- Progressive (6)
- Safe (6)
- Thriving (5)
- Diverse (5)
- Food security (5)
- Diversity – (all pillars) (5)
- Multi-function facilities – schools, cultural, etc. (5)

- Connected in many ways (4)
- Resource sustainability (4)
- Flood plains – flooding issues addressed, management (3)
- Affordable housing for seniors – options (3)
- Affordable housing for all (3)
- Jobs (3)
- Green (3)
- Local accessible healthcare – doctors, hospital (2)
- Empowered communities (2)
- Home where heart is (1)
- Attractive (1)
- Non-suburban centre (1)
- Better life (1)
- Balance (1)
- Happily resilient (1)
- 7 generations (decision making) (1)
- Role model for other areas (0)
- Vibrant (0)
- Coordinated plan for government action (0)

Assets

Environmental:

- CAPE, Cheverie Saltmarsh Society/EAC (4)
- Woodlands (3)
- Minas shore – tides (3)
- Farmland – active and inactive (2)
- No clear-cutting
- Land available for building
- Fertile farmland
- Watershed with water
- Good people
- Gypsum as a mineral
- Wind, air, good sunshine (energy)
- Ducks Unlimited
- West Hants Wildlife Fed
- Building group
- FAR, Hants Federation of Agriculture
- DNR Wildlife Division
- Rivers and shorelines and beaches
- Diverse flora
- Hiking opportunities
- Gravel resources
- Sidewalks

- Community infrastructure
- Clean air
- Look-offs
- Clean water (relatively)
- Organic farms/nut. foods
- School garden and Harmony Park
- Bloodworm group
- FANS
- Greenpeace
- BSN
- NSEN
- ** of Trust
- Various naturalists groups
- Uniform long growing season (sometimes)
- Biodiversity (amazing) migratory **
- Relatively good forest corridors for wildlife and wildlife itself
- Relatively untouched land
- Beautiful vistas
- APNPS
- Heliotrust
- ACORN
- Hants Wildlife Advocates

Social Cultural:

- 4-H, Girl Guides, Air Cadets, Boy Scouts, Brownies (4)
- Church (3)
- Schools, churches (2)
- Windsor Farmers Market (2)
- Service clubs (Lions, Rotary) (2)
- Health clinic (2)
- Festivals – music, pumpkins (2)
- Jam sessions (2)
- Community halls (2)
- Volunteer fire departments (2)
- Smiley's Park, Quarry Pond (2)
- Bookmobile (2)
- Locally owned businesses
- Fraternal groups (Knights of Columbus, Masonic)
- Quick as a Wink, Mermaid, Utata
- Sports facilities
- Four Seasons
- Library Bookmobile
- Golf clubs
- Parks

- Swimming
- Windsor Fork School
- Summerville C/S Burlington Fire Department
- C/S b** “mind set”
- Summerville Community Centre
- Summerville Health Centre
- Family Resource Centre
- Food Bank (Windsor)
- Heritage – history, founding cultures
- Sporting
- Walton Lighthouse
- Societies – Cheverie Crossway, CAPE
- Avon River Heritage Society and Museum
- Artists
- Local restaurants and inn, B&B
- Campgrounds
- Hardware, grocery
- Geography of the area (Cheverie Look Off)
- Shore drive – scenic
- Nursery schools
- Junior fire fighters
- Cemeteries
- Nursery school
- Fitness program
- Belly dancing, etc. yoga
- Harmony Park
- Two world class soccer fields
- Cheverie Crossway
- Horse riding stables
- Brooklyn rink
- Municipal Park Block Wharf Road
- Karate
- Youth groups
- Quilting group
- Men hangout at local store (Liar’s Club)
- Post office

Economic

- Tourism (3)
- Winery (2)
- Industrial park (2)
- Rail lines (2)
- Forestry, agriculture, mining (gypsum processing)
- Local businesses

- Concrete plant
- Banks, Credit Union
- Operating engineers school
- Mineral resources
- Farming opportunities
- Argo and eco tourism
- Health centre
- School
- Farms
- Small businesses
- Hospital (diverse) – connected to QEII
- Natural gas – use locally
- Fire department
- Recreation festivals
- Gypsum Company
- Forest – clean air and water, selling of wood products
- Rivers
- People
- Credit Union
- Local stores
- Potential of wind power
- Solar power
- Unused farm lands (used for ** **?)
- Energy production, biomass, grass pellets
- Forestry

Gaps/Challenges

Environmental:

- Parks – protected open space
- Protection from clear-cutting
- Need walking trails and bicycle trails
- Lack of coordination between levels of government
- Erosion, clear-cutting damaging watersheds
- Need water and sewer to meet needs
- Reclamation of gypsum lands
- Bridge access Avon River replacing causeway
- Solid waste management – “dump”
- Partial service of Falmouth
- Enforcement of environmental regulations (knowledge of regulations)
- Ground water quality, testing of wells
- Sustainable underutilization of environmental resources

- Pesticide use
- Lack of local control – clear-cutting as a problem
- Loss of high capability farmland
- Long-term plan for resource protection “sprawl”/creep
- Air quality – wood burning furnace, brush
- Forestry disappearing
- Lack of sustainable practices
- Lack of manufacturing facilities
- Support for farms
- Commuter population is a challenge
- Family is an economic unit, role of mother **
- Resources are going out of the area
- Lack of regulations re: farm land (shore)
- Gypsum expansion
- Decision making by small communities limited about their assets
- Need protection for water supplies/watersheds
- Time, money, people
- Recognition of value of local communities/local assets
- Connection between community assets and community decisions lacking
- Population growth, climate change
- Shoreline protection re: erosion, development
- Lack of promotion of sustainable energy/practices/need for ** education/promotion, e.g. what does green projects mean?
- To foster environment protection while living within it
- Money for transportation doesn't go to alt. transportation

Social/Cultural:

- Need integration with Town of Windsor as hub of West Hants e.g. support for farmers market, pedestrian and traffic
- Sportsplex for Falmouth area
- Need vibrant downtown
- Needs more services for seniors, youth
- More participation in local government
- Need better communication between government and residents
- No community centres in various locations
- Loss of community schools
 - Residential
 - Social centre
 - Closures create conflict
 - Teaching jobs and support
- Meals on Wheels program

- Program to assist “communities” seniors, youth
- Literacy – isolation
- Civic engagement – care
- Dwindling church participation
- Lack of volunteers – burnout and time squeeze
- Lack of diversity
- Pressure on healthcare “facilities” – resources – family, mental health
- Family planning – challenges/education
- Family responsibilities transferred to? School, corner store
- Time poverty
- Financial pressures on families
- Youth organization
- Multiculturalism
- Social services (Foodbank, etc. in Windsor – need car)
- No public transport
- Public washrooms, especially at Quarry Pond and Crossway
- Maitland District Development Authority – something for small communities, Christmas festival; volunteers
- Theatre
- High speed internet
- Trails, safe places for biking (for kids)
- No way for newcomers to find out what’s going on
- Museums
- Trails
- Coffee shop
- Internet café
- More recreation programs for all ages
- Lack of employment (do people have money to spend on cultural)
- Grocery store
- Seniors home and seniors support on the shore
- Safe active route to school and elsewhere (inter-community trail)
- Multi-use building
- Bureaucracy
- Ineffective communication
- Seniors day centre
- Ext. of Dial-A-Ride (too expensive and not always available)
- More public space
- Better roads
- More tourism promotion
- Better signage
- Recreation facilities for handicapped
- ** stores
- More emphasis on mobility and accessibility
- Farmers Co-op

- Internet
- Better public transportation
- Loss of farms
- Support planning for eco – business, agro tourism, restrictive **
- Problems with legislation
- Lack of political will/citizens will

Economic:

- High speed internet (lack off)
- Jobs – government and meaningful
- Retain youth
- Support for farmers market
- Government services
- Affordable housing
- Limited broadband and reliable phone
- Reliable power
- Money for support for community development
- Don't control where high speed internet goes
- Lack of support for current activities
- Lack of engagement due to time constraints (bedroom community syndrome)
- Lack of local market access
- Money lack
- Volunteers – only a few doing it all
- Lack of environmental awareness
- Lack of communication for newcomers
- Aging population – few services
- Best kept secret
- Investing in churches and facilities
- Committed individuals
- Build momentum
- More ICSP meetings
- Use RDA to bring groups together and plan
- Needs more advertising
- People to become more of a community
- How is money being spent
- Transportation – low density of population
- Green Rider
- Local manufacturing
- Promotion of village centre
- Seniors facilities
- More local senior functions
- Gypsum company and other large corporations

Resources and Strengths to Meet Challenges **(plans, etc.)**

Environmental:

- West Hants can lobby regarding no clear-cutting, watershed values
- Schools can promote environmental education – e.g. zoning
- West Hants should purchase/protect more watershed, e.g. land
- Alternative renewable energy – wind, solar, tidal, biomass
- Tourism access
- Third generation separation and management
- Organic farming
- Beautiful area
- Fantastic shoreline
- Tidal and wind opportunities
- Health care system
- More young families in rural areas
- Community spirit
- Natural beauty
- People
- Established group improving conditions
- ** of local schools
- Cost of living is still reasonable
- Land still reasonably priced and available
- People who care/initiative
- Interdependence
- Green school (Dr. A. Hines)
- Organic producers/local producers, businesses
- 4H
- Growing awareness
- Municipal government (need more coastal planning)

Social/Cultural:

- Good people who care
- Kings Transit
- Safe walking trails, bicycle
- Hants County website for event listing
- Hants Journal
- Lots of youth – but need guidance
- Festivals – agriculture, need funding, theatre, youth programming
- Tourism
- Farmers Market
- Local community empowerment to make own decision
- Local support groups depending on needs of community
- Established groups needs help – money, people

- Improve communication networks/sharing
- Need to come together as community
- Leadership, framework
- What is our vision?
- People
- Hub of ** ** in Nova Scotia
- Community newsletters, e.g. What's Going On, Hants Shore Newsletter
- Volunteers (need coordination)

Economic:

- “Relocalization” of industry, businesses
- Land base for development opportunities
- Workforce
- Access to twinned highway
- Proximity to various markets “Valley/Metro/Truro”
- Wharf facilities at Hantsport
- Protection of coastline is paramount
- Support energy initiatives – wind, tidal
- No box stores – support local
- Prepare a food policy
- Plan to promote small energy initiatives
- Municipal policies to buy local
- Support eco-tourism
- Lack of service from phone company and power company
- Employment opportunities

Plans, Actions, Initiatives

Environmental:

- Trains
- West Hants to determine what areas need protected status
- Investment in good public buildings
- Facade improvement projects
- Municipal policy to not use bio solid or pesticides on municipal lands
- Walkways/trails/bicycle
- Safe School Ways
- Harmony Park project money
- Public transit on the shore (Pilot Green Bus Project) for commuters (rail to Windsor/Halifax/Valley)
- Work locally – high speed internet on shore
- Sewer system in Summerville

- Bike/walking trails, active, safe routes to school
- Boat launching: Block Wharf Road
- Green Rider
- Centre for environment volunteers/ENGO summit meeting of Eminds
- Something out of organic farms, Heliotrust, school garden, bring other people/places here to learn
- Use tides and wind for foster environment and economic development

Social/Cultural:

- Local schools
- Educate population on importance of local food and business
- Acadian village/park on Falmouth water front
- Connecting our communities

Economic:

- Public money funneled to local business initiatives – local
- Local recycling business
- Agriculture
- Municipal support for relief from liability insurance
- Money to local NGOs
- NGO forum to bring regional people together
- Need community college/vocational school for training for local jobs
- Environmentally based industries e.g. recycling
- Develop Falmouth waterfront for Acadian tourism/park
- Need to slow people off highway 101 into West Hants
- Find employers and encourage them – incentives
- Opportunities for small businesses

Schedule D

WATER CAUCUS- Nova Scotia Environment Network BLUEPRINT FOR WATER MANAGEMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA - January, 2010

Priority Areas	Action	Who	
Leadership and	Oversight and Management	1. Show leadership and joint responsibility	NSE
		2. Manage at a watershed level	NSE
	Regional Capacity and Support	Enable regional NSE Staff to assist watershed groups, "ground-truth" planning maps, set and enforce regulations	NSE DNR
	Ecological Monitoring	Develop indicators to assess ecosystem integrity including water quality	NSE CWG
		Standardize monitoring protocols and link with community involvement	NSE CWG
	Targets and plans	Set water quality goals for primary watersheds and management plans to meet goals	NSE, CWG
	Best Practices	Incorporate best practices into well-enforced regulations	NSE, NSAg, DNR
Create a Culture of Conservation and Stewardship	Financial Incentives	Create a Watershed Management Fund and source it through income from water allocation permitting	NSE
		Provide sustainable support for watershed groups through alternate funding models	NSE
	Conservation	Adopt a water soft path approach for water conservation at a provincial level	NSE
	Governance	Formalize role of community-based watershed groups in water strategy	NSE, CWG, Mun
	Establish and Maintain Connections	Manage water, wetlands and coasts as connected systems and integrate water, wetland and coastal policies	NSE, NSFA, DNR

NSE = Nova Scotia Environment DNR = Department of Natural Resources CWG = Community Watershed Groups
Mun = Municipalities
NSAg = Department of Agriculture
NSFA = Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture

Schedule E

Summary Table – Integrated Community Sustainability Plan - West Hants

This Table provides a summary of the goals and actions of Council as contained in the ICSP. The Table also indicates responsibility, stakeholders, and timing.

Environmental Pillar

Goal 1: Protection of watercourses, shorelines, and wetland

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Conduct a study to identify measures to strengthen the protection of these resources	Municipality	Department of Environment Department of Natural Resources	Mid Term
Improved mapping of wetlands	Department of Natural Resources	Municipality	Identified as a priority in the Provincial Wetland Conservation Strategy.
Participate in the preparation of a Provincial Coastal Strategy	Province, Federal Government	Municipality	Near term

Goal 2: Provide good quality drinking water in the serviced areas

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Continue to provide good quality drinking water to Falmouth and Three Mile Plains	Municipality	Department of Environment	On-going

Goal 3: Protect the source of public water supplies

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
There are three sources of public water supplies in West Hants. Council will continue to work with all stakeholders to protect these sources.	Municipality of West Hants, Town of Windsor, Town of Hantsport	Department of Environment, Watershed Advisory Committees, Watershed landowners, customers of the Three Mile Plains, Windsor, Falmouth and Hantsport water utilities Department of Environment	On-going

Goal 4: Encourage Testing of Private Wells

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Investigate ways of encouraging homeowners to test their drinking water on a more regular basis	Although the Municipality will encourage testing, it is the clearly responsibility of the homeowners to do the testing	Municipality Department of Environment	On-going

Goal 5: Continue to effectively treat wastewater in the serviced areas

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Upgrade Falmouth wastewater treatment plant	Municipality	Department of Environment	Near term

Goal 6: Encourage proper maintenance of on-site sewage disposal systems

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Encourage proper maintenance through education	Although the Municipality will encourage maintenance, it is the clearly responsibility of the homeowners to maintain their systems	Municipality Department of Environment	On-going

Goal 7: Encourage responsible forest management

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Support review of forestry regulations	Department of Natural Resources	Municipality	Near Term

Goal 8: Preserve the rural character of the Municipality

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Encourage new development into growth centres	Municipality		Ongoing (policies exist in planning documents)
Encourage cluster development as an alternative to traditional subdivision	Municipality		On-going (policies exist in planning documents)
Consider cluster development through Wastewater Management Districts	Municipality	Department of Environment	Mid Term
Monitor growth on existing rural roads	Municipality	Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	Periodic

Goal 9: Reduce the municipality's energy consumption

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Participate in the Eco Trust Program	Municipality	Province	Near Term
Other energy saving practices	Municipality	Province	On-going

Goal 10: Support Energy Conservation

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Provide information to the public	Providing information will help all citizens take responsibility for energy conservation	Federal Gov't., Province, Municipality	On-going

Goal 11: Encourage the use of renewable energy sources

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Provide for wind turbines	Municipality	Province	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)
Support steps to harness tidal energy	Private Sector, Province	Municipality	On-going

Goal 12: Participate in a rural public transit system

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Partner in Kings Transit	All municipalities in Kings Transit		On-going
Investigate other ways of supporting public transportation	Municipality		Mid Term

Goal 13: Prepare for climate change

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Participate in the Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative (RAC) program	Province, Federal Gov't. (NR Canada)	Municipality	Near Term
Consider joining Partners for Climate Protection	Municipality	Province	Near Term

Goal 14: Consider preparation of a storm water management strategy

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Prepare a storm water management strategy	Municipality		Mid Term

Goal 15: Continue to provide efficient solid waste services

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Provide efficient solid waste services	Municipality		On-going

Economic Pillar

Goal 1: Support local resource industries

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Provide for forestry and mining industries in planning documents	Municipality	Province	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)

Goal 2: Protect farmland

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Protect farmland in planning documents	Municipality	Department of Agriculture, Farmers	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)

Goal 3: Support the Buy Local Movement

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Consider sponsoring or holding an event to promote the movement	Municipality	Agricultural Producers	Near Term

Goal 4: Encourage backyard and community gardens

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Encourage community gardens in urban areas	Municipality		Near Term
Provide for selling of produce from backyard gardens in planning documents	Municipality		On-going (policies exist in planning documents)

Goal 5: Embrace new technology

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Actively engage in new technologies	Municipality		On-going
Continue partnership in Valley Community Fibre Network	Municipality	Kings County, Windsor, Wolfville, Hantsport, Berwick	Ongoing

Goal 6: Encourage home based businesses

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Provide for businesses in residential areas in planning documents	Municipality		On-going (policies exist in planning documents)

Goal 7: Promote tourism

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Investigate way of attracting visitors	Municipality, Hants Regional Development Authority (RDA), Chamber of Commerce	Tourism Operators	Near Term
Encourage heritage tourism	Municipality, Hants RDA		On-going

Goal 8: Work with the neighbouring municipalities to foster economic opportunities

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Continue to participate in the Regional Development Authority	Hants RDA	Municipalities in the Authority	On-going

Goal 9: Retain and encourage new industries and businesses

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Investigate possibilities of expanding the Industrial Park or developing new park	Municipality, Town of Windsor, Town of Hantsport, Hants RDA		Near Term

Social/Cultural Pillar**Goal 1: Provide recreational programs and opportunities for all residents**

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Continue recreational programs	Municipality		On-going
Consider preparation of a Parks and Open Space Strategy	Municipality		Mid Term
Consider partnerships such as ones with the Town of Windsor	Neighbouring Municipalities		Mid Term

Goal 2: Support Community Groups

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Explore new ways to support community groups	Municipality		On-going

Goal 3: Promote and participate in festivals

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Investigate new ways of supporting festivals	Municipality, Hants RDA		Mid Term

Goal 4: Explore opportunities to enhance heritage

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Support heritage projects	Municipality	Avon River Heritage Museum, West Hants Historical Society	Mid Term
Encourage heritage tourism	Municipality, Hants RDA		On-going

Goal 5: Encourage volunteerism

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Consider preparation of an inventory of volunteers	Municipality		Mid Term

Goal 6: Promote active transportation

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Consider requiring sidewalks and bicycle lanes on new streets	Municipality		Mid Term
Encourage province to include bicycle lanes in highway renewal projects	Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	Municipality	On-going
Designating bicycle routes	Municipality		Mid Term
Constructing additional trails	Municipality		Near Term

Goal 7: Provide safety for all citizens

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Continue to provide effective police services	Municipality, RCMP		On-going

Goal 8: Support Volunteer Fire Departments

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Upgrading/retrofit of community fire stations	Municipality, Volunteer Fire Departments		Near Term

Goal 9: Provide library services

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Continue to participate in the Annapolis Valley Library Board	Municipality	Municipalities of Annapolis and Kings Towns of Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown, Middleton, Berwick, Kentville, Wolfville, Hantsport, and Windsor Villages of Kingston and Port Williams	Near Term

Goal 10: Provide emergency measure services

Actions	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Timing
Continue to participate in REMO	Municipality	Town of Windsor, Town of Hantsport, Provincial EMO	Near Term

Schedule F

Report Card – Integrated Community Sustainability Plan - West Hants

This Report Card will be used by the Municipality in a process to gauge the progress being made on the actions identified in the ICSP.

Environmental Pillar

Goal 1: Protection of watercourses, shorelines, and wetland

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Conduct a study to identify measures to strengthen the protection of these resources	Mid Term			
Improved mapping of wetlands	Identified as a priority in the Provincial Wetland Conservation Strategy.			
Participate in the preparation of a Provincial Coastal Strategy	Near term			

Goal 2: Provide good quality drinking water in the serviced areas

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Continue to provide good quality drinking water to Falmouth and Three Mile Plains	On-going			

Goal 3: Protect the source of public water supplies

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
There are three sources of public water supplies in West Hants. Council will continue to work with all stakeholders to protect these sources.	On-going			

Goal 4: Encourage Testing of Private Wells

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Investigate ways of encouraging homeowners to test their drinking water on a more regular basis	On-going			

Goal 5: Continue to effectively treat wastewater in the serviced areas

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Upgrade Falmouth wastewater treatment plant	Near term			

Goal 6: Encourage proper maintenance of on-site sewage disposal systems

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Encourage proper maintenance through education	On-going			

Goal 7: Encourage responsible forest management

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Support review of forestry regulations	Near Term			

Goal 8: Preserve the rural character of the Municipality

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Encourage new development into growth centres	Ongoing (policies exist in planning documents)			
Encourage cluster development as an alternative to traditional subdivision	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)			
Consider cluster development through Wastewater Management Districts	Mid Term			
Monitor growth on existing rural roads	Periodic			

Goal 9: Reduce the municipality's energy consumption

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Participate in the Eco Trust Program	Near Term			
Other energy saving practices	On-going			

Goal 10: Support Energy Conservation

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Provide information to the public	On-going			

Goal 11: Encourage the use of renewable energy sources

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Provide for wind turbines	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)			
Support steps to harness tidal energy	On-going			

Goal 12: Participate in a rural public transit system

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Partner in Kings Transit	On-going			
Investigate other ways of supporting public transportation	Mid Term			

Goal 13: Prepare for climate change

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Participate in the Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative (RAC) program	Near Term			
Consider joining Partners for Climate Protection	Near Term			

Goal 14: Consider preparation of a storm water management strategy

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Prepare a storm water management strategy	Mid Term			

Goal 15: Continue to provide efficient solid waste services

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Provide efficient solid waste services	On-going			

Economic Pillar

Goal 1: Support local resource industries

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Provide for forestry and mining industries in planning documents	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)			

Goal 2: Protect farmland

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Protect farmland in planning documents	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)			

Goal 3: Support the Buy Local Movement

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Consider sponsoring or holding an event to promote the movement	Near Term			

Goal 4: Encourage backyard and community gardens

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Encourage community gardens in urban areas	Near Term			
Provide for selling of produce from backyard gardens in planning documents	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)			

Goal 5: Embrace new technology

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Actively engage in new technologies	On-going			
Continue partnership in Valley Community Fibre Network	Ongoing			

Goal 6: Encourage home based businesses

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Provide for businesses in residential areas in planning documents	On-going (policies exist in planning documents)			

Goal 7: Promote tourism

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Investigate way of attracting visitors	Near Term			
Encourage heritage tourism	On-going			

Goal 8: Work with the neighbouring municipalities to foster economic opportunities

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Continue to participate in the Regional Development Authority	On-going			

Goal 9: Retain and encourage new industries and businesses

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Investigate possibilities of expanding the Industrial Park or developing new park	Near Term			

Social/Cultural Pillar**Goal 1: Provide recreational programs and opportunities for all residents**

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Continue recreational programs	On-going			
Consider preparation of a Parks and Open Space Strategy	Mid Term			
Consider partnerships such as ones with the Town of Windsor	Mid Term			

Goal 2: Support Community Groups

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Explore new ways to support community groups	On-going			

Goal 3: Promote and participate in festivals

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Investigate new ways of supporting festivals	Mid Term			

Goal 4: Explore opportunities to enhance heritage

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Support heritage projects	Mid Term			
Encourage heritage tourism	On-going			

Goal 5: Encourage volunteerism

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Consider preparation of an inventory of volunteers	Mid Term			

Goal 6: Promote active transportation

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Consider requiring sidewalks and bicycle lanes on new streets	Mid Term			
Encourage province to include bicycle lanes in highway renewal projects	On-going			
Designating bicycle routes	Mid Term			
Constructing additional trails	Near Term			

Goal 7: Provide safety for all citizens

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Continue to provide effective police services	On-going			

Goal 8: Support Volunteer Fire Departments

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Upgrading/retrofit of community fire stations	Near Term			

Goal 9: Provide library services

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Continue to participate in the Annapolis Valley Library Board	Near Term			

Goal 10: Provide emergency measure services

Actions	Timing	Reviewed for Progress - Comments	Reviewed on:	Date of Next Review
Continue to participate in REMO	Near Term			