

ENVISION KENTVILLE

PHASE ONE: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT



INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

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Introduction

Over the past several months, over 200 Kentville citizens have participated in broadly identifying *community sustainability assets and challenges* through public consultations. This Community Consultation Report is based on this first phase of the “Community Sustainability Dialogue” for the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) with supporting documentation from various other studies and surveys. This report offers a qualitative ‘snapshot’ of what Kentville citizens’ value and are concerned about when considering the present and future of the community.

The report has been divided into the following three sections:

<p>SUSTAINABILITY ASSETS (p.6)</p> <p>Location & Sense of Place</p> <p><i>Land Base & Development Potential Green Space, Cornwallis River & Natural Features</i></p> <p>Local Economy: Service Niche</p> <p>Two Key Assets</p> <p><i>Educational Capacity Active Transportation</i></p>	<p>SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES (p.16)</p> <p><i>Environmental Issues & Challenges Economic Issues & Challenges Growth & Development Issues & Challenges Social & Cultural Issues & Challenges</i></p>	<p>DRAFT VISION STATEMENT (p.31)</p> <p><i>Kentville is a healthy, vibrant, integrated and complete community where citizens can live, work and play in an environment that supports a high quality of life.</i></p> <p><i>Endorsed by Town of Kentville Council</i></p> <p><i>June 30, 2009</i></p>
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Integrated Community Sustainability Planning is a mandatory requirement of all Canadian Municipalities to continue to access federal Gas Tax transfer funds and offers an opportunity for the community reflect on current assets and challenges and to envision a sustainable future. The next steps for the Kentville ICSP will include community surveying activities to verify the reliability of the sustainability assets and challenges identified through public consultation, before moving forward with development of strategic goals and objectives within the verified community sustainability themes. Version One of the Kentville ICSP will be complete by March, 2010.

Public comments and input into the consultation findings presented in this report may be addressed to:

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For more information about the 'Envision Kentville' Integrated Community Sustainability Planning process, please see:

http://town.kentville.ns.ca/townhall_sustainability.cfm

<http://www.envisionkentville.blogspot.com>

To join the Envision Kentville list serve, please send a 'subscribe' email to:

envision-kentville@googlegroups.com

Context: Sustainability & Community-Building Processes

“We do not inherit the Earth from our Elders. We borrow it from our Children.”

‘Sustainability’ can be understood as *becoming more efficient in the ways that we live, work and play to meet our current needs to ensure that the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is not compromised.* In the Kings County GPI Community Profile (2002), GPI Atlantic reported that, “... the Ecological Footprint of Nova Scotians was 8.1 ha per person, and the Canadian Footprint was 7.6 ha per person. In other words, if everyone in the world consumed at Canadian or Nova Scotian levels, we would need at least four planets Earth to provide the necessary energy and resources and to absorb the waste produced.” Further, the study found that, “the vast majority of Kings County residents acknowledge that they consume more than they need, produce too much waste, and should pay more attention to conserving resources for future generations” (ibid). Ultimately, sustainability is about becoming less impactful on the environment in the ways we (individually and collectively) consume and produce waste in order to ensure that the opportunities and access to resources for future generations are not compromised.

The Jacques Whitford ICSP Background Study for the Annapolis Valley Municipalities (2008) found that when regional citizens were asked to identify the overall, number one initiative that they believed would make the biggest positive difference for their community’s well-being, common themes included:

- ***Promoting energy sustainability (alternative energy, conservation, GHG reduction);***
- ***Improving physical infrastructure (roads, ferry, trails, sewage treatment plants, internet);***
- ***Enhancing community inclusion;***
- ***Protecting agricultural land and the rural nature of the Valley; and***
- ***Supporting entrepreneurship and strengthening primary industries***

As you will find in the reading of this report, these results are largely consistent with the findings of the ICSP community consultations in Kentville.

Key findings from the recently released Kings County ICSP Report (2009) found that the top six most often cited indicators of a successful achievement of sustainability in Kings County (from a citizen's perspective) are:

- ***cleaner rivers and streams (77%);***
- ***protecting the needs of the next generation (64%);***
- ***more jobs (62%);***
- ***more people using transit (61%);***
- ***more community participation from our residents (60%); and,***
- ***more farmland in use (59%).***

As you will find in the reading of this report, these results are similarly consistent with the findings of the ICSP community consultations in Kentville.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSETS

Location & Sense of Place

Highlights

- *Location*
- *Rural/urban balance*
- *Proximity to services*
- *History & culture*
 - *Festivals*
- *Scale as a “town”*
- *Land base and development potential*
- *Green space & natural features*
- *Community values (“valley” identity: caring, safe)*
- *Water supply, local food*

In 2009, citizens of Kentville can take pride in a community that values a high quality of life while continuing to develop and enhance its unique sense of place, community identity and appeal as a destination of choice for new citizens and visitors alike. Citizens of Kentville take great value in a community that is rich in natural and human assets and filled with future potential and opportunities for sustainable development. However, the *key challenge for Town of Kentville (and the region as a whole) will be to ensure that growth and development that will occur here over the next few decades, does so in a way that balances the four pillars of sustainability (economic, social, cultural and environmental) in order to ensure the longevity, productivity and sustainability of local resources and assets for future generations and does not compromise the high quality of life presently valued by local citizens.*

Location

Located on the Cornwallis River in the Annapolis Valley in Kings County, Nova Scotia, the citizens of Kentville value the centrality of the Town. The local roots – rich in history and culture – and the Valley’s regional identity are assets that are greatly valued

by citizens. Further, citizens value the important role that the Town of Kentville plays as a regional service centre with good accessibility to regional economic, social, cultural and environmental amenities and assets.

The location and centrality of Kentville are highly valued assets by community members. Regionally, the proximity to services, balance between urban and rural lifestyles and amenities, and accessibility of Kentville to provincial transportation corridors (i.e. Highway 101) are considered to be among the location assets of the community. Additionally, the climate, weather and geographic location of Kentville, in addition to the rich culture and history of the region, are assets worthy of note as key attractive features for citizens. The value of regional tourism as a contributor to the local economy is a key regional asset. A key challenge for Kentville is to continue to develop its local niche as a part of the larger regional mosaic.

Sense of Place

Regional interdependence is an important theme to citizens of Kentville. As Kentville citizens are of the “Valley”, there are important shared values and sense of place and identity that are regional in nature. Continuing in the tradition of regional cooperation, building upon a strong history of regional collaboration with Kings County and neighboring communities is of value to Kentville citizens.

With regional population growth trends indicating the increasing popularity of the Annapolis Valley as a location of choice for new residents, the Town of Kentville is well-positioned to take advantage of this regional growth trend. With many citizens choosing to make Kentville their home based on the ‘scale’ of the town and the positive values associated with living in a smaller urban environment (i.e. it is human-scale; accessible – for walking & biking; there is ample green space; there are strong social networks with positive community values; it is safe) – the challenge for the future development of Kentville will be to ensure that growth occurs in a ‘balanced’ manner. Citizens shared the common concern that “poorly planned, short-sighted, indiscriminate development” with a “lack of vision” would generally result in the net “loss of local and regional assets”

and consequently undermine the features that currently make Kentville an appealing place to live.

As a hub in the Annapolis Valley, Kentville values its rich arts and cultural assets and services as contributors to the community's sense of place. The celebration of seasonal festivals and local agricultural heritage are widely valued including: the Apple Blossom Festival and the Fall Harvest Festival & 'pumpkin people'. Centre Stage Theatre, the local museums and a rich culture of local artists and musicians add depth to the local cultural fabric and positively contribute to the community's sense of place, the Town identity and value of local history.

Specific arts and cultural services / assets of community value include:

- Kentville Library
- Centre Stage Theatre
- Kings County Museum (and other local museums)
- Faith Institutions (churches)
- Farmer's Market
- Local Artists, Artisans and Musicians
- Historic Buildings
- Festivals

Additionally, citizens value the access and opportunities for recreation in Kentville. The ability to enjoy healthy, active lifestyles through community recreational opportunities is of value to Kentville citizens. Citizens of Kentville value the access and the capacities for recreation provided by the Kentville Parks and Recreation services and facilities. This includes valuing: the Kentville Trail System, the Kentville Arena, the Kentville Ballpark & Outdoor Pool, the Valley Sports and Event Centre, the Kentville Bird Sanctuary and other community parks and recreational facilities.

Land Base & Development Potential

The existing land base within the geographic boundaries of the Town of Kentville is a unique asset that positions the community for future residential and commercial growth and development potential. *Ensuring that the municipal planning & strategic policy framework maintains a balance for the future commercial and residential*

development of Kentville’s existing land base, marks a key sustainability challenge for the future of the Town of Kentville.

A related challenge is the *need for consistency and collaboration between local municipal units in land use planning and policy* to ensure that growth and development is concentrated along the emerging ‘linear city’ corridor (i.e. Coldbrook to Wolfville) to ensure the protection of regional assets – notably agricultural farm land and the ‘rural/urban’ mix of amenities highly valued by Kentville and regional citizens.

Green Space, Cornwallis River & Natural Features

The wide availability and good accessibility to green space in the community are assets that are widely valued by Kentville citizens. Aesthetically, scenic green space is a key community asset that is highly valued by Kentville citizens for contributing to a greater quality of life, peace of mind, sense of place and sense of well-being among the Town’s populace. Citizens value natural sites in the community and would like to see green space better maintained and improved – particularly through the enhancement of the Kentville Trail System to link and connect the Town’s parks and green areas and act as corridors for Active Transportation. Citizens generally shared concerns over the loss of the habitat functions (i.e. losing trees & forest ecosystems, the poor quality of the river) in green space areas of the Town – furthering the evidence for more holistic, environmental planning approaches to future town growth and development. Some of the key natural sites of interest identified by the public through consultation include:

- Cornwallis River
- Mill Creek / Millbrook
- Old Growth Forest @ the
Kentville Agricultural
Research Centre
- The “Gorge” & Ravine Forest
- Participark

Cornwallis River

As the central natural feature in Kentville, the Cornwallis River has multiple environmental, social & cultural values, including being valued for its recreational potential as an attractive community green corridor and its inherent value as a natural waterway that generally contributes to the Town's quality of life. However, citizens widely shared their concerns regarding the Cornwallis River. While there has been progress, the community perception remains that the Cornwallis River is a polluted river, unsafe for recreation (i.e. fishing, swimming and boating) and in need of community and regional planning and cooperation for ecological restoration and sustainable watershed management.

Further, the Cornwallis River is perceived by many in the community as a liability. With projected sea level rise and increased storm severity associated with Global Climate Change, there are significant social, economic and environmental liabilities associated with the flooding of the Cornwallis River in the Town of Kentville. These factors, when combined with the world's highest tides on the Bay of Fundy and the tidal nature of the Cornwallis River, exacerbate the vulnerability of Kentville's low-lying areas (including the downtown core) and community infrastructure (streets, buildings, water/wastewater systems). While, for the present, the legacy of the Cornwallis River dyke system remains intact, preventing detrimental impacts of climate change on the Town of Kentville (and region) will require long-term, collaborative regional planning approaches to prepare for adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Local Economy: Service Niche

Highlights

- ***Well-established, diverse local socio- economic assets***
 - ***Valley Regional Hospital***
 - ***NSCC & Acadia***
 - ***Government Services***
 - ***Business Community***
 - ***Community Service Organizations***
- ***Skilled, knowledgeable & professional workforce***
- ***Educational capacity***
- ***Stable municipal tax rate***
- ***Regional growth trends***

Kentville citizens perceive the Town as the *service centre of the Valley* with many positive social, cultural and economic spin-offs, including:

- Well-established business/financial, commercial, government, medical and other community services that act as the employment foundation and hubs for the local economy
- A professional, knowledgeable and skilled workforce that positively contributes to the well-being of Kentville’s diversified, service based economy and municipal tax base
- A solid foundation on which to maintain, build on and enhance Kentville’s reputation as the service niche in the Valley
- A stable municipal tax rate that positively contributes to the appeal of Kentville for new citizens and businesses and positively creates a stable municipal tax base

Citizens of Kentville value the existing socio-economic assets of the community – which, when combined with other assets, one citizen collectively referred to as “The Kentville Package”. Together, these assets collectively support a vibrant, healthy, stable and relatively diverse local economy that provides employment and contributes to local prosperity allowing citizens and families to establish roots in the community.

Specific socio-economic services / assets of community value for their service and employment contributions include:

- Valley Regional Hospital & Health Care Services
- NSCC Kingstec & Acadia University
- Municipal, Provincial & Federal Government Services
- Kentville Agricultural Research Centre
- Kings County Academy
- Kentville Industrial Park
- Local Businesses & Commerce/Financial Services
 - Restaurants, Cafes, Local Retailers, Banks
 - RDA: Kings County Economic Development
- Local Government Services
 - Police and Fire Services
 - Recreation Services
 - Municipal Water and Wastewater Treatment Services
 - Municipal Waste Management and Public Transit Services
- Community Service Organizations (i.e. Fidelis House, Red Door Drop-In Centre, Soup Kitchen, Volunteerism, VCLA, VANSDA, Sports Associations etc.)

Two Key Assets

Educational Capacity

Worthy of note as a key asset and contributor to the economic health of the community is the *educational capacity* of Kentville. This is a comparative advantage of the Town's location in close proximity to two post-secondary institutions (NSCC Kingstec & Acadia University) with some of the positive social, cultural and economic spin-offs from these post-secondary institutions including:

- Accessibility to educational and knowledge resources & a local culture that values skills, expertise, education & knowledge
- Features for the attraction and retention of new citizens and businesses with the appeal of being located in close proximity to post-secondary institutions to attract and retain skilled and educated workers
- The innovation and economic development potential associated with post-secondary institutions and positive opportunities for community/institutional partnerships (i.e. economic development, renewable energy)
- The roles that post-secondary education institutions play as an economic driving force in the community with contributions to employment stability for local workforce

Further complimenting the attraction/retention value for new citizens is the development of the new KCA elementary school in Kentville. However, some citizens did share concerns regarding the future use of the old KCA building and the location of the new school site.

Potential for Active Transportation

Another key theme that emerged through public consultation was the potential for the development of active transportation in Kentville. Active transportation includes all non-motorized modes of transportation and is generally understood to be a positive

contributor to healthy, active lifestyles while more broadly contributing to environmental sustainability through decreasing vehicle emissions and air pollutants. This intersection of environment, health and recreation benefits makes active transportation a winning combination for desirable and sustainable community development. Citizens readily provided their input on this key area of interest in promoting community sustainable development.

Citizens offered that creating viable options to improve active transportation begins with providing *better active transportation infrastructure within the community (i.e. bike lanes, linked trails systems, appropriate signage, safe bicycle storage)*. This is consistent with the findings of the Kentville Recreation Survey (2009) which showed that 61% of citizens claim that access to paths, trails and green spaces are very important factors in encouraging physical activity. The numerous quality of life benefits of active transportation for Kentville citizens and visitors alike include:

- *Health & Recreation Benefits*
 - Combating the epidemic of obesity related illnesses by encouraging a culture of healthy, active lifestyles for Kentville citizens and visitors
 - This is consistent with the findings of the Kentville Recreation Survey (2009) which showed that the top two reasons for citizen physical activities participation were motivations of “well-being / living longer / staying healthy” and because citizens “like to exercise / enjoy it / love it”.
- *Environmental Benefits*
 - Contributing to local and global environmental sustainability by getting citizens out of cars and decreasing vehicle emissions impacts on global climate change and poor local air quality

- *Traffic Diversion Benefits*
 - Improving the traffic issues in downtown Kentville by getting people out of cars, thus freeing up parking spaces for non-residents & the working population of commuters to Kentville

- *Sense of Place Benefits*
 - Encouraging ‘age-friendly’ transportation options that are accommodating to seniors and youth alike – thus creating an inclusive, multi-generational sense of place in the community
 - Generally building on and improving the attractiveness of Kentville as place to live, work and play and,
 - Concretely re-affirming and enhancing the image and identity of Kentville as a vibrant and thriving, ‘liveable’ community of health and recreation supported by a complete network of clean, safe and accessible active transportation trails and green space corridors

At a regional level, collaboration with municipal partners is a necessary element to achieve the greater goal of regional active transportation networks desired by citizens of Kentville as well as regionally for the working population of commuters to Kentville. Encouraging safe and efficient active transportation routes as an option of choice for the working population of daily commuters to Kentville is very much an achievable sustainability goal. The recently released Kings County draft Trails Strategy re-affirms this with the re-development of the DAR Rail Corridor (Kentville to Wolfville) being highlighted as a regional active transportation priority and the vision statement reaffirming the County’s intentions to “...cooperate with others outside its jurisdiction to develop a comprehensive, safe trails network connecting communities, workplaces, and facilities for Active Transportation and healthy recreation.” Similarly, the offsetting quality of life benefits of regional active transportation networks generally enhance the image of the Valley as a destination of choice for new citizens and visitors alike.

SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

While Kentville offers a diverse socio-economic, educational and arts and cultural portfolio of assets, citizens perceive that there are considerable challenges facing the Town as whole. Throughout the first phase of the public consultation process, citizens widely shared their concerns and ideas regarding the sustainability challenges facing the community. This section summarizes the sustainability issues and challenges facing the Town of Kentville, as identified by the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- ***Global Climate Change:***
 - ***Impacts & adaptation***
- ***Water Quality***
 - ***Cornwallis River***
 - ***Carrying capacity of Town aquifers***
 - ***Protection & management of Town water resources***
 - ***State of water / wastewater infrastructure***
- ***Air Quality:***
 - ***'Downwind' health impacts***
 - ***Local sources of air pollution***
- ***Energy Security:***
 - ***'Peak Oil'***
 - ***Loss of Town energy autonomy***
 - ***Lack of access to renewable energy options***

'Think globally, act locally' captures the essence that there are 'bigger picture' environmental challenges facing the town of Kentville, Nova Scotia. As a small yet, intrinsic part of the global ecological system, the Town of Kentville has a role and responsibility to current and future generations to address these 'bigger picture' environmental issues through pursuing solutions that will contribute locally and globally

to sustainability. The initiative shown by the Kentville 'anti-idling' campaign is a good first step in this respect. On this note, the 'bigger picture' environmental challenges of growing concern to Kentville citizens include:

- ***Global Climate Change:***

- Impacts of sea level rise & flooding of the Cornwallis River negatively impacting on the Town's low-lying areas & Town infrastructure & population
- Increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events and impacts (i.e. heat waves/droughts, storms & increased precipitation) negatively impacting on the Town's population and regional assets (i.e. agriculture)

- ***Declining Air Quality:***

- The 'Down-Wind' & 'Valley' health effects of industrial pollution from the Northeastern US & Canada and the health effects of agricultural applications of herbicides and pesticides on human health (i.e. cancer, asthma) and,
- The more localized, negative impacts on Town air quality from thoroughfare regional traffic & vehicle idling;

On this topic, citizens aspire for regional approaches and greater collaboration with the province to address regional air quality & health concerns.

- ***Declining Water Capacity & Quality:***

While the Town of Kentville enjoys an excellent, clean municipal water supply, effectively serviced by the Town's municipal water and wastewater delivery infrastructure, citizens shared their concerns regarding:

- The carrying capacity & quality of Town aquifer/groundwater to supply & support future Town growth and development;

- Concerns regarding the deterioration of Town water and wastewater infrastructure;
 - The potential for aquifer/groundwater depletion and loss of the Town's freshwater resources if not properly understood and managed;
 - The polluted nature of the Cornwallis River
- ***Energy Issues:***
 - Energy Security: growing concerns over the rising costs of energy & “peak oil” (declining supply of cheap and accessible fossil fuels) and the long term implications of declining global energy supplies affecting the Town and its citizens
 - Loss of Town energy autonomy & the questionable reliability of NS Power supply (i.e. power outages)
 - Lack of alternative energy options and incentives for the early adoption of alternative ‘clean’ energy (i.e. solar, wind, tidal, geo-thermal) in the community
 - Lack of access to renewable/clean energy options to mitigate harmful, climate changing greenhouse gases

ECONOMIC ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- *The “shifting” economic base of the community & region*
- *Kentville’s “Regional Niche”*
- *Agricultural land-use & productivity*

The “shifting” economic base of the community & region

- Decline in local agricultural economy and loss of agricultural jobs
- Unemployment as reflected in local job losses and closures (i.e. ACA)
- Loss / lack of local retail & businesses in Kentville
- Loss of manufacturing industries
- Loss of armed forces
- Fears of new taxation measures (i.e. increasing municipal taxes, introduction of deed transfer tax)
- Providing tax incentives for business retention
- Developing a regional marketing and promotions strategy for Kentville

Kentville’s “Regional Niche”: economic allocation & competition issues between municipalities at a regional level

- The decline of the local Kentville retail base and small businesses in Kentville due to the inability to compete with other areas (i.e. New Minas) for the attraction / retention of new businesses
- Perception that there is a lack of / breakdown of municipal cooperation between Town and County

Agricultural land-use & productivity

- Transitions of agricultural land to development
 - The regional transition of productive farmland to commercial and residential development and breakdown of the agricultural economy
- Growing concerns over long-term food security & continued access to a safe and reliable local food supply from agricultural decline

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- ***Sense of Place' & Community Identity Challenges***
- ***Infrastructure Quality and Maintenance***
- ***Managing for Future Growth & Development***
- ***“Thinking Outside the Box”:
Traffic & Transportation Planning***
- ***Downtown Revitalization***
- ***Attraction & retention of citizens and businesses***
- ***Recreation Infrastructure & Programming***

Sense of Place' & Community Identity Challenges

- Generally placing greater a emphasis and value on the important, diverse elements that contribute to the Town's unique sense of place and contribute creating a “liveable, safe and multi-generational” community (i.e. arts and culture, historic preservation, pedestrian friendly planning, revitalization activities, green space management etc.)
- Public perceptions that there are “unsafe” areas of Town
 - i.e. Trails and Parks, Centre Square after dark

Infrastructure Quality and Maintenance

- Addressing existing issues with community infrastructure (sidewalks, streets and roads, public works & recreation facilities) & related community concerns over the lack of, the age of, the issues of and the maintenance of community infrastructure
 - Community perceptions of poor planning & poor quality of public works
 - i.e. Cornwallis River dyke, abandoned water works etc.

Managing for Future Growth & Development

- Addressing and understanding the abilities of Town infrastructure to meet the future demands from Town growth
 - Addressing capacity issues to meet future growth demands (i.e. water, wastewater)
- Protecting and building on Town assets (i.e. service niche, 'Town' scale, green space)
 - i.e. further developing Kentville's "regional niche"

Geographic restrictions, jurisdictional challenges and issues associated with Town of Kentville boundaries

- Perceptions that "Kentville" extends beyond the actual geographic boundaries & the associated problems of planning / governance
 - i.e. North Kentville, NSCC Kingstec, Hospital

"Thinking Outside the Box" Traffic Planning

- Creating a pedestrian friendly, walkable community
 - i.e. better transportation planning in the downtown & investing in active transportation infrastructure
- Dealing with Traffic Issues:
 - i.e. the negative impacts on the Town from thorough-fare regional traffic flow (i.e. contributor to poor Town air quality, deterioration of Town streets and roads and non-conforming use with the aspired pedestrian-friendly community)
 - Concerns regarding the negative impacts of one way streets (i.e. confusion of non-local visitors and difficulties in Town navigation)
- Addressing Parking Issues:
 - Addressing the conflicting perspectives regarding parking in downtown Kentville
 - i.e. too much emphasis on parking, lack of parking availability

- Finding solutions and overcoming conflicts between parking user groups (i.e. working population, residential population, visitors)
- Changing community attitudes about transportation:
 - “Getting people out of cars”
 - Offering a diversity of accessible, age-friendly and efficient transportation options to change the ‘default’ option of the private automobile
 - “Education for public transit”
 - Changing the perception and the image surrounding public transit to encourage greater use of Kings Transit among commuters and citizens
 - Providing greater options for public transportation
 - i.e. Rail, car co-ops, seniors transportation services
 - Offering more “environmentally friendly transportation options”
 - Increasing access and linking active transportation infrastructure in the community that is linked to regionally networks (i.e. DAR Rail Corridor – Kentville to Wolfville)
 - Exploring the feasibility and supporting the development of a regional Fast Train service & “Park n’ Ride” infrastructure for local residents and Halifax commuters (i.e. GO transportation in the Greater Toronto Area)
 - Supporting the use of hybrid & fuel- efficient vehicles (i.e. through municipal procurement policies)

Downtown Revitalization

- Lost aesthetics of the Town of Kentville
 - “Ugly & deteriorating” buildings and commercial vacancies in the downtown core
 - Predominance of litter and garbage in public spaces and lack of garbage and recycling facilities in public spaces

- Lack of value given to agricultural and rail history of Kentville has created a lost sense of community identity and sense of place
- Cornwallis Inn is an undervalued asset as a community focal point/ landmark for revitalization and future re-development
- Lack of public art (i.e. to support local artists and improve community aesthetics)
- Questions regarding how to revive Kentville & re-create a sense of history?
 - i.e. Utilizing existing infrastructure by retrofitting & revitalizing old buildings for retail, commerce, residential development (i.e. potential for Webster Court, Cornwallis Inn, Old KCA, Old Library etc.)
- Creating aesthetically pleasing & inviting streetscapes to enhance Kentville's sense of place and attractiveness to citizens and visitors
 - i.e. Imagining the possibilities for *Centre Square, Websters Court, Cornwallis Inn*: Transforming the image of downtown Kentville and embracing the potential for the development of community focal points

Factors affecting the attraction & retention of people and businesses within the community

- Challenges affecting the start up capacity for new businesses and need for 'non-central' business spaces and zoning to accommodate for business incubation
- Dangers of 'over-development' or indiscriminate development jeopardizing community assets and deterring attraction/retention value of the community
- The NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) syndrome of citizen opposition to R-2 & R-3 zoning for moderate densification (i.e. low/medium rise apartments)
 - A development concentration on R-1 single family residential homes is generally not encouraging of mixed use development, densification (i.e. medium rise apartments/condominiums) or a diversity of housing choices and price options for new/current citizens
- Concerns over municipal taxation (i.e. deed-transfer tax, increasing property taxation, impacts on low-income citizens from increasing taxation)

Recreation Infrastructure & Programming

- The status of existing recreation infrastructure (i.e. high costs of old outdoor pool, winter & general maintenance of trails & parks, upgrading existing infrastructure – playgrounds)
- Improving Kentville Trail System
 - Safety & Garbage Issues
 - Connectivity Issues
 - Gaps in trails, parks and green space (i.e. West Main Street Extension Crossing?)

This is consistent with the Kentville Recreation Survey which showed that the development of green areas/trails/parks and open space ranked second most important as a specific aspect of citizen satisfaction with service delivery (51%)

- Addressing the need for diversification of recreation facilities
 - Youth / senior structures, multi-purpose facilities
 - i.e. Lack of activities for seniors (i.e. indoor activities, shuffleboard)
 - i.e. No indoor pool – need for year-round recreation facilities (i.e. Picnic Parks, Community Gardens, YMCA, multi-sportsplex)
 - Very few public spaces for teens (i.e. no Skate park)
 - Need for more youth structures, activities to attract families and retain youth & provide positive activities for the youth population of Kentville

This is consistent with the Kentville Recreation Survey which showed that 69% of Kentville citizens believe that building an arena / multi-purpose complex including an indoor swimming pool is 'most important' aspect in their satisfaction with specific aspects of service delivery

- A disproportionate emphasis on recreation in Town's funding focus (as compared to arts and culture)
- Lack of free programs

SOCIAL & CULTURAL ISSUES & CHALLENGES

Communications Issues

- Overcoming the perceived lack of communication and addressing the need for better cooperation between different sectors of the community
 - Encouraging community cooperation to “overcome silos” between sectors and groups by creating better public forums for community dialogue
 - Role for Town to play as a “navigator”
- Encouraging & valuing public participation in planning processes
- Open, inclusive, co-operative & responsive political leadership with a clear and consensual community vision
- Taking regional approaches to collaboratively address common sustainability themes of interest (i.e. economic development, protection of regional assets)
 - i.e. building on history of regional collaboration – Kings Transit, Valley Waste Management

Social Issues (“everyone’s problems, no-one’s responsibility”)

- Alcohol & drug abuse in community
 - Increasing drug use in high schools
 - Known drug-houses, downtown ‘hangers’ (drug-dealers) & related safety concerns
 - Poor long-term, local treatment options for addiction
- Mental health issues in community
 - Difficult populations to serve & difficulties overcoming the gaps in community service provision
 - Need for ‘hubs’ to provide navigation for community services and information sharing among service providers
- Improving the provision of services for mentally ill / homeless / addicted (i.e. food, clothing, housing, jobs, counseling)
- Gambling

- Family Services
 - Lack of community resource services for parents and families
 - Lack of daycare spaces
- Medical Service Challenges
 - No community clinic
 - Doctors shortage
 - Long wait times, bed shortages

Social Service Issues

- Ensuring coordinated & compassionate approaches to community issues of addiction, mental health and homelessness
Addressing lack of social housing & service gaps
 - No formal locations or opportunities to provide adequate transitional care services for the mentally ill, addicted &/or homeless

Arts and Cultural Challenges

- Lack of recognition given to significant community cultural landmarks
 - No clear inventory of historic buildings
 - No heritage bylaw or designation for the protection of historic buildings
- General under-appreciation of history of community
 - Lack of interpretative signage or educational opportunities for historic appreciation of agricultural and rail history of Town
 - “Lack of Kentville stories – panels, tours, kiosks”
 - Lack of value given to First Nations history (i.e. place names)
- Funding
 - Inequity in Town’s funding focus (i.e. arts and culture activities and support as compared to recreation services and facilities spending)
 - Budget cuts to services and programs (i.e. lack of financial support to Museums)
 - Generally perceived lack of support for music, theatre and visual arts

- Arts and Culture Infrastructure
 - Lack of outdoor, public performance venues for arts and cultural activities
 - Lack of permanent Farmer’s Market for accessible local food supply
 - Lack of public gathering spaces and multi-use common areas (i.e. Centre Square, picnic parks)
 - Lack of community gardens (i.e. to contribute to a safe, fresh and reliable local food supply and contribute to building community)
 - Lack of accommodations in Kentville for visitors to community (i.e. missed opportunities to capitalize on tourists, business travelers etc.)
- What is the “tourist value or appeal of Kentville”? What is here? Why stop in Kentville? What is the central attraction? What will make it better?

Diversity

- Ensuring Town is age friendly and has multi-generational appeal (youth & seniors)
 - Accessibility to services & activities
- Encouraging ethnic and cultural diversity in the community’s growth and development
 - Is the community open, welcoming, inclusive and integrated?
 - Overcoming cultural barriers to ‘sense of belonging’ among newcomers to community

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

The draft Vision Statement presented here is based on community input from the ICSP Public Consultation process. This draft Vision Statement presented here received unanimous endorsement from the Town of Kentville Council (June 30, 2009).

Preamble

The year is 2030. Kentville has strategically and proactively planned for and balanced growth to protect and ensure that residential, commercial and industrial development has been environmentally, socially, economically and culturally sustainable. In 2030, Kentville is characterized by cooperation and communication within the community and by interdependence with regional partners in meeting mutual sustainability goals and objectives. The Town has achieved its Vision of becoming a sustainable community by inclusively developing and implementing policies and practices and pursuing partnerships that have built on the multiple values of the Town's strategic assets. The Town fills a regional niche with a diversified and responsive local economy that values knowledge, creativity and innovation. By pursuing holistic, proactive and adaptive planning approaches Kentville is a vibrant, healthy, integrated and complete community.

Sustainability Vision for the Town of Kentville

Kentville is a healthy, vibrant, integrated and complete community where citizens can live, work and play in an environment that supports a high quality of life.

Vision Cornerstones

Healthy

****Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy, Healthy People, Healthy Culture****

In 2030, the Town of Kentville is a resilient & adaptable community in light of global environmental & economic challenges. Citizens value the Town as a safe & clean, tolerant & caring place where opportunities for healthy, active lifestyles are abundant, and reliable, clean renewable energy and local food security solutions provide for citizen's daily needs. Alternative and active transportation options abound in a pedestrian-friendly and well-planned community with the revitalized Cornwallis River as a community focal point for recreation. The Town maintains a commitment to ensure citizens' quality of life by taking appropriate measures to balance its growth and development to ensure the protection of local and regional assets and respect the ecological carrying capacity of natural resources (i.e. Town aquifers). As a thriving Town filled with capable, talented citizens; the Town exhibits a common sense of purpose characterized by high levels of internal cooperation with cohesive and cooperative community networks and open, accessible and responsive local governance. In addition, the Town maintains a positive tradition of regional cooperation with the shared goal of collaboratively working together to share resources and sustainably build regional prosperity.

Vibrant

In 2030, the Town of Kentville is an appealing, multi-generational, ethnically diverse, entrepreneurial and self-sufficient community with a unique sense of place as a Town. Citizens take pride in the Town as an inviting, attractive, creative haven of opportunity supported by a rich social fabric that includes: strong shared community values, arts, cultural and historic appreciation, accessible and plentiful community green space and recreational opportunities linked by complete active transportation corridors and networks, as well as a diverse and responsive local economy and a community spirit of education, innovation and participation.

Integrated

In 2030, the Town of Kentville is integrated and connected locally, regionally and globally. At the local level, the Town of Kentville pursues integrated approaches to decision-making and community development initiatives to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and maximum community benefits for sustainability are achieved. Multi-use facilities, integrated trail networks and innovative community partnerships and activities are commonplace examples of integrated community initiatives. By collaboratively working with neighboring municipalities to find its regional 'niche', the Town of Kentville continues to develop and offer a 'balanced' and integrated package of community services and development initiatives that build on current community assets while ensuring the protection of local and regional assets. Integrated regional planning approaches for economic and community growth and development, watershed management, as well as water, transportation and waste infrastructure development and service delivery are commonplace activities. There is an emphasis on the effective and integrated use of spatial resources within the Town to protect regional agricultural land and Town green space. Globally, the integrated community sustainability planning processes adopted by the Town are contextualized by a communal sense of global citizenship and environmental responsibility. Kentville continues to develop a unique and diverse economy that is locally based and internationally connected, taking advantage of innovative new technologies to attract and retain citizens and businesses as a part of the global village.

Complete

In 2030, Kentville citizens live, work and play in a community that is safe, accessible, inclusive and diverse. Kentville is a multi-generational community that is attractive and inviting to new families. It is a place where youth are valued and engaged and seniors are active and included. Kentville values and respects its multi-cultural, diverse and educated population of citizens and its workforce filled with highly skilled, talented workers able to innovatively and adaptively respond in the knowledge economy of the twenty-first century. Kentville is a place where citizens feel a sense of inclusion and

participation through accessible and responsive local governance. The Town of Kentville remains committed to work towards a common sustainable future through encouraging a cooperative focus on strong local networks for the local economy, increasing access to arts and culture, community heritage values as well as pursuing environmental sustainability in the areas of transportation planning, green space and community design and form, education and community services to encourage appropriate environmental community attitudes.