

Municipality of the District of Argyle

# **Integrated Community Sustainability Plan**



Revised  
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DRAFT

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**SECTION 1**  
**INTRODUCTION**

## ABOUT THE ICSP

Communities across Nova Scotia were required to prepare an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) by 2010 as a key requirement of the Federal Gas Tax Agreement and the Municipal Funding Agreement with the Nova Scotia Government. Gas tax revenues are used to fund green infrastructure projects in their communities. The ICSP is a long term community plan designed to provide vision and direction for the Municipality of Argyle as it navigates towards a healthy and prosperous future. This planning document recognizes the integrated and interdependent relationship between the economy, the environment and the social and culture dimensions of our communities. The fundamental components of this ICSP will become part of the new Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) once the plan review process, currently underway, is completed.

## A GLOBAL ISSUE

Sustainability is a global challenge that is well documented. The “Living Planet Report” (World Wide Fund for Nature, 2008) shows that by the mid-2030’s we will need the equivalent of two planet earths to sustain our current lifestyles if our demands on the planet continue to increase at the present rates. The report shows that more than three quarters of the world’s people are now living in nations that are ecological debtors, where national consumption has outstripped their country’s biological capacity. Global sustainability challenges include water scarcity, pollution, deforestation and climate change as well as social and income inequality. The world’s poor also tend to be disproportionately affected by environmental problems.

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Atlantic Canadians have experienced first-hand the impacts of unsustainable activities in the fishing industry. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) included in their 2004-2006 Sustainable Development Strategy the following description of the sustainability challenges we face in Atlantic Canada:

*“With limited economic options, many areas of Atlantic Canada face social challenges in enabling communities to simultaneously enhance or maintain the well-being of their people, with due regard for ecosystem, health and employment objectives. Confronting these challenges must occur in ways that do not place unbearable environmental, economic or social burdens on this and future generations. Atlantic Canada’s communities, therefore, require innovative thinking to develop the approaches, partnerships and tools that can effectively address their social issues, while respecting the need to assure clean air and water, energy, employment opportunities, adequate health care, affordable transportation and housing.”*

These concerns are reflected in the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA), passed by the Nova Scotia legislature in 2007 (Bill No. 146). The Act contains 21 environmental and economic goals for 2020. It is one of the strongest pieces of provincial or territorial sustainability legislation in Canada.

## SUSTAINABILITY FOR ARGYLE

The development of an ICSP and the review of existing planning documents is an important opportunity for municipal council to be engaged in a new community planning process. A planning process designed to identify community assets, address a variety of issues and challenges facing our communities today and create a long range vision and strategy that will lead to solutions for the future. Whether the issue is climate change, community energy, land use, transportation, or economic development there is a need to address these issues in a more comprehensive and integrated way and from both a regional and long term perspective that encourages municipal cooperation in planning for the future. Public participation is an important component in the planning process and an opportunity for citizens to be involved in creating that future.



The definition below was adapted from the definition developed by the Town of Bridgewater based on a science-based definition of sustainability called The Natural Step. For more information on The Natural Step, please visit [www.naturalstep.ca](http://www.naturalstep.ca).

Ultimately, sustainability means that future generations will be able to enjoy the same quality of life as we do. The Natural Step outlines clear goals for a sustainable society, which can be summarized as:

- All people have the capacity to meet their basic needs
- Natural ecosystems do not become continuously degraded
- Pollutants do not continuously build up in the environment

From these principles comes the definition of sustainability for the District of Argyle, shown below:

### Sustainability Means...

	<b>Living within the Earth's means:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminating pollution</li><li>• Protecting natural systems</li><li>• Conserving resources for future generations</li></ul>
<b>WHILE...</b>	
<b>Meeting basic human needs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical, mental, economic, social, spiritual</li><li>• Protection from harm</li><li>• For both current and future generations</li></ul>	

## SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

In order to achieve sustainability in the municipality, the following four sustainability principles have been defined and will form the basis of the ICSP and the decision framework for future development. The goals, objectives and policies to be contained within the new Municipal Planning Strategy are influenced and guided by the four sustainability principles endorsed by PAC and Council in November 2009.

- **Natural Environment:** We will strive to protect ecological diversity and prevent damage to our natural assets including our coastal areas, beaches, rivers, lakes, forests, streams and wetlands.
- **Resources:** We will reduce pollution and waste and conserve both renewable and non-renewable resources so that these resources remain for future generations.
- **Economy:** We will take action to enhance and support our local and regional economy and ensure that future economic development is balanced with social, environmental and cultural concerns.
- **People & Communities:** We will work together to maintain and improve the quality of life for all our residents.

## ICSP STRUCTURE

The ICSP is made up of twelve sustainability solution areas, which will define the areas that will be addressed in the ICSP. The sustainability principles have been used in the development of the ICSP to test the goal and objective statements against the definition of sustainability. Each sustainability solution area consists of goals and objectives, which define what the Municipality of Argyle will try to achieve in each of the solution areas. Each solution area has actions, which describes how the Municipality of Argyle will take action to achieve the goals and objectives. Other related solution areas affected by the actions are indicated, along with the possible person or department responsible for achieving each action.

## GAS TAX FUND

The ICSP was prepared to comply with federal and provincial requirements for continued receipt of monies from the Gas Tax Fund. This fund is provided by the federal government and administered provincially by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR). Gas tax funds are to be invested in environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure. Eligible project categories include public transit, community energy systems, water, wastewater management, solid waste management, roads and bridges, where it can be demonstrated that they will enhance environmental sustainability outcomes. Funding can also be used by municipalities to help them develop long-term plans for improving local quality of life. The required outcomes defined by the federal government are cleaner air, cleaner water and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Funding is distributed to municipalities by the Province of Nova Scotia. The distribution is based on a formula proposed by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) and the distribution formula includes population, the number of dwellings in a municipality and municipal expenditure. Municipalities must enter into an agreement with the Province (Municipal Funding Agreement) and submit a capital budget identifying eligible project expenditures as well as meet reporting requirements (of which the ICSP was one) before funds are released (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, 2010). The amount which will be received each fiscal year after 2009/10 is expected to be approximately the same as the amount received in the 2009/10 fiscal year.

The Municipality is required to submit a Capital Investment Plan (CIP) annually, which provides to the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat a detailed understanding of anticipated investments into tangible capital assets, including basic facilities, services and installations needed for the functioning of the community such as bridges, roads, water systems and wastewater treatment and collection facilities.

The table below shows the amount of Gas Tax funding received and spent so far by the Municipality of the District of Argyle.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditures*</b>
2006-07	112,406 (received)	112,406
2007-08	150,513 (received)	150,513
2008-09	189,848 (received)	189,848
2009-10	380,360 (received)	380,360
2010-11	367,821 (received)	367,821
2011-12	365,211 (received)	265,211
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,453,753</b>	<b>1,353,753</b>

*\*Note: reported expenditures do not include accrued interest.*

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**SECTION 2**  
**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

## OVERVIEW

The Municipality of the District of Argyle is located on the southwest shore of Nova Scotia and is a rural area with a population of 8,656 (Statistics Canada, 2007). Most of the municipality's residents live in coastal communities originally settled by boat. The total land area of the District is 1,527.10 km<sup>2</sup>. The Municipality of Argyle is one of three municipal units in Yarmouth County and is bounded by the municipalities of Barrington to the east, Yarmouth to the west and Clare to the north. The municipality is multicultural in nature with an Acadian, First Nation and European heritage and a significant percentage of the population are of Acadian descent and French speaking. The Tusket Islands as well as the Islands located in Lobster Bay form the unique southern boundary of the municipality. A large portion of the interior of the municipality is crown land owned by the Province of Nova Scotia and managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Portions of the provincially designated Tobeatic Wilderness Area and Wildlife Management Area are located in the northern part of the municipality.

## PEOPLE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2006 Census showed a 0.5% decrease in population in the Municipality of Argyle, dropping from 8,698 in 2001 to 8,656 in 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2007). Declining population is seen across much of Nova Scotia, especially in rural communities.

The median age of the population is 42.7 years, which is slightly higher than the Nova Scotia median of 41.8 years (Statistics Canada, 2007). Figure 1 below shows that age distribution of the population from the 2006 Census data. The graph indicates that the Municipality of Argyle has a lower percentage of population between the ages of 15 – 29, and a higher percentage of the population is 55 years and older, than the Nova Scotia average. This trend is not unique to Nova Scotia; it is common in rural communities across Canada. This age distribution has a significant impact on the community, schools and economy, also as the baby boomers age, the percentage of seniors is expected to increase significantly in the coming years, along with a increase in demand for senior's services such as health care, housing and recreational opportunities.

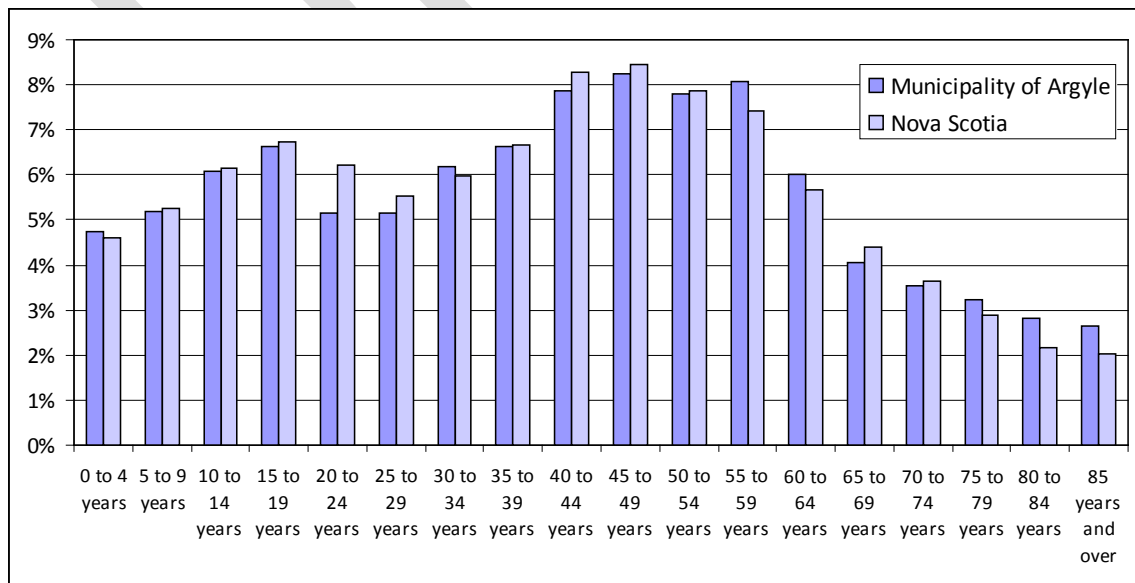


Figure 1. Age Distribution from 2006 Census for the Municipality of Argyle compared with Nova Scotia.

In the Municipality of Argyle 62% of the population is fluent in both English and French. There is a small immigrant population, which is 2% of the total population. The municipality has several seasonal residents, with 14% of the private dwellings not occupied year round. There are many private dwellings which are older, with 78% of dwellings being constructed before 1986. With 96% of dwellings being single detached houses, this does not leave many different housing options throughout the municipality (Statistics Canada, 2007).

## INCOME

The median household income in 2005 in the Municipality of Argyle was \$54,978, which is slightly lower than the Nova Scotia average of \$55,412. The median for couple households with children in the Municipality of Argyle in 2005 was \$72,786 and was closer to the Nova Scotia average of \$73,048 (Statistics Canada, 2007). Figure 2 below compares income by household for the Municipality of Argyle with other municipalities in Nova Scotia.

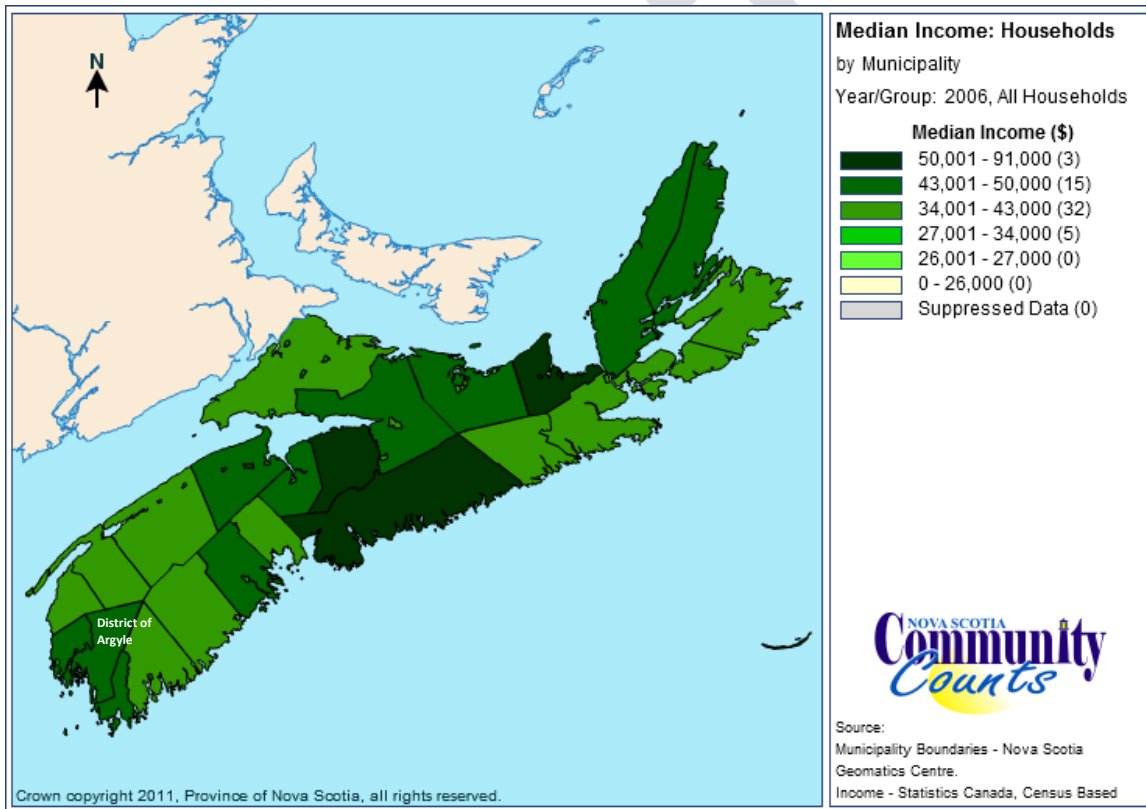


Figure 2. Household Median Income (2006).

Statistics Canada uses the Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) as a measure to identify families and individuals who have incomes that are below an established level where the household expenditures are disproportionately high for meeting basic needs, including food, shelter and clothing (Statistics Canada, 2008). In 2005, 5.6% of residents were classified as Low Income in the Municipality of Argyle, compared to 13.8% for Nova Scotia (Statistics Canada, 2007). Although this figure is lower than the Nova Scotia average, the difference in median income figures indicate that many residents of the Municipality of Argyle have income just above the LICO measure.

## ECONOMY

The primary economic activities in the Municipality of Argyle are agriculture, fishing, fish processing and related marine industries. There is also a significant tourism industry (village, courthouse, museums, etc), along with the wind farm located in Lower West Pubnico, forestry, car dealership in Tusket and government services. The distribution of employment by industry is shown in Figure 3 (Statistics Canada, 2007).

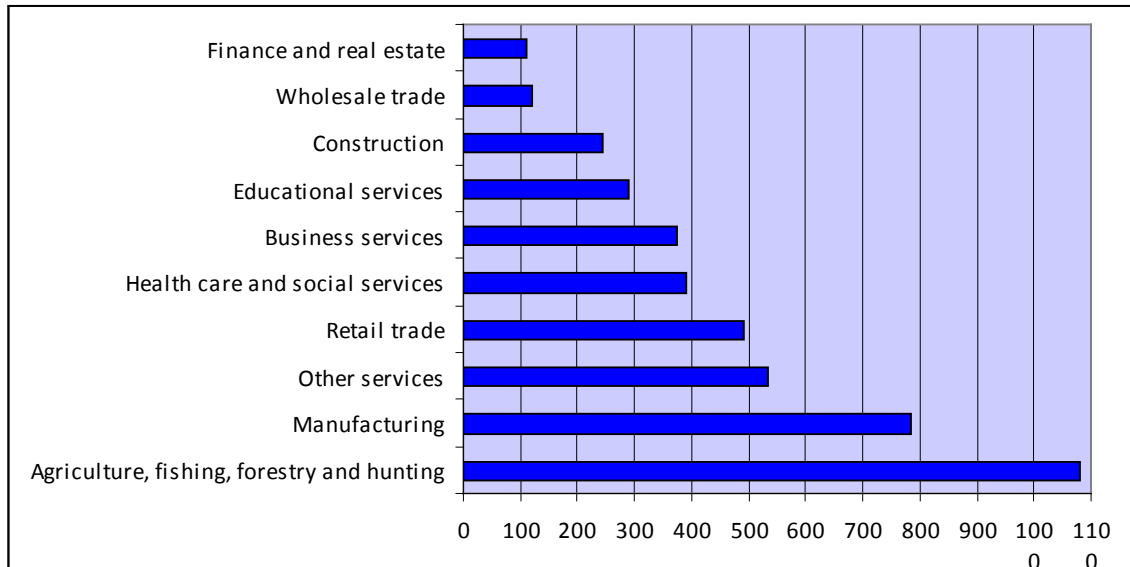


Figure 3. Distribution of employment by industry from 2006 Census.

The unemployment rate for the Municipality of Argyle in 2006 was 10.7%, which is slightly higher than the Nova Scotia average of 9.1% (Statistics Canada, 2007). Figure 4 shows that unemployment rate by Municipal Unit.

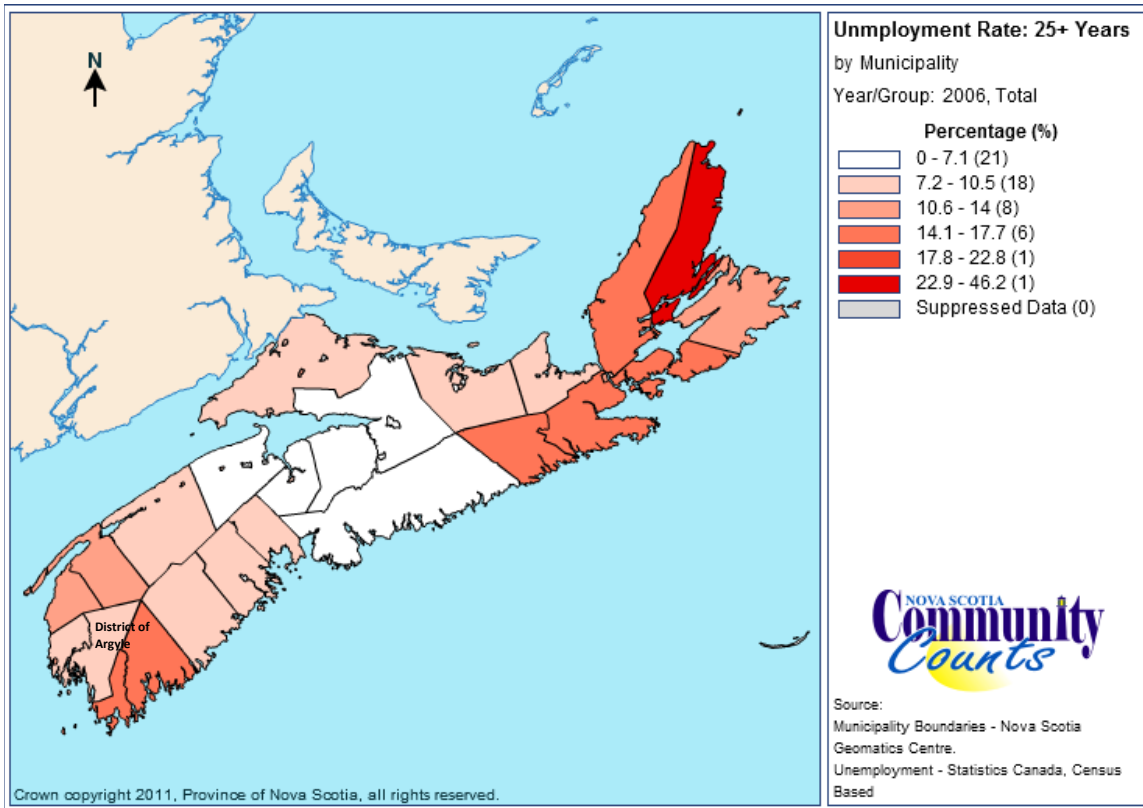


Figure 4. Unemployment rate by Municipal unit from 2006 Census.





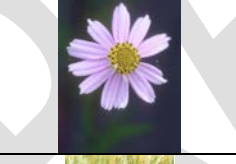




## ENVIRONMENT

The Municipality of Argyle is covered in 260,000 acres of forest, which is 63% of the municipal surface and 96.4% of this forest cover is softwood. There are 168 lakes, which cover 248 km<sup>2</sup> of the municipality (Profil communautaire, 2008). The Glenwood Provincial Picnic Park is located in the Municipality of Argyle, along with three walking trails: Goose Creek Marsh Hiking Trail (1.5 km), Rocco Point Nature Trail (0.5 km) and Interpretive Nature Trail (5 km). The Tusket River basin measures 32 km from Chebogue Point to Lower East Pubnico; between these two points lie 500 km of indented coastline with 365 islands, which are drumlins of various size, and countless points, peninsulas, inlets and bays (Municipality of Argyle (2011)).

Wilderness Areas are provincially-significant protected areas which are designated under Nova Scotia's *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* (Environment Canada, 2011). Part of the Tobeatic Wilderness Area is located in the Municipality of Argyle.

Nature Reserves are areas selected to preserve and protect, in perpetuity, representative (typical) and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and natural processes. Scientific research and education are the primary uses of Nature Reserves and recreation is generally restricted. There are three Nature Reserves located in the Municipality of Argyle: Great Barren & Quinan Lakes Nature Reserve (355ha+/-), Spinneys Health Nature Reserve (640ha+/-) and Tusket River Nature Reserve (21.9ha+/-), (Environment Canada, 2011).

There are 11 species at risk that are native to the Municipality of Argyle, including one bird, one mammal, one fish, one reptile, and seven plants as described in the table below (Municipal & Community Stewardship, 2003).

Species at Risk		National Status	Provincial Status
Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> )		Endangered	Endangered
Moose (Mainland Population) ( <i>Alces acles Americana</i> )		Not Listed	Endangered
Atlantic Whitefish ( <i>Coregonus Canadensis</i> )		Endangered	Endangered
Eastern Ribbonsnake ( <i>Thamnophis sauritus</i> )		Threatened	Threatened
Pink Coreopsis ( <i>Coreopsis rosea</i> )		Endangered	Endangered
Tubercled Spike-rush ( <i>Eleocharis tuberculosa</i> )		Threatened	Threatened
Water-Pennywort ( <i>Hydrocotyle umbellate</i> )		Threatened	Endangered
Eastern Lilaeopsis ( <i>Lilaeopsis chinensis</i> )		Special Concern	Not Listed
Plymouth Gentian ( <i>Sabatia kennedyana</i> )		Threatened	Endangered

Long's Bulrush ( <i>Scirpus longii</i> )		Special Concern	Vulnerable
Sweet Pepperbush ( <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> )		Special Concern	Vulnerable

## COMMUNITY ASSETS

On May 28, 2009, community members of the Municipality of Argyle were invited to participate in an Asset Mapping workshop (see page 6 of Appendix A for complete asset mapping workshop results).

**Assets** are what we want to keep, build upon and sustain for future generations.

The whole assets approach to community planning allows community members to identify and value social, economic and physical aspects of the rural environment. The whole assets approach includes all the possible assets that are normally found in rural areas. These assets are bundled in groups and named for the purpose of this process:

- **Natural assets** (such as water, forests)
- **Built assets** (physical things that we build such as sewer systems, municipal buildings)
- **Social assets** (the social aspect of living in the community)
- **Economic assets** (jobs and a varied economy that people and communities draw upon for their livelihoods)
- **Service assets** (such as health and educational services)

This workshop was based on the assumption that all Canadians should have an equal opportunity to access these assets. The purpose of the session was to identify assets that are important to the participants of the group. The process summarizes what is valued and what is positive and working well in the community. When people discover what they value in common, they are usually able to devise ways and means for going forward. The whole assets approach creates goodwill among participants.

The objective of this session was to:

- Identify important rural assets
- Build an understanding of the group's appreciation of these assets
- Understand the supports currently in place to sustain these assets
- Identify the threats to the long term viability of these assets

### Most Important Assets (Individual)

Participants were first asked to individually identify the six most important assets in their community, municipality or region and write them down on the handouts provided. The following is compiled list of these assets. Where assets were repeated, the number of mentions is listed on the right.

Asset	Count
Schools/educational institutions	8
Acadian heritage & culture	8
Fire departments and halls	7
Fishery	7
Regional hospital	6
Heritage buildings/museums	5
Community halls & centres	5
Coastline, Tusket Islands	5
Community/Acadian Festivals	4
Healthcare	4
Friendly people	4
Volunteers & community organizations	4
Access to ocean and fresh water	4
Wharves	4
Natural Resources	4
Small business	3
Air & ferry service	3
Geography & landscape	3
Local medical clinic	2
Local climate	2
Sense of community	2
Tourism	2
Seniors services	2
Fishing villages	2
Sewer systems	2
Cultural diversity	2
Mariner's Centre	2
Arts community/centre	2
Pubnico wind farm	2
Churches	2
Recreation facilities, trails	2
Argyle Archives	1
Community litter programs	1
Pubnico Lake	1
Wedgeport Tune Museum	1
Centre Communautaire Par-en-Bas	1
Old bridges	1
Regional co-operation	1
Search & rescue	1

Recycling programs	1
Local newspaper & radio	1
Libraries	1
Rural lifestyle	1

### Table Group Assets & Dot Democracy

The table groups (4 to 5 people) were then asked to determine the top six assets from their table and categorize them under the five category headings on the work sheets on the wall. The following table reflects this list. All participants were then asked to “vote” on the most important asset in each category by placing dot stickers next to the assets (one dot per category). They were also asked to place a heart sticker next to the one asset they felt needed attention most urgently.

Asset	Category	Dots	Hearts
Fishery	Economic	19	3
Natural Resources, Coastline, waterways	Natural	18	
Regional Health Services	Service	18	4
Volunteers & Community groups	Social	14	5
Heritage & Historic Buildings	Built	11	3
Transportation Links (Air/Ferry/101/103)	Built	10	
Cultural Diversity	Social	5	
Tourism	Economic	4	
Education facilities	Service	3	1
Geography & pristine environment	Natural	3	1
Arts community	Social	2	
Agriculture	Economic	1	
Green initiatives	Service	1	
Bilingual population	Social		
Forests	Natural		

## MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND

Infrastructure assets owned by the Municipality of Argyle (January 2010) include:

Category	Assets	Description
Buildings	Municipal Building	Building was originally constructed in 1949 as an elementary school. Municipality took it over in 1976.
Buildings	Argyle Township Courthouse	Built in 1805, the oldest standing courthouse and jail in Canada.
Buildings	École Wedgeport	Grades Primary to 6 and Grandir en français. 102 students 2011-2012
Buildings	École Pubnico-Ouest	Grades Primary to 6 and Grandir en français. 167 students 2011-2012
Buildings	Plymouth School	Grades Primary to 9. 150 students 2011-2012
Buildings	School Bus Garage	
Sidewalks	Sidewalk in Tusket	Sidewalk length is 0.3 km, located from Courthouse Road to #548 Highway 308 on Highway 3 & Highway 308.
Sidewalks	Sidewalk in West Pubnico	Sidewalk length is 1.25 km, located from Surette Road to Red Cap Restaurant on Highway 335.
Sidewalks	Sidewalk in Wedgeport	Sidewalk length is 1.55 km, located from Église St. Michel to Doucette Road on Highway 334.
Street Lights	1 Street Light on Slocumb Drive	1 250W high pressure sodium
Street Lights	2 Street Lights on Courthouse Road	2 100W high pressure sodium
Street Lights	2 Street Lights at the Courthouse	1 175W mercury vapour light 1 100W high pressure sodium
Street Lights	1 Street Light on Rock Road	1 250W high pressure sodium
Wastewater Treatment	West Pubnico Sewer Treatment Plant	200,000 IGD design capacity
Wastewater Treatment	Tusket Sewer Treatment Plant	138,000 Lpd design capacity
Vehicle Fleet	Public Works	1 Pickup Truck
Recreational Facilities	East Kemptville Ballfield	
Recreational Facilities	East Pubnico Ballfield	

Recreational Facilities	Tusket Ballfield	
Recreational Facilities	Multi-purpose Court in West Pubnico	
Recreational Facilities	Multi-purpose Court in Wedgeport	On school property
Recreational Facilities	Ballfield and Soccer Field in Wedgeport	On school property
Recreational Facilities	Multi-purpose Court in Quinan	On Fire Department property

The Municipality of Argyle also owns 27 different properties (January 2010) which includes:

Land	PID	Location
Dump	90050535	Chemin du mecôque, Abram's River
Dump	90069113	Great Pubnico Lake, West Pubnico
Dump	90093055	Black Pond Road, Wedgeport
Green Acres	90021825 Lot 8D	Riverside Drive, Plymouth
Green Acres	90021841 Lot 11	Riverside Drive, Plymouth
Green Acres	90021866 Lot 13	Riverside Drive, Plymouth
Green Acres	90021924 Lot 21	Riverside Drive, Plymouth
Green Acres	90021940 Lot 23	Riverside Drive, Plymouth
Green Acres/Water Access	90021957 Lot 24	Riverside Drive, Plymouth
Green Acres	90021783 Lot 4A	Birch Street, Plymouth
Land/Water Access	90084120	Highway 335, West Pubnico
Land	90063348	Highway 103, East Pubnico
Land	90086414	Highway 3, Tusket
Land	90222266	Black Pond Road, Wedgeport
Land	90106402	Chemin du mecôque, Abram's River
Land	90010257 Parcel A	Comeau's Hill Extension Road, Comeau's Hill
Land	90243692	Riverside Drive, Plymouth
Land	90310236	School Street, Lower West Pubnico
Land	90311523 Lot 1	Highway 3, East Pubnico
Land	90311531 Lot 2	Highway 3, East Pubnico
Land	90315441	Highway 3, Central Argyle
Land	90034240	Highway 308, Sluice Point
Land	90317322	Courthouse Road, Tusket
Land	90102609 VESTED	Highway 334, Lower Wedgeport
Land	90053323 Lot 1 VESTED	Highway 3, Central Argyle

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS

Once Council approved the public participation program in February 2009, community consultations began. This consultation was designed to provide as broad a framework for citizen engagement as possible, given the time and staff resources available. Community stakeholders were identified and targeted interviews were arranged.

Targeted interviews were conducted with a wide variety of groups, organizations, elected officials, residents and other levels of government (see page 27 of Appendix A for a complete list of interviewees). Four broad based regional workshops were also organized in conjunction with other regional partners around each of the pillars of sustainability. These meetings were conducted with a wide variety of stakeholders interested or involved in the environment, the economy, the social or the cultural dimension of the community/region.

Information was also developed for municipal newsletters and for the municipal website. An asset mapping workshop was conducted in the first six months of the planning process on May 28, 2009. Approximately seventy groups/organizations or individuals were invited to participate in this workshop designed to identify and value the natural, built, social, economic and service assets that currently exist in the municipality. This workshop also explored the threats and opportunities associated with these assets. The information from this workshop assisted in the development of the municipality's vision statement and helped to identify community issues and priorities.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 2010 PAC held a publicly advertised public participation meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft ICSP. The draft was provided to Council and made publicly available December, 2009. Hard copies of the ICSP draft document were available at the Municipal office in Tusket, as well as a digital copy available on the Municipal website ([www.munargyle.com](http://www.munargyle.com)).

As a means of providing additional opportunities for public participation in the community planning process, PAC initiated an online web survey on the municipal website. The survey tool offers the public an opportunity to suggest actions, at the individual, community or municipal/regional level that could help to realize the goals and objectives of the ICSP/MPS. Public participation for the online survey was not significant, with having only one response to the survey (see Appendix B for the online survey and results).

**SECTION 3**  
**MUNICIPAL VISION AND SUSTAINABILITY**  
**SOLUTION AREAS**

## MUNICIPAL VISION STATEMENT

*The creative and resourceful residents of the Municipality of Argyle value and protect their heritage and languages for future generations.*

*Well managed natural and renewable resources enable a sustainable local economy, while protecting our environment.*

*Together, we will make a positive difference in people's lives.*



## SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

The following list of sustainability issues was generated based on community feedback from the community conversations (see Appendix C for community conversation results), ICSP and all other sources, and are listed alphabetically:




































Issue	Example
*Coastal Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• People are building closer and closer to the rivers and lakes; need to look at planning and zoning.</li> <li>• Lack of boat launch/public water access points. Restricted access due to new private land owners at traditional locations.</li> <li>• Comeau's Hill beach, only sand beach in municipality.</li> </ul>
Community Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community events</li> <li>• Community involvement</li> <li>• Community clubs, limited funding</li> <li>• No community spirit</li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of Industry and job development</li> <li>• Challenges for small business/Buy local</li> <li>• Decline in tourism</li> <li>• Poor cell service for some areas (Wedgeport, Quinan)</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer training</li> <li>• Environmental education</li> <li>• Declining enrolment</li> </ul>
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rising cost of gas and oil</li> <li>• Alternative energy solutions</li> </ul>
Fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decline in the fishery</li> <li>• No value for our fish products</li> <li>• Shortage of workers for local fish plants (herring) to do both round (whole fish) and roe.</li> <li>• Shortage of workers for fishing boats</li> </ul>
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land for agriculture (cranberries and blueberries)</li> <li>• Lack of healthy affordable food</li> </ul>
Global Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Economic recession</li> </ul>
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted care facilities</li> <li>• Lack of doctors and medical facilities</li> <li>• Slow emergency response times</li> <li>• No medical services (travel to Yarmouth hospital)</li> <li>• Not using the medical centre to its full advantage with doctors and other health services offered there</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of low income housing</li> <li>• Lack of Seniors housing options</li> </ul>





Issue	Example
Municipal Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipality needs to find more funding to protect assets or help community find funding, community halls are one of our biggest assets</li> <li>• Municipal Council to fight harder for the communities</li> <li>• Clarity on how municipal money is spent</li> </ul>
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population is ageing, not an age friendly community</li> <li>• Young people are leaving the community</li> </ul>
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of recreation for all ages</li> <li>• Lack of activities and places for kids to hang out</li> <li>• Lack of recreational use of the clubs and churches</li> </ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable transportation to access services in Yarmouth</li> <li>• Poor road conditions, ageing infrastructure</li> <li>• Narrow roads throughout the communities</li> <li>• No sidewalks/trails in some communities</li> <li>• No bike lanes</li> <li>• There is no access to the rails to trails from Wedgeport or Plymouth area</li> <li>• Intersection issues at Pubnico and Argyle exits off of 103</li> <li>• Lose of ferry in Yarmouth</li> </ul>
Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited access to the dump for larger items, hours conflict with work schedules</li> <li>• Garbage being thrown into the waters from boats</li> <li>• Illegal dumps issues</li> <li>• Litter problem/cleaning up the ditches</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewage disposal</li> <li>• Water quality</li> </ul>

\*Coastal Areas for this purpose consist of rivers, lakes and coastal areas.

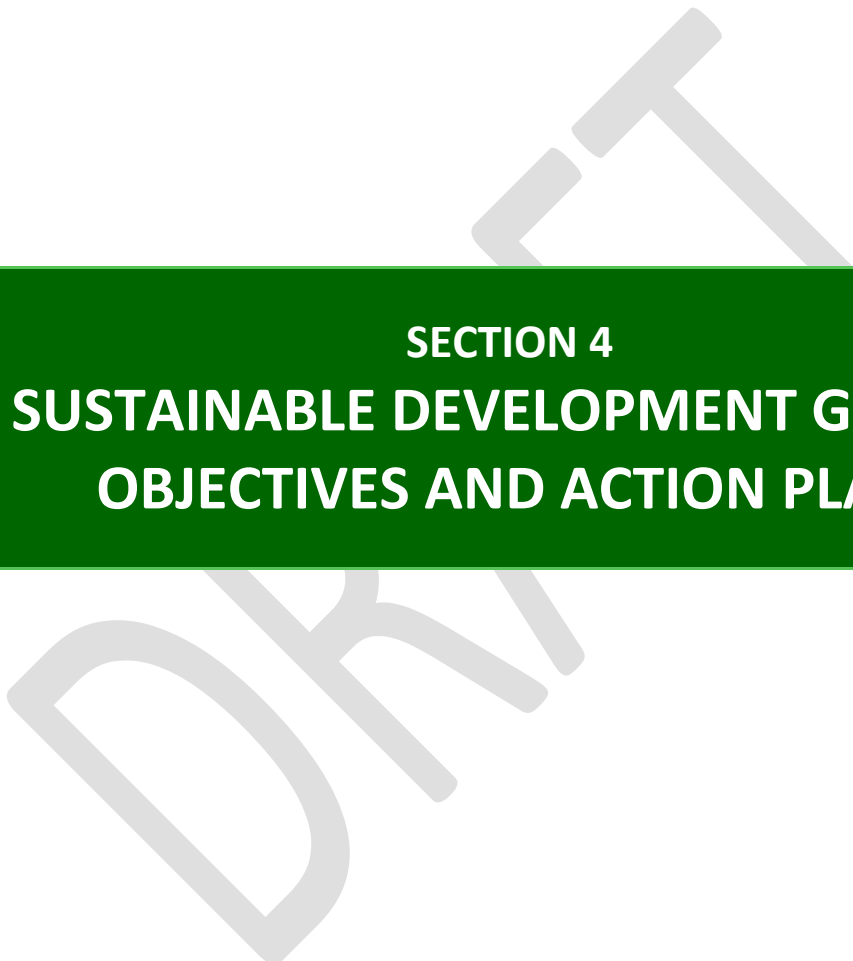
## SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTION AREAS

The Municipality of Argyle has identified twelve (12) Sustainability Solution Areas. These have been prioritized based on public input from the Asset Mapping Workshop and are listed below. The priority numbers are the same where the solution area received more mentions. The table also indicates which of the four sustainable development pillars the solution area falls under.

Solution Area	Priority	Four Pillars
<b>1</b> Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture	1	  
<b>2</b> Natural Environment & Water Quality Protection	2	  
<b>3</b> Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community	2	   
<b>4</b> Community Spirit	3	 
<b>5</b> Heritage, Historic Buildings, & Culture	4	 
<b>6</b> Transportation	5	  
<b>7</b> Economic Growth & Development	6	   
<b>8</b> Education	7	  
<b>9</b> Renewable Energy	8	 
<b>10</b> Solid Waste Management	9	 
<b>11</b> Climate Change Adaptation	9	  
<b>12</b> Municipal Operations	9	   

	Economic
	Environmental
	Social
	Cultural

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**SECTION 4**  
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS,**  
**OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN**

## ACHIEVING OUR VISION: GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

There are a series of tables which describe the sustainable development goals and objectives for each solution area and the actions identified to help achieve the goals and objectives.

In the first section for each sustainability solution area, the goals are stated in terms of what we want to achieve as a municipality. The objectives describe how the Municipality will approach these goals.

The table list the action items to be undertaken for each solution area. These actions will help the Municipality to achieve their goals and objectives. All of the solution areas that an action will impact have been listed in the table, along with the person or department responsible for the action. The actions that have already been completed or started are indicated. It is also indicated if the action is a potential Gas Tax eligible project.

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# 1

## LOCAL FOOD & SUSTAINABLE FISHING, AQUACULTURE & AGRICULTURE – GOALS & OBJECTIVES



*Most of the food consumed in Nova Scotia is shipped from thousands of kilometres away, and many people can't afford healthy food. Our food supply contributes directly to the health and wellbeing of our community. Changing food consumption patterns to include more local food means supporting local farmers and food producers as well as reducing our impact on the global environment and increasing the security of our food sources.*

### GOAL

To enable and promote a buy local strategy, and support initiatives that enable further opportunities in local food production.

### OBJECTIVES

- By promoting and marketing our resource based products locally and globally.
- To initiate buy local focus on other products in the community.
- To develop new purchase policy with sections on buy local focus.

# 1

## LOCAL FOOD & SUSTAINABLE FISHING, AQUACULTURE & AGRICULTURE – ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
1-1 ✓	<b>Farmers and Fish Markets</b> Foster the creation and growth of Farmers and Fish Markets located in Argyle, and investigate other buy local initiatives supporting local business for the region.	Community Development Officer	1 4 5 7
1-2 ✓	<b>CBDC Multi-Year Climate Study</b> Support the CBDC multi-year climate study for Southwest Nova, which shall identify ideal agriculture opportunities for our region.	CAO	1 7 11
1-3	<b>Support Innovative Projects for Local Food Industry</b> Support innovative projects that either promote our local food industry, or enable our fishers to gain efficiencies/reduce carbon footprint related to harvesting.	CAO Community Development Officer	1 2 7
1-4 ✓	<b>Amend Purchasing Policy</b> Amend the Municipal purchasing policy to incite buy local initiatives.	CAO Executive Assistant	1 7 12

1

Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture

4

Community Spirit

7

Economic Growth & Development

10

Solid Waste Management



Action Completed

2

Natural Environment & Water Quality

5

Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture

8

Education

11

Climate Change Adaptation



Action Already Started

3

Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community

6

Transportation

9

Renewable Energy

12

Municipal Operations

GT

Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project

## 2

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & WATER QUALITY PROTECTION – GOALS & OBJECTIVES



*Our community is blessed with abundant natural resources, from forests to minerals to fish and wildlife, to our water resources. It is vital to the long-term wellbeing of our communities that these resources are managed sustainably, with an eye to regeneration of natural wealth to ensuring that this wealth is available to future generations.*

### GOAL

To protect biological diversity and natural systems in order to maintain and improve environmental air, water and soil quality.









### OBJECTIVES

- To control development in wetlands and watercourses to protect these environmentally sensitive areas and the surface and groundwater resources.
- To control land use and development in a manner that will preserve, enhance and protect the natural environment of the municipality.
- To maintain, improve and expand municipal wastewater services in an environmentally sound and financially sustainable manner.
- By ensuring education and resources are available to new and existing local resource based businesses for improvements to sustainable practices.

## 2

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & WATER QUALITY PROTECTION – ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
2-1 GT ★	<b><u>West Pubnico Wastewater Treatment Plant Retrofit</u></b> The treatment plant was built in 1979 and needed a retrofit to meet new wastewater guidelines. A Sequence Batch Reactor system replaced the existing dual lagoon system. A Scada System was added for monitoring purposes.	Property Inspection & Public Works	2 7 12
2-2 GT ★	<b><u>West Pubnico Pumping Station Upgrades</u></b> This project involved the replacement of electrical panels as well as other components of the 11 pumping stations on the West Pubnico Wastewater system.	Property Inspection & Public Works	2 12
2-3 GT ★	<b><u>Wedgeport Wastewater Pre-Design Study</u></b> The original CBCL Wedgeport Water and Wastewater Pre-Design Study completed in 2002 needs to be updated due to the information being outdated. Once a new pre-design study is completed the wastewater project can then move forward.	Property Inspection & Public Works CAO	2 12
2-4 ✓	<b><u>Wastewater Committee for Wedgeport</u></b> Create a wastewater Committee for Wedgeport and investigate cost effective and innovative delivery of a new wastewater system that meets the needs of the citizens of the area.	Property Inspection & Public Works	2 4 12
2-5 GT ★	<b><u>Tusket Residential Park Sewer Laterals</u></b> The construction of eight laterals was required on Ruelle Gardner Lane located in the Tusket Residential Park to service the eight residential lots.	Property Inspection & Public Works	2 12
2-6 GT ★	<b><u>West Pubnico Wastewater Dewatering Infrastructure</u></b> When the plant was designed it was intended that a Fournier Press would be installed, but due to higher than expected construction costs it was pulled from the initial upgrade project. Dewatering the sludge will cut down on the volume of sludge that needs to be hauled away, which will benefit the operational costs.	Property Inspection & Public Works CAO	2 7 12
2-7 GT ✓	<b><u>West Pubnico Wastewater Dennis Point Extension</u></b> Local businesses expressed concerns that the existing on-site systems do not have sufficient storage/retention capacity to accept increasingly higher sanitary sewer flows and could pose environmental and contamination issues in the future, potentially jeopardizing the fishery. Extension of the sanitary sewer would provide municipal sanitary sewer services to the local fishery, restaurant and provide servicing for future development.	Property Inspection & Public Works CAO	2 7 12

<b>2-8</b> 	<b><u>Update Land Use By-Law/Municipal Planning Strategy</u></b> Update to be completed by March 31, 2012.	Planner	   
<b>2-9</b> <b>GT</b>	<b><u>Wedgeport Wastewater System</u></b> Future construction of a municipal wastewater system in Wedgeport and would be built in phases and dependent upon funding sources from other levels of government.	Property Inspection & Public Works CAO	  

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 Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture	 Natural Environment & Water Quality	 Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community
 Community Spirit	 Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture	 Transportation
 Economic Growth & Development	 Education	 Renewable Energy
 Solid Waste Management	 Climate Change Adaptation	 Municipal Operations
 Action Completed	 Action Already Started	<b>GT</b> Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project

### 3

## HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, RECREATIONAL & WELLBEING OF COMMUNITY– GOALS & OBJECTIVES



*Health and wellbeing is a priority for our citizens and communities. Many of the challenges associated with health and wellbeing are felt across the region. In order to ensure the health and development of our community into the future we need to find creative solutions to ensure access to these services. In addition to the need to ensure high quality treatment medical services such as emergency room staff and specialists, there is also a need to improve services that promote preventative measures for health and wellbeing (e.g. active living, recreation services and social health).*

### GOALS

To have adequate health care professionals and facilities to care for all residents and to improve services that promote preventative measures for health and wellbeing for future generations, such as promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

Our residents have improved access to social services and are aware of the programs available to them and how to access them.




### OBJECTIVES

- To encourage medical professionals to relocate to our municipality by ensuring our community and health care facilities are attractive.
- To promote physical activity and provide opportunities for all residents to participate, while encouraging residents to incorporate physical activity into their daily lifestyle.
- Sustain current population by enhancing local service and assistance, including initiatives for an aging population.
- To ensure our natural environment is accessible, where appropriate, for passive recreational use by residents and visitors.
- Help our resident's access services from all levels of government.

## 3

## HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, RECREATIONAL &amp; WELLBEING OF COMMUNITY– ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
3-1 ★	<b><u>Seniors' Safety Program Coordinator</u></b> Engage a Senior Safety Coordinator to deliver individualized service to our seniors based on needs and connecting seniors to existing services.	CAO RCMP	3 7
3-2 ★	<b><u>Active Living Strategy</u></b> Create and execute an Active Living Strategy over the next 5 years in collaboration with the community to promote healthy living, and increase physical and community activities, community connection and pride.	Recreation	3 4 6
3-3 ★	<b><u>Argyle Doctor Recruitment Committee</u></b> The work of this committee will be to create a community incentive plan that “offers” the assets of our community to doctors who choose to practice family medicine at either of our two medical centers.	Community Development Officer	3 7
3-4 ★	<b><u>Community Health Recruitment Plan</u></b> Establish a community health recruitment plan focused on students with connections to our region, to ensure our residents have access to a family physician and other health professionals.	Community Development Officer	3 7
3-5	<b><u>Medical Services Corporation</u></b> Establish an inter-municipal agreement between the Town and Municipality of Yarmouth to provide recruitment and retention of services to our existing and potential doctors in family practice.	CAO	3 7 12
3-6 GT ★	<b><u>Track and Field Facility</u></b> A track and field facility was required for the Municipality of Argyle to host the Finales des Jeux de l'Acadie 2012. École secondaire de Par-en-Bas will be able to host other sporting events which require a track and field facility.	CAO	3 4 5 7
3-7 ★	<b><u>Glenwood Park Swimming Area</u></b> To explore the possibility of making the present water access point at the Glenwood Provincial Park safer for the community to use. There has been concern from the community that the present water access point used for swimming at the Glenwood Provincial Park is unsafe due to an unsafe entry point and rocks located in the swimming area.	Property Inspection & Public Works  Community Development Officer	2 3 4 7

<b>3-8</b> 	<b><u>Athletic Awards Banquet and Volunteer Recognition</u></b> Annually host their banquets to honor athletic achievement and those who give freely of their time.	Recreation	 
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 Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture	 Natural Environment & Water Quality	 Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community
 Community Spirit	 Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture	 Transportation
 Economic Growth & Development	 Education	 Renewable Energy
 Solid Waste Management	 Climate Change Adaptation	 Municipal Operations
 Action Completed	 Action Already Started	<b>GT</b> Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project

## 4

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT– GOALS & OBJECTIVES



*Volunteers and community groups are the heart beat of the community. Community halls in particular are aging and are not utilized by communities as in the past. These assets have been identified by Council and staff as critical to the lifeblood of a community. The municipal government, along with community organizations needs to lead the community and foster a sustainable, cooperative spirit which will carry us through the challenges to come.*

### GOAL

























To have community halls being utilized to full usage and leading the community to foster a sustainable, cooperative spirit, while having strong, growing community groups and volunteers.

### OBJECTIVES

- Celebrate, support and promote the accomplishments of our community and the efforts of our volunteers.
- To encourage the development of independent, creative and viable community projects.
- To welcome newcomers into our community and community groups.
- Support existing community infrastructure that supports our individual villages, augmenting pride of place.
- Consider new infrastructure needed in our community to further develop community spirit.

# 4

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT– ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
4-1 	<b>Support Community Halls</b> Provide financial assistance in maintaining local community halls, which are being supported by the community, either directly through Municipal dollars or support in applying for Federal/Provincial Funding.	CAO Community Development Officer Executive Assistant	  
4-2 	<b>Training for Volunteer Fire Departments</b> Provide an annual budget of \$20,000 to ensure volunteer firefighters have access to adequate training opportunities.	CAO Executive Assistant Finance	  
4-3 	<b>Assist in Development of Halls and Buildings</b> Engage the communities in finding innovative uses for existing halls and buildings, connecting commercial and recreational use where possible.	CAO Community Development Officer Executive Assistant Recreation	  
4-4	<b>Community Mapping of Resources</b> Create a community map which identifies all of the different resources located in the community.	Community Development Officer Property Inspection & Public Works	     
4-5 	<b>Eel Brook Fire Department</b> Support and assist the Eel Brook Fire Department in their long term plan to construct a new fire station for their area of service.	CAO Property Inspection & Public Works	  
4-6	<b>Welcoming Committee</b> Provide funding to organizations to initiate “welcome committees” to welcome new residents.	CAO Property Inspection & Public Works	
4-7	<b>Volunteer Database</b> Create a volunteer database which identifies all of the community volunteers.	Recreation	



Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture



Natural Environment & Water Quality



Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community



Community Spirit



Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture



Transportation



Economic Growth & Development



Education



Renewable Energy



Solid Waste Management



Climate Change Adaptation



Municipal Operations



Action Completed



Action Already Started



Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project

**5****HERITAGE, HISTORIC BUILDINGS & CULTURE – GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

*Argyle has a number of cultural and heritage assets. Heritage and culture have an important role to play in strengthening ties within our community and enhancing community pride. We need to continue to focus on preserving and promoting our built heritage, historical sites, arts and culture to educate our young people and enhance the experience of tourists and visitors, which will contribute to the vibrant future of our community.*

**GOAL**

Continue to preserve and promote our built heritage, historical sites, arts and culture to educate our young people and enhance the experience of tourists and visitors.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To encourage the preservation of the architectural and cultural heritage of the Municipality.
- To encourage cultural diversity and recognize the Acadian language and culture as an important cultural asset that must be supported and maintained for future generations.
- Utilize the expertise and support existing cultural organizations to further cultural initiatives.
- Promote and protect our established heritage, cultural, community assets and unique blend of Acadian and Anglophone communities.

# 5

## HERITAGE, HISTORIC BUILDINGS & CULTURE – ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
5-1 ★	<b><u>Host the 2012 Finales des Jeux de l'Acadie</u></b> During this event we are able to promote our unique Acadian culture, fostering community spirit and generating economic benefit for the community. This competition is the largest congregation of Acadian youth in the Atlantic Provinces.	CAO	3 4 5 7
5-2 ★	<b><u>Support Our Acadian Culture as a Tourism Product</u></b> Continue supporting our Acadian culture as a tourism product, through regional initiatives and local infrastructure support. Support local and regional tourism opportunities and attractions.	Community Development Officer	5 7
5-3 ★	<b><u>Support Existing Cultural and Historical Organizations</u></b> Engage the support and expertise of existing cultural and historical organizations to support their priorities and initiatives.	Archives	5
5-4 ★	<b><u>Heritage Development</u></b> Partner with the Argyle Municipality Historical and Genealogical Society to engage a heritage development officer to develop the Courthouse as a tourism development product.	Archives	5 7
5-5 ★	<b><u>Connect our Courthouse and Archives to School Programming</u></b> Connect our Courthouse and Archives to school programming, enabling our youth to engage our established heritage.	Archives	5 8
5-6 ✓	<b><u>Biannual Meetings With Key Cultural/Historical Organizations</u></b> Engage in biannual meetings with key cultural/historical organizations to increase awareness of established priorities and to align and support those initiatives where applicable.	Archives	5

1

Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture

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Natural Environment & Water Quality

3

Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community

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Community Spirit

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Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture

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Transportation

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Economic Growth & Development

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Education

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Renewable Energy

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Solid Waste Management

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Climate Change Adaptation

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Municipal Operations



Action Completed



Action Already Started

GT

Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project

**6****TRANSPORTATION – GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

*Development of transit systems, active transportation infrastructure and other alternative transportation options to connect our community is essential to ensure sustainable access to employment, social services, health care, education and recreation opportunities. Connecting our community and economy to the rest of Nova Scotia and the world is also essential for growth and development. We must recognize and plan for the challenge of increasing fuel cost, which may make current transportation models less viable.*

**GOAL**

To encourage on both a local and regional level the provision of safe, rapid and efficient transportation systems for the movement of people and goods.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To encourage the maintenance and improvement of all sustainable modes of transportation at the local and regional level, including access to transportation alternatives for travelling within our community which are affordable and environmentally responsible.
- To encourage and support the development of active transportation systems within and between communities in the municipality and region.
- Restore the ferry link between New England and Yarmouth and to support regional initiatives to protect the Digby St. John ferry link.
- Establish local priorities for the construction and maintenance of Provincial roads and bridges.
- Support active transportation initiatives for the region.
- Support operations of our International Airport and promote increased use of facility.

## 6

## TRANSPORTATION – GOALS &amp; OBJECTIVES

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
6-1 ★	<b><u>Nova Scotia International Ferry Partnership</u></b> Financial and political support for the Nova Scotia International Ferry Partnership to re-establish the ferry link for the 2013-2014 tourist season between New England and Yarmouth.	CAO	6 7
6-2 ★	<b><u>Ferry Terminal Upgrades</u></b> In partnership regionally, obtain Federal funding to support ferry terminal upgrades to accommodate a restored ferry service by 2013-2014 season.	CAO	6 7 12
6-3 ✓	<b><u>Identify Opportunities in the Aerospace Industry</u></b> Focus on identified opportunities in the Aerospace Industry to develop manufacturing opportunities for our region, and attract activity at our International Airport.	CAO Executive Assistant	6 7 8
6-4 ★	<b><u>Public Transportation System</u></b> Investigate the viability of a public transportation system for our residents.	Community Development Officer	1 2 3 6 7
6-5 ✓	<b><u>Active Transportation Policy</u></b> To develop an active transportation and local transportation policy to encourage and foster physical activity.	Recreation	3 6
6-6 ★	<b><u>Indian Sluice Bridge Committee</u></b> Establish Council representation on the Indian Sluice Bridge Committee, with the objective of replacing this bridge, and ensuring the progression of this objective.	CAO	6 7
6-7 ✓	<b><u>Exits 31 &amp; 32 on Highway 103</u></b> Continued effort to persuade Provincial Government to address safety issues on exits 31 and 32 on Highway 103.	CAO	6
6-8	<b><u>Water Access Points</u></b> To establish water access points throughout the Municipality to encourage tourism, active transportation and recreational use of water infrastructure. Water access point may include boat launch and pull-off sites or swimming areas.	Community Development Officer Recreation	2 3 5 6 7 11

1

Local Food &amp; Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture &amp; Agriculture

2

Natural Environment &amp; Water Quality

3

Health Care, Social services, Recreational &amp; Wellbeing of Community

4

Community Spirit

5

Heritage, Historic Buildings &amp; Culture

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Transportation

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Economic Growth &amp; Development

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Education

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Renewable Energy

10

Solid Waste Management

11

Climate Change Adaptation

12

Municipal Operations



Action Completed



Action Already Started

GT

Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project

# 7

## ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT – GOALS & OBJECTIVES



*The Municipality of Argyle has faced many economic growth challenges in the current years including out-migration, regionalization and challenging conditions in our natural resource industries such as fishing. Our communities will continue to face challenges for our natural resource economy, so we must focus our economic growth efforts on areas that will help to sustain our community in long term.*

### GOAL

To encourage the economic growth and diversification of all sectors of the local and regional economy in order to maximize employment opportunities, retain youth and a skilled workforce and provide the varied service and amenities required by residents and business in a sustainable community.

### OBJECTIVES

- To encourage the development and expansion of commercial enterprises in order to best serve the needs of the residents of the Municipality.
- Encourage the development of a sustainable tourism industry.
- To encourage the sustainable management and diversification of resource based industries.
- To support economic development initiatives that foster economic self-reliance.
- Identification of opportunities to foster economic development in Argyle within existing business by working directly with business owners.
- Establish a Regional Economic Development Strategy that addresses the needs of our region and does so in a cost effective manner.
- Identify current strengths and opportunities in Argyle to foster new economic growth and innovation.
- Identify revenue opportunities for the Municipality to offset pressures of declining assessment.

# 7

## ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT – ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
7-1 ★	<b><u>Creation of a Regional Economic Development Initiative</u></b> Lead in the creation of a Regional Economic Development initiative and engage in the establishment of a mandate focused on regional strategic planning and economic growth.	CAO	7
7-2 ★	<b><u>Business Asset Mapping</u></b> Conduct a business asset mapping exercise for Argyle businesses to determine capacity, and identify opportunities for partnership, promotion and innovation.	Community Development Officer Property Inspection & Public Works	7 8 12
7-3 ✓	<b><u>Alignment of Identified Job Opportunities</u></b> Facilitate the alignment of identified job opportunities with our trained youth who have left the area.	Community Development Officer Executive Assistant	7 8
7-4 ✓	<b><u>Promotional Material for Argyle</u></b> Develop promotional material for Argyle on the merits of living and working here, and support a regional promotion to showcase the attractiveness of the region.	Community Development Officer Executive Assistant Recreation	4 7
7-5 ✓	<b><u>Tusket Business Park</u></b> Investigate strategic direction to market and promote our Tusket Business Park to generate economic activity in and around the region.	Property Inspection & Public Works Executive Assistant	7 12

- |                                                                      |                                                 |                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture | <b>2</b> Natural Environment & Water Quality    | <b>3</b> Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community |
| <b>4</b> Community Spirit                                            | <b>5</b> Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture | <b>6</b> Transportation                                                      |
| <b>7</b> Economic Growth & Development                               | <b>8</b> Education                              | <b>9</b> Renewable Energy                                                    |
| <b>10</b> Solid Waste Management                                     | <b>11</b> Climate Change Adaptation             | <b>12</b> Municipal Operations                                               |
| ★ Action Completed                                                   | ✓ Action Already Started                        | <b>GT</b> Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project                                 |

**8****EDUCATION– GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

*Education relevant to our economy and local industry is key to economic growth and development. The local business community, governments and other service providers suffer from a shortage of skilled workers. Links between our educational institutions, community and local economy need to be strong in order for the community to adapt to coming changes.*

**GOAL**









To link educational opportunities for youth in our communities with local business, industry and government opportunities in our region.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To maintain connections with young people who leave the area for further education to encourage them to return for opportunities that require their skills.
- To develop a connection between the high schools and the local business community.
- Align students/youth with local job opportunities and keep them connected to the community.

## 8

## EDUCATION– ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
8-1	<b>Job Fairs</b> Facilitate “job fairs” in the local schools to educate our youth on opportunities for jobs in the region.	Community Development Officer Executive Assistant	 
8-2 	<b>Quality Job Opportunities</b> Encourage our youth currently in high school to consider the medical field as a focus for future study; link opportunities to Université Sainte-Anné’s special program for medical doctors.	Community Development Officer Executive Assistant	  
8-3 	<b>Partner With Our Local Schools</b> Partner with our local schools to ensure our students receive regular contact on the merits of living and working in Argyle, and initiate and support activities that engage our youth and increase community pride.	Community Development Officer Executive Assistant	  

1

Local Food &amp; Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture &amp; Agriculture

4

Community Spirit

7

Economic Growth &amp; Development

10

Solid Waste Management



Action Completed

2

Natural Environment &amp; Water Quality

5

Heritage, Historic Buildings &amp; Culture

8

Education

11

Climate Change Adaptation



Action Already Started

3

Health Care, Social services, Recreational &amp; Wellbeing of Community

6

Transportation

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Renewable Energy

12

Municipal Operations

GT

Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project

**9****RENEWABLE ENERGY – GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

*Our society's dependence on fossil fuels for our energy needs is not sustainable. To meet our energy demands, our society will need to transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. Nova Scotia has the potential not only to generate renewable energy to meet domestic needs, but also to export energy to the United States. Renewable energy and local economic development are mutually reinforcing goals and renewable energy has the potential to enhance our local economies. To benefit from this opportunity we need to ensure we identify and encourage development of renewable energy projects, and create a supportive policy environment for these projects.*

**GOAL**



















To encourage the development of renewable energy projects while using energy more efficiently.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To encourage different forms of renewable energy throughout the Municipality (solar, wind, hydroelectric and biomass energy), and consider direct investment for community benefit.
- For our Municipality to improve energy efficiency of our built environment.
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by using more renewable energy.

9

**RENEWABLE ENERGY – ACTIONS**

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
9-1	<p><b><u>Support a Renewable Energy Report Identifying Renewable Energy Opportunities in the Region</u></b>                      Identify opportunities in renewable energy, such as solar, wind, hydroelectric and biomass, to foster economic growth in Argyle.</p>	CAO WREN	   
9-2 	<p><b><u>Identified opportunities in renewable energy</u></b>                      Focus on identified opportunities in renewable energy, such as wind and tidal power, to foster economic growth in Argyle, and increase commercial tax base.</p>	CAO	   
9-3 	<p><b><u>Amend Current By-Law for Wind Farms</u></b>                      Amend the current by-law for wind farms in Argyle using a proper balance between development and our residents.</p>	Planner	    
9-4	<p><b><u>By-Laws for Personal Wind Turbines</u></b>                      Create a by-law for personal wind turbines for the Municipality.</p>	Planner	  

- |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture |  Natural Environment & Water Quality    |  Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community |
|  Community Spirit                                            |  Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture |  Transportation                                                      |
|  Economic Growth & Development                               |  Education                              |  Renewable Energy                                                    |
|  Solid Waste Management                                      |  Climate Change Adaptation              |  Municipal Operations                                                |
|  Action Completed                                            |  Action Already Started                 | <b>GT</b> Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project                                                                                                              |



*Reducing waste through reuse and recycling is an important strategy for a sustainable future for our community. Dealing with waste is costly and negatively impacts our environment. Reducing and effectively managing waste requires a balance of education and regulation to influence behaviour. To be successful at reducing waste, our community needs to reduce the amount of waste generated and manage waste more effectively.*

### GOAL

To reduce the volume of solid waste produced through education and waste diversion to recyclable streams; ensure that it is managed in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.

### OBJECTIVES

- To create effective programs for litter clean-up, while supporting community organizations in their objectives.
- To minimize the amount of waste our municipality is generating while managing waste more effectively.
- To assess innovative and cost effective ways to handle waste.

10

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
10-1 GT ★	<p><b><u>Contaminated Soil Remediation</u></b></p> <p>This project involves the construction of a new remediation site (cell) to handle contaminated soil that will be located at the current Regional Solid Waste Park in Yarmouth County. Argyle Municipality is a regional partner in the Waste Check organization that administers this site. This new cell will be devoted to the containment and remediation of contaminated soils. Bio-remediation is the technology contemplated for processing and handling contaminated soils which will then be dove-tailed into the compost processing stream and used as a cover material for the C &amp; D cells.</p>	<p>CAO</p> <p>Property Inspection &amp; Public Works</p>	<p>2 7 10</p>
10-2 GT ★	<p><b><u>Construction &amp; Debris (C &amp; D) Cell Expansion</u></b></p> <p>This project involves the 7,000 square metre expansion of the C &amp; D facility at the Solid Waste Park. The development of these new facilities will ensure enhanced sorting and waste disposal services to the Tri-County region.</p>	<p>CAO</p> <p>Property Inspection &amp; Public Works</p>	<p>2 7 10</p>
10-3 ★	<p><b><u>Community Litter Cleanup Incentive Program</u></b></p> <p>This program allows for non-profit groups to raise money for their organizations, while cleaning the ditches in our communities.</p>	<p>Property Inspection &amp; Public Works</p>	<p>2 4 10</p>
10-4 ★	<p><b><u>Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup</u></b></p> <p>Support Waste Check initiatives to enforce regulations of illegal dumpsite cleanup.</p>	<p>Property Inspection &amp; Public Works</p> <p>Waste Check</p>	<p>2 10</p>

1 Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture	2 Natural Environment & Water Quality	3 Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community
4 Community Spirit	5 Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture	6 Transportation
7 Economic Growth & Development	8 Education	9 Renewable Energy
10 Solid Waste Management	11 Climate Change Adaptation	12 Municipal Operations
★ Action Completed	✓ Action Already Started	GT Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project



*Our population is concentrated in coastal areas, which will be hardest hit by climate change through sea level rise, coastal erosion and increased storm surges. Climate change may also have a significant impact on our natural resource economy in the region. One strategy to reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change is to anticipate, adapt and migrate where possible.*

### **GOAL**





To have an understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on our municipality, we are able to anticipate, adapt and migrate where possible to reduce the effects of climate change.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To investigate the effects of climate change on Argyle Municipality with an emphasis on the potential impacts from storm surge, rising sea-level and extreme weather events.
- To discourage new development in areas subjected to periodic flooding and erosion.
- To inform residents on the risks and challenges our municipality will face with respect to climate change.

# 11

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION – ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
11-1 	<p><b><u>Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP)</u></b> Engage Municipal staff and a working committee to complete the MCCAP in the established time frame.</p>	CAO	  

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 Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture	 Natural Environment & Water Quality	 Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community
 Community Spirit	 Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture	 Transportation
 Economic Growth & Development	 Education	 Renewable Energy
 Solid Waste Management	 Climate Change Adaptation	 Municipal Operations
 Action Completed	 Action Already Started	<b>GT</b> Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project



*Ensuring our residents are receiving good value for their tax dollars is important, and ensuring tax rates are affordable while providing an appropriate level of service is essential. Municipal operations should be improving continuously and finding new ways to become more efficient and more effective. Our organization also needs to seek cooperation with other organizations, municipalities and governments where appropriate.*

**GOAL**

The Municipal operations have become more cost efficient and more effective allowing for affordable tax rates, while investing more into our communities.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To reduce green house gas emissions and energy consumption throughout Municipal operations by implementing recommendations, where feasible, for energy reduction resulting from the Eco-Nova Scotia energy audit.
- By ensuring municipal policies align within the municipal strategy and other municipal documents.
- Engage community participation in determining what is most important to residents in infrastructure projects.

# 12

## MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS – ACTIONS

ID	Projects & Programs	Responsibility	Related Solution Areas
12-1 ✓	<b><u>Align Community and Municipal Projects</u></b> Continue aligning community and municipal projects with Provincial and Federal funding opportunities to reduce municipal taxpayer burden.	CAO Executive Assistant	4 12
12-2 ✓	<b><u>Annual Community Conversations</u></b> Engage annual community conversations enabling our citizens to express their priorities for municipal services.	Community Development Officer Executive Assistant	4 12
12-3	<b><u>Review of Services</u></b> Lead and initiate the review of services with our municipal neighbours to determine opportunities for further cost sharing or municipal services to reduce costs and possible duplication of services.	CAO	12
12-4 ✓	<b><u>Municipal Administration Building</u></b> Engage the community to determine the potential uses of a new or expanded Municipal building, ensuring accessibility to all residents.	CAO Property Inspection & Public Works	4 7 12
12-5 ✓	<b><u>Feedback System</u></b> Create and modernize a feedback system that provides opportunity for residents to communicate with us more effectively.	Information Technology	4 12

**1** Local Food & Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture & Agriculture

**4** Community Spirit

**7** Economic Growth & Development

**10** Solid Waste Management

★ Action Completed

**2** Natural Environment & Water Quality

**5** Heritage, Historic Buildings & Culture

**8** Education

**11** Climate Change Adaptation

✓ Action Already Started

**3** Health Care, Social services, Recreational & Wellbeing of Community

**6** Transportation

**9** Renewable Energy

**12** Municipal Operations

**GT** Potential Gas Tax Eligible Project

**SECTION 5**  
**REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CONNECTIONS**

## **SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTION AREAS**

Many sustainability issues are not contained by municipal boundaries. In order for communities to become more sustainable, it is imperative that municipalities work collaboratively with one another to address regional issues. As part of the ICSP development process, a regional group formed which brought together planners, ICSP coordinators, volunteers and elected officials involved with ICSP development in Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties. Through a series of quarterly meetings from December 2008 – December 2009, the group identified eleven (11) solution areas which were common throughout ICSPs in the region and which would be best addressed from a regional perspective. Also agreed among participating municipalities were common regional indicator(s) which will be used to track and compare progress in individual municipalities and across the region. The solution areas are regional in nature due to one or more of the following three reasons:

1. Addressing the issue requires action(s) that physically cross municipal boundaries;
2. Addressing the issue regionally has the potential for improved efficiency and effectiveness through economy of scale; or
3. There is no reasonable way for municipality to address the issue without regional cooperation.

Regional cooperation is often advantageous where there are limits in place that impact progress on an issue. Regional issues inevitably involve the Province either because the issue is under Provincial jurisdiction, or because action on the issue requires the Province to act as a partner or a supporter.

In the following tables are the descriptions of the eleven (11) regional sustainability solution areas the group identified. They are listed alphabetically:

**R1 Adequate Services to Ensure the Health & Wellbeing of Communities**

<b>Description</b>	Health and well-being is a priority for our citizens and communities. Many of the challenges associated with health and well-being (such as lack of access to doctors and rising rates of chronic disease) are felt across the region. In addition to the need to ensure high quality treatment medical services such as emergency room staff and specialists, there is also a need to improve services that promote preventative measures for health and well-being (e.g. active living, recreation services, social and mental health). New models of health care delivery need to be explored and existing facilities and programs retained in order to meet the health care needs of an ageing population.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	Health services are best delivered locally through a collaborative regional approach. Regional dialogue and co-operation is necessary to ensure that the Provincial government recognizes the challenges faced by rural communities respecting health care and the importance to these communities of decentralized services such as community health centres. Given limited resources, regional health & wellbeing services need to be delivered through a regional approach that takes into account equity and accessibility issues for all residents. Remote rural municipalities require a collective voice in this issue to ensure adequate services and facilities for their rural populations.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	For health care: Department of Health Promotion & Protection; District Health Authorities, Department of Health, Health Canada. For recreation: Community Services, Health Promotion & Protection and municipal authorities.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rates of chronic diseases</li> <li>➤ Participation rates in recreation programs</li> <li>➤ Number of residents without a family doctor</li> <li>➤ Number of volunteer groups providing health related solutions (e.g. transportation or assistance at clinics)</li> <li>➤ Participation rates in wellness and health programs</li> </ul>

## **(R2) Climate Change Adaptation**

<b>Description</b>	The population in Southwestern Nova Scotia is concentrated in coastal areas, which will be hardest hit by climate change through sea level rise, coastal erosion and increased storm surges. Climate change may also have a significant impact on our natural resource economy in the region. One strategy to reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change is to anticipate, adapt and mitigate where possible. Cooperation with other municipal units in the region may enhance our capacity for addressing this issue through cooperation in mapping and modeling to help anticipate the impacts, and through coordinated planning and development of appropriate emergency measures.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	This solution area is regional in nature because there will be economies of scale in cooperating on mapping and modeling activities and because coordinated emergency measures will cross municipal boundaries.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	The Province will act as a partner in this solution area. The Federal Government is putting increased emphasis and developing programs for climate change adaptation which involve other levels of government.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Proportion of municipalities in the South Shore Region with Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.</li> <li>➤ Proportion of municipalities in the South Shore Region with EMO Climate related exercises annually.</li> </ul>

## **(R3) Ecologically Based Natural Resource Management**

<b>Description</b>	The South Shore is blessed with abundant natural resources, from forests to minerals to fish and wildlife, to our water resources. It is vital to the long-term wellbeing of our communities that these resources are managed sustainably, with an eye to regeneration of natural wealth to ensuring that this wealth is available to future generations. Ecological management means using the best available scientific and indigenous knowledge to harvest and make use of resources and land without causing them to become depleted over time. Since natural resources transcend municipal boundaries, they require ecological management practices on a regional level.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	Regional approaches to ecosystem-based land use planning and natural resources management have a greater likelihood of addressing environment, social and economic challenges today and in the future.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	The Province and Federal government have jurisdiction over this solution area (NS Environment, NS Department of Natural Resources, and Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, etc.), but municipal governments have a role to play in protecting natural resources through land use restrictions.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ General environment indicators, especially water quality &amp; biodiversity</li> <li>➤ Long term economic success of resource based industries</li> </ul>

## **R4 Economic Transition**

<b>Description</b>	The communities in the South Shore region will continue to face tough economic conditions in the future, which may be exacerbated by demographic challenges, environmental decline and a rapidly changing and increasing volatile global economy, and they do not experience these effects in isolation. To ensure our communities are resilient in the face of these challenges, communities need to work together to develop local economies and embrace the emerging “green” economy globally. Encouraging and valuing local and regional cooperation and collaboration between businesses and organizations will breed prosperity. To be successful, our economic survival strategies need to shift from COMPETITIVE models that pit community against community; competing for scarce dollars and limited environmental resources, into COLLABORATIVE models that encourage prosperity based on their unique community strengths and common needs.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	South Shore communities are deeply integrated with each other. Economic development is currently delivered on a regional basis. Unfortunately, the current model of service delivery results in rural municipalities competing with each other over the location of development projects. Regional economic transition planning, if done in a collaborative and progressive manner, can be the “tide that lifts all ships”. Its ultimate goal would be to ensure economic stability across the region, through a focus on the well-being of citizens, the capacity of communities to meet their needs and the responsible stewardships of the region’s common resources.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	Nova Scotia Economic Development, Regional Development Authorities.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ General economic indicators, including a more holistic model (e.g. GPI or Canadian Index of Wellbeing)</li> <li>➤ Progressive poverty indicators such as inability of residents to afford basic needs for financial reasons</li> <li>➤ Number of locally owned businesses</li> </ul>

## **R5 Education for Sustainability**

<b>Description</b>	Achieving truly sustainable communities will require participation of the whole community and significant lifestyle changes for our residents. In order to change, people need to know what to do, how to overcome obstacles and practice new behaviours. Action will be individual and collective and people will be committed to new values which align with the requirements of a sustainable community. There is significant advantage to a regional approach to education and awareness initiatives, and to streamlining educational messages across different initiatives (e.g. recycling, energy use, transportation, etc). If municipal governments talk about sustainability using the same language, and encourage the development of the same behaviours and social norms throughout the region, we have a greater likelihood of widespread success.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	This solution area is regional in nature because the effectiveness of education efforts will be improved through economy of scale and a clear, united message.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	The Province will act as a partner in this solution area. The Department of Education has jurisdiction over any education program delivered through formal institutions like schools or community colleges.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ General sustainability literacy</li> <li>➤ Percent of residents who participate in sustainability initiatives created by ICSPs</li> <li>➤ **Indicators in other areas which indicate changes in behaviour (e.g. waste management or local food consumption) may also indicate success in this area</li> </ul>

## **R6 Improved Execution of Collaborative Services Between Municipalities**

<b>Description</b>	The practice of sharing services (core services such as water treatment or fire protection, recreational services such as summer programs for children, public facilities such as libraries, etc) is well established between many South Shore municipalities. There is also a rising need for such service sharing, given the increased demand for regional collaboration, or simply the necessity of cutting costs. Joint service provision is also fraught with challenges, from reaching agreements on cost-sharing to management to accessibility for members of different geographic communities. There is also a trend of depriving rural communities of much-needed services as a result of centralization in more urbanized areas. Creating more sustainable communities necessitates continuously improving the ability of municipalities to reach agreeable solutions for shared services, particularly new and emerging regional services such as transit, energy systems and food systems.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	Many sustainability issues and solutions are inherently regional in nature, and require the expansion or development of regional vehicles to address them. New shared services require broader, collaborative approaches. A systematic regional effort to improve the way municipalities share their services is essential to long-term success in these efforts and the ultimate provision of effective and efficient services.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations is the primary involved department. The Province municipalities have many vehicles for managing these different services and this area is quite complex.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Satisfaction of municipal leaders and staff in creating shared inter-municipal solutions</li> <li>➤ Degree of uniformity in the satisfaction of residents with their regionally shared services</li> <li>➤ Number of successful collaborative activities completed</li> </ul>

## **(R7) Local Food and Sustainable Fishing, Aquaculture and Agriculture**

<b>Description</b>	Most of the food consumed in Nova Scotia is shipped from thousands of kilometres away, and many people can't afford or access healthy food. Our food supply contributes directly to the wellbeing of our community and we value naturally grown, healthy food which is accessible and affordable. Changing food consumption patterns to include more local food means supporting local farmers and food producers as well as reducing our impact on the global environment and increasing the security of our food sources. Strategies to promote local food include education, increasing knowledge of self-sufficient food practices, supporting social programs to make healthy food affordable and ensuring sufficient food storage. Cooperation between municipal units on these initiatives means a united voice and message for education and advocacy activities.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	This solution area is regional in nature because the effectiveness of education and advocacy efforts will be improved through economy of scale and a clear, united message.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	The Province will act as a supporter in this solution area. Agriculture is under Provincial and Federal jurisdiction and the Province has food related programming and strategies in place related to vulnerable families (e.g. food banks).
<b>Regional Indicators(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Proportion of food consumed that is produced in Atlantic Canada</li> <li>➤ Growth in local farming/fishing and food production sector</li> <li>➤ Number of acres of agricultural land used for food production</li> <li>➤ Value of farm/fishing enterprise, average age of farmers/fishers</li> <li>➤ Proportion of people growing food in private or community gardens</li> </ul>

## **(R8) Renewable Energy Development**

<b>Description</b>	Our society's dependence on fossil fuels for our energy needs is not sustainable. To meet our energy demands, our society will need to transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. Nova Scotia has the potential not only to generate renewable energy to meet domestic needs, but also to export energy to the United States and other provinces. Renewable energy and local economic development are mutually reinforcing goals and renewable energy has the potential to enhance our local economies. To benefit from this opportunity we need to ensure we identify and encourage development of renewable energy projects, and create a supportive policy environment for these projects. Local and regional collaboration through partnerships and information exchange will help to ensure this development occurs in a way that benefits the entire region.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	This solution area is regional in nature because projects and the impacts of projects may cross municipal boundaries.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	The Province will be a supporter in this solution area. The Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Utilities and Review Board (UARB) have direct jurisdiction over energy policy. Other agencies may be involved in other generation methods (e.g. NS Environment for dams, NS Natural Resources for biomass, etc.).
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Total energy consumption in each community (GJ)</li> <li>➤ Total renewable energy production (GJ)</li> <li>➤ Community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions</li> </ul>

## **R9 Solid Waste Management**

<b>Description</b>	Municipalities regularly cooperate on a local level to manage solid waste. Most of the South Shore is managed through Solid Waste Resource Management Region 6, while Yarmouth is in Region 7. These Waste Regions are combined provincial/municipal bodies. Reducing and effectively managing solid waste is a balance of education and regulation to influence behaviour. Municipalities need to continue to cooperate on the practical & infrastructure aspects of waste management and strive for continuing improvements. Regional cooperation on education and awareness initiatives may also be effective and partnerships for policy development and influencing policy at higher levels of government will also be important in achieving long term sustainability in waste management.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	There is an economy of scale in cooperating regionally on solid waste management.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	The Province is a partner in this solution area. The Province governs waste production (new limit is 300 kg/per person). The Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) has jurisdiction over this area and is a quasi-provincial agency.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Solid waste production per capita</li> <li>➤ Waste to landfill per capita</li> <li>➤ Percentage diversion</li> </ul>

## **R10 Transportation Alternatives**

<b>Description</b>	Development of regional transit systems, active transportation infrastructure and other alternative transportation options to connect regions and communities is essential to ensure sustainable access to employment, social services, health care, education and recreation opportunities. We must recognize and plan for the challenge of increasing fuel costs and changing demographics, which may make current transportation models (for example, our dependence on personal automobiles) less viable.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	This solution area is regional in nature because improved efficiency and effectiveness is expected by a regional approach. Regional cooperation between municipalities in the design and delivery of transportation solutions is a best practice demonstrated elsewhere in Nova Scotia and Canada. Regional cooperation between municipalities in transportation solutions provides the links that keeps community boundaries fluid, allowing the social and economic interaction that prevents isolation and protectionism.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	The Province will be a partner in most actions taken within this solution area. Both the Provincial and Federal governments provide funding for transportation initiatives.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percent of commuters using Active Transportation, transit or municipally facilitated transportation programs.</li> <li>➤ Overall transportation program ridership.</li> </ul>

## **R11** Water Quality Protection

<b>Description</b>	Protecting water quality for residents of both urban and rural areas requires a collaborative effort between municipal and provincial governments. There is a need for better management of watershed areas (both natural and protected, in developed and undeveloped areas) in order to make sure clean water is available to all our residents. The necessary work will include developing better land use planning, restricting or encouraging different kinds of resource activities (everything from mining to recreation), and setting standards for ongoing water quality monitoring. Collaborating regionally ensures a consistent approach to the issue and facilitates cooperation with the Province, which will enable us to better protect this important resource.
<b>Justification for Regional Approach</b>	This solution area is regional in nature because natural watersheds cross municipal boundaries and often water supplies for urban areas are located in rural municipalities.
<b>Provincial Involvement</b>	The Province has jurisdiction over this solution area, but municipal governments have a role to play in protecting water quality through land use restrictions, acquiring water use permits and working with local communities to ensure high water quality, for example through monitoring and education efforts.
<b>Regional Indicator(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Level of pollutants in watershed areas.</li><li>➤ Biological indicators of water quality (e.g. macro invertebrate counts, fecal coli form counts, etc.).</li><li>➤ Proportion of natural and protected watershed areas protected by land use by-laws.</li></ul>

## STATEMENTS OF PROVINCIAL INTEREST

The Municipal Government Act (MGA) in Schedule B contains five statements of Provincial interest that recognize the importance of our land and water resources in relation to the growth and development of our communities. In the introduction section the MGA states “They are intended to serve as guiding principles to help Provincial Government departments, municipalities and individuals in making decisions regarding land use. They are supportive of the principles of sustainable development. Development undertaken by the Province and municipalities should be reasonably consistent with the statements.”

The five statements deal with drinking water, flood risk areas, agriculture land, infrastructure and housing and contain the following goals:

1. To protect the quality of drinking water within municipal water supply watersheds.
2. To protect public safety and property and reduce the requirement for flood control works and flood damage restoration in floodplains.
3. To protect agriculture land for the development of a viable and sustainable agriculture and food industry.
4. To make efficient use of municipal water supply and municipal wastewater disposal systems.
5. To provide housing opportunities to meet the needs of all Nova Scotians.

The foundation principles as well as the goals and objectives found in this ICSP/MPS are consistent with the five statements of provincial interest. Policies derived from those goals and objectives are also in keeping with the intent of the statements of provincial interest that directly apply to this municipality.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**Integrated Community Sustainability Plan**  
**2010**

**APPENDIX B**  
**ONLINE SURVEY AND RESULTS**

## Online Survey and Results

There was only 1 person who responded to the online survey, the following are the questions/responses:

**1. What suggestions do you have for making Argyle Municipality a “greener” and more environmentally friendly municipality?**

Wind energy - work with groups to bring in a second wind farm in an area with few residents. Anti idling campaign, education campaign to get people to turn off their cars while not in use.

**2. What would you be prepared to do to reduce pollution and waste and conserve energy?**

Would be willing to invest in solar energy for my home, and would be willing to spend some \$ on making my home more energy efficient. I would support a campaign to reduce packaging, would refuse purchasing items that are over packaged. Currently use reusable bags for shopping. Consider car pooling where it's possible. Purchase a hybrid or alternate energy vehicle (electric car)

**3. What suggestions do you have for ways that community groups and organizations could help “green” Argyle Municipality?**

Policies to reduce the number of individual vehicles on the road - promote car pooling for meetings etc... Support and promote recycling initiatives (diversion of waste) at events (work with Waste Check) Research grant opportunities to make energy efficiency upgrades at their building - tie in efficiency upgrades with needed building upgrades. Participate in the Community pick up program (cleaning ditches)

**4. What actions do you feel your local municipality should undertake to reduce pollution and waste and make Argyle Municipality a better place to live and work?**

Promote anti idling campaign. Provide incentives to residents/groups that effectively reduce pollution and waste (perhaps make it a pre-requisite to qualify for grant money). Do an energy audit of their own facilities and operations, and make changes/improvements. Develop policy for car pooling on conferences and outside the county training where multiple people are involved. Promote and encourage green energy companies to establish here, promote another wind farm in a low populated area. Research into tidal energy opportunities. Pass land use strategy that restricts inappropriate access to lakes and rivers (protect from run off). Provide active transportation or group transportation options for residents.

**5. Do you support land use planning initiatives that are aimed at protecting environmental air, soil and water quality?**

Yes

**6. What suggestions do you have for ways to strengthen and support the volunteer sector in Argyle Municipality?**

Needs to be a call out to our youth. The Baby boomer generation has put a tremendous amount of time and effort in a variety of organizations, and are strongly connected to their community as a result. The perception is that the youth are not interested; however, I believe they need to be approached. The Municipality can assist here, as they can coordinate volunteer recruitment. The youth in our community would be interested if approached in an effective way. Youth are

actively involved on a number of committees at school, and need to be made aware of the importance of community volunteerism.

**7. What suggestions do you have for ways to strengthen the local economy in Argyle Municipality?**

More effort needs to be placed in the recruitment of new business in our area. The Tusket Park is an ideal location for new business. A plan needs to be established for recruitment, and perhaps financial investment is needed. The Chamber of Commerce of Argyle is an organization that can coordinate the needs and wants of our local businesses. This organization needs to speak for the group, and identify opportunities for growth in existing organizations. Businesses should have a central location to assist in the recruitment of employees for their organizations. Without proper staffing, existing businesses cannot grow. Exploration of new (diversified) businesses needs to be priority. The exploration of natural gas opportunities needs to be carefully reviewed. Mining (tin, other) opportunities continue to exist in Nova Scotia, and these opportunities need to be explored by our Regional development authority.

DRAFT

DRAFT

**APPENDIX C**  
**Community Conversation Results**

## District 1: Bruce Hubbard

Location: École secondaire Par-en-Bas, library

Date: May 25th, 2011

### Present:

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bruce Gates     | 8. David Warner         |
| 2. Evelyn Muise    | 9. Joanne Surette-Muise |
| 3. Ernest Doucet   | 10. Virginia Doucette   |
| 4. Pauline Bourque | 11. Barbara Brittain    |
| 5. Roland Bourque  | 12. Charles Brittain    |
| 6. Danny Muise     | 13. Dianne Crowell      |
| 7. Greg Pottier    | 14. Doreen Frotten      |

### Question 1- If you were describing your community to someone who was interested in moving there, what would you say about it? Why?

- I would not say "Par-en-Bas", I would say Village of Tusket. Par-en-Bas was considered "low" and would not say it to a stranger
- Calm, wide open spaces, country
- A lot of water (lakes, rivers)
- Dead end road, local traffic (Abram's River)
- Both official languages
- Friendly people
- Safe
- Less than ten minutes to local centre
- Unlike city, quiet and affordable houses to be bought but more expensive to live
- Easy to join in with recreational activities
- Loved it- moved back here
- Great tourism spot-beaches
- Great food/restaurants
- People trust each other
- Good community with low crime rate (now)
- People are respectful of privacy- less *gossip* than some small towns
- East Kemptville area is a cottage country- many people are buying land there and building cottages
- Kemptville is split in a way because part of it is in Argyle and part in Yarmouth Municipalities but to residents, it is not really an important issue
- People are supportive and there for each other if needed

### Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?

- Post office
- Credit Union
- Store
- Municipal office

- Walking trails
- Industrial park ready to be used for creation of jobs
- More than one church
- Full service garage
- Insurance
- Restaurants
- Accountants
- Unlike Tusket, Abram's River is "tight knit"
- Neighbours are ready to help- ready to come together and work to fix a problem
- Municipality responds to requests to enforce by-laws (dogs etc.)
- Carl's Store- amalgamation of French and English (staff, customers etc...)
- Community spirit is spread out
- Area no longer French or English- everyone gets along
- Nova Apartments (need more like these which are all one level)
- Université Ste Anne
- Community Ctr
- Pre-school to high school
- Dept of Fisheries office
- Natural Resources office
- Many teachers
- Many employed by the hospital
- Hickory Hut building (and other businesses in it)
- Tusket Sales (employs 70+)
- Sewer system
- We don't want a call centre- they only come for the tax break and then leave
- Not worried that the municipality will build a \$2 million new building
- Approximately 200-300 people work in Tusket
- Good tax base but ready to grow and improve
- Land for agriculture (blueberries, cranberries)
- Farmer's market
- Quinan great suppers (wild game and turkey)
- Young blood in the area
- Great fishing and hunting
- Trout Point Lodge
- Chamber of Commerce
- Ocean and fishery
- Hubbard's Point- many families stay together, many of the same last names in that community. Not the same in Tusket
- Tusket- new people are moving in
- Many great seniors groups in the area
- Beautiful river
- Kayak and pickerel fishing
- Kemptville has 3 churches
- People hire local- know contractors and their reputations and families and feel good recommending and using them

- Good relationship with the RCMP. Community policing is now fully staffed. According to Police Advisory committee they are on top of things now and the drug situation in Tusket is under control
- RCMP will be handing out information about protecting your cottage from break-ins to cottage owners
- Continued municipal investment in Argyle- lowest residential tax rate in area

**Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- Being inaccessible because of no bridges (Quinan, Tusket, Surette's Island, Saunders)
- Flooding
- Fresh water system- what pollution is coming down the river?
- People are building closer and closer to the rivers and lakes- have to look at planning and zoning
- Short term population sustainability is good but long term is not good
- Cannot open a mink farm around here- environmental rules are not well defined
- Will need more places for the aging population (housing)
- Assimilation is a fear- English over French- problem is in school. Not like before where schooling was English but everybody spoke French
- Losing our churches, old people are gone and young people do not go
- Young people don't stay but they come back to visit
- No EHS- response time could always be better (have to go all the way to the Carino and Quinan)
- We need a doctor's office, pharmacist. Health clinic should have been built in Tusket. There always was a doctor in Tusket
- We are losing our fire departments- no full time firefighters at fire dept. (we should build only one central one in Tusket)
- Population is aging
- Should have looked at ferry/terminal/harbour issue a long time ago
- Losing our fishery
- Losing more of our transportation system
- There are fewer people who can volunteer (even though they want to) because they can't afford the gas money to get out and help
- People don't know each other as much as they used to. A grow-up could be going on next door but most people wouldn't notice
- There is no big high paying industry for young people to come back here for (now are working out West making good money). Minimum wage jobs are available here but not good enough to draw our young people back.
- East Kempt- many cottage break-ins and not a lot of police help
- People walk their dogs off leash and even take them into public buildings (credit union example used). Should not be allowed, there are some people who are very fearful of dogs.
- Need the Tusket Bridge replaced- some people at the table questioned if it was really necessary but majority of people felt that it was.
- Sides of roads are very dirty- stretch in Tusket where old credit union was located
- Kemptville- many dirt roads that are not graded often enough

- Knights of Columbus meeting space for seniors (many from the Tusket area) is in serious need of funding for building repairs

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- People were lazy when CAT was here, they didn't have to do anything, and the tourist was dropped off here. Now with no boat we have to focus on other infrastructure
- Tourism without a boat- we need to give them a reason to come and drive here
- Interpretive panels
- Own tourist bureau or large map in central location with key areas highlighted and how to get there leading people along
- Printed map of area with small snippets of information- "make it easier for us to sell it"
- YASTA has worked great but now it is time for Argyle to do its own- we need to sell ourselves
- Need more lodging infrastructure
- Should showcase our old "old time" buildings such as boat shops, saw mills etc...
- Would like to see a platform behind Carl's Store with a lookout and panels describing the boat building history- boardwalk
- Tusket could be the gateway to everywhere- the beginning of the journey
- Lots of building lots are available for businesses
- Should have Tusket Days- support local
- Would like to see a large town hall meeting with all councillors of the municipality
- Need a map of the area- tear off map that people could use to lead visitors from one site to the next in our municipality
- Need more stringent codes for accessibility to public buildings (new municipal office)
- Need affordable transportation to access services in Yarmouth
- Need centralized access to information for seniors – a navigator
- Need more enforcement of young offenders
- Signage is an issue- no parking and speeding – RCMP should be enforcing more
- Need more assisted care facilities- there is nothing for seniors between staying in their own homes and going into a full care nursing home
- Need more nurse practitioners and doctors
- Need more boat launch/public water access points. Many outsiders are buying land and restricting access. These often were the traditional access points.
- There is limited access to the dump for larger items-none evenings or Sundays. If you work all week and have a couch to dispose of, what do you do? Would be great if there was an area at the landfill that was accessible all the time. Without it, there may be more illegal dumping
- Fishermen are known to be some of the worst for dumping garbage overboard
- Should have more input from Chambre of Commerce- they could/should help with a variety of projects
- There are no senior groups in East Kempt

**Summary- What 3 action items can we take away from tonight?**

**Group A**

- Promote our tourism- our own tourist bureau. If we do this, we could lower taxes and be more self sufficient
- Prepare for the future
  - Elderly people
    - EHS
    - Pharmacist
    - Doctor
    - More apartments like Nova (low income housing)

**Group B**

- Need more volunteer training
- Need more coordination of information and resources for seniors.
- Would like to see a Friendly Seniors program to provide visits to seniors

**Group C**

- Should have cleaner neighbourhoods- people who get caught littering should have their names posted in the paper
- Need better and more public access to waterways for locals and tourists alike
- Need more industry and job development

## District 2: Junior Murphy

Location: Plymouth School

Date: April 14, 2011

### Present:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Sandra Fitzgerald | 10. Timothy Gilbert |
| 2. Steven Jacquard   | 11. Violet Gilbert  |
| 3. Mary Meuse        | 12. Robert Jacquard |
| 4. Austin Surette    | 13. Pat Murphy      |
| 5. William Murphy    | 14. Gerald Scott    |
| 6. Mike Scott        | 15. Ron Scott       |
| 7. Velma Scott       | 16. Wayne Hopkins   |
| 8. Ruth Fitzgerald   | 17. Sharon Jeffrey  |
| 9. David Meuse       | 18. Jean Scott      |

Junior Murphy, Bruce Hubbard, Charles and Joan LeBlanc, Ginette d'Entremont, Brenda LaGrandeur, Scott Muise, Julien Boudreau, Simone Pothier

### **Question 1- What do you consider to be your community? After we get these answers we ask "Why"? Group discussion-**

- It's changing- new people moving in and you don't know your neighbours
- Now are locking our houses when we never did before
- Halls struggling as well as other organizations
- Security and vandalism issues (windows broken recently at Plymouth hall, at Comeau's Hill Beach)
- Policing issues- called police about the broken window incident and they said they would come to take pictures etc. but they did not show up.
- Sidewalks are needed near school- side of road is very narrow and shoulder is very high. Traffic is very fast through this stretch
- Garbage issue- compost bins are emptied by collectors and put down either in the road or in front of the mail box (there have been incidences of no mail delivery because of this)
- Not many young people
- Comeau's Hill Church is falling apart, community is "dying"
- Street lights are missing in Comeau's Hill
- Some people did not know about tonight's meeting until 10 minutes before (need a better way to get information)

### **Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?**

- Volunteers (same people all the time)
- Plymouth school & community hall
- Good fire department & chief- shared between communities. Ladies auxiliary
- Comeau's Hill beach- only sand beach in municipality. There is also a little known and very nice beach in Comeau's Hill on the other side of the breakwater
- Little River Harbour recognition for provincial dog (sign)

- St Peter's Rock on eastern shore of Comeau's Hill- 1<sup>st</sup> mass celebrated there
- Trail leading to St Peter's Rock
- Good fishing area (industry)
- Churches and cemeteries
- Wharves (mostly all lobster boats)
- Fish plant industry (2 big plants)
- Good councillor (Junior)
- Tennis court
- High speed wireless
- Good cell reception
- Comeau's Hill hall
- Tusket Island access point
- Golden girls card club
- Credit union
- Convenience store with liquor store
- Plymouth pit
- Little River Harbour- wharf is recreational and tourists are coming down. Would be nice to have picnic tables there as well as a garbage can

**Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- Feels that there will someday be a head on collision in Plymouth near school- it is a raceway and very dangerous. Very risky to walk here.
- Young people are leaving the community
- No community spirit due to people not knowing each other (Plymouth)- no people interested in even forming a committee to even pay for oil for hall
- Roads should be widened and are generally in bad shape
- Nothing going on at the school during the evenings for kids
- Illegal dumps issue at the end of Comeau's Hill
- Is there a chance that our school might be closed? Enrolment is going down. There are only a half dozen kids in Comeau's Hill and only 25-30 children in Plymouth. There are two busses now going to the end of Comeau's Hill (French and English) to pick up 6 children. They turn around at the Comeau's Hill hall and damage the parking area
- That they are going to get rid of individual mailboxes and replace them with super mailboxes (many people especially seniors would have a problem getting to them). Word is that the super mailboxes may all be located at the school because of big parking lot but would be a target for vandals as all government checks would go there etc...
- Gravel trucks travel on this road and several people have had cracked windshields (Plymouth pit)
- Young offender crimes (drugs, vandalism etc..)- Wedgeport museum was broken into. The police only come when there are guns involved
- Feel that the roads should be repaired before there are sidewalks installed- it has been quite a while (60 years) since the roads were fixed (Comeau's Hill, Little River Harbour)
- Nothing for younger kids to do
- School access is difficult- there are no lights outside
- If we get more street lights, our taxes will go up and our taxes are high enough

- Tennis court is not the school's , the community is the one who got it put in
- Black Pond Road has many people who are racing and spinning their tires
- Old families are leaving- older people are "fading away"
- Lots and houses are for sale- very cheap prices, afraid they will be bought by people who won't look after them
- Younger generation is losing respect for older folks and it starts at the school level
- Local fish plants (herring) can't find enough workers to do both round (whole fish) and roe. An owner identified that he would very much like to offer steady full time employment to local people. At one time, there was a partnership with a fish plant in Pubnico- one got all the herring for roe and the other got all the whole fish. Got complicated and pricey when roe plant had to pay to get rid of waste (fish carcasses etc...) and it stopped
- Not a lot done in Plymouth on a provincial level
- Little River Harbour wharf is very well lit up but there is still vandalism happening
- Little River Harbour- problems with dogs on the loose. Are there any bi-laws or dog catchers? Who enforces bi-laws? There should be a system set up by the Municipality to look after this problem

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- Sidewalks put in to the school in Plymouth- people drive to town in order to walk safely
- Comeau's Hill- satisfied with the way that things are now
- Plymouth- need community events – used to have card parties, community picnic, fair and get-togethers
- Need more events at Plymouth school (volleyball & floor hockey)
- There is no access to the rails to trails from Wedgeport or Plymouth area so walking on dangerous roads is only option
- Need to have more street lights in Comeau's Hill and Little River Harbour area
- Cleaning up the ditches (Black Pond Road, Hardwood Hills Road) – many people still think it is the dump- not necessarily the people from here. You have to pay fees to bring garbage to the landfill so that is why they dump here
- Two times a year for "big garbage" pickup is not enough
- Gas prices are too high to bring things to landfill more often. Household garbage is also being dumped at the wharf
- Scrap metal guys could benefit from weekly bigger garbage pickup
- Wider roads and shoulders for walking- shoulder is very high as well
- Many large commercial trucks on roads for pit, wharf and fish plants. In Comeau's Hill/Little River Harbour, there are some curves where the road is so narrow that 70 foot long transport trucks have to have the back tires over the yellow lines or the front tires on the shoulder to make the curve at all
- Look to see if adult volleyball at the school (or something like it) can be started up again
- Should have more regular police patrols. There used to be a policeman "attached" to the Fire hall and he would patrol the area regularly. There is no policeman anymore but the sign is still there.
- Should have a community watch put in place.
- Should have a community leader to call in case of police issue- this is in place in some other areas. An example might be if something happens but you are afraid to call the police for

fear of repercussions from the vandals, you would call community leader and he/she would call the police for you

- Should put a walking trail in near the wharf area
- Who owns the wharf in Plymouth? It has been burnt and is unsafe- who is liable to fix it?
- This wharf area (mentioned above) would make a very good boat launch area if fixed up.
- There are two houses in Little River Harbour that need to be torn down. They have been set on fire a couple times. Municipality should tear them down and charge the owners
- Would like to see an outdoor rink facility- something like a pond. Maybe the fire department could create a pond that they would use for filling their trucks. They would keep it clear from brush etc. Municipality could help
- Find activities and places for kids to hang out, help instil community pride- ask them what they want to do. Monitored by a peer counsellor. Have kids do some of the work at the site (paint picnic tables, etc...) they won't vandalise if it's their idea.
- Table members were unaware of municipal litter clean-up program
- Yarmouth Concrete Pit in Plymouth- they should be made to bring it back to what it was like when they bought it. There are two parts- one is being used to store gravel that is brought in from somewhere else but the other side is just a wide open mess. Would make a nice park area- there are even two ponds
- When brushes are cleared in the ditches by DOT, they leave all the branches in the ditch. It ends up blocking all drainage in the ditch.

**Summary- What 3 action items can we take away from tonight?**

*From the items in question 4, what are the top 2 or 3 that should be looked at first?*

**Group A**

- More community events (one person even volunteered to sit on a committee to plan an event)
- Need sidewalks (Plymouth)
- Schools to be used more for events

**Group B**

- Widen shoulders and the roads themselves (Little River Harbour and Comeau's Hill mostly)
- Need more street lights
- Need more employees for fish plants

**Group C**

- Comeau's Hill and Little River Harbour roads need to be repaired and repaved
- Sidewalks and lights in Plymouth
- Boat launch area – just gravel and sign to indicate it

## District 3: Charles LeBlanc

Location: Wedgeport Tuna Museum

Date: June 29th, 2011

### Present:

1. Blair Boudreau
2. Rosalie Hattie
3. Jean-Claude Saulnier
4. Peter Boudreau
5. Brett Woodbury
6. Vincenting Richard-Woodbury
7. Harold Jacquard
8. Natalie Saulnier
9. Danielle Surette
10. Conrad LeBlanc

### Question 1- If you were describing your community to someone who was interested in moving there, what would you say about it? Why?

- Taxes are cheaper.
- Don't have much (street lights, water, and sewer).
- Close proximity to the ocean.
  - Comfortable breeze (could be considered wind for others)
- Quiet community.
- Bilingual
- Close to a hospital (12 miles)
- Was home to the world's largest sport tuna fishery
- Many different organisations to get involved.
- Many volunteer opportunities.
- People: very welcoming, accepting, accommodating, friendly
- Not too much crime – low vandalism now.
  - Citizens get together to go against crime.
- Citizens' care for each other and fight together for a cause.
- Multi-talented people.
- Huge group of fishermen during in "off reason" – huge potential of opportunity.
- Legion
- Knights of Columbus
- Fire Hall
- Women quilt during winter months in 'backroom' of Tuna Museum
- Men hangout in Museum
- New Horizon's Club
- Roman catholic

### Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?

- Museum
- Church
- Butte-de-la-Croix
- Program of litter clean up
- Sidewalks
- Store (Clover Farm)
- A.L. LeBlanc
- Wharf (could need some work)

- Trail
- Fish Plants
- Credit Union
- Roland Murphy
- Fishery (all lobster)
- Rock weeding and Irish moss
- Proximity to Yarmouth
- Schools
- Fire department
- Family ball tournament (annual)
- 2 playgrounds
- Ball and soccer fields
- Funeral home
- Tusket river basin (islands etc...)
- Legion
- Knights of Columbus
- Coffee shop (part of museum)
- Restaurant
- Credit union
- Hardware store
- 2 fish plants
- 2 boat shops
- Musicians
- Belle femmes
- Low income housing
- 2 post offices
- Certified mechanic shop- auto body
- Hairdresser
- Photographer
- Accountant
- High majority of paved roads
- Fish buyers
- Underutilized specialized fish processing (sea cucumbers)
- Microwave telephone tower
- Quilters
- Lower mortgages and rental fees
- Jobs availability due to proximity to Yarmouth

**Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- All the young people moving away; leaving only 'old' people left.
- Less lobster licences in Wedgeport.
  - Used to be over 100; now less than 75.
  - Less commerce, spin off (bait, gas, workers, etc.).
  - Less people available to work on lobster boats
- We have an aging population and old people are leaving for urban area (closer to Yarmouth's shops, services...)

- Declining population will lead to smaller tax base which could mean less services
- There is no community spirit- groups and associations used to work together (festival, fire department etc...) to deliver activities and events- does not happen anymore
- That we will lose our school
- Wedgeport is becoming a bedroom community and houses are bought or rented for low price. These properties are not maintained or kept up to the community's usual standard
- Sewer – 70% said no. 30% said 30%.
  - Education is required to the citizens
  - \*\*without a sewer, it could lead to health risks
  - With education, the statistics may change.
- Dogs not on leashes (terrified of),
  - Should be a by-law for those who are vicious and wear a muzzle. (There is a by-law).
  - Charles has received complaints on dog poop.
- Dog by-law needs to be worked on VERY much.
  - 1. Not on a leash 2. Poop
- Instructions to call the Municipal Public Works department for complaints.
- Illegal dumping
  - Depends and Bingo cards found on side of road.
- Poor housing; turn ghetto.
- Amalgamation – is it a possibility?
  - Alain: not in the near future (culture/language would be a big issue)
  - Recreation departments could all function as ONE (example: Yarmouth Town & Municipality now functioning together)
- Many old homes that are abandoned are becoming eyes sores.
- Unsightly premises – dangerous is worse than 'looks of building'.
- There are less and less people in the community and less people available to fish
- Losing one of our post offices
- Losing the Dial-a-Ride service (Hope). Without any other type of community transportation- this is all we have
- Loss of the French language
- Declining attendance at church- loss of religion and the church building itself
- There is a fear of too much dependence on Yarmouth to the point where local businesses are not supported

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- All abandoned homes are for sale:
  - What are opportunities are there? A few years ago, Brett did his own 'survey': 39 homes were for sale. Now, 50 for sale. RE: sewer survey.
    - Why are they abandoned?
      - Some could be demolished; others transformed into housing.
      - Not just a single-home → turn into duplex?
      - Do something so it doesn't turn into a slum.
- Abandoned homes – building inspections (Physical analysis: what we have and what can be done) to see in what kind of condition they're in: possibility of changing in seniors' homes, daycares...
  - Renovate? Moved? Destroyed?

- Land can be very valuable without homes.
- Economic opportunity – fishermen could repair homes during ‘off’ season (give them jobs)
  - Supplies found where?
- How to promote what is positive?
  - Need to promote us as a great place to live.
  - Promote internationally (like the Tuna Festival used to be international).
- Alain: magazines that promotes heritage; restoration/renovation projects
- Annual General Meeting to citizens with Council/CAO/Staff to answer questions.
- Activities for youth and young people.
- Activities for seniors.
- Cell service is very much needed in all of Wedgeport
- More sidewalks
- Transportation service for seniors or disabled people
- Senior housing (Blair Boudreau is a rep for the Atlantic Senior Housing Alliance)
- We need a sewer system
- Added value to our fish products
- Community spirit
- We need an action plan to help our seniors- how to communicate with them, what services and programs are available to them, events etc...
- Need more recreational use of our clubs and even church (in one community, seniors walk around the inside of the church in bad weather)

**Summary- What 3 action items can we take away from tonight?**

**Group A**

- Opportunity to market and revitalize abandoned homes – renovates, move and destroy?
  - What’s out there? What can be done?
    - Safety inspections
    - Why are they empty? Take care of those that are problematic?
    - What is being done in other communities?
    - Is there funding? Innovation.
      - Plenty of possibilities.
        - What do we do with the slum?
        - Opportunity to do with it?
- Sewage education.
  - System is very important for area (health risk)
- Improvement of current dog by-law
  - (Charles will put on next Council Meeting Agenda and will make a motion to improve by-law).

**Group B**

- Develop industry in Argyle to create jobs
- Senior car- transportation, infrastructure, programs, safety. Sewers and transportation are needed and important to everyone
- Doctor recruitment

## District 4: Guy Surette

Location: Twin Village Social Club

Date: April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### Present:

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Armand Bourque | 8. Alice Bourque   |
| 2. Alain Doucet   | 9. Janice Bourque  |
| 3. Joan Surette   | 10. Weez Colburn   |
| 4. Evelyn Bourque | 11. Eddie Madden   |
| 5. Warren Surette | 12. Nancy Amirault |
| 6. Melvin Landry  | 13. Marielle Hope  |
| 7. Roland Bourque | 14. Frances Landry |

### Question 1- If you were describing your community to someone who was interested in moving there, what would you say about it? Why?

- People are fantastic and friendly
- Quiet / tranquility
- A lot of water
- Fluctuating seasons
- Lots of mosquitoes
- Rotten bridge
- Fishing
- Very supportive of each other when in need (between people)
- You know your neighbours- you want to know your neighbours- we worry about our neighbours
- People get together to make things happen
- Scenery is beautiful
- Campers think the end of Morris Island is beautiful
- It's very nice on Surette's Island (wife from Wedgeport and loves it on the Island)
- *Emailed repose from someone who could not attend:* I consider my community to be quite large. Being born in SAR, I have loyalties to SAR and the communities represented in district 4. While I don't consider Yarmouth Town my home, I consider it to be an important central location for some services. I have closeness to Tusket, as this is where I work, but also, I appreciate the local business and service that is available to me.

### Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?

- Community halls (2) and small chapel on Surette's Island
- Cemetery
- Fire departments (2)
- Clubs
- Churches (2)
- Bilingual people
- Beauty of nature
- Wharves 3- Sluice Point Morris Island and Surette's Island

- Culture-Acadian
- Fishing industry. Everyone is involved or associated with it
- Tweet tweets
- Many professionals live in our communities (skills, trades etc...)
- Pride
- Seasons-fog
- Can see the stars
- Amirault's Hill and Surette's Island have lots of volunteers- when problems came up with almost losing the hall, people got together and started making breakfasts and everyone has contributed time and money
- New senior's club- Indian Sluice Seniors Club. 106 members- President Alain Doucet
- Leaders in our community- Alain Doucet, Evelyn Bourque, Armand Bourque
- People are not scared to commit to activities and to help
- Festival de la Barge- Armand Bourque is in charge. This group has been asked to go to Grand Pre to construct a barge there
- Carino Confections
- Sluice Point Cottages and Golf
- Amirault's Hill- site of the first mass celebrated there- commemorative mass held there every year
- Lots of people have gardens (for food)
- There is an apartment building (old school)
- Cottage country- Surette's Island, Tittle, Morris Island
- New home constructions
- Lobster pound
- Lots of nature
- Hairdressers operating from their homes
- Lots of activities- bingos, cribbage, darts
- Feel there is already a natural community watch in effect
- Worming industry
- Kayak fishery
- Site of where the barges are- interpretation area.
- Can trust everyone and could leave your houses unlocked- but now with recent vandalism, we must keep them locked
- Even though the economy is up and down everywhere, people from our communities are still working

*Emailed response from someone who could not attend:*

Proximity to local services (gas station, wharf carls store, hospital, fire department)

Privacy, quiet area to live

People – large base of volunteers and good people to live around.

Community halls in the area

Francophone rooted community

Tight family ties – they are what keep me here.

Wind power

Potential growth in farming (cranberry)

Older homes, unique carpentry and style is potentially an attractive item to some

### **Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- Most of the population is elderly (lots of widows in the area)
- Lots of retired people in the community
- Parking for church is dangerous (Amirault's Hill). Coming out of parking lot- visibility is not good and there are cars that park on the road too
- The Surette's Island/ Sluice Point bridge will fall down- do not want to invite people on the Island until it is fixed. Some people are truly afraid crossing it- unbuckle their seatbelts etc...
- Real estate problem because of the bridge- harder to sell houses etc...
- Litter problem in the area
- Not enough street lights for security- but don't want taxes to raise a lot
- No sidewalks- hard to walk on the side of the road
- Districts like Pubnico and Wedgeport have more than other districts- not fair (sidewalks etc.)
- Physical inactivity
- Hard to have students stay in the area because there are no jobs and they want to leave
- Concert on the hill was a good event but everything is still out and it looks like a mess
- Special pick-ups are too far from one another (too long between pickups). Find another way to get rid of big items
- That vandalism starts again, right now it is ok. Fear that they will lose their sense of security
- Coyotes- most people who walk have a walking stick with a "piece" on the bottom that they can use to defend themselves
- Fear that emergency services are too far away (Yarmouth or Pubnico)
- Most people are looking after an aging person- need help
- Cost of living keeps going up. Because it is seen as being "far out", it deters people from living here (gas costs etc...)
- Rising heating costs are very hard on seniors
- Losing the bridge to Morris Island
- Who is going to keep the halls going? Activities planned if no young people?
- No more school, no more ball field, no more tennis court, ball field on Surette's Island is gone as well
- Old school is now an eye-sore
- When you are trying to take care of your own property and other people in the village have properties that look like dumps (school with old cars), it is embarrassing and makes them less proud of the community
- Is there a by-law about old cars on properties? Everything starts out small then gets out of control
- Garbage and recycling trucks do not pick up and bags that have fallen in the ditch. Start picking it up! Older people cannot climb down into the ditches.
- Is the municipality responsible for the graders?
- Losing our children and grandchildren to other places
- Closing of the church
- Losing our culture
- Loss of fishing
- Too dependent on Yarmouth- not developing enough in our municipality- for example, there are 9 pharmacies in Yarmouth

- Road condition is bad at the Passe de la Pre
- People are moving more so older people are dying and no young people are coming back
- Very few young people
- The Surette's Island club is not worth putting any money into it- can we really keep up two clubs and two fire halls?
- We don't have police protection like Yarmouth does
- Feel that there is the same amount of people moving away as there always was but now families are so much smaller that it has a bigger impact
- More information sessions on local topics and in our communities
- Tax services offered to seniors or others who need it in our communities

*Emailed response from someone who could not attend:*

Loss of our youth to better jobs elsewhere

Decreased use of community assets (clubs, fields etc...) less children to use them, less interest to use them

Threat of loss in lobster fishery would make the loss of the Cat look like a small issue.

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- Rural beautification contest- upgrade your property and encourages people to care about their properties
- Municipality needs to find more funding to protect assets or help community find funding- community halls are one of our biggest assets
- Community watch (for seniors who walk and are active in the community) maybe as part of the new seniors club. (Julien explained about the new track and field addition to PEB. The group really liked the idea and think it would be used and be a very safe to use every day after school).
- Support Festival de la Barge
- Interpretive panels- informative and historical
- Support seniors clubs because if they lose the hall, they have no room for seniors to get together (no school, no club, no basement in church)
- Wish that younger families in the community would be involved and have a better feeling of community- they could use halls to get together and stay in your community
- Resources are disappearing and there is always fundraising- always digging farther for money
- Welcome wagon
- Make information of upcoming events better known
- Facebook to announce things
- Email lists
- Park area for people to walk
- Would like to see "Blockin" area developed (beach area in Amirault's Hill)
- Geocaching
- Fireworks
- Movie night
- Garden party/ neighbourhood events/variety shows
- Street dance
- Trails

- Increase youth activities for kids
- Need more leaders
- Increased availability of resources for senior care
- Buy local
- More collaboration among communities to get large projects like transportation, ambulance service etc...
- There is a bus at Nakile not being used much, couldn't it help with transportation within municipality?
- Litter cleanup

*Emailed response from someone who could not attend:*

- Recommend that the community have a meeting to discuss the future of their 2 halls. Both halls are suffering both have volunteers, both have a bar, is there an appetite to work together?
- Market our quiet lifestyle to attract young retired individuals to the area who are sick of the rat race of urban living.
- We have bright young people, connect their education needs and desires to potential jobs here (through the schools)
- Use newly developed RDA to provide expertise on diversifying fishing industry in our area.
- Potential to add value to current fishing product locally.

### **Summary- What 3 action items can we take away from tonight?**

#### **Group A**

- Unstructured and structured family areas (playground and park like areas)
- Unsightly properties have to be cleaned up. Beauty contest for properties
- Bridge

#### **Group B**

- Culture must be preserved
- Preservation of the club
- Preservation of our natural environment

#### **Group C**

- Establish closer emergency services/ fix transportation problems
- Available resources for seniors and for those looking after seniors
- Youth focus- things done to get them moving

## District 5: Malcolm Madden

Date: March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

### Present:

1. Cécile Bourque
2. Dave Bourque
3. Christine Pothier
4. Danielle Byrne
5. Pasty Surette
6. Ella Muise
7. Thérèse Boucher
8. Monique Surette
9. Winnie Surette
10. Jennifer Saulnier
11. Curtis Saulnier
12. Nolan d'Eon
13. Kim d'Eon
14. Ray Surette
15. Dianne Crowell
16. Irvin Surette
17. Bob LeBlanc
18. Gerald Babin
19. Carolyn Babin
20. Hubert Surette
21. Gary Seeley
22. Dave Shufelt
23. Ginette Surette
24. Janice Surette
25. Ruth Ann LeBlanc
26. Margaret Madden
27. Devin Madden
28. Jerry Doucette
29. Mrs. Jerry Doucette
30. Geraldine Surette
31. Chester Doucette
32. Alan Brown

Malcolm Madden, Alain Muise, Brenda LaGrandeur, Scott Muise, Ginette d'Entremont, Peggy Boudreau

**Question 1- What do you consider to be your community? After we get these answers we ask "Why"?** Group discussion

- great safe place to live
- home
- good neighbours
- larger than just the area that we live in- everything within an hour
- Acadian
- Yarmouth and Acadian Shores
- beautiful
- trees
- friendly
- diverse in people and activities
- you know everybody even if they are not from your immediate community- familiarity
- People support events outside SAR, Quinan etc.. and people from outside come in to support us as well
- South West Nova- French Shore
- Interconnected
- Central location in region

**Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?**

- Fire departments
- People- "I felt at home right away"
- Gas station/stores/liquor store
- Community halls
- Body shop
- Church (but no priest)
- Some places have new blood moving in- it was always an older community in the past years
- Community of SAR more open than others
- Lakes and ocean (good access)
- Open natural surrounding- scenery
- Tourism
- Ladies auxiliary of the fire department
- Knights of Columbus
- Unique water- both salt and fresh (brackish)- creates great and different birding opportunities
- Skills
- Islands
- Local business
- La Chapelle
- Diversity
- Archives
- Farmer's Market
- Oyster Farm (could the shells be used for neutralizing risk for acid rain?) Could be a summer job to do a study
- Vacant houses- some are dangerous premises and should be torn down but others could be refit and redone
- Wide diverse group of people and skills
- People come together to support people in trouble- people step up when needed. Many are regular volunteers but everybody says yes when asked to help directly
- Great part of the province
- Close to shopping- Yarmouth
- Carl's and Malcolm's stores
- Good natural recreational area
- Tusket bridge reconstruction
- Postal rural mail delivery and post office
- Francophone schools (2) in this region
- Good garbage collection in municipality
- Fair amount of leaders in our community
- Low unemployment area
- Municipal office is close by
- Reasonable tax rate
- New community centre
- Fire departments (close to 30 volunteers)- good training for fire departments
- Mink processing

- Kayaking
- Rockweeding in Rocco Pt/Argyle
- Hunting and fishing
- Safety and comfort
- Pride
- Frenchy's
- Credit union
- Quinan- cottage country (but no people from Quinan- "they are all from outside- Pubnico, Wedgeport)
- Airport
- Seniors clubs
- Great place for seniors to live
- Bus garage
- Green- we are great recyclers
- Strong traditions and historical "roots"
- Good care for seniors (nursing home as well as home care)
- Karate being offered at SAR Club once a week
- Weekly senior card games
- SAR on the major tourism route (lighthouse route 3)
- Was the hub for construction industry (many contractors)
- Quinan events are very successful (wild game supper \$7000 profit, Labour Day picnic \$12,000 profit)
- Club acadien bakes and sells 500 pies per year
- Patchwork Pals at Club acadien
- Pickerel and bass fishing tournaments are huge
- Like that I can live and work in my language (French acadian)
- Lots of arts and music (new theatre but afraid it will be a showcase for French only)

### **Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- Things disappearing from the community- children, families have changed. Houses sold to people you don't know. Losing the ability or desire to welcome people into the community
- Are we making new people feel as welcome as we should? It makes the cohesiveness disintegrate if they are don't feel welcome
- No jobs- not just the community but surrounding areas
- Losing our identity
- Younger children are not tied to the community/losing youth
- Community is "small" for younger people
- Health care (not enough)- average age at this table is 60- many people go to the Shelburne Hospital
- People are selling their homes and moving to Yarmouth to be closer to the hospital
- There was talk of an ambulance service in Tusket- what happened to that?
- Medical clinic is very needed
- Need more low cost housing for seniors
- Oil is too expensive
- French schools- enrolment will go down as population goes down

- Losing the church
- If the Knights of Columbus was closed there would be no place for seniors to go
- Losing our trade skills- not being passed down from old to young
- Pollution- no sewer system
- Not enough sidewalks, lights, sewer
- Many dogs on the loose (Eel Brook) – concern that electric fence currently keeping it on the property is not enough (if electricity is not on)
- Roads need repair
- Need an ambulance in the area
- Drugs- several known dealers. There are also drugs grown in the area. Each year a plane flies over looking very closely at all fields (especially corn)
- Have been break-ins in neighbouring communities- afraid it will “spread”
- Not enough jobs for local youth- wages too low in jobs available and no turn-over in good jobs
- Need more industry in the area- there weren’t any jobs available for new doctors wives and they left
- People are too fearful to take risks in this area
- Fear of losing postal service
- Loss of churches
- Having more rundown or vacant homes
- That the community will age out (more old people and no new)
- Loss of volunteerism in the communities
- Losing the gas station in SAR- one of the last that will pump your gas for you
- Flooding areas in Quinan- but don’t want to move
- Price of oil is going up, seniors not being able to afford to live in their homes
- As population gets older not enough assisted living available, “Who will take care of us?”
- No place to stay when older/ Can we afford to stay here?
- Loss of ferry has great consequence – people may have to move.
  - There was a huge amount of tours at the oyster farm (from people off of the boat)
- Losing the fishing industry would be a major loss, fish plants etc...
- Losing doctors, we should be lining up our youth to stay
- We need better communication
- No continuity in solid jobs
- Loss of morals
- The reason that some projects don’t work (combining club, fire hall, Knights etc...) is simply because people don’t get along. Shouldn’t be the reason for it not to happen
- New people buying homes here and not looking after them
- Bridge/causeway just after the Church is eroding
- Higher taxes because there may be less people which would mean less services
- With potential loss of fire department (Quinan) there is a real fear that insurance costs to residents would be much higher
- New SAR fire department construction site planned for a very low area- may be cut off in the case of flooding
- Unsightly premises- clunker cars, deep freezes etc...very afraid it will affect surrounding property values as well as wondering what is leaching into the soil from some of the items

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- New community centre
- Ask municipal council to fight harder for the communities
- Provincial government has a tendency to focus on where the votes are from (Hfx-Truro)- they have forgotten SW Nova (including for tourism help)
- Tax breaks to help companies
- Need a sound economy to make this a good place to come back to
- Help fight to get the boat (*ferry*) back
- New ferry schedule should benefit us and not the states so much
- Advertise our tourist areas better- kayaking in the lakes and rails to trails. Feel that fewer people know about SW Nova
- Lots of money goes into the lighthouse in Yarmouth but it is not advertised enough
- Yarmouth needs to get together as a community to keep people here (Tusket Toyota did a survey when they moved to Yarmouth which showed that the Town of Yarmouth has no growth)
- We have to promote ourselves (people ask what is in Yarmouth)
- Sports wise- people will not travel for games from away when they have many arenas closer to themselves (Halifax etc...)
- It all comes down to money
- Need a subcommittee for the recreation committee to help with promotion
- Need to find out who is in the community to help with promotion
  - Bring NS tourists down here. How effective is Yarmouth and Acadian Shores?
- Rebuild our roads
- Promote the talents of each community/ individual artists and musicians etc...
- Better inviting signs to welcome and promote the area/village/community (like in the Mun of Yarmouth and Clare)
- Identify ourselves by putting out our French flags- like they do in Clare and Pubnico in the summer
- Incentive- contest to promote our area by cleaning up our yards and/or gardens – sense of pride
- Enforce the by-laws- unsightly premise by-law. There are too many places with garbage (example- clean up boats at the end of Rocco Point)- 3 groups said the same
- Clean up lakes and other litter clean-up- protect the environment
- Need a new rail for the Eel Lake Bridge
- Bring all parties together with a mediator to discuss combining our public spaces (club, fire hall, knights etc...)- mentioned by all groups
- Old SAR school (ball field) would be the perfect location for the new combined club, fire hall etc....as there has to be a large septic system and well is place already
- Use schools more for recreation for all age groups- line dancing for seniors
- Make sure recreation programs run constant- more organized. Don't just offer it once (such as cross country skiing).
- Need more events for adults during non-working hours
- "People need more recreation". "Julien is right out of school, he must have ideas, let him loose, could be the ambassador. He can't do it alone though"
- Dart tournament in different clubs on a rotating basis

- Four wheeler runs on trails- organized by rec department
- Use our clubs for more activities (i.e. seniors, music, computer classes etc...)
- Flooding with Quinan was discussed- need an extra push for better cell coverage before next flood
- Volunteerism- need to bring it up
  - Tax break for hours of volunteer work
  - Incentives for people to do volunteer work; recognize volunteers through monetary means. "Once a year banquet is not enough"
  - Someone at the municipality should be in charge of volunteerism
- Use the soon to be opened theatre in PEB for family movie nights
- "There aren't many people who don't speak English around here; but there are lots the other way"
- Need a sound economy to make this a good place to come back to
- Tourism- need a boat- the effects of the ferry loss are large
- Taste of NS- promote NS as a food industry
- There is a need for an online and printed calendar of events – need to create an email list
- Promote our lifestyle- attract new people to the region
- Welcome wagon/welcome committee
- Ball field and tennis court at old SAR school site- who owns them? Could they be mowed and maintained. Felt that they would be used.
- Have a community block party to get to know the people in your neighborhood
- Rec department should hire summer staff whose job it would be to focus on non-senior and non-kids initiatives
- Walking indoors in the hallways of schools during the winter and when the bugs are bad
- More card game nights
- Want to know where the EMO comfort center is for this community (SAR)
- Larger farmer's market- a site that could potentially be flooded in the winter for a rink
- More promotion of events
- Creation of assisted living spaces "attached" to our existing senior facilities (for example Nakile)

**Summary- What 3 action items can we take away from tonight?**

*From the items in question 4, what are the top 2 or 3 that should be looked at first?*

**Group A**

- Should try and get more community involvement
- Look at ways of increasing pride in our communities by improving it
- Identify the youth in the community

**Group B**

- Combination of clubs and facilities- fire hall, club, knights, seniors etc.
- Set up a volunteer bank, support and skills sharing
- Environmental clean-up

**Group C**

- With the decline in volunteerism, more incentives should be created to reward hours volunteered
- Diversified recreation plan to ensure all ages have the opportunity to participate. To encompass both individual and family events- "Utilize what we have"

**Group D**

- Get the boat back!
- Protect and defend the local community club
- Focus on employment opportunities to bring people and to keep people
- Enhance opportunities for people to be entrepreneurs

**Group E**

- Combination of clubs and facilities- fire hall, club, knights, seniors etc
- Welcome committee of welcome wagon
- Longer season farmer's market

## District 6: Richard Donaldson

Location: Central Argyle Hall

Date: June 8th, 2011

### Present:

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Jonathan Joseph    | 7. Marc Surette    |
| 2. Candice Spinney    | 8. Jeff Spinney    |
| 3. Toddie d'Entremont | 9. Tracey Roberts  |
| 4. Julienne Spinney   | 10. Jill Surette   |
| 5. Lorne Spinney      | 11. Faith Adams    |
| 6. Diane Crowell      | 12. Krista Spinney |

**Question 1- If you were describing your community to someone who was interested in moving there, what would you say about it? Why?**

- Good people
- Paved roads
- Away from the hustle and bustle
- Fairly safe
- Peaceful
- "Home" is more of a community/village and not the region

**Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?**

- P-12 school with immersion program (Barrington students are bussed here to attend the immersion program)
- Wharf
- Lower Argyle Fishermen's Coop- at least 20 members. There is also a building where fishing supplies are sold
- 2 lobster tanks
- The lobster fishery itself
- 5 boat builders
- Wire trap business
- Glenwood assisted living/boarding home
- Nakile
- Riverview apartments
- Ye Olde Argyle Lodge
- Potential new pizza shop
- 3 churches
- 2 mink ranches
- Community halls (Glenwood, Central Argyle and Historic Church)
- Credit union
- 3 hairdressers (home based businesses)
- Plumbing business
- Livewire electrical service
- Spinney's Garage

- Rails to trails
- SARMU at Drumlin
- Very musically talented population
- Lots of runners and bikers
- Ardnamurchan Club (hire summer students and other staff in summer)
- TOPS club
- Abuptic Festival
- Russell Spinney Excavation
- Glenwood Park
- Medical Centre
- Dr. Loveridge
- Supportive people of events
- Great environment (when it's not foggy)- beautiful sunsets
- Talented residents
- Library at Pubnico Head
- Safe walking down the roads
- Community spirit
- People sincerely care
- In our region, the main jobs other than the fishery are trades, health and education
- We offer the tranquility that tourists want

### **Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- If we lose the fishery, we are in big trouble- everything else depends on it
- Roads are long overdue for repairs- there is a very dangerous place in front of the Argyle Church where water collects and there is a danger of hydroplaning
- The intersections on Highway 103 (at both ends) are very dangerous. Pubnico at one end and Argyle (near Nakile) at the other.
- Our young people need more "support"
  - No sports programs for kids in Argyle
  - No accessibility to use Drumlin school
  - Seems like many things are planned for Wedgeport and Pubnico
- Scared that younger people are leaving for education and have no jobs to come back to
- The Abuptic Festival took a long time to "bring back" to where it is now. If it were lost again, it probably won't come back.
- Difficult to get information about community events and meetings
- Not an intergenerational sort of community- there are things for kids and things for seniors but not really anything in between
- The "new" form of volunteering is simply to give money instead of their time
- If you are considering beginning a family, there is no chance of having a family doctor. The doctors we have are getting older and looking to retire
- EHS response time is too slow. The Argyle has even considered investing in a defibrillator as they have had to call 911 twice for guests
- Loss of volunteer training sessions- where to begin and how for both people looking to volunteer and groups who need volunteers

- Fear of losing community halls- they are in need of repairs. Richard stated that council was interested in prioritizing all the halls that ask the Municipality for assistance to better be able to understand needs.
- Not enough kids around anymore to get together and play
- Less and less tourists around without the ferry – loss of accommodation in region
- Travelling externally (to go down south etc.) is much cheaper than travelling within our province when considering gas prices.
- Younger people need to have more children and stay here
- There is a low immigration level in our area and the federal process for immigration is so slow that it is discouraging
- Fear of more loss of facilities or services (loss of credit union)
- Need more playgrounds- nothing for children to do in the area
- Loss of activities for kids (Brownies, Beavers etc...)
- Would like more organized activities for kids (bike rides, bon fires etc...). Don't give up on activities that are tried just once. Keep offering them as sometimes they just have to catch on.
- Dwindling population and loss of tourism

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- Wires need to be raised permanently at the Camp Cove Wharf to ensure that boats that are built at the 5 boat shops in the area can be “sailed” off to the buyer. Right now each shop pays \$3500 to Aliant/NS Power to raise them each time. If the cost passed on to the buyer, it makes the boats built in Argyle much less competitively priced than other shops.
- Need more access to Drumlin school for all residents – children, seniors, the festival. Whenever somebody does manage to book the school, they often get bumped. If not, they have to pay huge fees to the janitorial staff. There is no access on weekends at all. There was a basketball camp held there a few years ago-totally run by volunteers and they were charged \$300. They can rent Maple Grove for \$8. The Argyle Youth Group has used the Pubnico School because Argyle was not accessible.
- Boat tours in summer- perhaps several boats could get together (lobster cooperative) and band together for discounts for insurance and upgrades
- Benches on the side of the roads
- Exercise equipment along the rails to trails- pull-up bars, steps- more cardio work
- Doctor recruitment
- Need a ferry (and other transportation links)
- Need a community board or sign to let people know about activities, events and meetings
- Abugtic Festival- need to keep interest high and get more people involved
- Try to get the attention of youth and get them more involved in the community
- Organized volunteer opportunities and coordination (for people who are looking to volunteer and for groups who need/want volunteers)
- Whatever new industry comes to our area we need to ensure that it is one that our current work force have the skills to do (not just an industry that brings in people from outside)
- Take what we have, look who we have to work with and advertise it- work with what we have

- Support our youth- yes! But we also have to support other generations of our population- for activities, employment, support etc.
- Because people tend to have better health, they feel better and are able to work until they are older than in other generations- ensure that this group is considered for employment
- When you really consider other places in this province and the problems they are facing, our area is not failing- we are doing pretty good
- We need to create a “scenario” to make people stay
- The Ye Olde Argyle will be changing from fine dining to more casual in an effort to attract more of the local community
- Would like to see a follow up meeting with all the districts
- A selected few from each district could meet together and discuss the issues brought up at these meetings.

**Summary- What 3 action items can we take away from tonight?**

**Group A**

- Wires need to be permanently raised at Camp Cove Wharf
- Intersection issue at Pubnico and Argyle exits off of 103 needs to be addressed
- More access to Drumlin School

**Group B**

- In order to grow our community, we need to engage people and make sure that volunteer opportunities are presented and that all generations are engaged
- Our facilities and services need to be saved- organized activities have to occur more often, have to look at getting/saving doctors, develop our beaches and parks

## District 7 – Kathy Bourque

Location: East Pubnico

Date: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

### Present:

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Michelle Amirault | 7. Jocelyn Nickerson    |
| 2. Claire Amirault   | 8. Ann-Louise Belliveau |
| 3. Snookie Adams     | 9. Jackie Forbes        |
| 4. Angie Owen        | 10. Jimmy Amirault      |
| 5. Patrick Amirault  | 11. Vicky Belliveau     |
| 6. Cassie Amirault   | 12. Lucinda Amirault    |

Kathy Bourque, Malcolm Madden, Alain Muise, Brenda LaGrandeur, Scott Muise

### **Question 1- What do you consider to be your community? After we get these answers we ask “Why”?**

- Exit 31 is home
- East Side (after Ligoury’s Hill)
- Includes Yarmouth and Barrington
- Have to partner as a region (all of South West Nova) to be successful
- Boring
- Quiet
- Peaceful
- People are friendly
- A lot of little kids
- Safe- no crime
- Helpful
- Beautiful- great views
- Nice playground- not used a lot
- French lake- swimming area (needs gravel, pollution issue etc.)
- Ball field (not used a lot, would be if there were lights and maybe a mini-rink)
- Community hall- activities are there but not advertised enough
- Store
- Church
- Credit union (losing it soon)
- Post office
- Fire department
- Over half the people shop in Barrington
- Medical care- about half have doctor in Pubnico
- Many use rink, hospital and other services in Shelburne County

### **Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?**

- Fishing
- Public government wharf has 44 lobster boats

- Ray's wharf has 10 lobster boats
- 3 lobster pounds
- Shed
- Processing draggers
- East Side Fisheries- NS crabbers
- Tank shop
- Summertime- Sealife Fisheries (Comeau Seafoods)- herring
- Ronnie's Boat Shop (3-4 employees)
- Community Hall
- Credit Union (closing)
- Fire Hall
- Playground
- Golf course
- Monument at Hipson's Creek
- Lobster licenses
- Library- but kind of stingy looking
- Joint fundraisers (picnic last fall) for hall, fire department and playground
- Seniors are staying in this community
- Lots of gardening- there are even orchards where fruit spoils on the trees
- They feel they are well supported by the residents of West Pubnico
- They have a diverse bunch of people living there
- Young families from the outside have moved in and bought older homes (from Ontario and BC)- found it while on vacation and loved it
- Older couples who have roots to the community are moving back and are also renovating older homes
- There is employment right here in this community- different than many other nearby communities (as noted by a former resident of Surette's Island)
- Rails to trails
- Hipson Creek Bridge
- Child care is available in area (in private homes- in East and West Pubnico)
- After school program available at West Pubnico school
- French immersion was cancelled at the Shag Harbour school and kids are now bussed from Oak Park and through Woods and Shag Harbour to go to Drumlin for immersion
- Université Ste Anne- Tusket
- Burrige
- Dal School of Nursing
- Lighthouse (needs to be cleaned)
- Windmills
- Ladies' auxiliary
- Dumping day bbq on wharf (playground committee)

**Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- Fishing will be gone
- Hard to find a crew for fishing in the summer- people want to be on EI or go away
- All license owners are under 50
- Threat that church may close- Father Gerald is old

- Credit union loss
- No jobs for youth
- Corner store would leave
- Outsiders purchasing homes and not maintaining them properly
- Loss of community outlook because of derelict homes etc...
- Loss of safety/safe community
- Fear of loss of community hall, lighthouse and fire department
- Community is at a breaking point, can't afford to lose any more infrastructure/businesses
- \$25,000 grant for the hall not being used properly (buying laptops that were used for other purposes and damaged)
- With ferry gone there are fears they will lose more (lost a restaurant etc...)
- Losing tourism- used to have many people on bicycles going through the community and would stop and tent on side of road
- Some people don't get involved because the same people have been "doing it all"
- That Yarmouth will repeat some past mistakes that will affect us (way back when Michelin was trying to decide between Yarmouth and Bridgewater and Yarmouth said no- rational was that existing local employers would either lose their current employees or have to raise their wages)
- East and West Side do not always work well together
- There are kids who are falling through the cracks. Used to be that if they were not strong in high school, they would drop out and get a trade. Now they have to have grade 12 to get accepted to trade school. Some just can't get their grade 12 and end up with menial low paying jobs.
- Lots of closed up homes
- There is an issue with seasonal employment that EI is sound "good" because fishing wages are high that people would rather be on EI (or make more money) than if they found other work on their off season

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- Maintain ball field and upgrade
- Streetlights
- Empty credit union could be used as a new library
- Day camp- there are now lots of kids getting to day camp age
- Ball fields, why can't they be used to have community competitions
- More for teens and kids
- Should be asking teens- what do you want to do in your community
- Need more advertising of events within the community- should perhaps be asking some of the computer savvy people in the community who have more time to work on this. This would be for a printed calendar or listing of events as well as setting up an email list of residents so that you could send emails (for free) to everyone.
- Need better high speed internet. They have satellite internet that is unreliable
- Should have a CAP site here
- Would like to be a representative on the rec committee- how do I get on and what is their role?

- With all the gardens around, there could be a harvest festival in the fall where there is either a sale or a supper using all the produce grown locally (orchards, private gardens etc...)
- Recreation department should introduce more activities to the community
- New activities that are not offered in other communities should be offered here to entice people from other communities to come here
- More community involvement by new people
- Recreation newsletter is distributed too late and uploaded onto website too late for many of the events
- Yoga organized by rec department
- Dream of a unified community- it seem to be all the same people doing the same thing
- Need more volunteers
- Community newsletter
- Stuff for ages 30-45 is missing
- Activities for me and my kids early in the evenings during the week or on weekends
- There is nowhere safe to exercise with my kids (good example would be kids and mom yoga class)
- Would like a rink
- Flights from Yarmouth airport to Portland are too expensive

**Summary- What 3 action items can we take away from tonight?**

*From the items in question 4, what are the top 2 or 3 that should be looked at first?*

**Group A**

- Look into using credit union building as either a library or coffee shop
- Community newsletter/signage- keeping people in the know
- Setting up a volunteer call bank- ask the community what they want in the hall
- Tim Horton's idea should be revisited (or Subway)
- Windmill farm- we should increase signage
- Experiential tourism- use fish plants and wharves (make them living wharves)

**Group B**

- Better access to health care
- A way to inform people as to what's going on and how to get involved (sign and/or newsletter)
- Finding year round employment opportunities for people
- Physical activity year round
- Tourism site development- package deals with all four golf courses, picnic tables and benches at lighthouse and windmills, signs at each site showing how to get to the others including Hipson's Creek where many people stop already. Maybe have a map available at Hipson's promoting the other sites.

**Group C**

- Maintain and upgrade local ball field with lights and basketball
- Better communication between organizers and the community

## District 8: Aldric d'Entremont and District 9: Calvin d'Entremont

Location: Centre de Pombcoup

Date: June 15th, 2011

### Present:

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Arnold Muise        | 11. Laurent d'Entremont        |
| 2. Rémi d'Entremont    | 12. Jean- Bernard d'Entremont, |
| 3. Simone d'Eon        | 13. Marie d'Entremont          |
| 4. Glen Diggdon        | 14. Claire d'Eon               |
| 5. Simone Gaudet       | 15. Gustin d'Eon               |
| 6. Dolores d'Entremont | 16. Cecil d'Entremont          |
| 7. Wallace d'Entremont | 17. Rachelle Surette           |
| 8. Joyce d'Entremont   | 18. Mariette d'Entremont       |
| 9. Rita d'Entremont    | 19. Lorraine d'Eon             |
| 10. Vaughn d'Entremont |                                |

### **Question 1- If you were describing your community to someone who was interested in moving there, what would you say about it? Why?**

- Lots of activities
- Very small
- Fishing
- Friendly
- Lots to offer
- Acadian/French community
- Cool in the summer- expect to see some fog
- Lots of people here with the same last name
- Our wharf (Dennis Point) has the largest monetary catch in Atlantic Canada
- Not a lot of crime
- Open and welcoming community
- Depending on the age of the person that I was describing it to, I would say something different. Someone older and maybe retired – I would tell them about the great golfing. Somebody younger, I would tell them about job opportunities (fishery)
- Quiet and safe
- People help each other in time of need
- Camaraderie among people in the community
- Have good tourism offerings
- Local amenities are all nearby (grocery, pharmacy, health clinic)
- No need to go outside of the community in the winter
- Clean area – we have a sewer system and good trash collection
- School in community
- Volunteer based community
- Excellent fire department
- Beautiful- scenic
- Family ties- family everywhere

- Cultural pride
- People fairly wealthy- well off although there are some that need help

**Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?**

- Fire hall/ department
- Legion
- Ambulance service
- Co-op
- Corner store
- Village acadien
- Acadian museum
- 2 banks (credit union and RBC)
- Sears
- Hardware store
- Lawyers
- Hairdressers/ aestheticians
- Social workers
- Nurses
- Festival acadien in summer
- Fish plant
- Active wharves
- Very diverse fishery
- Low unemployment rate
- High employment opportunities
- School- enrolment at school is quite constant. It is the hub of activities for children
- Most places in West Pubnico are accessible- village historique and musée are not
- Wind Farm
- Medical Ctr
- Vernon d'Eon Lobster Plugs
- Active seniors group- Nouveaux Horizons
- Brownies and Cubs group
- There are groups for most age groups to be interested in except for teenagers
- Funeral home
- Church
- Pont du Marais
- 2 boat shops
- Liquor store
- Far enough from town that we have created many things to keep us self sufficient
- 2 restaurants
- Golf course
- Insurance company
- Many activities- music nights etc...
- Gun range
- Many camps on Great Pubnico Lake
- Sidewalks
- Many people keep their homes and yards very neat- shows pride

- Lots of people come here for work (in fish plants and on boats) and end up buying homes here
- Good sewer system
- Good leadership in our community- legion branch has officers, fire department etc.
- Two service stations
- Plumbers, electricians, welders and many other professionals
- Many people come into our community to work
- Strong church- aid to families is strong
- Close distance to home for special care (Nakile)
- Rare birds around the area- great for birding

**Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- There are less and less free senior activities
- Afraid that there will be more crime
- Seniors are moving out of their homes (or dying) and they are rented (cheap) to people who are not looking after them
- There is nothing in place to enforce when people don't keep up their properties (specifically when lawn is not mowed at all- reflects badly on other properties)
- Lots of homes for sale
- Continued downloading by provincial government onto municipal government
- We are too dependent on the fishery
- Young people are getting educated and not coming back- even students still in university are staying in the city more for summer jobs as there are less and less jobs here.
- Derelict buildings
- That municipal taxes will continue to go up
- The community of 20 years ago is no longer. People come in to buy cheaper homes and not able to keep them up (lack of community pride) with new people
- The space between the "rich" and the "poor" in West Pubnico is growing bigger
- That the church will continue to go down in attendance as well as the lack of priests
- That the amount of visitors (tourists) keeps going down
- Not enough for teenagers in the area
- Future lack of doctors and health care in the area. Some of the ones we have now will be retiring soon
- Ball fields are not being kept up
- Always the same people doing the same things (committees etc.). Some are not always willing to go out and find new leaders
- Loss of our French language
- More homes will get bought by people who do not look after them-strangers are coming into our community and not keeping up the homes like the others and then they move out
- There are smaller and smaller families
- There is one home that has 30 dogs and cats- very unsightly. People are afraid to complain or do not know what to do
- Lots more faster vehicles in the community, unsafe to let children walk or bike on the sides of the road- this makes them less independent

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- We need some sort of industry other than our regular fishery that will employ many people and pay good wages (maybe aquaculture)
- We need more doctors
- Our medical centre needs to be used to its full advantage with doctors and other health services offered there
- The present mobile blood collection service that comes to the Lions Club is very unprofessional. We love the convenience but there is no privacy, nowhere to wash your hands, wide open “grungy” space at the back of the building. Could this service be offered out of the new medical centre instead?
- We would like to have more clarity on how municipal money is spent
- We need a new RDA to help us with projects like doctor recruitment and job creation
- Need a new ferry in Yarmouth for tourism (very important for summer jobs) and for commercial trucks too
- Need to make sure that the Princess of Acadia ferry in Digby is replaced- we depend on that ferry now for our commercial trucking
- Would like to see an extension of sidewalks- for fitness and safety reasons
- Programs with high schools that will encourage students to do volunteer work in their own communities- instil an early spirit of volunteering. Certain amount of hours required in order to graduate
- Make sure that the property inspection department hears about our issues (derelict properties etc...)
- If the municipal office takes care of derelict properties, it might encourage others to clean up their own properties
- The Village historique wants to install a walking trail around the edge of the property and needs more money.
- Better kept up road from the end of the pavement to the windmills. Supposed to be kept up by the department of highways.
- We need better walking trails
- Something in the area to attract youth and children
- Ferry restoration
- Would like bike lanes (maybe recycled paved) or more sidewalks for biking and walking
- The sides of the road need different gravel- it is really loose and unsafe
- More and more people shop in Yarmouth and are not supporting local- we must support what is in the community because if not, it may mean businesses closing. This seems to be mostly younger people
- Amount of litter is extremely high. Ocean view is beautiful but when you look down at your feet, it is disgusting
- Need more trails for walking
- Need to be an age friendly community
- As a municipality, can we push for more signage- biking, share the road? Media campaign (Facebook, radio, paper publications)
- Would be nice to see the tennis courts fixed

- With the new playground, hopefully it will be more community friendly meaning that there will be picnic tables etc... for more than just children
- Would like to know what elderly people would like to do to be more active and participate
- Would like to see a survey/questionnaire sent out to residents to see if people want to pay for sidewalks
- Municipal website really needs to be updated- dead link to survey monkey, strategic plan.

**Summary- What 3 action items can we take away from tonight?**

**Group A**

- We need more doctors
- We need good paying jobs to keep more of our young people here- besides our current fishery
- Important for us to have a ferry for tourism and commercial trucks

**Group B**

- Community volunteer work as part of school curriculum
- Abandoned buildings need to be dealt with
- Recreation department need to have more of a supporting role in all local groups popping up (walking, biking etc...)

**Group C**

- Infrastructure that links to school- safer sidewalks, walking trails, bike lanes- this would make the school a true community school
- Unsightly premises- homes are being sold to outsiders and not kept up
- Accessibility for people in wheelchairs (age friendly). Church, museum and Village are difficult to access.

**I will be talking to the appropriate staff members to get answers to these questions and will send them out to you as soon as they are ready.**

These are the ones that were asked by certain people that we said we would get answers for to be shared with everyone:

1. Why are my taxes higher in West Pubnico than they are in Amirault's Hill for a house of the same age and size?
2. If new homes are added to the sewer system, will original people have to pay higher yearly fees afterward?
3. I now pay \$225 per year for being on the sewer system, will this cost go up now with the new plant?
4. Would like to have more info about Argyle's involvement with SWSDA
5. Capping on properties- if my neighbours property increases value and mine is capped, will I have to pay more because of him?
6. Would like to have more info on what is going to be done with the ICSP plan- what is the next step?

## Community discussion with summer staff

Date: June 29, 2011

### **Question 1- If you were describing your community to someone who was interested in moving there, what would you say about it? Why?**

- Middle of nowhere (can be positive or negative)
- Small French community
- Describe particular village as being # minutes from Yarmouth and/or Halifax.
- Everybody knows each other
- Safe
- Good neighbourhoods
- Only major crime: theft (the reason: communities trust everybody too much?)
- Do you like "fish" or "fishing"?
- Not much to do other but there are great house parties and there is always the option of going to the movies...
- Schools are "clicky"
- Sports in schools: mixes people from many communities of the municipality
- Work harder to find something to do; can be good since some people want time alone.
- Transportation: some youth have their own vehicles; others use parents' vehicles. Rail tracks can now be used (easier access).
- It's pretty: scenic (ocean...)
- Recognize people from the area; wouldn't necessarily (or easily) happen in a city.

### **Question 2- What are the assets in your community now?**

- Carl's Store
- Courthouse
- Vernon's – Dennis Point Café; creates jobs for students
- Movies (Studio 5)
- Mariner's Centre
- YMCA (many use the gym more than the pool)
- Hairdressers & nails; pricing is much cheaper than in the city
- Sidewalks
- Family softball tournaments
- No sport teams for young people (i.e.: intramurals and 'pick-up'); youth must go elsewhere.
- Community halls
- Red Knight
- Dooly's – is bompin'
- Bars in own communities would they work? Most likely not, since people like to leave their 'niche' to go out.
- Not a lot of people 'go out' without drinking
- Dances in Wedgeport really work; band or DJ (local bands: Simon & André/The Grinders): lots of young people in Wedgeport
- Fireworks: event to go with anybody; great social event for all (can be private or bigger, with lots of people)

- Most programs that young people want to take in post-secondary institutions are available. However, it is very difficult sometimes to get in a specific program. Also it is great to leave home to study, explore and learn...

**Question 3- What are your fears for this community?**

- All the young people leaving and the Municipality of Argyle turning into a 'retirement village'
- Jobs being cut
- Losing the French language (specifically the Acadian French) which is an important part of our culture.
- Health jobs (dentistry, radiology were examples given) and trades are difficult to find around here (contrary to what was heard by Brenda: to find a mechanic, one has to 'steal' one from another shop)

***Why do you want to stay here or return here?***

- Not the 'city type'
- Enjoy seniors
- Assimilation of young people with older folks
- History/genealogy
- Family: ALL – parents, siblings, aunts/uncles... friends!
- Spend youth years in the city but move back in the area to settle
- Great place to raise children
- Better relationship with parents compared to those in the city
- Never want "my kids" to go to a school in Halifax.
- Unfortunately, everyone knows everyone else's business
- For those who are moving away, their attitudes/ideology about 'home' might/are changing and will miss home – will want to return!

***What's in a municipal building? (Is it possible to hold another session to ask them what they would like to see; part of planning of new building?)***

- Criminal record check
- Dog tags
- Payment of taxes
- Recreation Department (Great hockey coach!)
- 

Not too many of the students present knew who is their municipal councillor.

Other notes:

- Expo-carrière (job fair)?
  - Would like to see events to find out what jobs are available in the area
    - Have someone come back and tell you their success story
  - Ways to entice people to go in a certain career (job security for when they return from studying)
    - Sort of like doctor recruitment incentives

**Question 4- What needs to be done? How can we use the assets that are here to make this a better place to live?**

- Outdoor recreation infrastructure (fields, courts...) – some is being take care of very well, others not so much.
- Nothing recreational for ‘our’ age; nothing fun for free (ex: intramurals)
  - Who can and who will organize?
- Rentals of fields and other important information is not publicized
  - “Need a plan behind the pickup”
- “Rec Talk” on the radio?
  - Other methods of communication
    - Signage?
    - Newsletter?
    - Facebook?
- Enticement for young people to come/return to Argyle to build a house
  - Where to start to look for information? (answered by Alain: start at Municipal Office)
- Alain: “There are restrictions that limit the Municipality of Argyle to give incentives to build or even give specific tax exemptions. We do have the lowest tax rate in the county. However, for example, there is a by-law for a tax exemption for low-income citizens. Might be something to look in to for a by-law for an incentive for a tax exemption for students with large student loans.”
- We need a gym (fitness centre) in a central location. Suggestions to include: tennis court, place to do Zumba and workout equipment.
  - Stated that people would no longer travel to Yarmouth (such as the Y or Defining Bodies where, when you leave all you smell is pizza!). Rather support local and be closer to home: less travelling for many.
- People go to Halifax for a trip – as a treat – people don’t want to have big party places in their backyards.
- At the end of the day, the only reason to leave the area is job and wage related
  - You just can’t live on love!
- Dissemination of info on municipal/provincial incentives and rebates for Nova Scotian students (NS tax break for students from NS who study in province and decide to stay).
- Many looking in building their own, new home
  - Regardless of decision, need money... need a job!
- Social life is secondary to job/money.
- Communication is revolutionized; more communication than EVER, but not face-to-face