



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF
YARMOUTH
truly connected

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

2010



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1 INTRODUCTION

Municipalities throughout Canada are required to prepare Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSPs) in order to access gas tax revenues to fund green infrastructure projects in their municipalities. The ICSP is a long term community plan designed to provide vision and direction for the Municipality of Yarmouth 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 cultural 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 late in 2010.

1.1 LOCAL CONTEXT

The Municipality of the District of Yarmouth is located in Yarmouth County and surrounds the Town of Yarmouth. Predominantly rural in nature this municipality is bounded on the east by the Municipality of the District of Argyle and the Tusket River and on the north by the Municipality of the District of Clare, in Digby County. Land development patterns vary in the municipality and range from urban and suburban along the Yarmouth Town boundary to remotely rural in the north. A number of hamlets and villages are located along coastal areas and further inland along the many lakes and rivers that dominate the landscape. Approximately twenty percent of the Municipality is covered by fresh water bodies. This water is drained by eight rivers with the Tusket and its tributaries, the Carleton and Annis Rivers, being the largest of the eight. Along with these inland waterways the municipality also contains significant coastal wetlands, beaches, waterfowl management areas and the iconic lighthouse at Cape Forchu. Yarmouth municipality is also contained within the UNESCO designated South West Nova Biosphere Reserve, which encompasses Queens, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Annapolis and Digby Counties.

Both the existing and proposed municipal planning strategies provide a framework and process for the accommodation of change in development and land use for all of the communities located within the entire municipality. A Municipal Planning Strategy has been in place for the rural Municipality of Yarmouth for 25 years. In fact the three municipalities that currently participate in the Yarmouth Argyle Barrington District Planning Commission (DPC) are progressive, rural municipalities that long ago recognized the benefits to their communities from long term planning and development control. The development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) as part of a broader revised Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) is regarded as a complimentary community planning process.

1.2 THE PLAN REVIEW PROCESS TO DATE

Late in November 2008 the Municipality of Yarmouth undertook the development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) as part of their new Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use By-law (LUB). This process involved the comprehensive review of existing planning documents and the inclusion in the new MPS of generally recognized sustainability principles, goals and objectives. This process was conducted by staff of the Yarmouth Argyle Barrington District Planning Commission under the guidance of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC was appointed by Council in December 2008 to also act as the ICSP Committee. All thirteen meetings of the PAC to date were public meetings and the minutes of these meetings are a matter of public record and available from the Clerk of the Municipality or on the Municipality's website (www.district.yarmouth.ns.ca).

Council approved a two year timeline and process (see appendix B) in January 2009 and a public participation plan (see section 2.2) in February 2009 to guide the process and ensure public participation in that two year community planning process.

1.3 PROPOSED CHANGES/ADDITIONS RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY

The new MPS currently under development will be a much more comprehensive plan for the municipality. New sections relating to conservation and environmental stewardship, municipal services, housing and active transportation will be included in the new document. This new document will also serve as both the ICSP and the MPS. A number of significant policy changes are envisaged including protection of environmentally sensitive areas, watercourse buffers, climate change adaptation measures, age friendly community design and housing and active transportation. All of these potential changes broaden the scope of the MPS and embody concepts of sustainability into land use planning policy.

1.4 COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the regular meeting of the Yarmouth Municipal Council, February 24, 2010, Council passed the following motion:

It was moved by Councillor Rick Churchill and seconded by Deputy Warden Ken Crosby that as per the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee, that Council approve the final ICSP and further that the final ICSP be incorporated into the Municipal Planning Strategy once the MPS review is complete.

Motion carried unanimously

2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

2.1 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS USED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ICSP/MPS

Once Council approved the public participation program, in February 2009, community consultations began. This consultation was designed to provide as broad a frame work 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 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, or the social or cultural dimension of the community/region.

Information was also developed for municipal newsletters and for the municipal website. An extensive asset mapping workshop was conducted in the first six months of the planning process. 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. Much of this information was used as a basis for the development of the municipality's vision statement (see section 2.3 for detailed results) and helped to inform the discussion about issues and priorities related to community sustainability.

PAC advertised and on January 19, 2010 held a public participation meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft ICSP. In December 2009 the draft document was presented to Council and made publicly available. Hard copies of the ICSP were available at the municipal office in Hebron and digital copies of the document posted on the municipal website. Members of the public present at the public participation meeting were supportive of the document in general, suggested a few revisions and specifically noted support for environmental protection and active transportation policies and initiatives.

As a means of providing additional opportunities for public participation in the community planning process, currently underway in Yarmouth Municipality, 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. This consultation will be ongoing and extends beyond the end of March 2010.

2.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Purpose: To inform and consult the public

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.

Sustainability is not just about surviving, it's about thriving. It's about recognizing the value in the good places where we live and trying to make them better. There are various methods and means for public participation in the community planning process envisioned over the next two years.

The process is designed to:

1. Determine and define community/regional assets and values;
2. Explore and define what we mean by sustainability in a rural context;
3. Create a long term vision for the future of the municipality/region;
4. Inform the public and enable public engagement and participation in a variety of ways over a two year time frame;
5. Develop new planning policies and objectives designed to create and sustain healthy, viable, and thriving communities;
6. Review and update existing planning documents (MPS/LUB).

The public participation plan includes the following means of public engagement, education and consultation:

Public Outreach - Designed to:

Inform: The public about the need to develop an ICSP Plan, the process chosen to achieve this and the opportunities for public involvement in the community planning process. This will be done by the following means:

- Information placed on Municipal website and continually updated
- Information placed in Regional library branches throughout the Region
- Articles placed in municipal newsletter throughout the 2 year process
- Local community newspaper articles at strategic points
- Information/interviews on local radio and cable at appropriate milestones

Consultation:

- Monthly PAC meetings- open public meetings (consider additional advertising in paper and on radio)
- Targeted interviews/workshop with municipal staff, Council, PAC members
- Targeted interviews/meetings with regional bodies and organizations and provincial/federal departments
- Targeted interviews/focus groups with local groups and organizations (i.e. Chambers of Commerce, recreational and environmental groups, historical/cultural organizations, etc.)
- Public workshop Asset Mapping "The Municipal/Regional Perspective"
- School workshop Asset Mapping "The Youth Perspective"
- Municipal visioning exercise and workshop
- Informal community surveys conducted throughout the process
- Informal public participation meeting/open house re: Draft MPS/LUB
- Formal public hearing MPS/LUB as required by Municipal Government Act (MGA)

2.3 ASSET MAPPING WORKSHOP RESULTS

Community Planning Workshop: June 16, 2009

Mapping Yarmouth Municipality's Assets

The Whole Assets Approach

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), and **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 a compiled list of these assets. Where assets were repeated, the number of mentions is listed on the right.

Asset	Count
Trail Systems	12
Regional Hospital & facilities	10
Schools/educational facilities	8
Fishery/Lobster	8
Volunteers & community organizations	8
Lakes & rivers	8
Beaches	7
Transportation (Air, Highway & Ferry Service)	7
Dayton/Hebron Recreational Facilities	6
Shoreline access	6
Community halls & centres	5
Municipal services	4
Small business & infrastructure related to the fishery	4
Local farming	4
YMCA/YMCA Camp	4
Industrial Park	3
Lighthouses	3
Sense of family/community/roots	3
Forest land	3
Ball/sports fields	3
Wharves & related infrastructure	3
Rural lifestyle, close knit community	3
Natural beauty	3
Volunteer Fire departments	2
Heritage & Culture	2
Provincial Parks	2
Proximity to town	2
Clean water	2
Local sidewalks	2
Guiding movement, youth groups	2
Libraries	2
Churches	2
Acadia First Nations Medical centre	2
Moderate climate	1
Community bingos	1
Yarmouth animal shelter	1
Unpolluted environment	1
Natural Resources	1
Community cemetery	1
Wilderness areas	1
Low population	1
Low cost of living	1
Seniors Facilities	1
Well rounded arts community	1
Local Farmer's Market & Dairy	1
Local newspaper & radio	1

Table group Assets & Dot Democracy

The table groups (4 to 5 people) were then asked to determine the top ten 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
Volunteer groups & volunteerism	Social	16	5
Natural Beauty & Diversity of landscape	Natural	15	
Fishery/Lobster	Economic	11	1
Regional Hospital	Service	11	
Community/social Facilities	Built	11	3
Transportation (Air/ferry/101/103)	Built	9	6
Agriculture/Small Farms	Economic	8	6
Beaches & Shoreline	Natural	8	
Recreation facilities	Built	6	1
Offshore Potential	Economic	5	2
Safe community	Social	5	
Life style	Social	4	
Police/Professional services	Service	4	
Education facilities	Service	1	
Heritage Properties	Built	1	1
Municipal services	Social		2

Sustainability Supports and Threats

The five most important assets were then discussed in more detail. Groups were formed around each of the five most important assets by participant choice. The following questions were asked and answers were provided for each of the five assets.

Most Important Economic Asset: The Fishery

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Employment,
- livelihood to community,
- economic benefits, wealth
- Job security, long standing industry

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- Yes, if managed properly. Probably. I hope.
- No unless they begin following quotas, conserving
- Not unless we educate and conserve.

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- Conservation, better utilization of existing stocks.
- Dept. Of Fisheries & Oceans- Research & Enforcement
- Research
- Size limits, district regulations, quotas, seasonal restrictions, trap limits, mesh limits

What threats exist to the long term viability of the asset?

- Development of offshore oil
- Overfishing -George's Bank
- Greed, global markets
- Poaching
- Pollution

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain and enhance it for future generations?

- Better business approach
- Education
- Conservation
- Diversify markets

Most Important Social Asset- Volunteer Groups & Volunteerism

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Creates a caring, safe community
- Community hall
- Satisfaction, security, comfort

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- If we (and our community) nurture this asset – Volunteerism Yes
- Recruitment is difficult
- It can, if we learn now to involve young people in our activities
- I don't think so
- I think so – one way or another

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- Not nearly enough. Needs municipal attention. Leisure Services making an effort that needs even more support
- Meetings like this evening
- Leisure services, recognition of volunteers

What threats exist to the long term viability of the asset?

- Getting new/young volunteers
- Volunteer burn out
- Difficulty fundraising
- Lack of government support
- Lack of recognition of the important role that volunteers play in rural life

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain and enhance it for future generations?

- Meetings like this
- Community involvement
- Recruitment of new members
- Publicity of Causes
- A municipal wide workshop that specifically addresses this question
- More publicity, encouragement

Most Important Built Asset- Community/Social Facilities

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Social activities, sense of community, identity & history
- Security for the community
- Makes local heritage & culture available for the visitor
- Community halls, fire halls, churches, schools, heritage buildings, library and museum

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- Without the support of community \$ and people- No
- Not without government support
- Requires a positive plan to secure and maintain facilities

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- Volunteer hours and volunteer groups
- Community leaders

What threats exist to the long term viability of the asset?

- Cost of maintenance
- Lack of interest, low use
- Fewer volunteers
- Centralization of communities to urban centres

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain and enhance it for future generations?

- Broaden range of services provided
- Ensure community/residents support them both physically and financially
- Keep in tune with the times

Most important Natural Asset- Natural Beauty & Diverse Landscapes

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Health & well being
- Family values
- Tourism revenue
- Economic income
- Enhanced family activities
- Unlimited access to the outdoors

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- No
- Depending upon our stewardship
- As long as users respect the environment and adhere to restrictions

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- TREPA
- Rails to trails
- Biosphere designation
- Ecology action center
- Ducks Unlimited
- Buy back NS
- Tobetic Wilderness Area

What threats exist to the sustainability of the asset?

- Land access restrictions, if Irving land is allowed to go to out of province owners
- Foreign land ownership
- Economic pressure
- Pollution
- Global warming

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain it for future generations?

- Protect it
- Involve more community members to realize the value of the asset
- Education is our responsibility
- Buy the forest land to be held by the province
- Demonstrate better forest management that is not economically driven
- Education of the users and residents
- Self-regulation- Do the best for the land in daily actions
- Public stewardship

Most Important Service Asset- Yarmouth Regional Hospital

What does this asset bring to me and others in the community?

- Regional centre, brings people to the area
- Comprehensive services
- Retiring population
- economic impact/benefits
- Allows me to stay in my community longer

Will this asset be available for my grandchildren to enjoy in the same way that I enjoy it?

- Yes, but needs to be watched for risks, lower population and transportation issues
- Yes but not certain

What supports exist to ensure this asset is sustained for future generations?

- District Health Boards
- Auxiliary Volunteer Funding
- Political support
- Doctor recruitment and retention initiatives

What threats exist to the sustainability of the asset?

- Population decline
- Doctor shortage

How can we build on this asset in order to sustain and enhance it for future generations?

- Collaboration between all levels of government
- Inter governmental co-operation

2.4 MUNICIPAL VISION STATEMENT

Information from the the asset mapping workshop as well as information learned from meetings, interviews, PAC members and Council was used in the collaborative development of the following vision statement. This vision for Yarmouth Municipality's future was approved by Council on August 26, 2009.

Yarmouth Municipality is well connected to land and sea where both conventional and active transportation systems provide efficient access to services, jobs and recreational opportunities. Our municipality values and protects our varied natural assets ranging from coastal resources such as beaches and coastal wetlands to inland lakes, forests and waterways so that they will remain unspoiled for future generations. The community minded and resourceful residents of Yarmouth Municipality enjoy a unique quality of life supported by secure access to local food and energy. Our safe and close knit hamlets, villages and rural communities offer a range of housing options for all ages and incomes while supporting a variety of active volunteer organizations and activities. We value and protect our rich natural, cultural and architectural heritage so that it will be available for future generations. Our youth are empowered by new jobs in the green economy and we all accept responsibility for making decisions that lead to a healthy, equitable and sustainable future.

3 SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

3.1 HOW THE ICSP/MPS INTEGRATES SUSTAINABILITY INTO BROADER COMMUNITY PLANNING OBJECTIVES

The community planning process that began in January 2009 was designed to produce an ICSP as part of the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) for the entire municipality. The MPS currently under review contains a strong environmental focus and clearly recognizes that coastal wetlands and beaches should be protected from development. The new MPS broadens and expands this environmental focus to recognize the integral role of biodiversity and ecological processes in sustaining life. The planning process commenced with education and orientation sessions for PAC and municipal staff about the meaning of sustainability in a rural context and discussions about sustainability principles that would form the foundation for the development of long term and short term goals and objectives in the MPS/ICSP.

The scope of the new MPS/ICSP is significantly different from the existing planning documents currently under review. The new MPS attempts to translate sustainable design principles into land use planning policy and broaden the scope of the MPS beyond land use planning issues to recognize the interconnections between environmental, economic, social and cultural concerns.

The following foundation principles have been developed to provide guidance and focus for the development of goals, objectives, and policies with the ICSP/MPS. These principles are based on the Natural Step definition of sustainability in which:

Sustainability means...

Living within the Earth's limits by:

- ***Eliminating pollution***
- ***Protecting natural systems***
- ***Conserving resources for future generations***

WHILE

Meeting basic human needs:

- ***Physical, mental, economic, social, spiritual***
- ***Protection from harm***
- ***For both current and future generations***



Foundation Principles

The following foundation principles have been adopted by Council as the foundation building blocks on which the ICSP/MPS are based.

The goals, objectives and policies to be contained within the new Municipal Planning Strategy are influenced and guided by the four foundation (sustainability) principles endorsed by PAC (Planning Advisory Committee) and Council on October 28, 2009.

Natural Environment: We will 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.

3.2 LONG TERM SUSTAINABLE PLANNING GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, at their November 2009 Council meeting, approved the following goals and objectives for inclusion in their ICSP and their new MPS currently under review.

Many of the goals and objectives are interrelated and should be considered collectively. These goals combined with the Foundation Principles and the Municipality's new Vision statement provide guidance and direction for the future development of Yarmouth Municipality in its journey towards becoming a more sustainable municipality. The over-arching goal is to sustain viable and vibrant communities supported by a strong local economy, a versatile cultural and heritage scene, strong social networks and a healthy environment. Clean air, pure water and uncontaminated soil are crucial to the well-being of our economy and the health and quality of life of our citizens.

Sustainable Development Goal

To provide a high quality living environment for all residents, both now and in the future, by ensuring that both new and existing development in the Municipality strives to balance the environmental, economic, social and cultural dimensions of the community.

Objectives

1. To provide a framework and process to guide land use development and accommodate change in land use in the municipality through this Municipal Planning Strategy.
2. To control land use and development in a manner that will minimize conflicts between land uses and ensure that new development is appropriately integrated with the existing natural and built environment.
3. To consider the long term implications of land use planning decisions and weigh environmental, social and economic factors equally in making such decisions.
4. To implement public capital aspects of the Municipal Planning Strategy through the annual capital budget and the long range capital investment plan where possible.
5. To foster citizen participation in the development of land use planning policy.

Environmental Health Goal

To protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and natural life support systems in order to maintain and improve environmental air, water and soil quality.

Objectives

1. To control land use and development in a manner that will preserve, enhance and protect the natural environment of the Municipality, especially wetlands and watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas.
2. To protect, maintain and improve water quality.
3. To protect surface and groundwater resources by discouraging development that would detrimentally affect the quality and quantity of the water.
4. To maintain, improve and expand municipal central sewer services in an environmentally sound and financially sustainable manner.
5. To reduce the volume of solid waste produced and ensure that it is managed in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.
6. To reduce green house gas emissions and energy consumption throughout Municipal operations and encourage renewable energy sources throughout the Municipality.
7. To investigate the effects of climate change on Yarmouth Municipality especially with respect to a vulnerability assessment in relation to extreme weather events and coastal zone development.
8. To discourage development in environmentally sensitive areas, particularly areas subject to periodic flooding and erosion.

Economic Development Goal

To encourage the economic growth and diversification of all sectors of the local and regional economy in order to maximize good quality, long term employment opportunities and provide the varied services and amenities required by residents and businesses in a sustainable community.

Objectives

1. To encourage the development and expansion of commercial enterprises in order to best serve the needs of the residents of the Municipality.
2. To encourage the development of a sustainable tourism industry.
3. To encourage the sustainable management and diversification of resource based industries.
4. To support economic development initiatives that foster economic self reliance.
5. To support educational services that train and support a skilled work force and to encourage the retention of this skilled work force.

Residential Development Goal

To promote a variety of housing forms suitable for all ages and incomes that offer residents a choice of accommodation possibilities so that they may remain in their preferred communities throughout their lives.

Objectives

1. To encourage the sustainable development of land for a variety of residential purposes.
2. To promote compatible, compact, higher density development in rural growth centres where central services are available.
3. To encourage and support new housing options especially seniors housing.
4. To provide the infrastructure necessary to support and encourage new residential development.

Social/Cultural Development Goal

To ensure that residents have local access to a range of health care, educational, social, cultural and recreational services and opportunities to improve quality of life and social well-being.

Objectives

1. To cooperate with other municipalities and agencies as well as other levels of government to provide the services and amenities necessary for residents to ensure their physical and mental health, welfare, education and safety.
2. To encourage the preservation of the architectural and cultural heritage of the Municipality and minimize the impact of new development on this heritage.
3. To encourage the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of land having inherent natural, biological and recreational value.
4. To encourage and support a variety of volunteer organizations and community based support systems.
5. To encourage and support the delivery of local health care services for all ages.
6. To encourage and support youth retention initiatives that offer additional opportunities and provide for empowerment.
7. To encourage the development of community facilities and programs that are more accessible for persons and families with limited financial resources and persons with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Transportation

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

1. To encourage the maintenance and improvement of all modes of transportation at the local and regional level.
2. To encourage and support the development of active transportation systems within and between communities in the municipality and region.

Agriculture

To protect productive agricultural land and soils so that residents have secure access to locally grown food.

Objectives

1. To encourage the use of land with agricultural capability for agricultural purposes.
2. To encourage and support the establishment of a local farmer's market.
3. To encourage and support the consumption of locally grown food.

3.3 LONG TERM SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES

The previous goals and objectives are clearly considerate of the long term perspective aimed at reducing pollution and energy consumption, protecting natural systems, and ensuring social equity as well as community vitality.

It is of paramount importance to maintain the existing economic, natural, built, service and social assets that the Municipality of Yarmouth currently enjoys so that these resources will be available for future generations.

The table in section 5 provides additional information about the sustainable outcomes envisioned for Yarmouth Municipality over the long term.

4 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Council approved a list of issues and priorities as part of the ICSP development process. Municipal investment in community projects of a capital nature is one way that Council can practically implement aspects of the ICSP/MPS.

Council has selected or may select the following eligible projects as part of their Five Year Capital Investment Plan. Annual review of this five year plan is required in order to ensure that it makes the best use of municipal tax dollars and responds to the changing needs of dynamic communities. The top five environmental, sustainability issues identified as part of the ICSP development process, in order of priority are: environmental protection; water resources; agriculture; solid waste; and sewage treatment. The following projects have been selected as a means of addressing the top five environmental issues and priorities established by Yarmouth Municipality.

Grove Memorial Drive Water main extension

This infrastructure project involves the construction of an additional 440 metres of new water main along Grove Memorial Drive in order to better service Maple Grove Junior High School (student population 470) and four residential properties located on this public road. This project will provide an improved, sustainable, potable water supply at reliable pressures to both the school and residential users. It will also enhance fire fighting ability in the area with the location of additional fire hydrants.

Solid Waste Disposal

As a regional partner in the Waste Check organization this infrastructure project will see the development of two new cells at the waste disposal facility at 1932 Hardscratch Road, South Ohio, Yarmouth County. One cell will be devoted to the containment and remediation of contaminated soils and the other to the disposal of construction and demolition debris. 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 source of cover material for the C & D cells.

Each of these cells would measure 7,000 sq. Metres. The development of these new facilities will ensure enhanced sorting and waste disposal services to the Tri-County region with a population of approximately 52,445 persons and 21,581 dwellings.

Pumping Station Upgrades

The Municipality of The District of Yarmouth provides central sewer services and waste water collection to various communities including Hebron/Dayton, Arcadia, South Ohio and Port Maitland through pump stations, a treatment plant and collector field bed systems. Upgrades to pump stations and the treatment plant involve life cycle upgrades and improvements to existing equipment and the installation of new monitoring equipment. The work involved in these projects is aimed at improving the overall effectiveness of wastewater management in their respective areas and to address the new wastewater management standards and best practices

ICSP Development and MPS Review

In order to facilitate the timely delivery of an ICSP/ MPS the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth approved funds to the Yarmouth Argyle Barrington District Planning Commission (DPC) in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 to enable the hiring of an experienced, contract planner. This position has facilitated the development of three ICSP's throughout the region and enabled a full review of existing planning documents so that the ICSP becomes in fact part of the MPS. Work with the planning advisory committee, council and citizens has increased the capacity at the municipal level to address long term planning issues and will result in new, comprehensive, planning documents.

5 CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES

The combination of the new foundation principles along with the general goals and objectives (specifically Sustainable Development Goal and Environmental Health Goal) aimed at reducing pollution and protecting natural systems will aid in the maintenance and protection of clean air, water and soil throughout the municipality. These foundation principles as well as the goals and objectives have been approved by Council to be contained within this ICSP and the new MPS. Municipal initiatives to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption within Municipal facilities will also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The following table summarizes the projects eligible for gas tax funding and details the potential benefits that accrue to the community from the development of these projects.

Infrastructure Project	Benefits to the Community
Grove Memorial Drive water main extension	1. Cleaner water and opportunity for additional service connections
	2. Enhanced community fire fighting capability from additional fire hydrants.
	3. Improved service from larger pipes.
Remediation of contaminated soils cell	1. Reduced GHG's as contaminated soil no longer has to be trucked to Queens County.
	2. Use of remediated soils with compost for cell cover at solid waste site to reduce costs for cell cover and closure.
	3. Cleaner groundwater by capturing contaminated soils and properly treating.
Development of an additional C & D cell at regional waste site	1. Enhanced sorting ability at regional waste site for C & D waste.
	2. Reduced GHG's as C & D waste can be handled locally rather than shipped out of county.
Pumping Station Upgrades	1. Improved service and efficiency for users.
	2. Increased life span of pumping stations and reduced long term maintenance.
	3. Cleaner ground water.
ICSP development and MPS Review	1. Community planning process encourages community involvement and capacity building at the grass roots level.
	2. ICSP developed as part of the new more comprehensive MPS.
	3. Capital investment tied to both short and long term community planning goals and objectives.

6 COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

6.1 REGIONAL COLLABORATION

A variety of activities occurred during the last year which involved regional collaboration in the ICSP development process. District Planning Commission staff assisted the UNSM Sustainability Office and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR) with the organization of a one day funding/sustainability workshop for municipal staff and elected officials held in Pubnico, Argyle Municipality in June 2009. Representatives from NS Power, Clean Nova Scotia, Conserve Nova Scotia, Eco-Trust Nova Scotia, Environment Canada, FCM, Natural Resources Canada as well as other government agencies outlined funding programs related to energy efficiency, community capacity building, environmental restoration and other sustainability initiatives, available to municipalities and their partners.

Four regional workshops located in Shelburne and Yarmouth County were also conducted during 2009 in conjunction with some of the other municipal units in the region around each of the four 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 or region (see appendix A for a list of participants).

Yarmouth Municipality currently collaborates with several other municipal units in providing solid waste, recreation, planning, library, transportation and economic development services as well as heritage and tourism.

Yarmouth Town and Municipality have historically co-operated on a variety of initiatives and will continue to do so.

6.2 REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

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 was formed which brought together those involved with ICSP development in Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties. Through a series of quarterly meetings from December 2008 – November 2009, the group identified the following 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.

R1 Water Quality Protection:

Protecting water quality for residents of both urban and rural areas is a collaborative effort between municipal and provincial governments. There is a need for better management of watershed areas (natural and protected) in order to make sure clean water is available to all our residents. Collaborating regionally to ensure a consistent approach to the issue and to facilitate cooperation with the Province will enable us to better protect this important resource.

R2 Transportation:

Development of regional transit systems, active transportation infrastructure and 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, which may make current transportation models less viable. Local and regional cooperation between municipalities in the design and delivery of transportation solutions is a best practice demonstrated elsewhere in Nova Scotia and Canada.

R3 Climate Change Adaptation:

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.

R4 Local Food and Sustainable Agriculture:

Most of the food consumed in Nova Scotia is shipped from thousands of kilometers away, and many people can't afford or access healthy food. 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.

R5 Solid Waste Management:

Municipalities regularly cooperate on a local level to manage solid waste. Reducing and effectively managing solid waste is a balance of education and regulation to influence behaviour. Municipalities need to continue to cooperate on 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.

R6 Renewable Energy Development:

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 facilitative 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.

R7 Education for Sustainability:

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. 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.

7 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, agricultural 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 agricultural 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.

APPENDIX A LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

Targeted interviews conducted in Phase 1 of ICSP/MPS Review Public Participation Plan:

Trudy Amirault, Chief Librarian Western Counties Regional Library

Frank Anderson, Southwest Shore Development Authority

Josh Purdy, Yarmouth County Youth Centre

Anna Kenney, Barrington Recreation Co-ordinator

Rachel Surette, South West Nova District Health Authority

Sharon Hopkins, South West Nova District Health Authority

Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk Treasurer, Municipality of Barrington

Alain Muise, CAO Argyle Municipality

Ken Moses, CAO Yarmouth Municipality

Connie Saulnier, CAO Clare Municipality

Lorelei Doucette, Director Property & Inspection Services, Argyle Municipality

Andrew Goreham, Assistant Building Inspector, Development Officer, Argyle Municipality

Glen Muise, Building Inspector, Fire Inspector & Development Officer, Municipality of Barrington

Emily Tipton, ICSP Co-ordinator Municipality of Shelburne

Dayle Eshelby, ICSP Co-ordinator Town of Lockeport

Ginette d'Entremont, Recreation Director Municipality of Argyle

Brenda LaGrandeur., Tourism Officer, Municipality of Argyle & SWSDA

Rene Belliveau, Education Co-ordinator Waste Check

Frank Grant & John D'arcy, Leisure Services, Municipality of Yarmouth

Pam Thibault, Community Economic Development Officer South West Shore Development Authority

Ken Crosby, Deputy Warden and PAC chair, Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

Debbie Neilson, Sustainability Co-ordinator Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

Ridge Hiltz, Foresight Planning Services

Graham Fisher, Planner, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Peter Crowell, Archivist Municipality of Argyle

Warden Jean Melanson, Municipality of Clare

Arnold Comeau, Building Inspector/ Development Officer, Municipality of Clare

Cliff Drysdale, Biologist, Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association

Heather King, Federation of Agriculture Local Yarmouth County representative

Bryan Smith, Former Warden Municipality of Yarmouth

Carol Hill-Borjarski, Yarmouth Community Health Board

Greg Bennett, Editor, Coast Guard newspaper

Cathy Johnson, Reporter, Coast Guard newspaper

Met with the following groups:

Yarmouth County Active Transportation Group

Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association

Woodland Trails Association

Tri-County Women's Centre

Shelburne Historical Society

Cape Sable Island Historical Society

Osprey Arts Centre

Shelburne County Women's Fish Net

Tusket River Environmental Protection Association (TREPA)

Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners Association

Bird Studies Canada

Tri-County Food Forum

Meetings held with the following agencies, groups and government departments:

South West Shore Development Authority

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

NS Business Inc.

Shelburne Business Development Corporation

NS Department of Economic Development

NS Department of Fisheries

NS Department of the Environment

NS Department of Health Promotion

NS Department of Natural Resources

NS Department of Community Services

Nova Scotia Museums

Western Counties Regional Library (Chief Librarian & staff)

Roseway Hospital

Roseway Manor

NSCC Shelburne Campus

VON Shelburne County

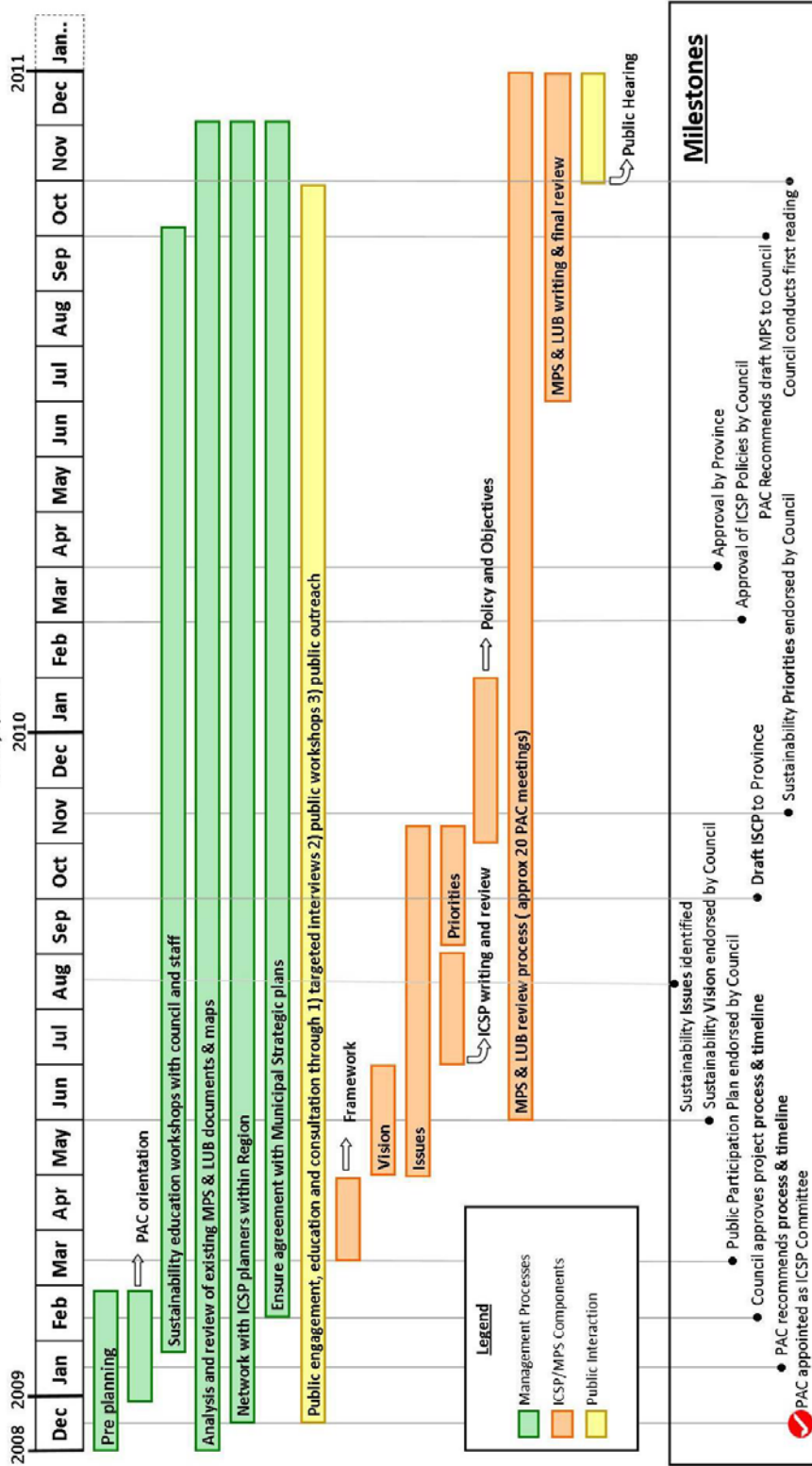
Tri-County Housing Authority

Southwest Health, Primary Care

APPENDIX B TIMELINE AND PROCESS

Municipality of Yarmouth Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) - MPS/LUB- Process & Timeline

January 8, 2009



APPENDIX C DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

SouthWest Shore Development Authority Annual Plan/ Report 2008-2009

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