

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
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COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS SHARE THEIR VISION FOR INTEGRATED COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

ANNAPOLIS CO. – County of Annapolis stakeholders revealed their thoughts, concerns and suggestions in the recent Integrated Community Strategic Plan (ICSP) report presented by the County’s hired consultant, Stantec.

The consultants spent much of this summer interviewing residents, service groups, community organizations and neighbouring municipalities to find out what they felt was needed to complete a 20-30 year vision for the County of Annapolis.

“We (Council) were very pleased with the information collected during the interviews with the people who have a close relationship with the County,” said Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. “The results indicated that we have a strong connection with our stakeholders, and the suggestions they voiced will be extremely helpful in planning for our future vision.”

The following topics were brought forward during these interviews:

- Land Use planning and development bylaws;
- water and sewage infrastructure were looked at as key sustainability issues;
- indication that there was an improving sense of cooperation between communities and groups within the County and County Administration (Council & staff);
- a desire that the RDA work directly with citizens and communities to build economic capacity in the County;
- a more visible and organized way to emerge the vibrant, creative community within the County;
- a strong appreciation and support of the continued provision and enhancement of public transit; and
- a strong appreciation and support of the excellent recreational opportunities in the County.

It is expected that the ICSP process will initiate conversations on how the County and communities within the County can work together to maximize governance and financial efficiencies.

The Plan will recognize the connection between environmental, social, cultural, and economic development within a community and at the regional level. It will address the County’s future financial health, social and cultural well-being, and natural resource use and environmental stewardship.

Stantec’s interim report, which reflects information gathered at public meetings up to August 9th, will be made public next week, and will be placed on the County website. Residents and other stakeholders will be invited to give feedback which will be integrated into the ICSP strategy.

The draft ICSP document is scheduled to be completed by the end of September, with the final ICSP document due in March 2010.

Residents who have inquiries regarding the ICSP may contact Laurie Emms, Municipal Services Director, at (902) 584-2188 or acps@ns.sympatico.ca.

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