

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
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RESIDENTS SEE INTEGRATION OF VALUES A MUST FOR SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATED COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

ANNAPOLIS CO. – County residents were clear that their values should be considered a priority when developing a 20-30 year vision for the County of Annapolis.

The municipality learned many important factors when they approached residents asking them to share their opinions regarding the County's future.

“It was wonderful to see the strong positive feelings our residents have towards the area in which they live,” said Annapolis County CAO Brenda Orchard. “They were very open and honest about the values they felt were critical in creating an ICSP. It was obvious this was a passionate topic, and one the County must treat as a priority when developing a 20-30 year vision.”

The County's consultant, Stantec, asked participants to reflect on aspects of the COUNTY that they value. The following responses (collected up to August 9th) are part of their interim report:

- Volunteerism and the specialized skills of County residents;
- Local agriculture, local producers, and local farmers' markets (including the exhibition)
- Nova Scotia Community College's (Centre of Geographic Sciences) reputation and the opportunities that the College provides (local studies and mapping projects, public education economic spin-offs, potential regional businesses);
- Regional recreation opportunities (multi-use trail network development and expansion, Upper Clements Park);
- Proximity to wilderness recreation opportunities (Kejimikujik National Park, Tobatic Wilderness Area);
- Active transportation infrastructure and recreation opportunities (what recreational opportunities are valued?);
- Regional public transit;
- Marine and freshwater access (recreation, esthetic value);
- Quality of life – access to nature, rural lifestyle, community-mindedness, sense of individuality;
- Quiet, safe environment/communities;
- Cultural, historical community elements - values too
- Youth;
- Low-cost of housing/taxes are low;
- Beauty of the area/natural landscape (North Mountain/Bay of Fundy)

“All the information we have collected this summer is crucial in the development of the County's vision; but the values our residents express may be the most important,” remarked Orchard. “It tells us what we have to preserve, nurture and build upon. This is

essential if we are to maintain our quality of life and create a prosperous future for our residents.”

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) 584-2255 or acps@ns.sympatico.ca.

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County residents were clear that their values should be considered a priority when developing a 20-30 year vision for the County of Annapolis

The hired consultant, Stantec, reflected the following information (collected up to August 9th) as part of their interim report:

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Annapolis County CAO Brenda Orchard said the values residents express may be the most important information collected this summer because it tells what the municipality has to preserve, nurture and build upon. This is essential if to maintain the present quality of life and create a prosperous future for residents.

Stantec's interim report, which reflects information gathered at public meetings up to August 9th, will be placed on the County website. Residents and other stakeholders will continue to 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.