



**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Date and Time Monday, April 7, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Place County of Frontenac Administrative Boardroom 2069 Battersea Road, Glenburnie

Members:

Geoff Sandiford, Chair

Denis Doyle, Deputy Warden

John McDougall, County Councillor

Bud Clayton, Warden, Ex-Officio

Don Ross, Community Member

Barrie Gilbert, Community Member

Tracy John, Community Member

Page

1. Call to order

2. Election of Officers

- Election of Chair
- Election of Vice-Chair

3. Adoption of the agenda

4. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof

5. Adoption of minutes

- Minutes of Meeting held December 2, 2013

THAT the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held December 2, 2013 be adopted as circulated.

6. Deputations and/or presentations

7. Communications

- Correspondence received from EORN regarding its Media Release - Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus boosts economic development through new fibre broadband connections at business parks

8. Reports/Topics for Discussion

- 2013-231
Sustainability
PAPER/CHEERIO Update

(This report was referred to the Sustainability Advisory Committee by County Council at its meeting held January 15, 2014)

3-8

9-14

15-21

8. Reports/Topics for Discussion

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT Council of the County of Frontenac accept the Sustainability - PAPER/CHEERIO Update report for information;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to discontinue work on developing a business case for PAPER/CHEERIO projects until further information is available regarding PAPER programs in other Ontario municipalities and the Ontario government's proposed on-bill financing of energy efficiency improvements.

22-38

- 2014-054
2014 Work Plan Update

This report is for information purposes only.

9. Other business

10. Next meeting date

- The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 2, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the County Administrative Building.

11. Adjournment



**Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
December 2, 2013**

A meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) was held in the Frontenac Boardroom of the County Administrative Office, 2069 Battersea Road, Glenburnie on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

In attendance:

- Geoff Sandiford, Chair
- Denis Doyle, County Councillor
- John McDougall, County Councillor

Regrets:

- Don Ross, Community Member

Staff:

- Marian VanBruinessen, Treasurer/Acting CAO
- Kristin Mullin, Communications Officer
- Jannette Amini, Acting Clerk (Recording Secretary)
- Anne Marie Young, Manager of Economic Sustainability

Others:

- Brooke Gilmour, Hearthmakers

1. Call to order

Chair Sandiford called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Moved By: Councillor Doyle
Seconded By: Councillor McDougall

THAT the agenda be confirmed.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof

The Chair requested the Recording Secretary to make note in the minutes that no members of the committee declared any disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. Adoption of minutes

Moved By: Councillor Doyle
Seconded By: Councillor McDougall

THAT the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held October 7, 2013 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Deputations and/or presentations – Nil

6. Reports/Topics for Discussion

- a) **Report No. 2013-218
Sustainability Advisory Committee 2013 Work Plan Update**

Moved By: Councillor McDougall
Seconded By: Councillor Doyle

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee receive this Sustainability - 2013 Work Plan Update report for information.

CARRIED

Mr. Sandiford introduced Ms. Brooke Gilmour, Executive Director, Hearthmakers who is assisting him with the Speaker Series. He advised that Ms. Gilmour has met with himself and Councillor Doyle to develop the agenda for the Sustainable Speaker Series to be held on Wolfe Island with the topic being: How Local Improvement charges can help save energy and water. Ms. Gilmour provided an overview of the agenda as follows:

- 1) Introductions
Brooke Gilmour, Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative Inc
- 2) Back ground information on Local Improvement Charges and how they can be utilized in the County of Frontenac.
Brian Kelly, Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change

- 3) Energy Retrofits: Saving you money and energy
Eugene Hofmister, Energy Renovators
- 4) Wet-trofits: Water conservation and system upgrade and the Well Aware Program
Brooke Gilmour, Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative
- 5) Renewable Energy Installation
Brad Leonard, Friendly Fires, an amalgamation to Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow and Friendly Fires

Ms. Gilmour will follow-up with Mr. Brian Kelly regarding Durham's waste incinerator program being done in partnership with York region which utilizes gas tax funding to support the capital costs.

It was suggested that Mr. Peter Young attend this session on Wolfe Island to speak to the County's research on the CHEERIO program and to answer any questions.

With respect to the Wet-trofits, Ms. Gilmour advised that the Health Unit will test well water; however she is unaware of anything beyond that. If there is interest from the County, Hearthmakers could seek a Trillium Grant to assist residents with upgrades to wells and septic systems which would be administered through Hearthmakers. Given the high assessment of water front properties in South Frontenac, this could be the focus of the next Speaker Series event.

This series will run for 1.5 hours and there will be take away information available for the public, which will be developed in collaboration with Ms. Gilmour and County staff.

With respect to a time frame, the Committee concurred that the best time for this event would be the evening of February 20th at 6:30 p.m. and Mr. Sandiford will attend the Frontenac Islands Township Council as a delegation in early January to inform Council of this event. Mr. Sandiford will also attend the December 18th County Council meeting to answer any questions Council may have.

Ms. Gilmour exited the meeting

It was noted that the Sustainability Work Shop should be a public event as it is considered a public meeting. As such, it was suggested that moving forward, the County charge for this event similar to what Sustainable Kingston and Sustainable Peterborough do. This will also answer concerns that it becomes a public document. It was also noted that holding this event for the entire day with a start time of at 7:30 a.m. becomes cumbersome for those who have full time employment and it was suggested that in the future, this event start in the afternoon and run into the evening. The absence of the press at this event was also noted and it was felt that the publishing of an agenda could help attract the Press.

The Committee also questioned how Partnerships are chosen and are there criteria for this. Staff will come back to the Committee with set criteria for Partnerships.

With respect to volunteer opportunities being posted to the County website, it was suggested that the Townships be requested to also place this information on their respective websites.

With respect to the Awards Program Ms. Mullin also suggested that the County could look into a scholarship program open to students in the 4 Township who would be entering a program that fits within the 4 pillars of sustainability, which could be funded in part by local organizations. Ms. Mullin will carry out additional research on this and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

The Committee discussed the Sustainable Actions 2013 and questioned how these actions are prioritized in order to make them usable to County Council and staff. It was also noted that County Council, within the next few months, will be carrying out its Strategic Planning Session with the intent of developing a Strategic Plan for the County. Once this is done, it will assist County Council in determining which Actions it chooses to focus on. It was suggested that recommendations coming from this Committee might hold more weight and Mr. Sandiford and Councillor McDougall will meet to look at past recommendations from the Committee regarding previous Sustainable Actions with the intent to bring forward recommendations to the Committee that could then be forwarded to County Council.

With respect to the 2013 and 2014 Sustainability Advisory Committee budgets, Ms. VanBruinessen expressed Councils discomfort in unspent budgeted dollars continually being allocated to the Working Fund Reserve and noted that in 2013, the Committee had not spent its allocated funding. She questioned the funding being requested in 2014, specifically around \$12,000 being allocated towards activities which after today, the Committee will now be recuperating costs for. She also wanted to ensure that there was no overlap in activities between the Committee budget and staff budgets. The Committee agreed that the \$12,000 will be reviewed by staff and that possible amendments could come forward to the budget.

Ms. VanBruinessen also pointed out that during last year's budget deliberations, County Council moved the \$3,000 Rural Youth Day funding from staff's budget to the Committees budget and to date, it has not been utilized. This funding comes from Federal Gas Tax funding and could go towards supporting initiatives that are already taking place in the County or the Committee could develop its own program that would support youth.

b) **Report No. 2013-196**
Code of Conduct for Members of County Council and Committees

Moved By: Councillor Doyle
Seconded By: Councillor McDougall

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee receive the Frontenac County Advisory Committees – Code of Conduct for Members of County Council and Committees report for information.

CARRIED

Ms. Amini provided a brief overview of the report and requested that each member sign the Code of Conduct acknowledging that they have read, understood and accept it.

c) **Report No. 2013-215**
Mandatory Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation Training

Moved By: Councillor McDougall
Seconded By: Councillor Doyle

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee receive the Frontenac County Advisory Committees – Mandatory Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation Training report for information.

CARRIED

Ms. Amini provided a brief overview of the report and requested that each member sign the Training Record acknowledging that they have received and understood the training.

7. Other business

Through suggestions by Committee members, Mr. Sandiford will send a Thank You letter to Mr. Ron Hipfner for his work on the Sustainability Advisory Committee over the past years.

8. Next meeting date

The next meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the County Administrative Building.

9. Adjournment

Moved By: Councillor Doyle
Seconded By: Councillor McDougall

THAT the meeting hereby adjourn at 11:39

CARRIED



For Immediate Release

January 10, 2014

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus boosts economic development through new fibre broadband connections at business parks

(Hastings County, ON) – In a boost to the region's economic development, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) has awarded contracts to expand high-speed fibre internet connections at more than 50 business parks and clusters across rural Eastern Ontario.

Bell Aliant, Cogeco Cable Inc. and Utilities Kingston were awarded contracts to provide the new high-capacity, high-speed fibre internet connections. The project adds to the number of business parks and clusters that already have broadband service in the region.

The companies are building the new services off of their existing infrastructure, as well as off of the 5,500-kilometre fibre-optic backbone that was built through the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN). A range of speeds and services will be available to serve the needs of business customers in these locations.

The business park project, valued at about \$8.9 million, is the latest phase of the EORN project, a \$170 million initiative to expand rural broadband throughout the region. Created by the Wardens' Caucus, the project is supported by federal, provincial, and municipal funding, and private sector investment.

"EORN is a key economic development tool for the region," said EOWC Chair Rick Philips. "Expanding high-capacity, high-speed internet fibre to these business parks will help our communities to attract and retain local businesses."

"Thanks to prudent financial management and project oversight, we are able to deliver this added value to business parks as part of the EORN initiative," said EORN Chair David Burton. "We expect to complete construction of the business parks by 2014."

EORN was established by the Wardens' Caucus to manage expansion of the rural broadband network in Eastern Ontario. It includes a 5,500-kilometre fibre optic backbone and more than a dozen local access networks that will increase internet speeds and services to 95 per cent of the households in the region by 2014.

Disponible en français.

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For more information, contact:

Lisa Severson, Communications & Stakeholder Relations Officer, EORN
613-213-8520, lseverson@eorn.ca



Backgrounder: Eastern Ontario Regional Network

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) is spearheading a \$170 million broadband project that will expand access to high-speed Internet across Eastern Ontario by 2014, improving communities' quality of life and opportunities for economic growth.

Once completed, the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), will provide broadband access to residents and businesses across Eastern Ontario, including the counties of Hastings, Peterborough, Renfrew, Northumberland, Haliburton, Frontenac, Lanark, Prince Edward, Lennox & Addington, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, the United Counties of Prescott & Russell, the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, as well as the City of Kawartha Lakes.

It is Ontario's largest rural broadband network project, serving a region of more than one million people spread out over 50,000 square kilometres. The federal and provincial governments have each committed up to \$55 million each. EOWC Inc. is contributing \$10 million, with municipalities and private sector partners providing the remaining funding.

The project is made up of three main components:

- **Backbone:** A scalable 5,500 km network of new and existing fibre optic cable connected by new generation high-speed switches in 160 Points of Presence throughout Eastern Ontario. Construction on this wired portion of the network began in 2011.
- **Access:** Links the end-user, such as businesses and residents, to the network through either wired or fixed wireless technology. EORN will promote high-speed bandwidth access that bridges the urban/rural price gap. Internet service providers (ISPs) have bid and received funding to assist in improving and adding new infrastructure.
- **Satellite:** Ensures no one is left behind by providing satellite access for those that the wireless and wired network cannot reach. Improved and more affordable satellite services are now available through Xplornet Communications Inc. by contacting any of the company's dealers across the EORN region.

EORN aims to improve access to the Internet to at least 95 per cent of homes and businesses in Eastern Ontario, with higher speeds and bandwidth.

A mix of wired, wireless and satellite technologies will be needed to deliver high-speed access across the varied terrain and remote communities of the region. EORN will choose technology based on the best fit for the needs of a particular area and is negotiating improved rates from ISPs through a competitive proposal process.

Business Parks and Clusters

EORN has recently expanded to include new high-speed, high-capacity fibre optic Internet connections to more than 50 business parks and clusters across the region, improving communities' opportunity to attract and retain local business.

Through a competitive bidding process, three service providers, Bell Aliant, Cogeco Cable Inc. and Utilities Kingston, were selected to provide connections to key business locations. Bell Aliant will build off of EORN's 5,500 fibre optic backbone, which it built. Cogeco and Utilities Kingston will expand their existing infrastructure.

The project adds to the number of business parks and clusters that already have broadband service in the region. Municipalities identified the business parks and clusters for the new services. The project is valued at about \$8.9 million, and is being funded through the existing EORN project funding and investments by the three private sector partners.

The following is a list, by county, of the locations that will receive new fibre optic broadband connections by the end of 2014:

FRONTENAC			
Municipality of South Frontenac	Sydenham	Sydenham Core Area	Bell Aliant
	Verona	Verona Core Hwy 38	Bell Aliant
City of Kingston	Kingston	Alcan Business Park	Utilities Kingston
	Kingston	Catararqui Estates Business Park	Utilities Kingston
	Kingston	St. Lawrence Business Park	Utilities Kingston
HALIBURTON			
Township of Algonquin Highlands	Algonquin Highlands	Stanhope Airport Area	Bell Aliant
HASTINGS			
Municipality of Centre Highlands	Madoc	Burnside St. Area	Bell Aliant
Municipality of Hastings Highlands	Hastings Highlands	Enterprise Cres./Y Rd. Area	Bell Aliant
Municipality of Marmora and Lake	Marmora	Industry Lane Business Park	Bell Aliant
Municipality of Tweed	Tweed	Tweed Industrial Park	Bell Aliant
Township of Stirling-Rawdon	Stirling	West Front St. Business Park	Bell Aliant
Quinte West	Frankford	Frankford Industrial Park	Cogeco
	Trenton	North Murray Industrial Park	Cogeco
LANARK			
Tay Valley Township	Tay Valley	Christie Lake Rd.	Bell Aliant
	Tay Valley	Hwy 7 Commercial Area	Bell Aliant
Town of Perth	Perth	Perth Core and Business Area	Bell Aliant
Township of DrummondNorth Elmsley	Drummond/North Elmsely	Ewart Ave. Area	Bell Aliant
LENNOX AND ADDINGTON			
Loyalist Township	Loyalist Township	Loyalist East Business Park	Utilities Kingston
NORTHUMBERLAND			
Municipality of Brighton	Brighton	Brighton Industrial Park	Cogeco
Municipality of Trent Hills	Campbellford	Campbellford Industrial Park	Bell Aliant
	Trent Hills	Tanner Industrial Park	Bell Aliant

Township of Cramahe	Cramahe	Purdy Industrial Park Rd. Area	Cogeco
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY			
Prince Edward County	Prince Edward	McFarland Development	Cogeco
RENFREW			
Town of Petawawa	Petawawa	Petawawa Industrial Park	Bell Aliant
Town of Renfrew	Renfrew	Renfrew Industrial Park	Bell Aliant
Township of Laurentian	Laurentian Valley	41/17 Cluster	Bell Aliant
Township of Madawaska Valley	Barry's Bay	Barry's Bay Business Park	Bell Aliant
Township of McNab-Braeside	McNab-Braeside	Pine Grove Business Park	Bell Aliant
Whitewater Region	Whitewater	Grants Settlement Road Area	Cogeco
	Whitewater	Greenwood Road Area	Cogeco
UNITED COUNTIES OF STORMONT, DUNDAS AND GLENGARRY			
Township of North Dundas	Winchester	Winchester Core	Bell Aliant
	Chesterville	Chesterville Core	Bell Aliant
Township of North Glengarry	Alexandria	Alexandria Industrial Blvd. Area	Bell Aliant
Township of South Dundas	Morrisburg	Morrisburg Industrial Park	Bell Aliant
Township of South Stormont	Long Sault	Long Sault East Industrial Park	Bell Aliant
	Ingleside	Ingleside Industrial Park	Bell Aliant
City of Cornwall	Cornwall	Cornwall Business Park	Bell Aliant
	Cornwall	Saunders Dr. Business Park	Bell Aliant
	Cornwall	Walrich Business Park	Bell Aliant
UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE			
Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley	Lyn	Elizabethtown-Kitley Business Park	Bell Aliant
Municipality of North Grenville	Kemptville	Kemptville Business Park	Bell Aliant
Township of Rideau Lakes	Rideau Lakes	Gallipeau Business Park	Bell Aliant
<i>Town of Gananoque</i>	Gananoque	Gananoque Core	Cogeco
UNITED COUNTIES OF			

PRESCOTT-RUSSELL			
Champlain Township	Vankleek Hill	VanKleek Industrial Park	Bell Aliant
City of Clarence-Rockland	Rockland	Rockland Business Park	Bell Aliant



Report 2013-231

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

To: Warden and Council Members of the County of Frontenac

From: Marian VanBruinessen
Acting CAO/Treasurer

Prepared by: Joe Gallivan
Manager of Sustainability Planning

Peter Young
Community Planner

Date prepared: December 6, 2013

Date of meeting: December 18, 2013

Re: Sustainability - PAPER/CHEERIO Update

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT Council of the County of Frontenac accept the *Sustainability - PAPER/CHEERIO Update* report for information;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to discontinue work on developing a business case for PAPER/CHEERIO projects until further information is available regarding PAPER programs in other Ontario municipalities and the Ontario government's proposed on-bill financing of energy efficiency improvements.

Background

Local improvement charges (LICs) are a tool used by municipalities to recover the costs of capital improvements made on public or privately-owned land from property owners who will benefit from the improvement. These have been traditionally used for roads, sidewalks and other local projects that benefit a specific area. However in 2012 the Ontario government increased the flexibility of this tool and allowed projects such as green energy retrofits on private property through Property-Assessed Payments for Energy Retrofits (PAPER) projects.

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Sustainability– PAPER/CHEERIO Update
December 18, 2013

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The intention of PAPER projects is that municipalities would provide the financing and set up the framework for these projects, such as a program for installing solar hot water heaters. The project cost would be applied to the individual's municipal tax bill for a set time period, and property owners would be able to pay for the project using the increased savings on their utility bills. This type of program has been of increased interest in Ontario since the federal ecoENERGY program which provided financial incentives for green energy retrofits was discontinued in 2012.

The County has been on the advisory committee for the Collaboration on Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits in Ontario (CHEERIO) group with a number of urban municipalities such as London, Guelph and Durham Region. The organization facilitating the project (the Clean Air Partnership, a non-profit advocacy group) contracted a number of companies to develop a model that could be used to set up a PAPER program for a typical municipality. The model is based on best practices from similar programs in other jurisdictions, working in the context of the new Ontario local improvement charge regulations allowing municipalities to use these charges for green energy. Legal, finance, and program design experts have been involved. The [CHEERIO reports](#) provide a comprehensive map toward implementation of PAPER projects.

County Council authorized the following resolution from the Sustainability Advisory Committee at its April 17, 2013 meeting:

Motion #: 200-13

Moved By: Deputy Warden Clayton

Seconded By: Councillor McDougall

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Frontenac authorize staff to enter into discussions with the City of Kingston and other partners such as AMO and the EOWC on a possible collaboration for a PAPER Program and to report back to the Sustainability Advisory Committee on possible further steps.

CARRIED

Additionally, at its September 18, 2013 meeting, Council approved the following motion:

Motion #: 364-13

Moved By: Deputy Warden Clayton

Seconded By: Councillor McDougall

THAT staff be directed to review actions of other municipalities involved with the CHEERIO project with the intent to develop a business plan to present to Council by the end of 2013.

THAT Council approve a Sustainability Speaker Series that would take place every quarter (one in each township) at an approximate cost of \$200 per event.

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve an ICSP Workshop to be planned for September 20, 2013 at the Verona Free Methodist Church that would include a keynote speaker, catered lunch, and venue rental at an approximate cost of \$1,400.

CARRIED

Comment

Staff have continued to research the implementation of PAPER projects through local improvement charges. At this time, staff are aware of two municipalities that have moved forward with this initiative formally. The most prominent program to date is planned for the City of Toronto, where their Council has approved a [\\$20 million program pilot project](#) using transfers from reserves. Durham Region’s investigation led to a recommendation that Council [not move forward](#) with this type of initiative. This recommendation has been sent to other Durham Region committees for input, but the report raises a number of concerns with implementation of this type of program. Inquiries with other counties have indicated that many are waiting until other municipalities set up their own program first.

Based on the research to date, additional information on other Ontario municipalities’ experiences is recommended before the preparation of a business case requested by Council. However there are a number of potential issues that have been identified by staff to date based on review of the Durham Region and CHEERIO reports.

Financing: Council would need to determine whether this type of program would be financed through borrowing or reserves. Based on the research done to date, it is not recommended that the program would be financed through borrowing as it could impact the credit rating and future borrowing abilities of the municipality for a project which is not under the County’s core legislative responsibilities. If Council chooses to dedicate part of the County reserves toward this project, the administrative costs charged to the applicant should take into account the interest rate the County would have received from having the money in a reserve.

Costs: It should be noted that the program would be intended to be revenue neutral, and the cost of administration would be included in the total local improvement charge to be calculated for the homeowner. The CHEERIO report estimates program set-up costs for 100 participants a year of \$150,000 and operating costs of \$80,000, with total administration costs of \$1,300 per participant based on a three year pilot project. This would give administrative costs of about 10%, which could be a barrier to the effectiveness of the project. Costs per application are projected to decrease as more participants sign up. Figure 1 provides a sample cost structure. Having lower than 100 participants would mean a higher cost per person due to the fixed costs built into the cost structure. A survey or market research study may be necessary to estimate the potential uptake, as the County could be left with budget shortfalls if the program participation is less than anticipated

Figure 1: Table from CHEERIO Working Group: LIC Financing Pilot Program Design report – Dunskey Energy Consulting

Table 15: Sample Program set up and Administration Budget based on Anticipated Program Volume

Expense Category	Expenses	100 Participants per year	250 Participants per year	500 Participants per year
Program Initiation Fixed Costs (A)	Program Plan and Initiation Legal and Financing	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Program set up Costs (B)	Program Tools Application Database Marketing Materials Documentation (\$500-\$700 per participant)	\$ 70,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 250,000
Annual Fixed Costs (C)	Human Resources Debt Servicing Marketing Overhead LIC Collection (\$140-\$400 per participant)	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 140,000
Per Participant Costs (D)	Register Liens Title Searches Application Reviews Documentation (\$400 per participant)	\$ 40,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000
Total Program Set Up Costs (A+B)		\$ 150,000	\$ 230,000	\$ 330,000
Total Annual Operating Costs (C+D)		\$ 80,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 340,000
Total Admin. Costs (Per Participant) ¹¹		\$ 1,300	\$ 1,050	\$ 900

Administration and Staffing: Although it would be possible for the administration of the program to be done through a private contractor such as Hearthmakers Energy Co-operative, financial oversight of the design and administration of program would have an impact on staff resources. There would also be increased administrative costs to the Townships to implement local improvement charges through the tax bill, although these types of charges are used in other municipalities and a system could be developed to track the charges. If debentures were issued there would also be increased administration costs for the municipality.

Legal: The legal analysis prepared by Aird & Berlis LLP as part of the CHEERIO project outlines potential legal issues with enforcement regarding registering private LICs on title as a way to better ensure enforcement. The report’s authors believe that further amendments to the *Municipal Act* would be required to implement this form of enforcement. There is also risk that the municipality could be sued if the work undertaken by a contractor is not sufficient. While the Aird & Berlis report offered a number of ways to mitigate this risk, Durham Region’s report stated that “from a risk management perspective, an LIC program would create a series of potential litigation issues for the Region,” such as contractor negligence or energy savings not materializing. Any design of the program and contracts should be reviewed extensively by the County’s solicitor.

Duplication of Existing and Future Programs: The popular federal ecoENERGY retrofit program was discontinued in 2012, leaving a large gap in the Ontario marketplace. However there are still a number of rebate, loan and incentive programs available through the federal and provincial governments, banks and certain utilities. There would

be potential that a County program could duplicate some of these efforts. While not all of these are available for Frontenac County residents, a new program recently announced by the Ontario government offers significant potential.

On December 2, 2013, the Ontario government unveiled its [Long-Term Energy Plan](#), a plan that Council had submitted comments on earlier in 2013. The new plan includes the commitment for making new financing tools available to consumers, including on-bill financing for energy efficiency retrofits, starting in 2015. According to the [Toronto Star](#), further details will be available as part of the 2014 Ontario Budget this spring.

Depending on the details, this program may be more effective and a better use of resources than starting a program at the County level. Provincial-level programs for energy retrofits are available in BC, Manitoba, Newfoundland, and other jurisdictions around the world. The CHEERIO report outlines a number of benefits to a province-wide approach in Ontario including significant economies of scale and a substantial mitigation or elimination of risk.

While on-bill financing may not address all forms of energy efficiency, it offers a number of positive attributes according to analysis done as part of the CHEERIO project. This includes minimizing the debt of the owner, minimizing debt and resources of the municipality, and low interest rates. The program can be designed to be attached to the meter and stay on the property, or could be due upon change of owner/customer. Another advantage of on-bill financing is that it can address the rental market (business and residential) where the tenant pays utilities, unlike a PAPER project.

Conclusion: Given the potential for a province-wide program for energy efficiency improvements and the lack of sufficient examples in Ontario of municipal PAPER programs to date, particularly for rural areas of the province, County staff are recommending that work on this project be discontinued until further information is available on the proposed Ontario program and on LICs being used by other Ontario municipalities.

Sustainability Implications

This program supports the Energy and Infrastructure focus areas adopted in *Directions for Our Future*. There are benefits in Economic, Social and Environmental pillar; retrofit projects can support local businesses and contractors, energy costs can be lowered for homeowners, and greenhouse gas emissions and electricity use can also be reduced. Sustainability also involves the wise management of funds and any program design and use of funding will have to be justified with an analysis of the costs and benefits of the program.

Financial Implications

Council could potentially authorize the use of funds from the working fund or other reserves to fund a PAPER program. Additional resources would be required for administration through additional staffing or contracting a private company to administer the program. The goal of the program would be that the costs to design and administer

the program would be revenue-neutral, however there would be risks that the program could lose money if uptake was less than projected.

Organizations, Departments and Individuals Consulted and/or Affected

County of Frontenac Treasury
Clean Air Partnership
Ministry of Energy
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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Report 2013-056

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

From: Marian VanBruinessen
Acting CAO/Treasurer

Prepared by: Anne Marie Young
Manager of Economic Development

Alison Vandervelde
Communications Officer

Date prepared: April 1, 2014

Date of meeting: April 7, 2014

Re: Sustainability – 2014 Work Plan Update

Recommendation

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee receives this *Sustainability - 2014 Work Plan Update* report for information;

Comment

Directions for Our Future, the County of Frontenac's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) was finalized in 2009. The Sustainability Advisory Committee was formed shortly thereafter with the following mandate:

- To provide input and suggestions regarding the implementation of *Directions for Our Future*, in particular to help meet the "Commitment Towards a Sustainable Future" and the "Community Input" elements
- To report periodically to County Council and to produce an annual work plan for adoption by Council County of Frontenac

Five years on, the ICSP has driven progress across the region on a number of fronts, through both County-lead projects and grassroots initiatives.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee has focused on regularly capturing and reporting that progress and the community's evolving priorities through direct reports to County

Council, at the annual celebration breakfast and workshop and through the publication of Sustainable Actions.

County Council recently approved a draft County Strategic Plan that includes three “Wildly Important Goals” (as attached to the agenda), one of which focuses in part on the prioritization of economic development objectives. A review of the committee’s mandate, terms of reference and workplan in relation to the draft Strategic Plan’s three goals will ensure the committee continues in the right direction toward a sustainable future for the Frontenacs.

The 2014 Work Plan items follow here with updates as available.

- 1. Maintain expertise in sustainability to ensure valuable guidance can be offered for current and future municipal decision making (strategically support webinars, workshops and conferences).**

Deputy Warden Denis Doyle, Councillor John McDougall, SAC Chair Geoff Sandiford and Manager of Economic Development, Anne Marie Young attended the 2014 FCM Conference, February 11-14 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Deputy Warden Doyle and Councillor McDougall reported on the conference to County Council in March. Their reports are attached to the SAC agenda for information.

- 2. Enhance awareness of community sustainability and encourage the adoption of more sustainable choices through venues such as:**

A Media Release from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network dated January 10, 2014 announced the expansion of high-speed fibre internet connections at more than 50 business parks and clusters across rural Eastern Ontario. The hamlets of Verona and Sydenham in Frontenac County are among the locations that will receive new fibre optic broadband connections by the end of 2014. The media release is attached to the SAC agenda for more information.

a. Community Sessions and Events

The proposed Speaker Series has seen no progress since the December 2013 committee meeting. In the late spring of last year, a survey was conducted to gauge community interest in a variety of possible topics for a speaker series. For the committee’s consideration, following are the results presented at the May 28th, 2013 SAC meeting:

Topic	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not at all Interested
Seed Banks & Heritage Foods	13	25	13
Eating Locally in the Winter	19	27	6
Wild Law	8	18	17
Car Share Programs	10	18	21
Solar Hot Water Heaters & Your Home	25	26	5
Local Medicinal Plants	18	21	12
A history of Local Hunting and Trapping	9	13	25
The Frontenac Arch Biosphere	18	19	12
Greening for Local Businesses	17	23	11

Movie Nights - Environmentally Conscience Movies	11	18	21
Mining	6	18	23
Healthy Homes (cleaning products, building materials, etc)	17	33	4
Local Recreational Opportunities	22	28	5
Lake Management Plans	21	17	11
Septic System Alternatives	30	17	7
Community Development	37	14	4
Encouraging Volunteerism	18	27	7
Energy Retrofits	28	24	2

b. Annual Breakfast

The Annual ICSP Breakfast has been scheduled for May 22nd, 2014 at the Verona Lions Hall. The breakfast will be a public event. It is recommended that a registration fee of \$5 per person be levied to recover the cost of hosting the breakfast.

Based on positive input following the 2013 Breakfast, it is proposed that the 2014 event follow a similar format. In order to encourage a tangible, relevant and timely focus for discussions, it is suggested that the event take on a theme of rural transportation.

The draft agenda included in Appendix A is proposed for the committee’s review.

c. Awards Events

3. Liaise with other like-minded groups to gain insights and share expertise

No updates.

4. Stimulate relationships and synergies with the Townships by presenting at Council meetings and through other meeting opportunities

No updates.

5. Assist with the preparations for the Annual Workshop

Planning for the Annual Workshop will begin in late summer.

6. Contribute to the development and presentation of the 2014 Sustainable Actions report to Council.

A draft of 2014 Sustainable Actions will be presented to the Committee after the annual workshop.

7. Raise awareness and solicit contributions through Community Partnerships and Citizen Commitments.

To date, the County of Frontenac has entered into 15 Community Partnership Agreements with businesses and organizations throughout the Frontenacs.

The importance of community engagement in the realization of a sustainable future for the Frontenacs is highlighted throughout *Directions for Our Future*: “sustainability in the Frontenacs is also driven by a variety of businesses, community organizations and municipalities which support an aligned vision towards County-wide sustainability”.

To that end, there have been no formal criteria used to evaluate or limit potential partnerships. Any and all organizations in the County of Frontenac that are interested in supporting the implementation of *Directions for Our Future* are welcome to become Community Partners. As resources for promotion have been limited, many community members are unaware of the opportunity to become community partners, and a proactive approach has been taken to secure a number of the existing partnerships. An open invitation for partners was formally offered at the 2013 ICSP Breakfast.

With the committee’s review of the Community Partnership Agreement and its intended goals, the partnership program could take on more significance in the drive for increased community participation across the County.

Following is a list of Community Partners to date. (The Community Partnership Agreement template is attached in Appendix B).

Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network	2010
New Leaf Link	2011
Kingston Frontenac Public Library	2012
National Farmers Union	2012
Verona Lions Club	2012
Limestone Organic Creamery	2013
Seed to Sausage	2013
W.A. Robinson Asset Management Ltd.	2013
Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Public Health	2013
Limestone District School Board	2013
Desert Lake Gardens	2013
Friends of Arden	2013
Sharbot Lake Farmers Market	2013
Frontenac Stewardship Foundation	2013
Land O Lakes Tourism Association	2013

Update on external communications Initiatives:

Facebook

- 154 Likes
- Highest Total Reach: As high as 200 for one post during the last week of February

Twitter

- 656 Followers
- 275 Tweets (In total)

E-Newsletter

Date Sent	Name	Sent	Bounces	Opens	Clicks	Forwards
3/28/2014	April 2014*	735	6.8% (50)	36.1% (247)	10.1% (25)	0
2/28/2014	February 2014	727	8.4% (61)	42.6% (284)	10.6% (30)	0
1/31/2014	January 2014	727	8.8% (64)	39.5% (262)	11.8% (31)	0
12/30/2013	Dec 2013	723	9.4% (68)	42.3% (277)	21.3% (59)	0
12/19/2013	Happy Holidays 2013	723	9.7% (70)	41.0% (268)	0	0.4% (1)

*Note – Email Newsletter sent March 28th was repositioned as “April” Newsletter, rather than “March” Newsletter. Moving forward, monthly issues of Frontenac County Bytes will be framed this way as it is most often used as a vehicle to promote upcoming issues/meetings.



DRAFT Agenda

ICSP Breakfast: May 22, 2014

7:00 Registration Begins

7:30 Breakfast is Served

7:50 Welcome

- Warden
- SAC Chair

8:00 Introductions around the Room

- Name and affiliation only

8:30 Keynote Speaker

- John Keith, Manager Public Transportation Services for The Rural Overland and Utility Transit

9:00 Community Partnership Plaque Presentations

9:30 County Update

- Staff: Possible Topics Breakfast included an update on:
 - o Installation of Solar Panels at County of Frontenac Location
 - o GIS Demonstration
- SAC

9:45 Making Progress: Around the Room

10:15 Wrap-Up and Next Steps

10:15-11 Stay for a while and catch up!

Fresh with Opportunity
Community Partnership Agreement



Our Vision: Fifty years into the future, the County of Frontenac is one of the most progressive municipalities in terms of community-based sustainability planning because priorities and beliefs are determined through community consultation and County-wide considerations are well thought through and incorporate the four pillars of sustainability. The vision, developed to ensure the ongoing appreciation and continued improvements to our social cultural, economic and environmental systems, strongly defines the region.

Vision Statement: The County of Frontenac is a collection of healthy, vibrant, prosperous and environmentally sustainable communities in a rural pocket of Eastern Ontario.

The extensive network of hamlets and villages are as diverse as their geography and are integrated, creating our community fabric of neighbours working together to support strong community groups of seasonal and permanent residents.

As partners, we support the implementation of **Directions for Our Future:**

By aligning our activities and strategy descriptions of success, by reviewing and implementing feasible recommended actions, and by collaborating and sharing resources.

NAME
Organization

Warden
County of Frontenac

Social

Social sustainability is based on equity, diversity, connectivity, democracy and a good quality of life. The quality of life of our current generation does not prevent future generations from enjoying a similar quality of life. People contribute fully to their own well being or engage fully in community life because they live in a community where they feel safe and secure.

Cultural

Culture and recreation are vital components of our healthy community. Our strong sense of community is reflected in the spirit of numerous and varied small events, fundraisers and gatherings that celebrate local talent and heritage and support local needs and initiatives. The character of our community reflects strong political and community commitment and attention to a variety of aspects (landscapes, built form, heritage, mix of uses, urban design, services, etc.)

Economic

Economic resources (such as land, labour, capital and technology) are used in ways that maximize productivity, minimize pollution and waste, and meet the social needs of all, now and for future generations. Economic sustainability depends on social, cultural and environmental sustainability. Community economic development efforts help to create and preserve each community's sense of uniqueness, attractiveness, history, and cultural and social diversity, and include public gathering places and a strong local sense of place.

Environmental

All individuals are responsible stewards of the natural environment, undertaking to make sustainable choices with regard to personal movement and consumption. Resources are used efficiently by using renewable resources sustainably; by considering the impacts of exploiting nonrenewable resources; by avoiding overtaxing natural systems; and by ensuring the polluter/user pays. Green spaces like farmland and environmentally sensitive areas are preserved and enhanced.

**REPORT ON THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES
CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW
FEBRUARY 10-13, 2014
CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

JOHN MCDUGALL, COUNCILLOR, COUNTY OF FRONTENAC

I wish to thank the citizens of the County of Frontenac for this opportunity to attend my first FCM Conference. As a member of the County's Sustainability Committee, I had heard that this was an excellent conference and it proved to be just that.

Tuesday February 11, 2014

Day One was billed as a full-day Advanced Training Session. I chose the theme '**Green Economic-Strategies for Making Green Buildings Financially Successful**'. The delegates included politicians and staff from all three governmental levels, professional engineers, architects and environmentalists.

The objectives of the course were:

- To explain why building green is important and how LEED rating systems are used to certify green buildings
- Identify the cost premiums and financial risks with building green
- Describe strategies for minimizing and financing cost premiums
- Identify the benefits of green development from a local government perspective
- Identify how life cycle costing can show the long-term financial benefits of green buildings
- Identify alternative finance mechanisms

The morning featured outstanding examples of green buildings across the Country. This was followed by an overview of the impact that buildings themselves have on our communities: 30% of Canada's energy production; 50% of extracted natural resources; 30% of our landfill waste; 10% of airborne particulates.

We spent an hour on the definition of a 'green' building, using the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) point-based system. Risk and challenges from higher capital costs, rate of return for developers, technological risks, risk pricing from trades, regulatory hesitancy, unanticipated delays and market uncertainty were the topic of lively discussion from the floor.

The day proceeded with an outline of the Integrated Design Process, including the need for clear objectives, shared commitment, a multidisciplinary and collaborative team and stakeholder involvement.

Potential Subsidies, Grants and Financing Mechanisms were revealed ranging from those available through municipal, provincial and federal tax development mitigation and incentives,

Feed-In-Tariff programs, FCM's 'Green Municipal ' programs, Re-Finance Programs, Life Cycle Costing, Green Mortgages, Green Condo Loans and Energy Services Companies.

In summary, Green construction brings direct payback to the **municipality** that includes real green targets, financial payback (LED lights), green-funding options, a renewed housing demand, bragging rights, identifiable precedents and an expanded definition of infrastructure.

For **society**, Green construction recognizes our environmental footprint, our respect for our quality of life, community pride and respectful planning for future generations.

Wednesday's Plenary Session ' Resilient and Sustainable Communities in Canada-Looking Back, Looking Forward'

This session began with a discussion of FCM's Green Municipal Fund and whether it can work in a rural setting. This led me to an encouraging private discussion with FCM staff later in the day around support for infrastructure and housing initiatives at our County and Township level.

Of particular interest, was the discussion about the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan long-term challenges, featuring the past Mayor of Whistler. The Whistler experience was the model for our County of Frontenac ICSP.

He had just lost the election and was very disappointed that the new Council had not followed the roles and direct responsibilities that his Council had developed for the community aimed to relinquish some control from the City government. His hope was that the community task forces would endure changes in administration.

He wondered aloud whether municipal leaders can actually be the leader as we confront global challenges.

He recommended that Council's spend more time listening to nay-sayers and take the pulse of the community more often. He also cautioned not to push too far too fast.

The word ' Sustainability' over the long term did not help his Council's cause.

The Mayor of Yarmouth encourages municipalities to prepare for the time when provincial and federal governments will come to the take by defining waste diversion targets, development laws, ways to fund our own depreciation and deficits and plans to collaborate with other municipalities.

This session and the one on Wednesday afternoon were most valuable for our Frontenac delegates as we review our commitment to the ICSP process.

Wednesday February 12, 2014

A session on **Regional Sustainable Transportation for Low Density Communities** highlighted a Youth Taxi-Bus program in rural Montreal, where the municipality supports the membership fees and payments of young people's travel, in partnership with a local taxi

company. Membership cards are \$ 10.00 and young people are charged \$ 10.00 for a taxi ride (they can split this with a full cab). The municipality pays the taxi company \$ 20.00, leaving the cabbie with a \$ 30.00 fare. I wondered if this partnership with a cab company might be another model we might support for our transportation initiative at the County level.

The other initiative described in this session was a very creative volunteer-led Cycling support program called 'The Bikery', which includes basic repairs, safety training, a promotion program and The Corn Hill Bicycle Festival.

Sackville, New Brunswick, offers a Poverty Reduction transportation on line program at ecoenergy.com, with volunteer drivers, car share and shuttle options.

The afternoon session was entitled **Catalyzing Change: What is the Future of Sustainability Planning.**

I will try to summarize the lessons learned at this session:

- Is your ICSP continually endorsed by the community?
- Do you have broad civic participation?
- Do you look to the 'long-term'?
- Do you have meaningful discussions about the co-benefits of economy vs. environment?
- Does your Council use a Sustainability Matrix in its decision-making?
- Is your ICSP integrated with your Official Plan and Strategic Plan?
- Do you simplify things for the public's understanding?
- Is the community involved in on-going feed-back and evaluation?
- Don't miss the checklist of options. Can we afford it today? What are the management costs? What are the life-time costs?
- Remember that people are worried about jobs.
- Include your natural assets and Eco-assets in your Asset Management Plans, not just infrastructure.
- Use a one-page plan, with vision, simple objectives and the core business.

I also took a **Heritage Walking Tour** of downtown Charlottetown with the Manager of Culture and a member of the city's Heritage Committee. It was a delightful demonstration of a community that has been able to balance the need to save its heritage core, while encouraging development. The city is a tourist mecca and it has a flair and feel that is unique. I look forward to the walk again in warmer weather.

The afternoon finished with the **Sustainability Communities Awards and Partners for Climate Protection Ceremony**. I encourage you to look at these amazing projects on the FCM website.

Thursday February 13, 2014

The opening plenary was on **Decision-Making for Resilience- Finding the Path Forward and Minimizing Risk in our Communities**. This was a terrifying session presented by the mayor of Lac-Mégantic (The CN Rail disaster) and a councillor from Calgary (the 2013 flood). Both these speakers spoke of the need to have a disaster plan that is public knowledge. Councillors, Mayors, staff and the community have to be sure of their roles. The biggest lesson for both was **THAT THEY HAD NOT PLANNED ADEQUATELY FOR HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR CITIZENS, BOTH TO LET THEM KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND TO REQUEST VOLUNTEERS**. It is almost impossible for governments to plan fully for disasters of this magnitude. The City of Calgary had fixed its planning on the 2008 flood. In this case, the water had risen to the 2008 levels after only one day.

Making Every Drop Count-Affordable, Sustainable, Solutions to Wastewater Services in Rural Communities was the afternoon workshop.

It featured a state-of-the-art, very appealing, Engineered Wetland approach to wastewater management by the ABYDOZ company, which has installed this amazing technology in Appleton, Glenwood, Marystown, Stephenville and Cornerbrook Newfoundland. The technique includes settling chambers and the construction of man-made wetlands using reed plantings, as well as the sale of the final water and waste product. I encourage you to look at this www.abyzdoz.com.

I also attended a session on Citizen engagement and Participation.

In Conclusion

This was a very busy, but extremely valuable convention experience. I met dozens of people in both the sessions and the social times throughout the day and evening. I came home with the following:

- An appreciation for the important role that we play as civic governments.
- The funding opportunities that are available through the FCM Green Municipal Fund.
- The need to carefully review and re-engage our community in the ICSP process, including finding an option to the word 'sustainability' such as long-term resilience.
- The need to review and promote our severe weather and disaster plan.
- The need to focus on rural / urban partnerships for our mutual benefit.
- The need to look at creative alternatives to waste management and transportation.
- The fact that communities presenting at this conference have for the most part given up on the fourth 'cultural' pillar of sustainability planning and have lost the sense of

- balance that the exercise should bring to our decisions.
- There was a feeling throughout this conference that 'planning' is changing from 'long-term' to disaster avoidance, mitigation and communication challenges.

I enjoyed this opportunity to spend uninterrupted days, with some of my County colleagues, looking at planning from long-term perspective without the busyness of our normal municipal day-to-day agendas.

Yours respectfully,

John McDougall, Councillor,
County of Frontenac and the Township of South Frontenac
March 4, 2014

REPORT ON THE FCM CONFERENCE FEBRUARY, 2014
CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Denis Doyle, Deputy Warden, County of Frontenac

First of all I wish to thank John McDougall for taking the initiative to share his notes before I had a chance to type mine up, I will try not to repeat what John reported on, but there were several sessions going on at a time and we often attended different presentations, thus I will focus my comments on those sessions. Before getting into the detail I want to report that several presenters commented that the word “Sustainability” has been overused during the past 5 years, and becoming a yesterday’s word, and that the new thrust is on building “Resilient Communities” that can deal with whatever is thrown at us, floods, ferries frozen in ice, tornado’s, etc.! The point was made that there is not a generic Resiliency Plan that will address every ones circumstance, and it must be developed by each Municipality. Can’t you just see a whole new crew of Resiliency Consultants knocking at our doors!! See the cover article in March 2014 Municipal World magazine for an article on “Resilience”.

Tuesday February 11

The first day was an optional training session, I attended one titled “**From Plan to Action – Delivering on Community Energy Plans**”.

Before getting into presentations from various municipalities, and individuals a presentation was made covering the following basics:

- You must base line your energy consumption by clearly documenting, in detail, your current Energy Consumption
- Determine what action can be taken to reduce energy consumption, and try to find partners that will assist you. For example there are lighting companies that will install LED street lights and pay for them out of the energy savings.
- Some municipalities develop a plan strictly for themselves, commonly called a Municipal Energy Plan, while others go beyond that and include the residents across their municipality, and this is referred to a “Community Energy Plan”.
- The easier to do is the Municipal Energy Plan, however if you do a Community Plan ensure you dedicate lots of time and have several public meetings to engage the public. It will be a lot of work, but is the Community Plan is the preferred way to go.
- Various ideas on how to save energy, such as capture the heat from waste water, Ground Source heat, District Heating systems, heat from burning waste and Biomass, change all incandescent lights to the much more efficient LED bulbs etc.
- Whatever methods used, you should document in a Strategic Action Plan, and follow the plan.
- FCM have various programs to assist municipalities “Green Municipal Fund”.
- The biggest thing to ensure that is in place is the political will. And Council support, to make the necessary change and have broad community buy-in is critical.

City of Guelph approach was discussed. They started by reviewing what has been done in

Europe for years, Germany is way ahead in this area. They engaged organizations and companies that have been involved in Energy Plans, such as AMO, FCM, Quest, etc. Once staff work was done they started engaging the public through numerous meetings involving 100's and 100's of citizens. They pointed out that the Planning department is a key driver of the process and may need changes in the Official plan, and a Building Code, etc. Do not underestimate the work, but the Green Energy act has help put focus on the issue. They have found that there can be spin off benefits in the community and that a Green Energy Economy has started to develop in their community. They made the point that an important change was made by Municipal Affairs, which now allows us to use Local Improvement Charges (LIC's) to help home owners implement energy savings in their homes and use the tax system to pay back the loan using the monthly dollar savings achieved by reducing energy consumption. We have looked at this at the County but it has gone nowhere. Further in this report there will be an update on what others are doing with LIC's.

A group out of BC called Community Energy Association presented the good work they are doing. This is a member's organization and track energy consumption information and compile data to measure how they are doing against targets help communities. Several years ago Premier Campbell's Government lobbied BC municipalities to become carbon neutral, they felt this was possible because virtually all power is from Hydro plants, and carbon neutral. This eventually led to legislation requiring every municipality to have carbon reduction targets. The Community Energy association put a lot of focus on energy retrofits that assist in reducing energy, for new buildings they promote building the most energy efficient building possible, and reusing heat from waste water, using air exchangers and etc. They generally assist their members in meeting their carbon reductions targets with the end goal to become *carbon neutral*.

At the end of this session there was a promotion presentation suggesting that to really make a difference we really have to convert from gasoline cars to electric, forget the hybrids, diesels or whatever. This means that Municipalities and provincial government have to be proactive and install charging stations to make this idea workable! In BC where electricity is very cheap, and they have a well-run power company with lots of excess capacity, this approach has a lot of merit, but in Ontario with expensive power and a questionable grid and power system, we simply would not have the capacity if everyone switch to pure electric vehicles. Perhaps over time, but it will be after our time before we have the infrastructure needed.

The day was concluded with the suggestion that all municipalities should be lobbying their Provincial Governments to do all the data collection on energy usage in a consistent way across their province. This way all municipalities will be measured the same way and you will have a fair apples to apples comparison system.

Wednesday February 12th

The day started off with a **Plenary Session** Resilient and Sustainable Communities in Canada- Looking Back, Looking Forward'. John's report covers this well but I will make a few comments.

The previous Mayor of Whistler BC, Ken Melena, has no doubt done the best job of any Municipality in Canada in developing and implementing a sustainability plan. On a trip to BC

two and a half years ago I drove up to Whistler and meet with him and staff members and it was evident that they took this stuff extremely serious, with very detail monthly status reports on dozens of projects, and these were presented to Council. As Mayor, Kens main focus was on this activity, and he had previously moved all gas stations out of town, but what got him in trouble he decided to move all parking out of town shortly before the election. You guessed it, someone decided to run against him campaigning that he had gone too far, and Ken was defeated. The lesson is go slow, ensure the public is with you, and time your announcements on contentious program carefully.

Ken joked in his wrap up that he learned a big lesson that he wanted to pass along to all politicians in the room that is; “never talk about bold new actions in the 6 months before an election”.

Greening Existing Buildings: This discussion was started off by a group called Building Owners and Managers Association BOMA’ The first point made is that only 2% of the money spent on buildings per year in Canada is on new construction, but this area gets all the press, and there are programs such as LEED getting a lot of attention. The buildings that consume 98 % of the budgeted money basically get ignored. BOMA have a great program called BOMA Test that starts off with a 175 question analysis of the building. They have a 4 level program to assist people to save energy and money. Their focus is on building operations best practices, as opposed to construction and major structure change. They claim that those who build a new building to the best standards possible find that after 5 years they really are not much better, if any, from a 25 year old building, and the key is your operating procedures. They talked about a 14 steps they go through when planning to green a building. This was an interesting presentation and for more information rather than listing their process check out the BOMA website. We should look into BOMA to see if we can benefit with their program at the County!

STANTEC was up next, and strongly support the BOMA organization and work with them to improve building operation. They went as far as saying many LEED certified buildings end up worse than non-LEED buildings as there is a tendency to think they are so well built that they do not have to worry about good building operations practices! They claim that the Architects and builders never concern themselves with ongoing operating costs, and that the LEEDs program fails to address operating costs and maintenance programs.

Redefining rural areas – Stories & Lessons: The communities of Georgetown PEI and Yarmouth NS talked about fish plants closing and the ferry to Maine being shut down which had drastic effect on their local economy and employment opportunities. There was much discussion on the detail of what they had done, the main message was that other than organizing meetings and meeting places, the process to rebuild from such issues has to be from the grass roots, not the Politicians, as the ideas will come from the public. The following summarizes key points necessary to kick off a successful rejuvenation movement:

- There is no room for finger pointing, the first rule is be positive and that any negativity must be parked outside the door.
- Take the attitude that United we Stand, Divided we Fall
- The strategy must be getting citizens to work cooperatively together to come up with agreeable, practical and implementable solutions

- The answers and solutions are in the heads of the hundreds or thousands of residents in the community, not the few Politicians sitting around the council table with many other priorities to deal with
- The program and process you devise must be resilient so that as people who started the program move on, or out of the community, the program keeps going
- They have found that solutions that are community initiated, and led, have a much higher chance of successful implementation and last over time, as opposed to a Council who try to solve ever issue that comes up. Council's role is to be the Facilitator!
- It is all about the "Attitude" of the people involved, and there is zero room for negativity
- All communities have the power within it to solve their own issues and problems – "just do it"

Thursday February 13

Decision Making for Resilience: John covers this very well but didn't mention that the Mayor from Lac-Megantic, Colette Roy-Laroche, sat at our table. People must have been dozing off, or not paying attention as the presenters kept coming up with things to keep people active the first person to speak said get up and introduce yourself to someone at the next table, the next made everyone do some exercises for a few minutes, the third made us get up and kiss the person next to us, guess who had to kiss Madame Mayor Ro-Laroche? At this session we once again were reminded that the new theme is "Resilient Communities" and the idea is that municipalities must be resilient enough so that the things we enjoy today, and what we have in our community, will still be there for our Great Grand Children.

Climate Resilience – Adopting to Climate Change: Again it started with the comment that the term "Sustainability" has become too trendy and socialist and is much over used. The "resilience" term is to make the point that communities must have the ability to hang in through the toughest of times and get through whatever the cruel world throws at us.

Dr. Blair Feltmate from the University of Waterloo, said climate change is a done deal "the ship has sailed" and we simply have to plan and adopt to the new order of things. Money and resources is the biggest issue that is delaying plans and strategies to cope, but whatever we do we have to get it right. If we are going to keep burning fossil fuels we simply must come up with programs to capture carbon, we must find ways to control floods, and many other issues created by climate change. Temperatures have already gone up an average of 1 degree C, and will be up 2 degrees in the next 50 years or so. The reality is we cannot stop it so we have to become more resilient and come up with strategies to adopt to the change.

He talked about the cost of not taking action. For example by spending \$1 million on flood control, you might save \$5 million in damages. There are already many places that insurance companies have pulled out of and people simply cannot get any kind of house insurance, there will be many more such areas if Municipalities do not implement strategies to adopt to the new world, and protect their community from new risks.

Chris White from Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) gave a very depressing talk. He said the question is not if floods like what happened in Calgary will happen in other cities, like Toronto, the only question is "**When**". They have been pushing the Federal Government to develop

across country flood plain mapping, but to date the current government is hiding from the issue. He stated that the Calgary flood cost the Feds over two billion dollars to clean up after last summer. He said the cost to companies and the city of Calgary will be even higher than that amount. It was mentioned that IBC has have a Municipal Risk Assessment Tool that can be used to identify risks. His conclusion is that all levels of Government have to partner to address the issue to build a more resilient infrastructure to cope.

Smart money – Innovations: This was a very interesting workshop on a topic that I have had a long standing interest, that using the Local Improvement Charge (LIC) system to help promote Energy Retrofits in your community. There was much discussion on the best approach, but the City of Halifax has the most successful program so far. They set out to keep it simple to start with, “learn to walk before you run”! They decided to offer only one plan, and that is for Solar Hot Water, and they have one contractor who does all the work. Thus it is administratively simple and once the homeowner signs the paperwork, it is turned over to the contractor, and he does the installation. Once complete the contractor advises the city, triggering his payment and the charge on the house owner tax bill, which is paid off over 10 years, with the money saved on the energy savings. It was said that the more you open it up for other energy retrofits the more it will cost to administer. At our County Council table we have talked about the PAPER/CHERIO program in place in Ontario, but have made no progress. It was concluded that someone has to take the Bull by the horns and just do it, otherwise the program like Halifax has just will not happen. My feeling is that we must get onto this idea and just do it!

Resilience Plan – Participation & Engagement: A few different presenters discussed setting up programs to engage the public. Robin Campbell from Iqaluit spoke about how she engaged the community to develop a resilience plan. The project actually went on for many years before approval and she had several public meetings, and got people to complete surveys. When that did not work as well as hoped she set up a process to meet people and completed the surveys together. They tried to make it fun by going out to public events, and got very high quality feedback. Once data was collected an action plan was developed, presented to, and approved by Council regarding their Resilience plan.

Other presenters talked about getting help from FCM, green municipal fund to promote trails in Bromount Quebec and open a bicycle shop in Moncton NB. The point was made that some level of support was needed from local Council on these programs, and the recommendation was that Council must resist the urge to get to involved and take control of this kind of projects, but instead let interested citizens run with them, but do support their efforts, and let them follow their dreams!

Summary

We should continue to be involved with FCM, and take advantage of some of their programs, such as the Green Municipal Fund. We need to look at such things as developing a plan to use the LIC feature of the tax system to encourage Energy Retrofits across the County. Good conference and I would recommend that others consider it next year.