



TOWN OF KENTVILLE COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE April 8, 2024 AGENDA

6:00 p.m.

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - (a) Council Advisory Committee, March 18, 2024**
- 4. PRESENTATIONS**
 - (a) Kentville Silver Gliders**
- 5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - (a) Finance**
 - 1. Department Report**
 - (b) Planning and Development**
 - 1. Department Report**
 - (c) Parks and Recreation**
 - 1. Director's Report**
 - (d) Police**
 - 1. Chief's Report**
 - (e) Engineering and Public Works**
 - 1. Director's Report**
 - 2. Stormwater Master Plan Recommendation**
 - (f) Administration**
 - 1. Chief Administrative Officer's Report**
 - 2. Housing and Community Partnerships Report**

3. Acadia Community Development Student Recommendations

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/OLD BUSINESS

(a) Staff Update: Racquetball Facility

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Mike McLean – Stormwater Management Plan

(b) John Lohr – Department of Emergency Management

8. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Michelin Conference Travel Expenses

(b) Town Hall Renovation Project

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

10. IN-CAMERA

(a) None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT



TOWN OF KENTVILLE
COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes: March 11, 2024
Town Hall, 354 Main Street, Kentville Nova Scotia

This meeting was held in Town Hall and was livestreamed to YouTube with closed captioning.

Mayor Sandra Snow called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Jeff Lawrence reported the following members of Council and staff were present:

1. PRESENT

Council:

- Mayor Sandra Snow
- Deputy Mayor Cate Savage
- Councillor Craig Gerrard
- Councillor Paula Huntley
- Councillor Cathy Maxwell
- Councillor Gillian Yorke
- Councillor Andrew Zebian

Staff:

- Ken Reade Jr., Deputy Chief of Police
- Wanda Matthews, Director of Finance
- Dave Bell, Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works
- Geoff Muttart, Solicitor
- Bekah Craik, Parks and Recreation
- Jeff Lawrence, Chief Administrative Officer
- Jennifer West, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Genevieve Allen Hearn, Kentville Business Community
Michael Forsyth, Community Health Board

REGRETS

Craig Langille, Director of Parks and Recreation

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

DRAFT

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Zebian and Deputy Mayor Cate Savage

That the agenda for the Council Advisory Committee meeting of March 11, 2024 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(a) Council Advisory Committee, Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2024.

It was moved that the minutes from the Council Advisory Committee meeting held on January 12, 2024 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS

(a) Kentville Business Community

Genevieve Allen Hearn, Executive Director of the Kentville Business Community, gave a presentation about the activities of the Kentville Business Community in 2023. She reviewed the events, activities, and programs that KBC has rolled out to promote business in Kentville. She described the extensive communications tool that KBC uses to engage businesses and shoppers.

Presentation available

Discussion

- Concerns about the recent letters between KBC and a local business owner, that their concerns were dismissed. These issues have been addresses by the KBC president with the business owner.

(b) East Kings Community Health Board

Michael Forsyth with the Community Health Board shared information about the boards activities with council, including, upstream and downstream social determinants of health, a community health plan, and the purpose of health boards. Results of the most recent health survey are being analyzed and will be presented to Council in the fall of 2024.

Presentation available

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Finance

(1) Directors Report

Director Wanda Matthews presented the report for the period ending February 29, 2024. To this date 83.5% of the operating budget has been expended, and 92.6% of revenue has been collected with a projected surplus of \$1,460,744. She highlighted changes in payments in lieu of taxes, Kentville Police Service staffing, and contracted planning services.

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See report for more information.

(2) Low Income Tax Exemption Report and Recommendation

Director Wanda Matthews presented the calculations for the proposed low-income tax exemption for 2024-2025. She explained the change in threshold levels from previous years to accommodate residents facing financial stress in this difficult economic period.

See report for more information.

Discussion

- Request for staff to calculate the difference between the tax exemption and the increase in property values.

It was moved by Councillor Cathy Maxwell and Councillor Andrew Zebian

**That Council Advisory Committee recommend
To the March 25 2024 meeting of Council**

**That Council approve the Low-Income Tax Exemption for the 2024-25 year, and further,
That the exemption amount be set between \$385 to \$640, and further,
That the income ceiling be set at \$31,732, and further,
That the deadline for application be June 28, 2024.**

MOTION CARRIED

*Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:
Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian*

(b) Planning and Development

(1) Department Report

CAO Lawrence presented a verbal report for the Planning and Development department for February 2024, with highlights including releasing a job posting for the position of Director of Planning this week.

(c) Parks and Recreation

(1) Director’s Report

Bekah Craik, Active Living and Community Coordinator, presented the recreation report for February 2024. Some of the highlights included the conditions assessment report for the Kentville arena, the Before and After program (“Nature Kids”) launched and has been very successful, baccia program with Nova Scotia Para Sport, and many free activities for March Break.

See report for more information.

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Discussion

- Concerns raised about damage in Miners Marsh, information will be provided to Council at a later date.
- Question about status of the Ravine Park- the Federal Government has completed their remediation and the Town will proceed with some independent analysis and water sampling to map a path forward for this trail.

(d) Police Report

(1) Chief’s Report

Deputy Police Chief Ken Reade Jr. presented the police commission report, which included a review of staffing needs, training workshops, and the promotion of David MacDonald. The next class of cadets will complete the program in summer of 2024 and may be new recruits to KPS.

See report for more information.

(e) Engineering and Public Works

(1) Director’s Report

Director Dave Bell presented the Public Works report for February 2024 with highlights including welcoming Ahmad El-Kadri as the new Engineering Technologist in town hall, and a short report on the timeline for construction and grants with the Donald E. Hiltz Connector Road, and the Condon Avenue Stormwater Management Assessment Report.

See report for more information.

(f) Administration

(1) Chief Administrative Officer’s Report

CAO Jeff Lawrence presented his report for February 2024. Highlights included a hiring strategy for the Director of Planning position, meeting with residents about stormwater management issues, budget planning with the Director of Finance, and meetings with residents about various issues.

See report for more information.

Discussion

- Council requested an update on the Property Assessed Clean Energy program.

(2) Housing and Community Partnerships

Housing and Community Partnerships Coordinator Alisha Christie presented her report with highlights including Acadia student placements through Acadia and Homeless No More, sector engagement with Homeless No More, Positive

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Politics and Pizza event, and an update on the Housing Accelerator Fund (grant not approved).

See report for more information.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / OLD BUSINESS

(a) Wraparound Services at Tiny Meadows

Housing and Community Partnerships Coordinator Alisha Christie presented this report on behalf of Open Arms, including the foundations of team based, one point delivery, strength-based, and coordinated access.

See report for more information.

It was moved by Councillor Craig Gerrard and Deputy Mayor Cate Savage

That Council Advisory Committee direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Community Services Brendan MacGuire and request more information on the planned Tiny Meadows village, and follow-up on the letter sent in November.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:

Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian

(b) Noting Heritage Elements in Building Permits

Community and Economic Development Coordinator Lindsay Young presented the report on identifying and using heritage elements in Planning Department permits, as requested by the Heritage Committee.

See report for more information.

Discussion

- Concerns about the legal authority to create a framework for heritage review, identification and preservation in the municipal development review and approval process

(c) Review of Proposed Batting Cages Recommendation

Bekah Craik presented the report outlining the recreational and financial impact of installing three practice batting cages at Memorial Park. Staff do not support the allocation of \$37,5000 in capital funding toward the installation of batting cages. Staff commit to helping the community in securing grants for this project in the future.

See report for more information.

Discussion

DRAFT

- Suggestion that staff post grant opportunities on social media channels to support local non profits groups.

(d) Review of Proposed Valley Racquet Centre Proposal

Bekah Craik presented the report outlining the recreational and financial impact of a racquet centre on town owned land. Staff do not support the building of a centre at Field 4 or at Oakdene Park.

See report for more information.

Discussion

- Concerns that Oakdene Park should be examined more closely as a potential site. The Director of Recreation will bring back more information about this site location upon his return.
- Request for the Director to also bring back other potential sites for this facility, on the March 18 Council Advisory Committee meeting.

(e) Cornwallis Street Sign Loan

Deputy Clerk Jennifer West presented the report on the loan of the Cornwallis Street sign to the Kentville Historical Society. Council requested that the organizing committee prepare the wording to accompany the sign, and members declined this request. Staff prepared the wording to reflect the name change and reconciliation process.

See report for more information.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Zebian and Deputy Mayor Cate Savage

**That Council Advisory Committee recommend
To the March 25 2024 meeting of Council**

**That Council approve the recommended wording to accompany the
Cornwallis Street sign being loaned to the Kentville Historical Society.**

MOTION CARRIED

*Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:
Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow and Zebian
Councillors who voted against this motion:
Yorke*

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Jenna Gabourie – Pallet Community**
- (b) Chris Hutten – Pallet Community**
- (c) Bunny Bennett – Stormwater Management**

DRAFT

- (d) Heather Walker – Stormwater Management
- (e) Jennifer Currie – Water Drainage Issues
- (f) Jocelyn Nichols – Water Concerns
- (g) Jim McMullin – Flooding on West Main Street
- (h) Mike MacLean – Flooding on West Main Street
- (i) Scott Umlah – Flooding and Sidewalk Damage
- (j) Shireen Stacey – Flooding on West Main Street
- (k) Krista Laing – Flooding on West Main Street
- (l) Jenn Taylor – Flooding on West Main Street
- (m) Gerald MacPherson – Flooding on West Main Street
- (n) Veronica Fenwick – Flooding on West Main Street
- (o) Leslie Ribeiro – Stormwater Management

8. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) **Request for Decision: Independent Stormwater Study for Kentville**
Councillor Craig Gerrard presented his Request for Decision to Council, outlining the need to have an independent stormwater management assessment of the entire town. Councillor Gerrard expressed concerns about development over the next ten years in the south end of town where there is the most stormwater management issues. He also suggested that stormwater management studies be accompanied with policies for staff and developers.

See report for more information.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Cate Savage and Councillor Andrew Zebian

That Council Advisory Committee direct the CAO to review this request and provide a stormwater master plan recommendation to Council at the April CAC Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED
*Councillors who voted in favour of this motion:
Gerrard, Huntley, Maxwell, Savage, Snow, Yorke and Zebian*

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- (a) **Gary Randall**
Concerns about Infrastructure at Condon Avenue.

- (b) **Krista Laing**
Concerns in number of weather events impacting residents’ homes, and in safety issues about floods coming again like the 2003 flood on West Main Street.

- (c) **Mike McLean**

DRAFT

Concerns about flooding on West Main Street related to fixing the issues at Condon Avenue.

(d) Bill Conn

Concerns about recommendations from the 2003 flooding study not being implemented, including holding ponds and detention ponds. Basements on West Main Street repeatedly have floods and sewer backups.

(e) Dion Davison

Encouraged by Council’s direction to explore a master plan for stormwater management for the town. Concerns about an independent consultant leading this project.

(f) Scott Nicholson

Concerns about future flooding on West Main Street. Concerns about a policy for storms and hurricanes to support residents, including turning on the pump at the end of the street prior to flooding.

(g) Ron Cousins

Concerns about detention ponds being installed on his land.

(h) Spencer Laing

Request for an independent stormwater management plan.

(i) Bunny Bennett

Concerns about stormwater management on Condon Avenue and support for the proposed holding pond. Requests better communication about stormwater management upgrades and supports.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss,
Council Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes Approved by CAO and Town Clerk Jeff Lawrence



Meet the Kentville Silver Gliders

Presentation to Kentville Town
Council, April 8 2024



Who we are

- A member of Skate Canada and Skate NS providing high-quality skating instruction that promotes the joy of skating for everyone
- We have been a registered Skate Canada club since 1975 continuously operating at the Centennial Arena



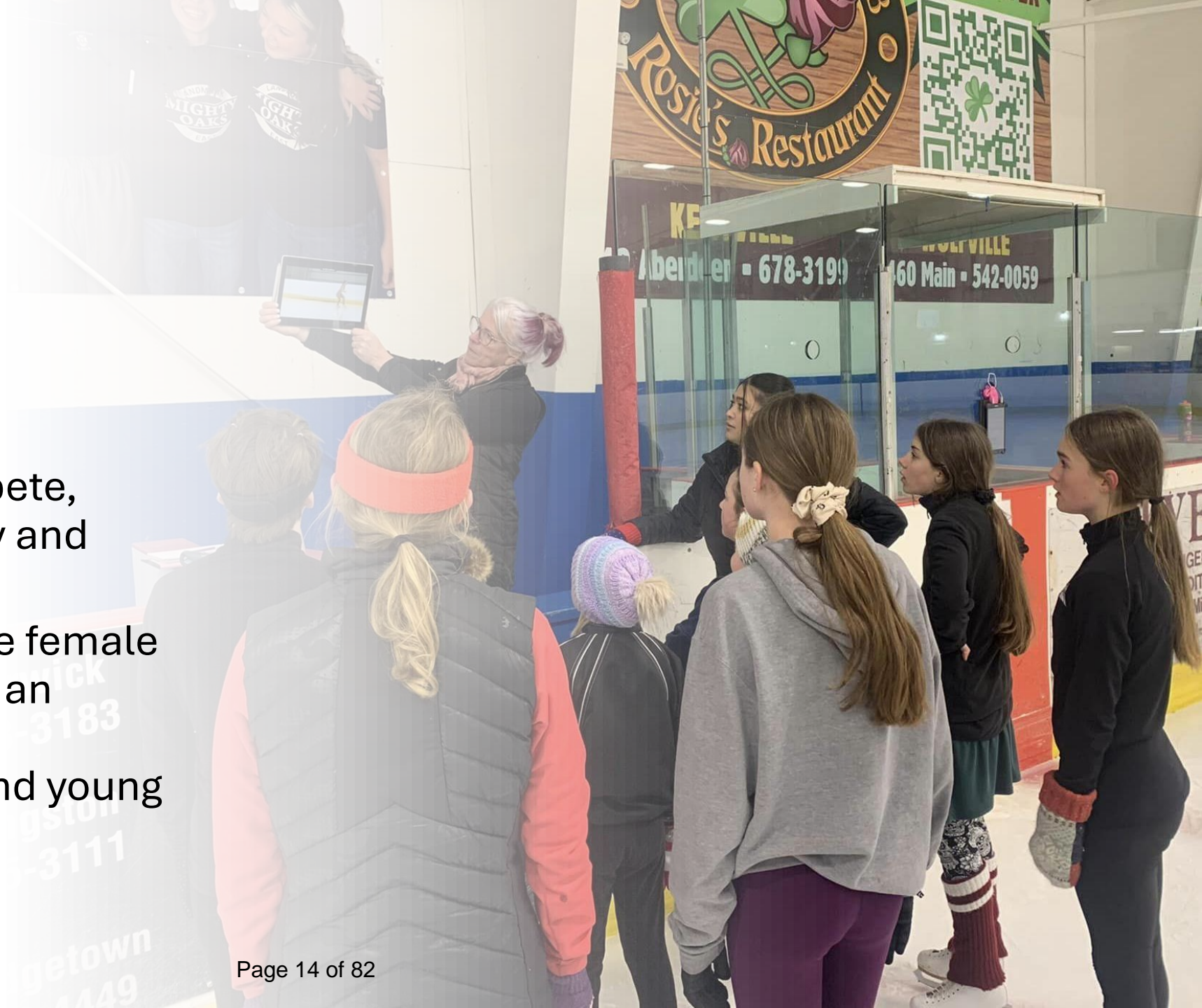
What we bring to the community

- Learn to skate program
 - Our Canskate program in 2023/2024 taught 80 children how to skate and have fun on the ice



What we bring to the community

- Star Skate program
 - Our star skaters compete, provincially, regionally and nationally
 - Most of our skaters are female and our club provides an important recreation opportunity for girls and young women



What we bring to the community

- We bring the community together twice annually for skate shows that showcase our amazing skaters' skills and provide fun community events



What we bring to the community

- In 2024/2025 we hope to host another provincial skating competition that will bring approximately 200 families from across the province to the town



Thank you

- Our coaches say the Kentville Centennial arena ice is the best in the valley and we very much appreciate the rink staff
- The TOK Community Grant which we have received the last two years and have applied for again for the following season helps us pay for ice



Our hopes for the future

- To continue to grow the club as we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2025
- Stable ice costs (currently \$195 per hour, approximately \$55,000 per season)
- The possibility of new municipal subsidies to make skating more accessible to families
- Rejuvenation of the Centennial Arena facility and its continued use through any renovation process





Questions?



TOWN OF KENTVILLE
Staff Report to Council Advisory Committee
For the Month of March 2024
FINANCE

Operations

- Submission of the Financial Information Return (FIR) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year occurred.
- The Town Five Year Capital Investment Plan Capital was created, refined, presented and approved in the month of March. Significant collaboration across departments, the level of information provided and a focus on long range planning were keys to reaching this milestone.
- 2024-2025 Operating Budget development is underway with a target date of early May for presentation to Council.

Financial

- Federal - 2023-2024 Payment in Lieu of Taxes February submission resulted in increased funding.
- Appendix A includes the preliminary Year to Date February 2024 General Operating Fund Statement of Operations along with an overview analysis. In addition, a revised forecast based on February 2024 operating results and multi-year trend analysis has been provided. Current results suggest a year-end balanced budget is possible.
- The 2023-2024 Town capital fund forecast is \$ 3,947,700 as at March 31st, 2024. The variance in budget results from a detailed review of individual projects with Directors responsible for same. Year to date March 31, 2024, expenditures are \$ 3,232,599 (82% of forecast). See Town General Capital Investment Plan Update Appendix B.1.
- The 2023-2024 Town sanitary sewer capital forecast is \$ 363,700 as at March 31st, 2024. Preliminary year to date March 31, 2024, expenditures are \$ 284,906 (78% of forecast). See Sanitary Sewer Capital Investment Plan Update Appendix B.2.
- Appendix C includes the preliminary Year to Date December 2023 Sanitary Sewer Fund Statement of Operations along with an overview analysis and forecast.
- Of the \$ 12,188,511 tax levy billed in 2023-2024, 0.82% remains outstanding as at March 31, 2024. This change represents a 36% (0.44 percentage point) reduction in tax balance owing for the month.

Outstanding Tax Receivable Aging		
2023-2024	2022-2023	Prior Years
\$ 100,215.92	\$ 1,523.39	\$ 2,135.67

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Matthews, CPA, CA
 Director of Finance



Town of Kentville Operating Fund
Statement of Operations with Forecast
 Year to Date February 29, 2024

Overall

Actual revenue sources and expenditure payments are reported as they are earned or come due. The portion of revenues or expenditures recognized as a percentage of the annual budget is the budget revenue or spend rates. If revenues and expenditures were evenly distributed throughout the year, a 92% revenue or spend rate would be expected in month 11 of the fiscal year. Spending patterns are often annual, quarterly, or monthly. Timing differences between yearly spend rates and budget compared to actual occur.

Actual results are evaluated against the prior year's revenue and spend rates as well as the current year's budget. Overall YTD results show 90.1 % of **expenditure** budget used and 95.7% of **revenue** budget recorded creating an overall surplus of \$ 896,947.

Explanation of significant changes between current year and prior year revenue or spend rates are below.

Revenue

- Final **tax levy** is reflected in actual results.
- **Area rates and frontages** include a portion for principal repayment.
- **Payments in Lieu of Taxes** –Provincial and federal payments have been received, recorded and exceeded budget amounts.
- **Return on investments** - dividends and transfers to be recorded at year end.

Expenditures

- **General Admin**
 - One time PACE cost sharing with West Hants, IT MDR solution and grants to community organizations.
- **Debt charges** occur based on a defined payment schedule.
- **Protective Services**
 - Significant vacancies, particularly constables, have generated overtime at a higher rate than budget; however, this is more than offset by unused regular salary budgets.
 - Fire protection service (hydrant) expense of \$468,146 reflects 2022-2023 audited actual results at predetermined percentages for the Town and County of Kings.
 - Identifiable work crew costs were tracked in EMO for Hurricane Lee
- **Transportation services** spending is consistent with last year; however, snow removal and seasonal expenses may impact overall year end results.
- **Public Health and Housing** – the 2022-2023 deficit accrual was insufficient to cover the actual invoice; the balance is recorded as an expense in the current year.
- A vacant planner position and timing of secondary planning work recorded in **Planning and Zoning** have generated savings that are more than offset by contract and legal costs.

Town of Kentville Operating Fund
Statement of Operations with Forecast
Year to Date February 29, 2024

Expenditures Continued:

- **Economic Development** contains a one-time \$25,000 payment to KDCL.
- **Parks and Recreation**
 - secured grants to offset the costs of Canada Cup and experienced higher than budgeted pool revenues, creating a favourable variance to budget in Programmes and Facilities
 - periodic vacancies within recreation administration has caused it's spend rate to be lower than expected for 2023-2024 and less than Q3 2022-2023.

Town of Kentville Operating Fund

APPENDIX A

Statement of Operations with Forecast

For the Period Ended February 29, 2024

Revenue	Annual Budget	Forecast March 2024	Preliminary YTD Amount	% Budget Revenue CY	% Budget Revenue PY
TAXES					
Tax (including Industrial Park)					
Assessable property	11,330,300	11,311,400	11,297,123	99.7%	100.0%
Resource	54,200	54,200	54,142	99.9%	100.0%
Economic development	112,200	111,900	111,891	99.7%	94.7%
	11,496,700	11,477,500	11,463,155	99.7%	99.9%
Area rates and frontages					
Area rates	674,600	674,600	682,704	101.2%	101.7%
Special assessments	2,000	2,000	9,614	480.7%	72.5%
	676,600	676,600	692,317	102.3%	101.6%
Based on revenue					
Business property	34,600	31,300	31,317	90.5%	96.6%
TOTAL TAXATION	12,207,900	12,185,400	12,186,790	99.8%	100.0%
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES					
Federal and agencies	387,900	387,900	405,044	104.4%	97.8%
Provincial and agencies	178,400	178,400	186,021	104.3%	0.0%
	566,300	566,300	591,065	104.4%	68.6%
SERVICES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS					
Provincial government	138,300	138,300	100,598	72.7%	69.3%
Local government	96,100	96,100	46,105	48.0%	57.1%
	234,400	234,400	146,703	62.6%	64.3%
SALES OF SERVICES					
Agencies	1,060,500	1,136,900	1,074,570	101.3%	104.7%
OTHER REVENUE-OWN SOURCES					
Fines, fees, permits	36,600	41,800	54,692	149.4%	139.7%
Rentals	415,400	410,500	323,540	77.9%	77.3%
Interest	134,200	200,000	315,125	234.8%	260.1%
Return on investments	630,000	630,000	-	0.0%	15.9%
Other	43,400	44,900	28,682	66.1%	84.8%
	1,259,600	1,327,200	722,039	57.3%	61.0%
UNCONDITIONAL TRANSFERS	223,400	228,800	186,950	83.7%	86.4%
CONDITIONAL TRANSFERS	169,900	178,500	132,680	78.1%	105.7%
FINANCING AND TRANSFERS					
From reserves	241,900	241,900	241,900	100.0%	100.0%
	241,900	241,900	241,900	100.0%	100.0%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 15,963,900	\$ 16,099,400	\$ 15,282,696	95.7%	95.2%

Town of Kentville Operating Fund

APPENDIX A

Statement of Operations with Forecast

For the Period Ended February 29, 2024

Expenditures	Annual Budget	Forecast March 2024	Preliminary YTD Amount	% Budget Expended CY	% Budget Expended PY
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION					
Legislative	287,600	287,600	240,090	83.5%	86.6%
General administration	1,734,500	1,809,500	1,607,287	92.7%	96.1%
	2,022,100	2,097,100	1,847,377	91.4%	94.7%
PROTECTIVE SERVICES					
Police- core program	2,976,000	2,976,000	2,579,234	86.7%	94.0%
Police-sales of service	158,900	158,900	125,219	78.8%	66.3%
Law enforcement	207,200	207,200	169,890	82.0%	87.6%
Fire fighting	908,900	908,900	812,102	89.4%	100.2%
Protective service- debt charge	3,600	3,600	3,783	105.1%	99.5%
Emergency measures and other	148,100	173,100	173,639	117.2%	86.2%
	4,402,700	4,427,700	3,863,867	87.8%	93.6%
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Common services	1,228,000	1,228,000	1,162,875	94.7%	91.2%
Road transportation	822,400	822,400	816,398	99.3%	104.5%
Public transit	408,100	408,100	332,017	81.4%	94.4%
Transportation- debt charge	50,400	50,400	55,806	110.7%	110.9%
Other	98,700	98,700	85,576	86.7%	100.7%
	2,607,600	2,607,600	2,452,672	94.1%	96.7%
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES					
Solid waste collection and recycling	729,400	729,400	689,502	94.5%	99.8%
PUBLIC HEALTH					
Public health and housing	90,000	90,000	7,573	8.4%	-11.3%
ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT					
Planning and zoning	242,200	298,200	250,460	103.4%	72.1%
Other community development	512,100	512,100	474,766	92.7%	100.8%
	754,300	810,300	725,226	96.1%	90.7%
RECREATION AND CULTURAL					
Recreation-Administration	766,700	766,700	590,778	77.1%	92.6%
-Programmes (net)	195,100	180,100	111,255	57.0%	70.6%
-Facilities	760,400	745,400	650,616	85.6%	103.1%
-Debt charge	28,900	28,900	34,434	119.1%	108.0%
Cultural	140,300	140,300	129,857	92.6%	92.4%
	1,891,400	1,861,400	1,516,940	80.2%	95.1%
EDUCATION					
	1,805,200	1,805,200	1,654,752	91.7%	91.7%
FINANCING AND TRANSFERS					
Debt charge- principal	911,700	911,700	878,340	96.3%	100.0%
Transfers to allowances and reserves	749,500	749,500	749,500	100.0%	100.0%
	1,661,200	1,661,200	1,627,840	98.0%	100.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 15,963,900	\$ 16,089,900	\$ 14,385,749	90.1%	94.4%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		\$ 9,500	\$ 896,947		

15,693,544



**TOWN OF KENTVILLE
CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN
2023-2024
YTD March 31, 2024 (preliminary)**

PROJECT BY DEPARTMENT/AREA	2023/2024 BUDGET	2023/2024 FORECAST	2023/2024 VARIANCE	2023/2024 YTD ACTUAL	% Forecast Expended
Canada Community Building Fund					
MacDonald/Henry/ Braeside	\$ 825,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 435,411	70%
Green Infrastructure Fund - Trails and Pathways	2,071,100	1,171,100	900,000	865,659	74%
General Administration	50,000	50,000	-	35,447	71%
Protective Services	145,000	145,000	-	167,318	115%
Transportation ^{Note 1}	1,565,000	1,153,000	412,000	943,044	82%
ICIP - Donald Hiltz Connector	844,000	15,000	829,000	11,438	76%
Planning and Development	104,800	40,800	64,000	9,135	22%
Parks and Recreation ^{Note 2}	1,001,000	747,800	253,200	765,147	102%
TOTAL PROJECTS 2023-24	\$ 6,605,900	\$ 3,947,700	\$ 2,658,200	\$ 3,232,599	82%

Notes

1	comprised of:					
	Equipment	750,000	400,000	350,000	342,859	86%
	Buildings	35,000	28,000	7,000	15,084	54%
	Streets & Lights	220,000	255,000	(35,000)	241,573	95%
	Sidewalks	250,000	264,000	(14,000)	231,616	88%
	Storm Sewer	310,000	206,000	104,000	111,912	54%
		1,565,000	1,153,000	412,000	943,044	82%
2	comprised of:					
	Green Spaces	140,000	94,500	45,500	78,789	83%
	Parks & Playgrounds	663,500	529,200	134,300	601,450	114%
	Sport Facilities	197,500	124,100	73,400	84,908	68%
		1,001,000	747,800	253,200	765,147	102%



**TOWN OF KENTVILLE - SANITARY SEWER
CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN
2023-2024
YTD March 31, 2024 (preliminary)**

PROJECT BY DEPARTMENT/AREA	2023/2024 BUDGET	2023/2024 FORECAST	2023/2024 VARIANCE	2023/2024 YTD ACTUAL	% Forecast Expended
Braeside/ MacDonald Avenue	\$ 260,000	\$ 265,500	(5,500)	265,407	100%
Business Park Laterals	30,000	30,000	-	19,499	65%
Mill Run Pumping Station Upgrades	110,000	68,200	41,800	-	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS 2023-24	\$ 400,000	\$ 363,700	\$ 36,300	\$ 284,906	78%

Town of Kentville Operating Fund

APPENDIX C

Sanitary Sewer Area Service Statement of Operations

For the Period Ended December 31, 2023

Overview - Sanitary Sewer Revenue is billed monthly or quarterly; actual Q4 accumulating at same rate as prior year. Transfer from operating reserves are limited to the value of the projected surplus. Rate study was deferred and maintenance expenses are less than expected reducing overall forecasted expenditures.

	Annual Budget	Forecast March 2024	Preliminary YTD Amount	% Budget Expended CY
REVENUE				
Sanitary sewer	1,386,200	1,385,779	976,228	70.4%
Interest on overdue accounts	4,000	4,510	4,510	112.8%
Permits- sewer connections	2,000	2,225	2,225	111.3%
Transfer from Operating Reserves	98,700	65,666	98,700	100.0%
TOTAL REVENUE	1,490,900	1,458,180	1,081,663	72.6%
EXPENDITURES				
Administration				
Administration	106,100	106,100	75,055	70.7%
Legal	400	-	-	0.0%
Audit	2,700	2,700	-	0.0%
Office	3,000	3,000	2,258	75.3%
Common service charge	30,000	30,000	30,000	100.0%
Vehicle expense	1,000	619	619	61.9%
Other collection expense	100	-	-	0.0%
Lease of equipment	1,500	1,500	940	62.7%
Interest on customers' deposits	100	100	66	66.3%
Professional studies	6,000	-	-	0.0%
Dues and fees	500	-	-	0.0%
Training	1,000	-	-	0.0%
Depreciation Reserve	75,000	75,000	75,000	100.0%
	227,400	219,019	183,939	80.9%
Domestic Sewer Maintenance				
Wages	34,000	34,000	24,226	71.3%
Materials and supplies	42,000	20,000	16,971	40.4%
	76,000	54,000	41,197	54.2%
Pumping Stations				
Wages	16,000	16,000	9,097	56.9%
Insurance	17,300	17,667	17,667	102.1%
Operating expenses	26,500	29,000	39,893	150.5%
Maintenance	10,000	5,000	3,826	38.3%
	69,800	67,667	70,483	101.0%
Treatment & Disposal				
Agreement-Co. of Kings	1,031,900	1,031,900	671,573	65.1%
Fiscal Services				
Interest	18,000	17,858	17,478	97.1%
Principal	66,100	66,100	66,100	100.0%
Discount	1,700	1,636	1,636	96.2%
	85,800	85,594	85,214	99.3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,490,900	1,458,180	1,052,404	70.6%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-	29,259	



Town of Kentville
Staff Report to Council Advisory Committee
For the Month of March 2024
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRESENTED ON APRIL 8, 2024

Administration and Operations

- The department has posted for a Seasonal Landscaper position. This is an 8-month seasonal position supporting our park spaces. This role has just become vacant.
- The department closed the following summer roles and conducted interviews in March:
 - Summer Outreach (4)
 - Sport Animator (1)
 - Aquatic Staff (9)
 - Summer Recreation Manager (1)
 - Summer Park Staff (8)

Facilities and Operations

- Arena closed on March 29th for the season.
- Kentville Home Show
 - Event date is April 19th to 21st at the Centennial Arena
 - This is in partnership with the Darwin Group.
 - This event marks its 42nd year, showcasing the enduring popularity and relevance of the Home Show in our community. All vendor spots were sold out in early January, this overwhelming response underscores the event's reputation and the high level of interest it garners among both exhibitors and attendees alike. We are expecting a substantial turnout, with over 2,500 individuals projected to attend the show.
- Burgher Hill Lighting
 - NS Power has proposed:
 - Remove 2 current poles with outdated service of 100w HPS lights.
 - Install at least one, ideally two 200w LED lights facing the hill from the street.
 - Install a 44w LED light at the top of the hill to illuminate the upper section of the hill, the parking lot, & the shelter area.
 - Annual cost for lighting will be within \$1,000
 - Pole work will be no cost to the Town, as it is deemed as substandard by NS Power
- *Update on Capital:*
 - Arena Sign Installed and Windscreens for Tennis Courts arrived

Programs and Operations

- *March Break Programming:*
 - Over the course of March Break, we had two Acadia Community Development Placement students plan and offer a series of fun, free activities to the community. These activities included rock painting, St Paddy's Day Crafting, Sock Puppet Making, Miners Marsh Scavenger Hunt, Free Skate with Spike, Volcano and Silly Putty Making, and Parasport Boccia Ball sessions. In total, approximately 370 people came out to play at these events.
- Unstructured Play (UP) Program, offered in partnership with the Kings County Family Resource Centre
 - has enabled 917 adults and 1017 children (total of 1934) to participate in weekly free play at the Credit Union Recreation Complex over the past 6 months
- In partnership with many local community organizations serving people with disabilities, we've developed the Super Happy Interactive Fun Time (SHIFT) program to take place two times per week at the Credit Union Recreation Complex. The feedback from partner organizations has been extremely positive:
 - "It was wonderful for our clients to have such a large space to go to and be physically active, especially during the colder winter months. We had clients change their schedules just to attend this program, and we had clients who typically cannot be motivated to move much, start to enjoy walking laps. We also had clients make personal fitness goals for themselves which they tried to accomplish each week. It was wonderful to see clients come back to The Flower Cart and excitedly tell me or others how many laps they walked, or about a game that they played, or about a friend that they got to see, etc. Having the soccer dome also allowed us the opportunity to invite clients within the community who are on our waiting list to join, for not only the chance to be physically active, but also the ability to socialize with their peers. We had two individuals join us, that had not seen anyone since covid and currently have no other programming in their lives."

Grants:

- ParticipAction Community Better Grant to support "June is Recreation Month initiative."
 - \$1,200.00 approved

Community Outreach

- The department has begun collaborating with a group from the Oakdene Park area to rejuvenate the Oakdene Park Community Garden this spring. Staff will support in cleaning the garden beds to have them ready for the community members.
- Community outreach performed at the Gorge for Hemlock Conservation work
- Community outreach conducted at Oakdene Park
- Community outreach conducted at Sherry Park

Council Related

KENTVILLE'S ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report at this time.

KENTVILLE'S ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

- Nothing to report at this time.

REGIONAL RECREATION COMPLEX:

- Advisory Committee met on March 26th, 2024
- Next meeting will take place in April 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



Craig Langille

Director of Parks and Recreation



Administration	Time	January 2024	February 2024
	Plate queries	1293	1670
	Training hours	144	150
	Veh. Cks 38's	135	157
	SOT Tickets	47	38
	Foot Patrol Hours	75	125
	CC Charges	13	26
	Calls for service	255	228
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace Violence • ACIIS (Automated criminal Intelligence information System) • Crisis Intervention Team • CPIC (Canadian Police Information Centre) 		
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Chief's Meetings • Executive Leadership Meetings • CAC Meeting • BoPC Strat Plan Meeting • Tiny Village meeting at KVFD • Meeting with Finance • Weekly meetings with Deputy Chief • Completed Evaluations with civilian staff • Met with Tracey Clements from Elevate • Special Olympics Inspired Gala 		
CCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended 12 Agency meetings, i.e., Portal, Youth Community Hub, Open Arms, Homeless no more, Wellness Court 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended 5 Community Events• Received 7 referrals from KPS members/other Agencies• 48 meetings with clients• Attended 2 other calls and assisted members
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short 3 Constable positions.



Kentville Police Service Bylaw Report February 2024

Municipal Bylaw Investigations	0
Loitering -Warnings	4
Assist Police	5
Taxi Inspections	0
Animal Control	0
Smoking-Charges	13
Smoking-Warnings	7
Parking-Charges	61
Parking- Warnings	56



Town of Kentville

Staff Report to Council Advisory Committee

Department of Engineering and Public Works

April 8, 2024

Programs and Operations

- **Kentville Water Commission:** There were no direct operational issues with the KWC in February. We have a Water Commission and Source Water Protection Advisory Group scheduled for May 1st where we will present the KWC Operating & Capital budgets. Also of note, our team just completed the Annual Water Report to the NS Environment reporting for 2023 on water quality (treated and raw), well withdrawal quantities and overall compliance with drinking water safety.
- **Sanitary Sewer Area Service:** There were no direct operational issues with the Kentville Sanitary Sewer Service in January.
- **Public Works:** On Thursday April 4th we received engineering proposals for the design, tendering and inspection of the 3-year Donald E. Hiltz Road underground infrastructure project and Business Park Water Tank replacement. Our engineering team is reviewing and evaluating the proposals now and expect to complete a contract for the services with the successful proponent within the next week.

Projects

- Much of March was spent working with the senior leadership team on creating and finalizing the Town’s Capital Investment Plan Budget. Now that the budget has been approved, we are actively ordering capital equipment and preparing design, tenders, & RFPs to complete the work approved in the 2024/25 budget.

Public Engagement

- Frequent phone calls and site visits with residents.
- Appointments are now being accepted for in person meetings.
- Letter & email correspondence – As required.

Meetings and Events

- Bi-weekly Senior Staff meetings
- OHS Meeting – March 6th
- Frequent Staff Capital Budget meetings
- CAC – March 11th
- Special Council Capital Budget Meeting – March 25th
- Regional Sewer Budget Meetings (March 7th & 28th)

Respectfully Submitted,

David Bell
Director of Engineering and Public Works



TO: Mayor & Council

SUBMITTED BY: Ahmad Kadri, Project Engineer

DATE: 2024-04-04

SUBJECT: Stormwater Management Master Plan

ORIGIN

As a result of increasing community flood risk concerns and increased stormwater events, on March 11th, 2024, the Council Advisory Committee passed the following motion:

That Council Advisory Committee direct the CAO to review this request and provide a stormwater master plan recommendation to Council at the April CAC Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Kentville has completed various flood reports and studies between 2003 to 2024; key reports include:

- Kentville Flood Report, March 31st 2003
- Hiltz and Seamon Co. Ltd, March 2003 Stormwater Study
- 2014 Hydrologic assessments of the Cornwallis River
- 2014 North Kentville Stormwater Management Plan
- 2015 East Kentville Flood Assessment Study
- 2015 Kentville Stormwater Management Report (draft)

DISCUSSION

These reports provided important information about stormwater management for the time they were created, however provide minimal recommendations for the present climate, conditions and land use. The 2015 stormwater management report was initiated following the 2015 flood assessment report however was completed in draft format only. After reviewing all stormwater management reports, staff recommend that a comprehensive town-wide Stormwater Management Master Plan should be developed. These past reports provide an important baseline of stormwater management that will be incorporated into a Master Plan.

It is recommended that a Town of Kentville Master Plan build upon the existing reports and at least address the following:

1. Identify and prioritize areas at risk of flooding through discussions with Public Works and Emergency Management Office (EMO) staff. This will consider past flooding severity and proximity to vulnerable areas.



2. Update the hydrologic/hydraulic model to incorporate upgraded structures and recent data, such as Lidar data providing detailed topography for the entire town.
3. Expand the hydrologic model to include proposed future development areas and associated land use.
4. Revise the existing and climate change-impacted rainfall amounts used in the model to assess peak stormwater flows.
5. Create new maps illustrating recommended culvert and bridge sizes for effective stormwater flow conveyance.
6. Update recommendations for stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) through updated models and discussions with Town Engineering & Public Works staff.
7. Based on modeling results, determine preferred approaches to mitigate flooding risks in high-risk areas. A shortlist will be developed in consultation with the Town, incorporating land use controls, infrastructure upgrades, and stormwater BMPs.
8. Prepare a draft report including:
 - Summary of approach and findings.
 - Recommendations for implementing preferred flood risk reduction approaches, including land use controls.
 - Capital Works Plan for infrastructure upgrades and BMPs with budgets, for implementation over 10-year periods.
 - Inclusion of maps showing options and proposed plans. Any recommended infrastructure upgrades will be presented on schematic drawings using modeling software or GIS maps. Class D opinion of probable costs will be developed to assist with the Capital Plan.
9. Implementation of any adjustments, finalize the report, maps, and Capital Works Plan.

Highlighting the critical reasons for the necessity of a comprehensive stormwater master plan, these recommendations will underscore the importance of strategic planning for sustainable development and resilience against increasingly frequent and severe weather events. Moreover, they will emphasize the role of proactive measures in safeguarding the town's infrastructure investments over the next ten years and beyond. Additionally, the recommendations will highlight the potential cost savings and long-term benefits associated with stormwater management strategies.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

BUDGET IMPLICATION

The Engineering & Public Works staff have reached out to consulting engineers and, based on these discussions, are recommending a budget estimate of \$100,000 to be included in the 2024/25 operating budget.

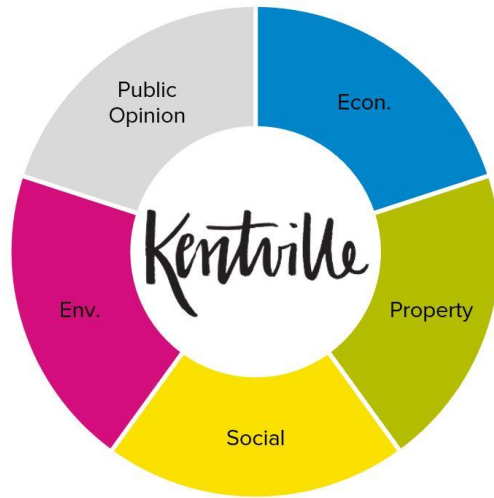
ATTACHMENTS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

That Municipal Council approve the inclusion of \$100,000 in this year's operating budget to undertake a comprehensive stormwater master plan as outlined in this report.

Town of Kentville Decision Wheel:





**Town of Kentville
CAO Report to Council Advisory Committee
For the Month of March 2024
PRESENTED ON THE 8TH OF APRIL, 2024**

Administration and Operations

- Operations
 - Assisted with completing and advertising the job posting for the Director of Planning position. The competition closes April 5th.
 - Collaborated with Public Works to establish the parameters around a storm water management master plan.
 - Attended meetings regarding a potential regional recreation centre application
 - Met with various community citizens and stakeholders and municipal partners on a variety of topics.
- Council Related
 - Attended committee meetings and met with committee members during the month.
 - Worked with the Executive Leadership to present the capital budget (Approved).
 - Working with the Director of Finance and leadership team to prepare the operational budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Lawrence,
CAO



Town of Kentville
Staff Report to Council Advisory Committee
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
APRIL 8, 2024

OPERATIONS

- The Community Development fourth-year placement students, Sadie and Claire, completed their placement with the Town of Kentville on Thursday, Mar 28. Staff submitted student evaluations to their faculty advisors.
- Staff have met with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to gain familiarity with funding options specific to affordable and sustainable housing for municipalities.
- Staff attended a community-hosted meeting on the Tiny Meadows Project at the Kentville Fire Hall on Mar 20, with the Department of Community Services in attendance.
- Staff coordinated a regional municipal staff meeting on rural homelessness to connect and review opportunities and roles within municipal government to respond. Staff have set up two more regional staff meetings focusing on sheltering in parks and open spaces and not-for-profit support opportunities. Municipal staff from Wolfville, Kentville, Kings County, Berwick and Middleton are attending the meetings.

COUNCIL RELATED

- First-year community Development students have provided Council with the results of their community conversations held in Kentville on March 8th. See the attached documentation, Acadia Community Development First Year Experience Overview—*What We Heard Report*.
- Staff are working with provincial government staff from Municipal Affairs and Housing to bring provincial staff into the community to speak to residential and private property programs and funding opportunities to increase community housing stock—[Happipad](#), [MedsHousing](#), and the [Back Yard Suite incentive](#) program.

NOVA SCOTIA HAPPIPAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

[Happipad](#) is an online service that promotes home sharing and aims to match people seeking short-term accommodations with homeowners who have rooms available to rent. This service will be available to all Nova Scotians for the next two years without cost, 2023 to 2025.

Census information shows that there are as many as 130,000 empty bedrooms in communities across the province, a huge amount of underused housing that could be accessed through home sharing. This partnership will reduce barriers to home sharing by making it safe and simple for Nova Scotians to rent their spare bedrooms or parts of their homes to compatible people. The intended outcome is to create more affordable housing supply and improve social connections for newcomers, students, and seniors within communities.

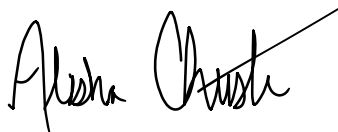
NOVA SCOTIA MEDSHOUSING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Provincial Government is now offering Medical professionals and medical students in Nova Scotia a new way to connect with landlords who provide rentals near healthcare facilities or medical schools.

[MedsHousing.com](#) is a specialized platform designed to ease the housing search process for medical trainees and professionals seeking accommodations near their workplaces in both urban and rural locations. Kentville's proximity to the Valley Regional Hospital makes it an optimal location for this program.

In collaboration with Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Investment Property Owners Association of NS (IPOANS) is promoting an initiative to encourage landlords in Nova Scotia to list their rental units on the MedsHousing.com platform. As part of this initiative, landlords are offered a complimentary one-year subscription for listings on the site. Landlords do not have to be members of IPOANS to access this offer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alisha Christie (she/her)
Housing and Community Partnerships Coordinator



MedsHousing.com

Global Housing for the Medical Community.

OUR LISTINGS



In close proximity to hospitals, clinics, medical schools and satellite campuses



Ideal for those pursuing "away" rotations, electives and job contracts



Suited for placements in both rural and urban settings



Available in both furnished and unfurnished options

WHY CHOOSE US?

Many of the landlords are also medical professionals themselves! They understand your need for a seamless and accommodating experience for your medical journey.

CONTACT US



HOW WE CAN HELP

Are you weary of endlessly scrolling through numerous websites in search of accommodations for your medical training, locum or medical job assignment?



FOR TENANTS

MedsHousing.com has been precisely crafted with the needs of medical learners and professionals like you in mind. Our platform streamlines the house-hunting process by enabling you to search for accommodations based on your school and/or hospital locations.



FOR LANDLORDS

At MedsHousing.com, we offer a unique platform where landlords and property owners can directly connect with medical learners and allied healthcare professionals.

Renting to medical professionals made easy!

Ideal rental units for medical professionals are:

- Located near hospitals, clinics, or long-term care facilities
- Close to medical school campuses
- Furnished for short-term rental and move-in ready
- Unfurnished for long-term rental

A MedsHousing.com listing empowers landlords with the flexibility to add or modify rental unit details, including photos and specific amenities. The platform also facilitates the maintenance of an availability calendar. It is designed to allow healthcare tenants to find listings that match their search criteria and contact landlords directly. A bonus: prospective tenants can create complimentary **WANT ADS** to specify their housing needs, allowing landlords to connect directly with the healthcare professional.

Beginning February 9, 2024, through to January 31, 2025, landlords in Nova Scotia can take advantage of a promotion code to list one rental unit on MedsHousing.com at no cost to them (renewals will be at regular rates).

Access this Offer

Until January 31, 2025, take advantage of a complimentary MedsHousing.com MedsGold listing for all for all new listings within the catchment area (defined by Nova Scotia postal codes) by using the promotion code **IPOANShealth**.

Please note, the promo code will not apply if you select a MedsBasic listing or if your property is located outside of the area defined by postal codes. With this promotion, your initial listing comes at no cost, and you can acquire additional listings at 50% off the regular price of a MedsGold Listing.

To access this offer, visit MedsHousing.com and complete the straightforward six step registration process. Be sure to select [MedsGold](#) when you list your housing unit. On the Payment page, input the promo code and, rest assured, you will not be charged.

For guidance on listing your property, please review to the [Frequently Asked Questions for Landlords](#). Additional resources include the [MedsHousing.com Introduction Video](#) and [tips and guidance in writing a listing](#).

Please feel free to distribute this announcement among your network of rental housing providers.

Acadia Community Development First Year Experience Overview – *What We Heard Report*

PRESENTATION BY: Acadia Community Development Students
Meagan Glasgow and Sherry Wang

TOPIC: Future Community Planning in Kentville

Future Community Planning in Kentville

Acadia Community Development’s first-year students participated in the 2024 first-year student experience hosted in Kentville on Friday, March 8. The students spent the morning having learning conversations with various community groups to gain more insight into what specific community groups have for hopes, wants, and dreams in existing and future communities in Kentville.

Core Community Groups and focus areas included:

- Indigenous
- Black/African Nova Scotian
- 2SLGBTQIA+
- Families
- Seniors
- Youth
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Public Health - Early Years
- Public Health – Housing
- Arts and Culture
- Active Transportation
- Recreation and Open Spaces
- Safety
- Environment

Turing Conversations into Recommendations

In the afternoon, students analyzed what they heard and created land use maps based on feedback and ideas from community groups. Students used fun materials such as playdough, Lego, markers and construction paper to create a unique community designed to meet the needs of their specific focus groups. Furthermore, the students have provided the Council with the feedback they heard in the community to help highlight community members' various visions for the future of Kentville.

The following documents, attached to this report, were developed by the First-year students and include a high-level overview of community perspectives.



ACADIA
UNIVERSITY

**Acadia First-Year Community Development
What We Heard Community Group Council Reports
2024**

TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Grace and Skye

DATE: March 28th, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Indigenous communities

What We Heard

- More sustainable places for people who are affected by violence.
- Land spaces that are available for people living off reserve.
- More sustainable living places for people with disabilities that meet their needs at affordable prices.
- Identify systemic issues to create more holistic views.
- Each community should have their own say and not be regulated.

Community Limitations

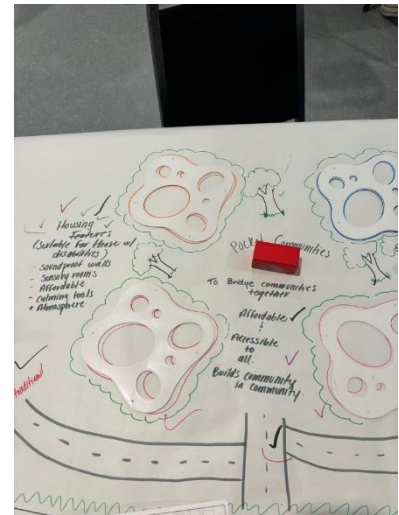
- Stigma with disabilities
- Unable to afford equitable housing.
- Community members don't see themselves represented/lack in a sense of belonging.
- Low income
- High poverty rate in Kentville
- Hard housing market
- Hard criteria to get a house and same with renting as it's difficult to get.
- Minimum wage

Community Opportunities

The community group that we interviewed was the Indigenous Community group. In this interview, it was identified that there is potential for more affordable housing that is inclusive. There is room for more indigenous-inspired buildings and places that honour indigenous community members as we are living on unceded territory. During our interview, there was a discussion about how indigenous community members do not see themselves represented and feel a lack of belonging, providing room for improvement in that aspect.

What Might a Future Community Look Like...

The community we built started with pocket communities that addressed the lack of housing for individuals with disabilities. The disability that was brought to our attention was autism. There are not enough houses in Kentville that consider some of the behavioural issues that come along with having autism, such as flight risk, outbursts and loud sounds from being vocal. We envisioned these pocket houses to have soundproof walls, a calm sensory room, and an inclusive space for all that is affordable with a calming atmosphere. These pocket houses are known to build community in communities which is exactly what we were looking for. The bridge in the middle of the pocket communities is there to symbolize the bridging of communities. In addition, off to the side of the pocket houses we added a playground for any children that may be living there or who may be visiting to encourage healthy social activity within the community. We added trails off the existing green space with spaces for indigenous peoples and communities to practice their traditions. Along these trails there is signage that contains information about indigenous culture and histories to help educate the public as well as to honour the indigenous communities. We added a trauma and violence outreach centre to our design because it was brought to our attention during the interview that there is a sizable proportion of indigenous peoples who suffer with mental and physical challenges due to intergenerational trauma. Towards the bottom left corner, we added a traditional indigenous store and multicultural centre to allow indigenous communities access to traditional medicines, foods, and clothing. This facility will provide the opportunity for indigenous peoples to practice traditions indoors and have a community centre that assesses the needs of its people.



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Megan, Demeric and Malaki

DATE: March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Black and African Nova Scotian Community

What We Heard

The main points we covered included representation and acknowledgment. We discussed how representation in areas such as the town council, doctors' offices, and restaurants are important. The leaders of the town should be a representation of the people that reside there. Acknowledgment of the history and contributions of the African Nova Scotian community is necessary because it can give a better understanding of The Town of Kentville. Other ideas we spoke about were having community gardens and more housing for youth.

Community Limitations

- Limitation of resources
- Discrimination and racism
- Not enough black-owned businesses and initiatives that support black culture.
- Black community members do not feel like they have a voice.
- Short-term fixed leases and power imbalances between landlords and renters

Community Opportunities

- Community gardens
- Wellness initiatives
- Entrepreneurship initiatives
- More housing and support for living

What Might a Future Community Look like...

While designing this community we first thought of safe, affordable, and dignified housing that is accessible to all. We have included multiple community gardens as well as a greenhouse for food growth in the winter. There are accessible sidewalks throughout the town and surrounding the housing. In the front of the housing is a recreation park and behind it is a multi-purpose sports field. There is a walking trail between the greenhouse and sports fields. A few other structures in this town are the farmers market, black-owned restaurants, and a multi-purpose religious space. We decided to add a multi-purpose religious center to ensure that it is inclusive of all religious beliefs of community members. There is also a cultural center in which marginalized groups can come together to display, teach, and share their art and culture. We also included a black professional center for representation in doctors, lawyers, and other professions. Lastly is the food truck park, a space where vendors from marginalized groups can sell food from their culture. This space is great because not everyone can afford a building, it can also bring the community together through food and culture sharing.



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Kate and Annamarie

DATE: March 28th, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

2SLGBTQIA+ Community

What We Heard

The queer community member we interviewed generally wanted to see a community where they felt safe and not judged. They desired to have a place in the community, such as a community centre, where queer people could hang out, shop, and meet their friends without judging looks and glances when they enter somewhere or having to justify their pronouns and other preferences to people.

Community Limitations

One of the limitations mentioned by the person we interviewed was the culture in the Kentville area. They believed that the idea of a queer community centre was nothing but a hope, and that the general community around it would never allow such a centre to be built. They also believed that the town would not be willing to commit resources to the queer community when overall housing is an issue for everyone, and that queer people were considerably more unhoused than non-queer people.

Community Opportunities

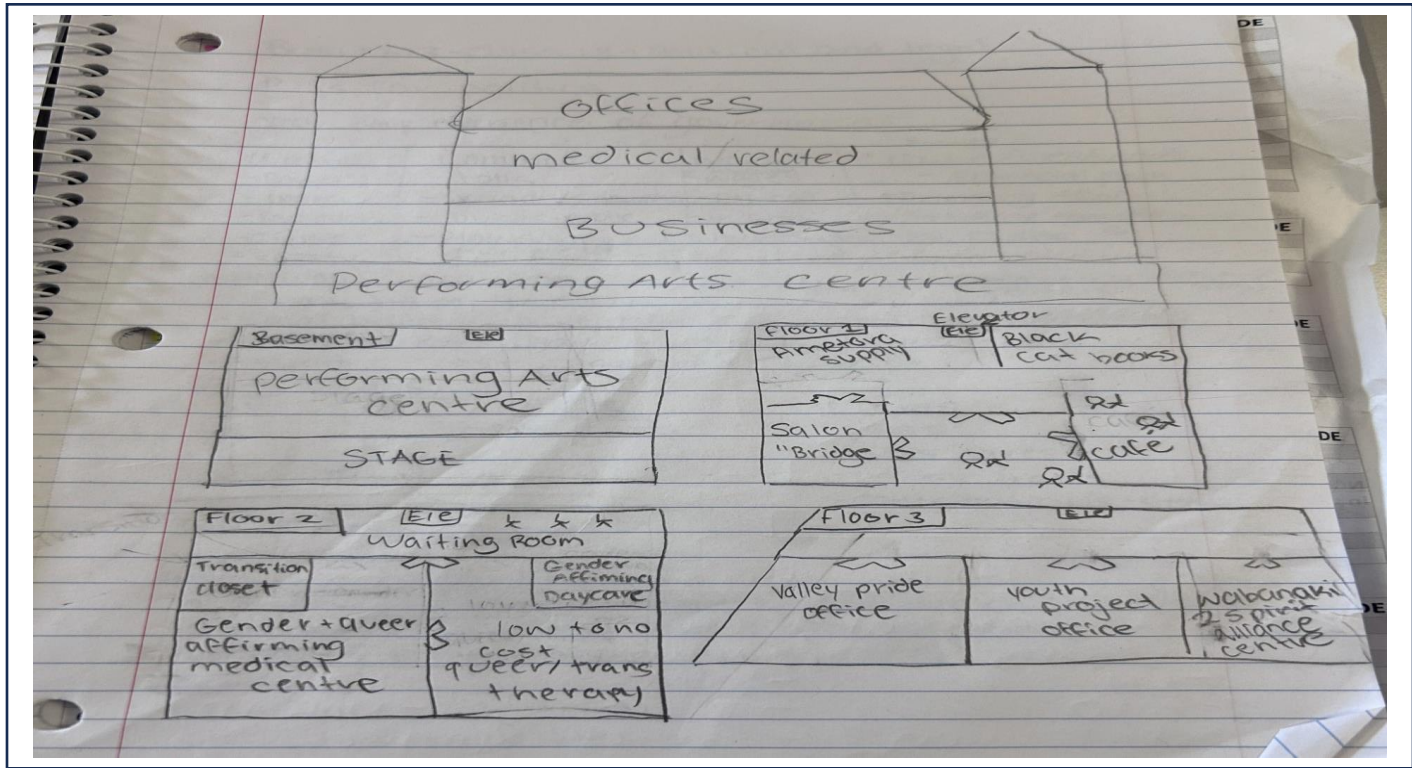
Some community opportunities would be to make everyone feel safe and welcome in their home community. The queer community representative seemed to feel as though the queer community was separate from Kentville, as though it is not always a welcoming environment. A way to improve this would be to add more queer representation in murals around town to feel welcome in all spaces.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

A community opportunity for the queer community would be a community centre, for those in the Queer community to have a safe space and to feel welcome.

- It would have a Performing Arts Centre in the basement.
- It would have commercial spaces for queer-owned businesses, such as Black Cats Books, Ametora Supply, Bridge (a non-gendered beauty salon), and a Café.
- There would be a medical floor with Low-to-no cost queer/trans therapy, Queer + gender-affirming medical care, a gender-affirming daycare, and a transition closet.
- On the top floor, there would be office spaces for the Youth Project, Valley Pride, and a Wabanaki 2 Spirit alliance centre.

Original Design



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sophie and Brayden

DATE: March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Nova Scotia Public Health - Early Years

What We Heard

- Community planning must prioritize creating spaces that consider accessibility for a diverse set of needs (varying from physical to economic accessibility)
- There is a need for housing that is safe and suitable to live in for all socio-economic levels
- Activities that do not have an entry cost associated with them that engage the youth as well as the caregiver
- A space for single parents to go for support and living assistance
- More permanent solutions are needed- currently, many fixes are only temporary (like a Band-Aid)
- EVERYTHING is out of price range for single families
- Lower prices for healthy food
- Reliable transportation is needed
- Continue to grow safe public environments for children

Community Limitations

- Lack of variety in housing to address diverse family accessibility needs
- Lack of housing (safe and sustainable housing for children’s development)
- Lack of free activities
- Lack of space to implement any of the needed amenities in Kentville

Community Opportunities

- Subdivision or community of dwellings for small/single income families
- Play spaces for children of ALL ages to help their development
- Public gardens to introduce green spaces back into the communities
- An affordable shuttle to get people to and from work aside from Kings Transit(unreliable) and cabs are too expensive for day-to-day use
- Services such as doctors or mental health personnel coming to communities to help alleviate stress of new parents, social anxiety, money problems, and transportation issues

What Might a Future Community Look like...

A future community could have a subdivision of dwellings with small yard spaces, single floors and 2-3 rooms, and a park nearby for an active space. There would be access to public walking trails and a fully accessible space in all aspects of the community. There would be a community center where the doctors could conduct their visits and an indoor space for play for the winter months or for poor weather days. In summary, it would be a safe community where single parents, single-income families and people with accessibility needs can come together and have a support system they can all rely on.



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Starla

DATE: March 28th, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Youth

What We Heard

We interviewed the youth group within Kentville. The main takeaway from the interview is that, for some of the youth in the community, Kentville has been supportive and caring of their hobbies, education, and accepting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. There were other youth that had concerns, such as career options and job opportunities, as there is not much opportunity currently for the youth within the town, even though it still could be a good place to retire or to come back to visit.

Community Limitations

- Limitation for a future career within the town.
- There are not enough public facilities that support personal hobbies, such as theaters that promote acting/singing for youth.
- Not enough affordable housing for youth groups that need financial support.
- Most shops close early in the afternoon, which leads to a decline in activity in the evenings and an increase in safety concerns in the downtown area once it gets dark.

Community Opportunities

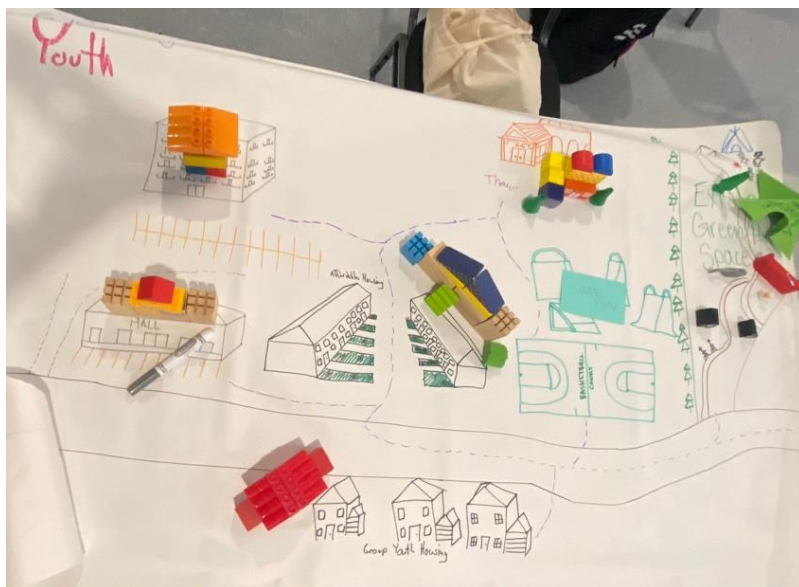
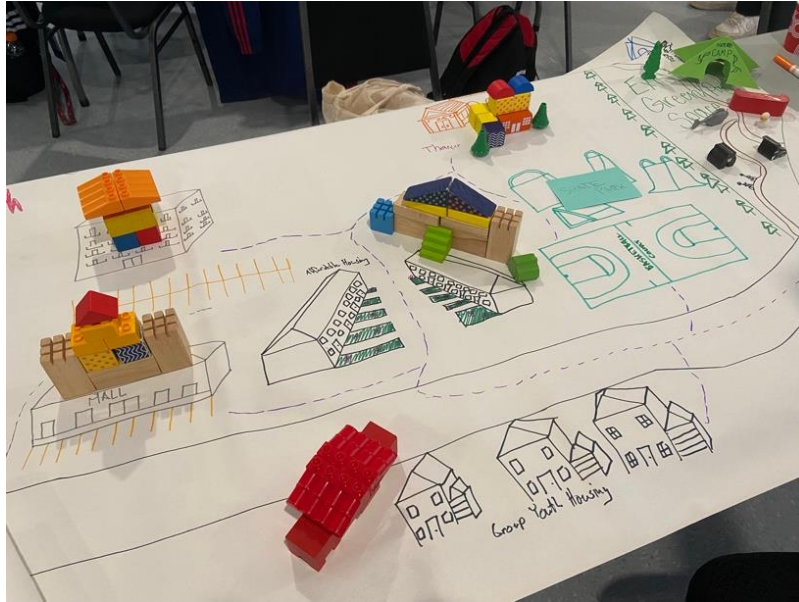
In Kentville, there is good government/community (The Portal Youth Outreach Association) support for youth groups who might be unable to sustain an independent living standard, either financially or mentally. It shows that these resources can be attainable for youth groups who face complicated or hardship crises. There is already a hugely populated existing family base community within Kentville, which means there are a lot of youth groups around the area, and promoting activity within the town to get youth groups involved is important. This could include having more summer camp activities in the parks and green spaces in the town, which can attract youth groups to bond with the town.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

The community we designed was drawn from a youth perspective, taken from both our interviewees and staff at The Portal. Our future community includes more affordable housing, such as homes and apartments to aid in the housing crisis and help support youth transitioning into adulthood to stay in Kentville instead of leaving for somewhere more affordable. Our community also includes more public infrastructure, including a new theatre, skate park, basketball courts, and a mall for youth to gather and express themselves. The green space was used to incorporate more camps and activities, such as hiking and watersports (kayaking/canoeing etc.), with many of the amenities for the youth close-by and easily accessible to enjoy the outdoors.

The future community of Kentville could potentially have more affordable housing with shared spaces for the youth group to start their independent journey in life (For example, apartments for youth groups that might need support more than others). Public infrastructure such as skating parks, basketball courts, football fields, theatres, and dance studios was incorporated so the youth groups could explore their hobbies and harness their skills. This public infrastructure provides a safe place for the youth to bond instead of worrying about their safety after dark.

Original Design



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Juliet & Tyler

DATE: March 28th, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Families

What we heard:

- When asked their opinion on Kentville as a whole, the overall impression of the respondents was that the town is generally doing well. One of the respondents even stated that they consider Kentville to be their dream community. Despite their love for the town, they expressed concerns about the impacts of provincial influence and how it could lead to a system prioritizing revenue over people.
- All respondents identified several businesses and establishments that are key to the community and are widely enjoyed. However, they also identified problematic aspects of these establishments, including early closing times, absent sense of community, and lack of intergenerational activities.
- Although all respondents enjoy Kentville's atmosphere, multiple respondents addressed how the town cannot accurately judge the scope of its urbanization. They feel that Kentville is trying to maintain its "small-town atmosphere" from a place of nostalgia, often at the expense of economic and public safety advancements.
- All respondents expressed concern with housing availability, particularly when renting as a family with children. They identified increased difficulty in accessing housing after COVID-19 and the problems caused by the rise in interprovincial migration.

Community Limitations

- Poor public transit—All respondents identified issues with the current public transportation system, sharing stories about the unreliability of busses. They also all expressed the need for a fully developed bus system connecting Kentville, Wolfville, and Berwick. Part of urbanizing places such as Kentville should be integrating reliable transit. Community members feel that public transit implements a sense of culture and community.
- Unsafe roads—Another problem discussed among community members was the current safety of roads. Participants said they feel the roads are unsafe due to a lack of crosswalks, sidewalks, traffic lights, and bike lanes.

- Lack of safe spaces for children—One interview was primarily centred around the absence of safe spaces for children. The respondent felt the community is limited by its lack of child safety.
- Prominent wealth divide—One interview identified an apparent wealth divide that prevents community connection and proper development.
- Developers who lack interest in Kentville—Community members have identified difficulties securing housing when outsider developers do not consider the town's needs.

Community Opportunities

The majority of the identified community opportunities were regarding safety, including:

- Transportation (buses)
- Walking Trails
- Bike Lanes
- Better housing opportunities
- More stop lights.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

A preferred future community looks affordable and walkable, with little to no Airbnb rentals. A community where the people are valued by the town over revenue. To prosper in the future, Kentville will need an increase in safer and more frequent transportation. Another significant change that could be made for the future is more paths, walking trails through the fields and marsh, and more biking lanes. It is important for the parents to feel safer when their kids wish to go outside and walk the trails or through the downtown area. Another thing that was brought up and can be implemented for a safer future is more stop lights through the streets for safer driving and walking.





TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Koko and Patrick

DATE: March 24, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience - Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Seniors

What We Heard

The seniors suggested that it is difficult to find housing, stating, "Affordable housing is simply unaffordable." The bus stations are not convenient, which leads to a transportation problem. Also, medical care is hard to access, as they mentioned that getting a bed in hospitals and/or nursing homes is hard. In addition, mental health among aging people needs also to be recognized; they are lonely, and many struggle because of losing spouses at this age. mental health in seniors is just as essential but never talked about. But overall, they love the community and think it can be even better when applying or fixing these factors.

Community Limitations

Basically, they feel comfortable living in the community. They love Kentville, and they have nice neighbours and friends. There are many resources available, and they are easy to access (if they have a car- without transportation, it becomes a problem). There are community clubs, like the library and museum. They feel safe and comfortable in their homes. Fixing the transportation problem in Kentville (and then slowly for the rest of the Annapolis Valley) could solve a lot and benefit everyone, not just the seniors.

Community Opportunities

They mentioned that there are not enough doctors, specifically family doctors, and the waitlist to get one can be very long. There is space for an incentive that can bring more doctors and nursing homes; they need more people to contribute to medical services. They would also like more volunteers for other events and community services, such as the library and museum, so they can organize more senior clubs in those places. This will also give more opportunities for these seniors to get involved and stay active, not bored in their houses. We also think that there can be some mutual benefit between the youth and the seniors through organizing a seniors/youth group; this would allow seniors to “run the show” but also get involved and share company with the youth.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

The community we designed is a close quarters community intermixing seniors and other generations. The red blocks were senior housing and the yellow is other. We incorporated stores and other necessities nearby like a grocery store, nursing home, with an active bus route for transportation to get to these places easily. We added paths and a playground in the green space.





TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Eva, Marcus, Sarah and Danielle

DATE: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Accessibility

What We Heard

As a group, we sat in on the town council meeting to discuss the Kentville inclusion and accessibility action plan. In this meeting, the council discussed the six different goals to foster an environment promoting accessibility and acceptance. While engaging in discussion throughout the course of the interview, we learned about the top three issues the town council would like to address first. Three of the most discussed objectives the town council would like to see changes in within the next three years would be Public Transportation, Education, and Accessible Sidewalks.

Community Limitations

The limitations within the Town of Kentville would include the top three accessibility goals. The limitation in access, availability, and safety with public transportation greatly impacts many community citizens who use public transportation as their main mode of transport. Education has been a rising issue for the accessibility community while their access is limited at times, and awareness is not brought forward. Accessible Sidewalks are another example of a limitation within the community. This is because they do not accommodate people who have physical disabilities and are unable to use steps.

Community Opportunities

The town of Kentville has the potential for many opportunities to foster positive change. The first example would be public transportation. Creating a consistent and reliable bus schedule can allow people to rely on buses as their transportation. To make public transportation more accessible, they would also need to include safe and accessible bus stops. Creating a more accessible and inclusive education system would involve bringing awareness to the lack of accessibility. Finally, removing steps from sidewalks would allow those who are physically disabled to maneuver around Kentville.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

Our Accessibility community included things such as “no step” sidewalks, giving people with physical disabilities the ability to use sidewalks as intended, ramps into business’, accessible community seating and much more. Our future community was based on the community accessibility action plan, as we tried to include most of what was discussed within the board meeting. One new thing we included within the future community would be a “Sensory Park”. This would be a park with many different toys and gadgets of all shapes and sizes which anyone could use to calm themselves or entertain themselves. With the use of things such as ramps into business’, accessible sidewalks, and accessible community seating, we were able to make a layout of a few essential things that the town board would like to incorporate to make the Town of Kentville a more inclusive place for all.



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Georgia and Max

DATE: March 28th, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Active Transportation

What We Heard

- There is limited bare land for community members to build
- A desire for walking and bike lanes that are maintained through winter
- A need for more park space, instead of lots of small parks, have one large park
- Access to safe, active transportation lanes
- Expanded and reliable bus services along with active transport connections
- Need more clear wayfinding signage
- Need proper stormwater management
- Parkland space review would help long-term visioning for the community
- Having trails with more reasonable trail grade
- Better outdoor access
- More childcare
- More diverse trails
- Maintaining infrastructure
- Active transport workshops

Community Limitations

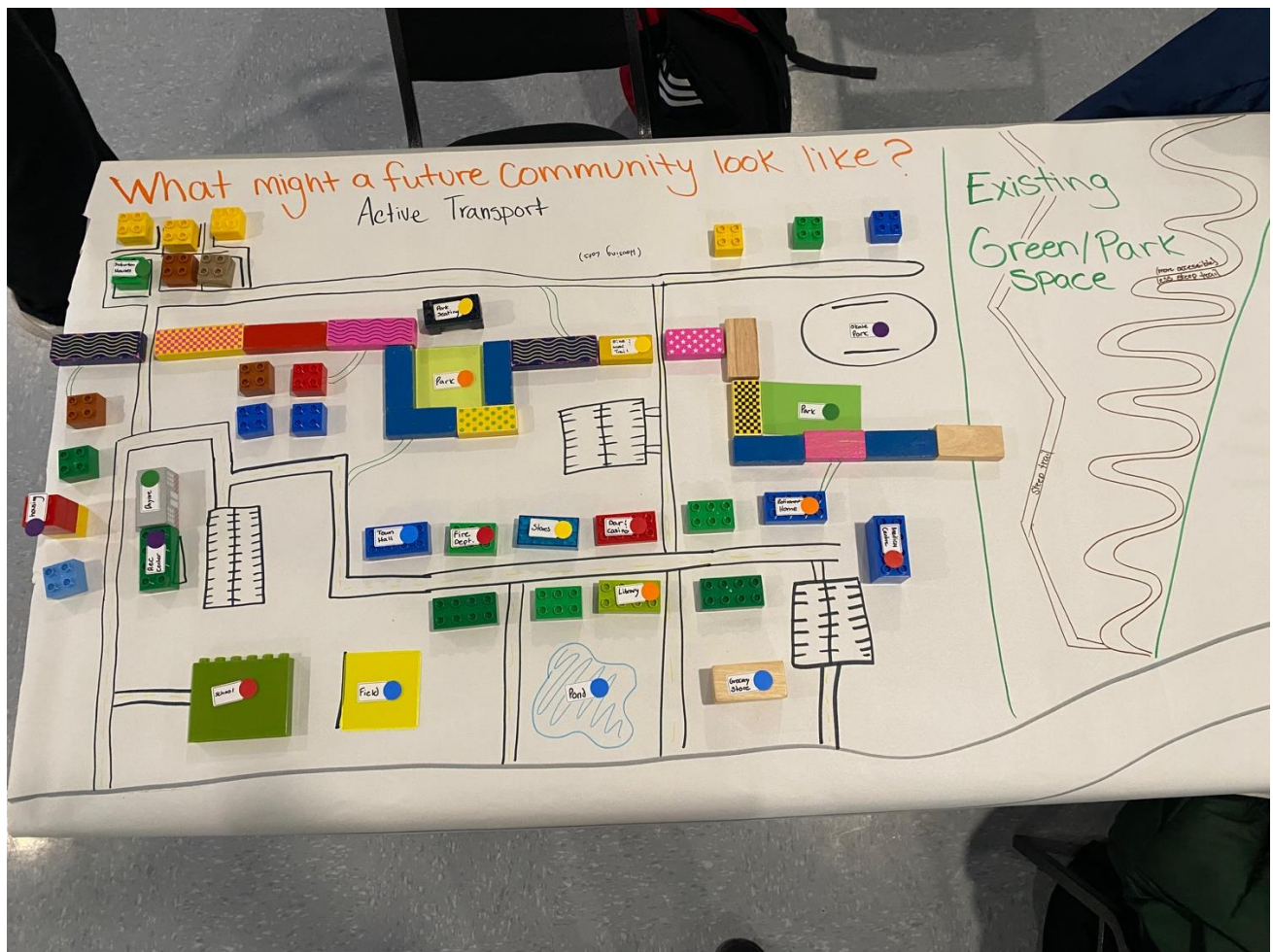
- Kentville has inaccessible bus stops
- Near impossible to find affordable housing, a lot of aging infrastructure
- Trails are inaccessible to all community members due to steepness
- Traffic congestion

Community Opportunities

- Navigate the town through a network of trails
- Active transport workshop
- Childcare

What Might a Future Community Look like...

- Walk and bike lane through the town away from the road
- Lots of green space
- Different grades of trails
- Individual development space
- Accessible town center
- Childcare
- Recenter



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sherry and Martin

DATE: March 28th, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Arts and Culture

What We Heard

The people interviewed from the Arts and Culture Community group expressed the importance of fostering and encouraging community engagement in Kentville. They also stressed that the town is too reliant on cars for transportation and emphasized the importance of walkability and reliable public transportation within and to the town.

Community Limitations

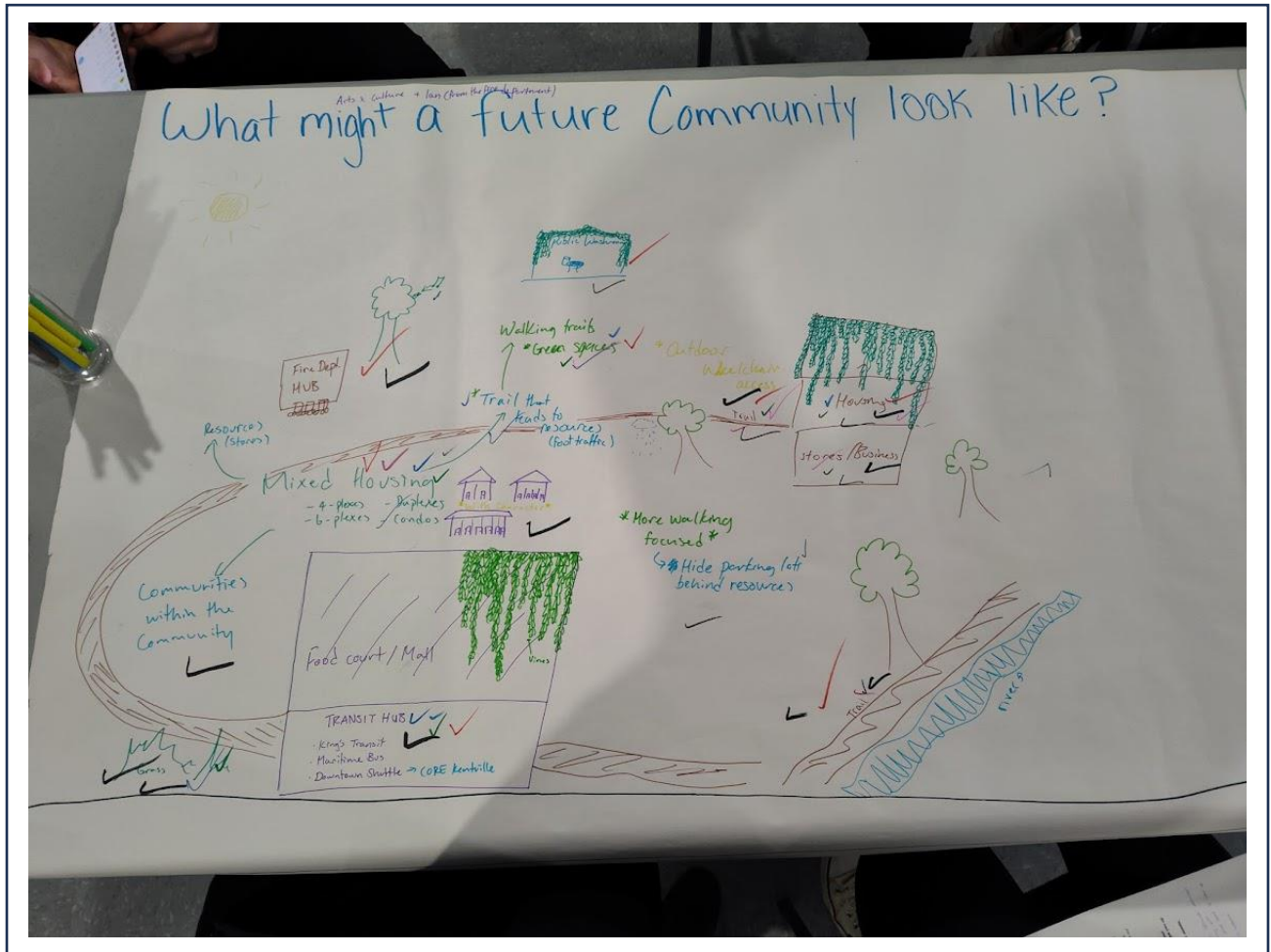
- They expressed that there was a lack of involvement within the community. There was uncertainty about how to get people within Kentville to care about community events such as theatre shows at Centre Stage.
- Another limitation was transportation. Part of this group stated that Kentville was too reliant on cars. They felt that the walkability of Kentville was not emphasized enough. The parking lot spaces are too visible and create too much divide, further encouraging the use of cars.

Community Opportunities

The people from this arts and culture group stated that downtown Kentville has the potential for walkability and events because of how flat the landscape is compared to other areas. Another opportunity that was brought up was that there are people who are interested in engaging in the community. However, they were unsure how to communicate to them to come out to the theatre.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

This group expressed desires for an ideal future community consisting of a localized transit hub that would have the Maritime Bus and King's Transit, as well as a new addition, a downtown shuttle that would go from the hub to downtown Kentville. For them, this would make it more accessible for people to engage in downtown community events such as theatre shows. Also, they expressed the importance of not getting rid of parking lots and spaces but rather hiding them from plain sight to encourage walking and decrease the divide between spaces in the community. With this emphasis on walkability, there was expressed interest in walking paths for people to utilize as a mode of transport and housing on top of businesses to encourage community interaction and accessibility of resources for people.



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Cameron

DATE: March 14th, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Community and Public Health

What We Heard

There is a growing need to acknowledge the housing crisis, poverty crisis and health of the community. Action steps are needed immediately to address these concerns in the Town of Kentville.

Community Limitations

The health and well-being of some of our community members in Kentville are being severely impacted by increased costs and lack of affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing is impacting the physical and mental health of citizens, the physical living conditions of the housing available, and costs associated with housing. For example, lack of funds for food and medications, seniors having to forego medications to afford housing, lack of transportation and having to work longer hours to make ends meet causing a lack of time to invest in physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices.

Community Opportunities

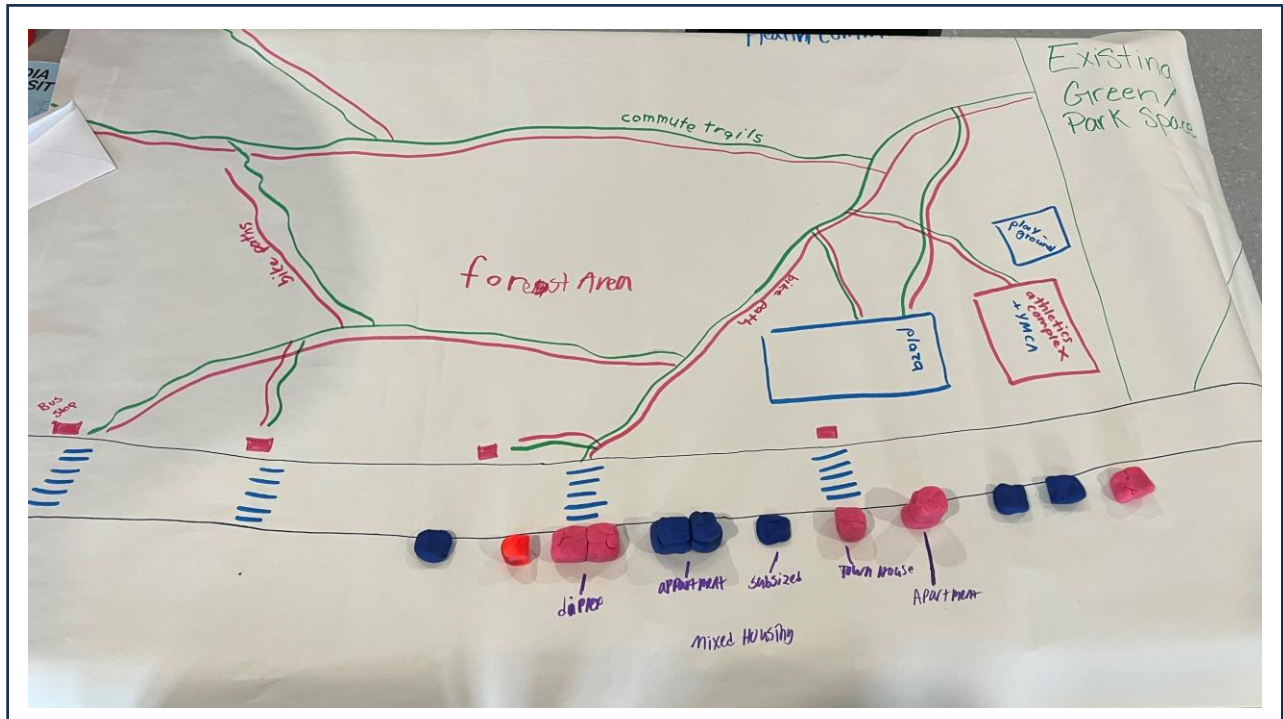
The community health team wants to address these concerns in a timely manner. Suggested initiatives were discussed:

- More subsidized childcare spaces to alleviate the lack of affordable childcare so more people can enter the workforce. Aiming to focus on the young citizens of Kentville to ensure their health and well-being needs are met.
- More recreation opportunities for the community members to stay active and healthy.
- More accessibility options for recreational activities. No cost to access art and theatre productions.
- There should be more opportunities for the young to learn from the older generations, sharing stories and experiences with each other.
- Moving away from drugs and violence and offering more safe spaces.
- Improve Center Square to attract families and shoppers, such as by adding washroom facilities and safe, family-oriented activities.
- Remove the stigma around homelessness and mental health issues. Better inform the community to create a feeling of empathy.
- Invest in facilities like the Youth Portal, Open Arms, the Red Door, and the recreation department.
- Create a housing crisis support team.
- Create more mixed housing opportunities where both subsidized and non-subsidized units co-exist. Create less of a stigma for low-income and creates empathy.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

A future Town on Kentville could look like a place where everyone belongs. A healthy, active community that other towns aspire to be. A leader in affordability, accessibility, and a community where empathy and support are the norm.

Below is an example of how mixed housing could exist. Close to public transport, green spaces with playground, a shopping plaza, and an athletic complex. You could have duplexes, apartment buildings, and town houses all together with mixed residents. A mixture of subsidised, non-subsidised and accessible units. By creating a mixed housing development, the stigma of low-income community members would be eased, and they would co-exist with other members of the community. This would help not only with the stigma associated with low income but would also go a long way to induce empathy in the community.



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Cailey

DATE: March 28th, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Environment

What We Heard

The Blomidon Naturalist Society advocates and supports environmental groups and educates the community about the local environment of the Annapolis Valley. The Blomidon Naturalist Society interviewed community members, businesses, and organizations in the Annapolis Valley to find what climate change actions or climate mitigation these people were taking. They captured many stories that gave hope regarding the climate. The points touched on in my interview regarding what makes a community sustainable were listed nicely by the International Living Future Institute (2024). This community prioritizes all aspects: place, water, energy, health and happiness, materials, equity, and beauty.

Community Limitations

It is very difficult to find ecologically sustainable housing, good quality and affordable. When a house is built with poor design or craftsmanship, it may be vulnerable to heat loss, susceptible to mould and may need to be rebuilt or renovated often to remain safe. This short-term thinking creates excess waste for the environment and creates undesirable communities. Unfortunately, good quality buildings are not always easily accessible within budget. Building a community from the ground up requires long-term thinking and creativity. Planning buildings that last will be a worthwhile investment when developing a new community in Kentville.

Community Opportunities

The area in question has many natural assets that can be taken advantage of, and there are also many opportunities to introduce new and creative ways to enhance the space. There would be value in keeping the trees below the road and those in the north-east portion of the map (see below). This beautiful greenspace could be enhanced with the addition of trails so that residents could access and enjoy all the forest offers. There is potential for this community to be primarily solar-powered by placing solar panels on the roofs of buildings. This community would also likely benefit from multiple community gardens for residents to enjoy and a locally sourced grocery store, which would have the additional benefit of supporting farmers from the Annapolis Valley.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

The beauty of building a community from the ground up is that it is possible to customize and optimize it and create an area where people would want to live. Throughout the discussions we mapped out the following ideas for an ideal community:

- Large Lego blocks represent housing, and navy blue paper represents the solar panels.
- Between each housing unit, there are garden beds represented by colourful polka-dot wooden blocks.
- On the left side are two large community gardens represented by green and orange shapes.
- In the centre, there is a grocery store that sells locally sourced food as well as offering bulk items, which allows customers to fill up reusable containers. There are patios on the side for customers to sit and enjoy their food and art.

The neighbouring arts and cultural centre provides a space for learning and facilitate community interaction.

- Forest covers the other side of the road, and a walking and biking path connects to the main community via walking bridges.
- This path leads to a set of two man-made ponds. One of these is for the public to use for recreation. It would offer swimming in the summer and skating in the winter. The second pond would be connected to a wilderness-protected area and not for recreational use.
- The main road has a public bus that cuts down on traffic.
- While this is primarily a walking community, there would be access to parking for the residents



References

Living Building Challenge Basics. International Living Future Institute. (2024, February 26).
<https://living-future.org/lbc/basics4-0/> 3–7.

TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Carter and Taylor

DATE: March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Food Access

What We Heard

Our group interviewed those focused on food access in communities. We learned many community members struggle to find accessibility to local food stores. The local markets in Kentville are far away from downtown, and the store's hours are inconvenient. Our interview group also mentioned that there is only one good food store, and the other stores don't have many options for people with dietary restrictions.

Community Limitations

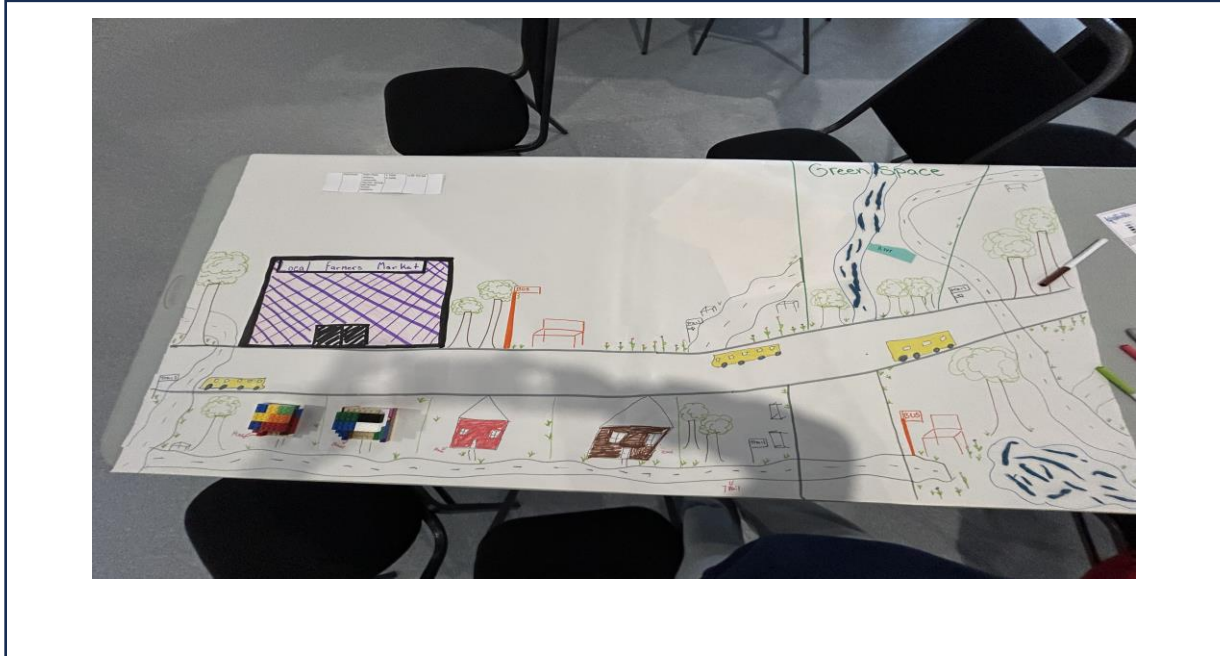
In Kentville's community, one of the most pressing challenges is the lack of transportation. This deficiency affects an individual's mobility and limits their ability to access essential needs and services. This includes one's ability to travel to work, school, or to gather basic necessities. This issue inconveniences community members of all ages, most importantly elderly residents. This barrier may not affect younger adults or the youth as much as they may be more inclined to walk or bike around the community. The main concern for food access is increasing the ways the community could get around and access food stores more easily.

Community Opportunities

- More trails for walking and biking
- There needs to be more housing
- More access to local food and local food stores
- Better Transportation(public, such as busses)

What Might a Future Community Look like...

An ideal future community for Kentville would require lots of busses, constantly allowing people to move around downtown efficiently. Many groceries stores and local markets, as well as adding trails, open parks and bike locations would provide more transportation options.



TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Brielynn and Connor

DATE: March 28th, 2024

SUBJECT: Recreation and Green Spaces

Recreation and Green Spaces

What We Heard

- Mitigate invasive species.
- Dual ice rink
- Maintain what is centralized, but look to adding in other areas that do not have as much recreation facilities or programming
- Decentralized recreation programming and parks
- Transportation is an issue
- Energy efficiency is important to the development of recreation and parks
- Usable/quality land for development
- More than 5% of the required green space in residential areas; could this be increased?
- More job funding
- Quality parking—Kentville services people from outside of Kentville. They use their parking, and it is filling up. We need to create new parking spaces so there are enough.

Community Limitations

- There is a need for more employees, which requires more funding.
- Outside corporations are throwing money to create facilities but not upkeep or maintaining the properties.
- Hemlock conservation (invasive species)
- Efficient energy

Community Opportunities

- For the future of the secondary road, they would like to see a new recreation facility (new rink), an extension of the mountain bike trail, and an accessible connecting road to the main street for the surrounding communities.
- Having parks in each community to support youth.
- Maintain the parks they already have (more parks means creating more jobs that require more funding from council)

TO: Kentville Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Cooper and Alyssa

DATE: March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Development First Year Experience x Town of Kentville – Housing & Development Consultations

Safety

What We Heard

When talking with members of the Kentville Fire Department, a recurring issue regarding the flooding issue and risk that the East side of the town deals with. There is a noticeable sense of frustration with the town's reported inactivity in reducing the impact of these floods, and questions have been made over the unequal focus placed on various areas of Kentville. Residents emphasize the necessity for complete flood prevention measures by pointing to the top end of town as a source of runoff that contributes to floods downstream. In addition, they have a strong desire to protect natural places, such as the old growth forest near the river, and they want improved traffic control as well as more infrastructure to accommodate future expansion. Their dream neighbourhood would have a well-balanced mix of housing alternatives, recreational facilities, and green areas, with well-kept paths and a multipurpose leisure centre in the middle. Two important concerns are sustainability and the preservation of historical components.

Community Limitations

- High rates of poverty.
- Poor-condition homes and individuals living in those conditions. “They are forced to live in these homes that should be condemned because there is nowhere else to go.”
- Structures collapsing in the east end due to constant flooding (water damage).
- Buildup of traffic specifically during a fire call.

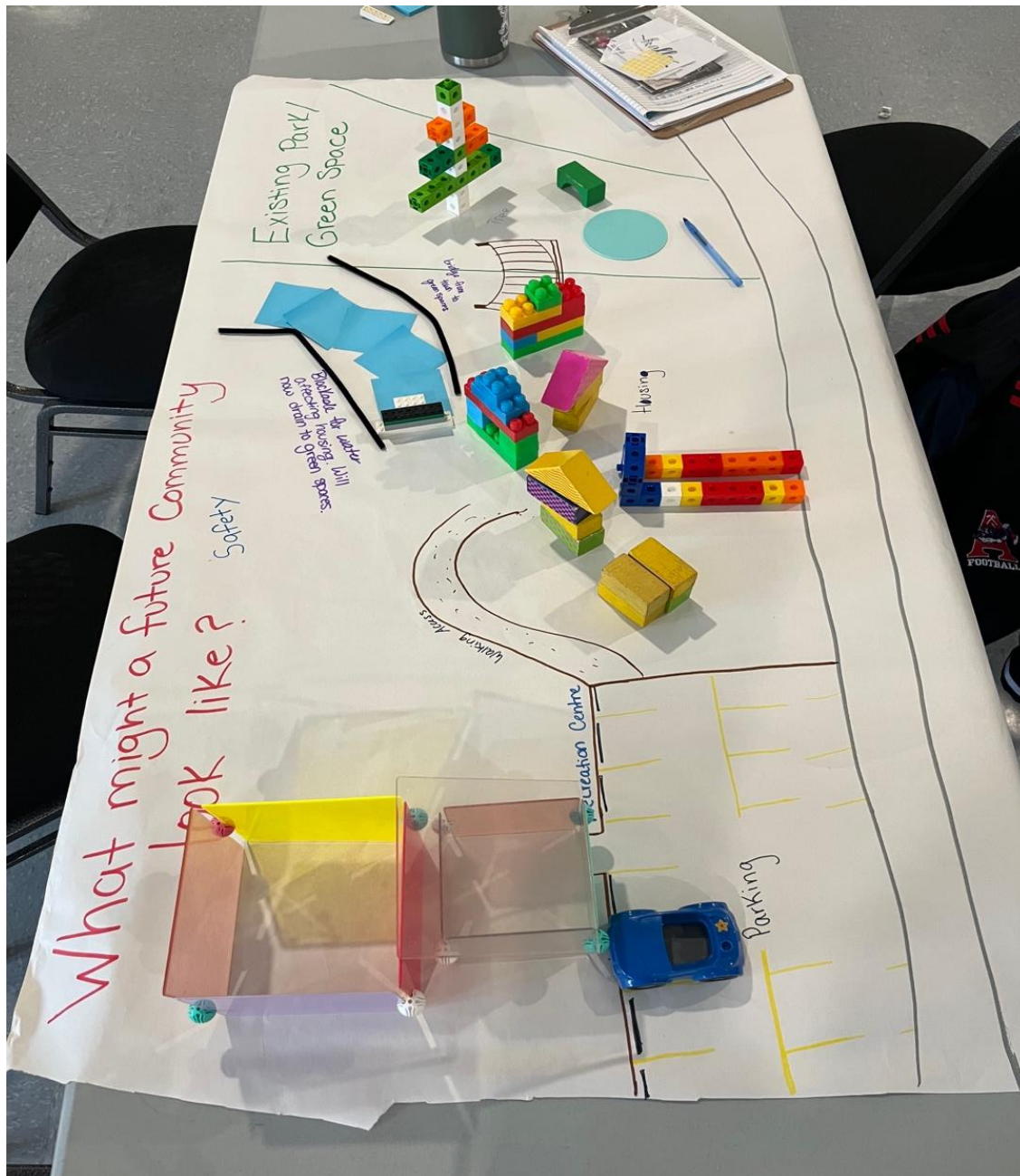
Community Opportunities

One of the interviewees explained that most community members who have lived in Kentville for a long period of time are having great struggles with their houses due to the flooding; he mentioned that although he wants more and newer housing, not paying attention to the things that are already broken creates frustration to the people who have been here longer. It is important that the Town of Kentville commits to restoring the current rental properties before building new infrastructure, as this will show a level of care and respect to those who are living in an area in need of desperate repairs.

Building a Recreation centre (YMCA) will bring community together by allowing a space for fun, communication, social, safety, and exercise.

What Might a Future Community Look like...

- We used blocks to build a dream community/neighbourhood. It mostly included more housing, more trails (walking access), and roads for vehicle access such as roads, and parking.
- Includes a “Rec centre” (YMCA) which in the inside includes a rink, swimming pool, track, turf, gym, playrooms, or even public seating areas.
- The dream community we created is inserted below.



Acadia Community Development First Year Experience Overview – *What We Heard Report*

PRESENTATION BY: Acadia Community Development Students
Meagan Glasgow and Sherry Wang

TOPIC: Future Community Planning in Kentville

Future Community Planning in Kentville

Acadia Community Development’s first-year students participated in the 2024 first-year student experience hosted in Kentville on Friday, March 8. The students spent the morning having learning conversations with various community groups to gain more insight into what specific community groups have for hopes, wants, and dreams in existing and future communities in Kentville.

Core Community Groups and focus areas included:

- Indigenous
- Black/African Nova Scotian
- 2SLGBTQIA+
- Families
- Seniors
- Youth
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Public Health - Early Years
- Public Health – Housing
- Arts and Culture
- Active Transportation
- Recreation and Open Spaces
- Safety
- Environment

Turning Conversations into Recommendations

In the afternoon, students analyzed what they heard and created land use maps based on feedback and ideas from community groups. Students used fun materials such as playdough, Lego, markers and construction paper to create a unique community designed to meet the needs of their specific focus groups. Furthermore, the students have provided the Council with the feedback they heard in the community to help highlight community members' various visions for the future of Kentville.

The following documents, attached to this report, were developed by the First-year students and include a high-level overview of community perspectives.

April 3, 2024,

Town of Kentville **VIA EMAIL** 354 Main Street
Kentville, NS B4N 1K6

ATTENTION: Mayor and Town Council

Re: Storm Water System – Drainage from Condon Ave area to Outflow behind Shannex

I am submitting this letter as a follow up to last months CAC meeting on March 11th, and as correspondence for the upcoming CAC meeting on April 8th. At the March 11th CAC, it was noted that the CAO would undertake to bring back information to assist Council in selecting a path forward to development of a Town wide Storm Water Management Plan. Information was to come back to the April CAC meeting.

Also since that time, if I understand correctly, Council has also dealt with portions of the 2024/25 Capital Budget as it relates to resolving issues in and around Condon Avenue storm water infrastructure. As components of the Town's storm water system are improved (eg. Condon Ave being the relevant piece), I would ask Council to continue to keep in mind the overall system. At this time that would include:

- Completing steps necessary to ensure adequate operation of the storm water outflow located behind Shannex. This outflow captures not only West Main Street storm water (thru the culvert located by the Harvest Moon Trail) but also storm water from other areas of Town south and west of the culvert. For example, Condon Avenue, Parkview uphill from there. As one of the locations of outflow to the Cornwallis River serving a large geographic portion of the Town, the pumping system at the outflow is critical risk management infrastructure. As a key outflow I would ask Council and staff to consider:
 - Installing a permanent back up generator at the location of the pumps behind Shannex. This would help address emergency risk management issues for a system needed often during major weather events which can result in power outages. The Town has noted they have a generator which can be moved to that location, but that approach has inherent obstacles during the times when the generator is most needed. During major weather events, Public Works staff are no doubt being drawn to multiple locations in Town, and may even have difficulty getting a mobile generator (on trailer) behind Shannex given flooding in this area (including P Wks Building) might impede movement of the generator. A permanently installed generator eliminates those barriers and significantly reduces outcomes stemming from system failure.
 - Take steps to ensure the mechanism triggering the pump to function are in working order. It has been difficult for residents on West Main (whose properties are flooded from the non-functioning pump outcomes) to get hold of someone as the water approaches basements. To be clear, this storm water is

coming from other parts of Town directed to this area via the Town's storm water system. Ensuring the system works properly is vital.

- Let residents know when the third pump is expected to arrive. It's on order is not as helpful these days given supply chain issues. At least one Town in this area had to wait over a year to get a critical pump back up.
- Ensure the 2024/25 budget includes dollars to fund a full Storm Water Management Plan. This is a process that will take time, but sooner it's done the better prepared the Town will be to resolve existing problems throughout the system and to better plan and continued growth in the Town.

As noted in my letter a month ago, my hope is the Town will take a more indepth look at the storm water issues related to the Condon Ave. damage that occurred last year. Past studies relate to these issues, and ultimately how the Town will meet it's obligation to residents in managing the storm water system. Condon Avenue residents deserve solutions to their issues, but that needs to happen without moving the issues downstream to West Main Street.

Respectfully,

Mike MacLean

Mike MacLean
West Main Street



**Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister**

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March 28, 2024

Dear Mayors and Wardens:

This has been a tremendously difficult 18 months for Nova Scotia as it relates to extreme weather events. We've endured generational hurricanes, wildfires and floods that have had a devastating impact on our communities and the residents we serve.

Municipalities play a significant and key role in emergency preparedness, response and recovery. I want to acknowledge your leadership during these difficult events and thank you for your commitment to the response. We know that climate change is causing more frequent and severe weather events, and as governments, we share a responsibility to work in collaboration to protect our communities.

Historically, our emergency response has been very effective. But, with the increased intensity and frequency of events, we need to increase our capacity and strengthen our overall preparedness, response, and recovery.

That is why today, our government tabled legislation that will establish a new provincial Department of Emergency Management <https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2024/03/28/nova-scotia-guard-new-department-will-improve-emergency-readiness>.

Once established, it is the intention that this new Department will have a mandate to lead, direct and support a coordinated, whole-of-government response to emergencies and transition to a culture of preparedness across the province.

Within this new Department, we will work to strengthen our collaboration with communities and our partners across the province, like municipalities, so we are better prepared for the future.

We are also launching the Nova Scotian Guard, which will be a group of individuals and organizations from across the province who will help communities during and after emergencies. The Nova Scotia Guard will include volunteers with speciality skills (such as firefighters), as well as other members of the public to fill a variety of roles depending on the emergency needs.

Those interested in volunteering to help Nova Scotia be ready in the event of an emergency can let the Province know by completing the early registration form at: <https://ns.211.ca/early-registration-for-the-ns-volunteer-portal/>.

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The legislation introduced today also requires the support of our municipal partners. In the months ahead, we look forward to working with you and speaking with you about regulations respecting the relationships between municipalities and regional emergency management offices; the provision of fire dispatch services through regional emergency management offices; the creation of vulnerable person registries and their implementation, as well as the development of a regional emergency alert system and the participation of municipalities in the system.

This direction is built on significant engagement with Nova Scotians over the past year and focuses on three key areas: communication, coordination and volunteer management.

Combined, these efforts will result in greater preparedness, impact and efficiency before, during and after any emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Lohr".

Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Municipal Chief Administrative Officers
Juanita Spencer, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities



April 8, 2024

Jennifer West
Deputy Clerk
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RE: Town Hall Building Improvement Project

It is understood that Kentville’s town hall building needs physical improvements to (a) adapt to a growing and changing staff, (b) improve accessibility for Council, staff and guests, and (c) improve energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions. Staff have completed audits on accessibility and energy efficiency on the town hall structure, to better understand the needs and opportunities of the existing building.

On March 21, 2024, Council met for a discussion about renovations to improve the town hall building. Members discussed potential solutions to address growth, accessibility and efficiency. No decisions were made at this meeting however members agreed to bring the matter to Council Advisory Committee with the following recommendation:

Given that the town hall building does not currently meet the needs of Council, staff or visitors in terms of office space and accessibility, Council recommend that the CAO engage an architect to (a) consult staff, Council and the community around a town hall renovation and (b) create a costed renovation design plan for the building, with plan completion by November 2024.

Jennifer West
Deputy Clerk
Town of Kentville