

South Stormont

*Community Priority Setting Exercise
August 24th, 2005*

Report



Final Report Date: October 2005

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Facilitator:

Ms. Jacqueline Frioud Minister St. Lawrence Pastoral Charge

Participants:

Barry Brownlee
Betty de Hann
Lesley O’Gorman

David Skinner
Stephen Silverthorne
Bill Upper

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Brief Review United Way of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
3. **Part I: Issues** – Turbo Brainstorming
 - 3.1. What are your communities’ most pressing issues?
 - 3.2. What are the most important factors creating these issues?
4. **Part II: Discussion**
 - 4.1. What’s working well
 - 4.2. What needs improvement
5. Dotmacracy regarding issues
6. Discussion Local vs. Regional
7. Discussion regarding sharing of info
8. Closing Remarks

3. Part 1: Issues

- 3.1. What are your communities' most pressing issues?
- 3.2. What are the important factors creating these issues?

3.1. Communities most pressing issues identified

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3.1.1. Seniors | 3.1.7. Family Dysfunction |
| 3.1.2. Employment | 3.1.8. Leadership |
| 3.1.3. Volunteers | 3.1.8. Housing |
| 3.1.4. Grief, Mental Health & Safety | 3.1.9. Healthy Safe Communities |
| 3.1.5. Youth | 3.1.10. Finances |
| 3.1.6. Communication | |

3.2. Important Factors Creating Issues

3.2.1. Seniors

- Lacking a residence for seniors
- Need a long term-progressive care (to be joined with community)
- Forcibly removed – Ingleside 70% demographics seniors
- Need 1 bedroom apartments with no maintenance – row of houses for people over 60
- Retirement age is lower
- No transportation i.e.: to get groceries to see friends.
- No sidewalks or easy access to walk
- Finances

3.2.2. Employment

- Domtar, Nestle, Long Sault closures \$19.00 jobs vs. \$8.00 job market
- No access to fall back on when you look at Wal-Mart as a big industry of leader for jobs
- Need to look at bringing high-tech here

3.2.3. Volunteers

- Meals on wheels – no time or no gas

3.2.4. Grief, Mental Health & Safety

- Relating to aging – grief – i.e.: widows
- Job loss
- Simple support groups for loss
- People desperately lonely
- Older people do not realize that they are depressed
- Not strong service clubs and organizations
- People have lost contact with each other - usually a large looming issue when people call

- People put themselves at risk (safety, jeopardy (the longer they do not deal with the issue)
- Particularly seniors, i.e. working poor
- Mental health tied to safety issues (forget to turn off the oven)

3.2.5. Youth

- Bored
- There is absolute nothing to do
- No drop in center/community arena

3.2.6. Communication

3.2.7. Family Dysfunction

3.2.8. Leadership

3.2.9. Housing

3.2.10. Healthy Safe Communities

- Health
- Pesticides
- Quality of water
- Black box community only 40% recycling

3.2.11. Finances

- Small change in cost i.e. gas has a big impact on access to services and activities especially for lower income so worry about seniors becoming depressed
- Fixed income earners stressed on paying bills on time such as bell, electricity and so personal hygiene and health are a lower priority
- Finances always effect emotional stability
- Alot of the seniors who work all their life and have no pension only C.P.P
- Seniors own home but do not have enough equity to buy food
- Seniors/housing difficulty when one spouse needs to go into nursing home – so need to get legally separated to get government housing
- Since amalgamation, some communities are not accessing some of the services that South Stormont offers
- Not everyone can afford the services either

4. Part 2: Activities/Services/Strategies/Resources:

- 4.1. What is working well in the community?
- 4.2. What do we need to improve or add that would make a difference?

4.1. What is working well in the community?

- 4.1.1. Senior Support Center
- 4.1.2. Environmental issues that municipal is taking on ie: smoking prohibition
- 4.1.3. One of the best Chamber of Commerce ex: trade show, food drive
- 4.1.4. Mutual respect amongst businesses
- 4.1.5. Safe community
- 4.1.6. "Cool Living Here"
- 4.1.7. Green Spaces

4.2. What do we need to improve or add that would make a difference?

- 4.2.1. No sign on the highway (401)
- 4.2.2. Bureaucratic system
- 4.2.3. Mentality
- 4.2.4. No recognition i.e.: Simon Fraser on cemetery
- 4.2.5. Better visibility
- 4.2.6. We need to blow our own tune
- 4.2.7. No community paper – Chesterville Record very good
- 4.2.8. No linkages with St. Lawrence College to help out with some initiatives

5. Ranking Of Issues

Achieved through the Dotmocracy process.

- 3.2.1. Seniors ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- 3.2.2. Employment ✓✓✓
- 3.2.3. Volunteers ✓✓✓
- 3.2.4. Grief, Mental Health & Safety ✓✓✓
- 3.2.5. Youth ✓
- 3.2.6. Communication ✓
- 3.2.7. Family Dysfunction ✓
- 3.2.8. Leadership
- 3.2.9. Housing
- 3.2.10. Healthy Safe Communities
- 3.2.10. Finances

6. Discussion on Local vs. Regional

- 3.2.1. Seniors Local & Regional
- 3.2.2. Employment Regional

3.2.3.	Volunteers	Local
3.2.4.	Grief, Mental Health & Safety	Local & Regional
3.2.5.	Youth	Local
3.2.6.	Communication	Local
3.2.7.	Family Dysfunction	Local
3.2.8.	Leadership	Local & Regional
3.2.9.	Housing	Local
3.2.10.	Healthy Safe Communities	Regional
3.2.11.	Finances	Regional

The group agreed that most of the issues were local. The issues surrounding Seniors, Grief, Mental Health & Safety, and Leadership were considered to be both a regional (S. D. & G.) and local issue. For the other issues of Employment, Healthy Safe Communities and Finances, the group felt that it would be indicative of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

7. Addendum

A draft report was sent to all participants for further commenting. One change was made to the actual report.

Comment sent:

- Our meeting certainly offered up a wide variety of priorities, which now require local refinement and hopefully some priority setting. These identified needs need to be addressed, and what better place to start than at the municipal level. I thank you for the opportunity offered me to participate and learn, I will attempt to get identified needs priorities into different programs in South Stormont, starting with this years budget.