

**RESULTS OF THE APRIL 14TH, 2006 PUBLIC FORUM
NOTES FROM CONVERSATION TABLE FLIP CHARTS - CHALLENGES**

Themes	Question 2: What are our challenges?
Housing/Assisted Living /General Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ “A small village which offers those amenities not available to a mere bedroom community of the large urban centre of Halifax, so that most of us can avoid going into the city except for very major purchases and services i.e - the library, hospital, community centre/rink, arts/crafts outlets, medical clinic/ family doctors & dentists, grocery, hardware, etc ▶ Most importantly, we must preserve the rural atmosphere and sense of neighbourhood and community with those activities and programs which foster this - our fairs, tree lightings, school events, suppers, etc, etc, etc. I vehemently oppose rampant street lighting as it's light pollution. Our village should retain its own identity and not become a miniature version of Halifax.” ▶ “Core concept” is too restrictive ▶ “with amalgamation we as a rural area are expected to follow city rules which do not necessarily apply to our area” ▶ Ability to grow and keep small town atmosphere ▶ Apartments, condos needed ▶ Attracting growth ▶ Commercial zoning within our residential community ▶ Concern over becoming a city ▶ Demographics ▶ Development – where and what kind and for different needs (ie seniors) ▶ Difference of “core”, non-core” boundaries ▶ Diverse housing (single, apartments, family etc) ▶ Diversified housing ▶ Encourage families to move here ▶ First – primary focus on conservation ▶ Funding ▶ Geographical distance/travel ▶ Getting and retaining young families ▶ Housing for single parents ▶ Increased population ▶ Lack of infrastructure ▶ Lack of rental accommodation ▶ Make smaller communities into larger communities ▶ More than a bedroom community ▶ Must convince “metro” of our proximity ▶ Nix on bedroom community – [want to be]community

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	<p>in our own right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Not much going on except for residential development ▶ Perception of other communities if all amenities come to MH – need to be fair ▶ Planning ▶ Promotion of localized business ▶ Regulations need to be more flexible for housing (ie one house per lot) ▶ Second, planning (accessible and affordable child care, employable businesses, promoting local people and local businesses, more storefronts) ▶ Senior facilities other than pricey condos ▶ Seniors housing ▶ Seniors housing – government funded ▶ Seniors should be able to “age in place” ▶ Small community like European towns where fresh food is available locally ▶ Threat of “New Minas” – must maintain our integrity and identity ▶ United vision ▶ We want to avoid strip mall – spread out New Minas effect
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Parks and waterfront for off-loading boats ▶ A place like Cole Harbour – 2 ice surfaces, pool ▶ A pool which can include young and old ▶ ATV/snowmobiles off road – new route to get to off road trails (Lake charlotte, Porters Lake) ▶ Ballfield – needs restrooms ▶ Better rec centres for kids ▶ Campground- full service ▶ Central recreational core bounded by Grant Rd. & #7 (consider curling club) ▶ Develop recreation centre ▶ Develop RR station ▶ Funding for recreation ▶ Government funding for the sand castle festival ▶ More parking at beaches/canteen ▶ Music festival ▶ Old elementary school – what to do with it? (art museum, dance studio, music centre, Need an organization to coordinate all this) ▶ On-site massage therapy – proactive/preventive health care, drug- free therapy ▶ Playground

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pool room ▶ Rink – expanded to include curling rink, 2 ice surfaces – now have to rent ice ▶ Sand castle – keep it/revive it / volunteer burn out ▶ Slow pitch – more, expanded ▶ Sports teams ▶ Swimming lessons – West Petpeswick ? ▶ Updated co-ed Fitness facility ▶ Woman’s fitness Centre – expand, more space
Business/Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Attracting businesses ▶ Business directory ▶ Call centre employment to bring in more families ▶ Centralized commercial area where daily errands can be completed within a walking distance ▶ Community support for local businesses ▶ Develop industrial parks (here and in Chezzetcook) ▶ Eastern shore not well known ▶ Farmers Market ▶ How to retain small businesses & get local to patronize them ▶ Lack of local employment ▶ Lacking a “core” ▶ More tourists ▶ NSLC/Sobeys/ Tim’s/ Self-Serve Full-Serve Gas Station/Car wash ▶ Overnight lodging ▶ Proactive vs. reactive ▶ Small conference centre ▶ Updated signs upon entering MH ▶ Visible, accessible, commercial space for lease
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Assisted living ▶ Complete high speed internet ▶ Grocery store ▶ Grocery store ▶ Grocery store ▶ Improved hospital care & equipment that is lacking ▶ Lack of conveniences, long trip to pick up necessities ▶ Lack of sewer and water ▶ Library – should be open more hours ▶ More stores - One stop shop ▶ Need infrastructure to support the community ▶ Need more amenities and more choices ▶ Public facilities (public washrooms) ▶ Retain health care ▶ Senior care

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Water and sewer ▶ Water and sewer
Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Better transportation – bussing/trains ▶ Community transit – especially for seniors and kids who lack transportation options; should allow them to get to various activities ▶ Public transportation needs to be upgraded ▶ Transit, parking etc ▶ Transportation ▶ Transportation that’s local and into town
Look/aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Building upon our heritage ▶ Check out Inverness (sidewalks and hanging baskets) ▶ Enhance current trail ▶ Integrated architecture ▶ Landscaping in core area ▶ Lighting along sidewalks consistent with design ▶ Need design restrictions and a review committee to ensure the above ▶ Organized, beautiful development along main road with lots of green space ▶ Pedestrian friendly village centre, including shade trees ▶ Storefront businesses along Highway #7 ▶ Too many old signs/random look
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Clean up after Juan ▶ Encroachment on Martinique Beach ▶ Potential for wind power in the northeast hills of Musquodoboit Harbour ▶ Preparation for forecasted increase in Atlantic hurricane system (water, sewer, emergency shelters, power outages, food) ▶ When we can no longer drive a car, we will have to move to town to survive ▶ Wind power in wilderness area
Safe walkways/sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sidewalks/crosswalks ▶ Sidewalks and paved trails ▶ More accessibility (for wheelchairs, sidewalks) ▶ Sidewalks a safety issue ▶
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Development of a productive community where our children want to stay and raise their won families instead of moving away ▶ Facilities and activities for youth, including music

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Involving and retaining our youth ▶ No place/activities for young people ▶ Place for kids to hang out ▶ Summer camp ▶ Youth activities (need existing sports facilities upgraded) ▶ Youth recreation (skateboard, rollerblading etc)
Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bad roads ▶ Bypass road end of 107 through MH ▶ Grant Rd. up to Middle Musquodoboit is a challenge ▶ Traffic light at the end of East Petpeswick
Community organization/social development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Common vision incorporating different values ▶ Community consensus ▶ Eastern shore has a very small voice ▶ Focus the group – less people with their won agendas ▶ Lack of diversity ▶ Low literacy – some areas ▶ Need a central info mechanism ▶ No “welcome wagon” for CFAs ▶ People volunteering to positions of community involvement with their own agendas! ▶ People who do not want progress in Musquodoboit Harbour ▶ Poverty – social development ▶ Previous attempts tp improve community go nowhere ▶ Sense of arrival in the village – information on the community but need more than a sign! ▶ Some poverty ▶ Using what we’ve got (trails, river, harbour, yacht club) ▶ We are a bedroom community
Funding/taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Concern over rising taxes ▶ Financial – water/sewer very expensive ▶ Provincial investment ▶ Realistic expectations