



**Upper St-John River Valley
Community Planning Workshop
December 14th 2007 at Falls Brook Centre**

Workshop objectives:

- Bring together key community “champions” from the Nackawic to Perth-Andover region.
- Present and discuss different community collaboration and resiliency models using examples of what is being done in other regions.
- Present the process and objectives of the Asset Mapping component of the project.
- Have participants discuss and identify six key Assets of there community.
- Have participants identify the key stakeholders in there communities
- Have participants discuss the best ways to “connect” communities and what has worked for them in the past.
- Record the strategies and the recommendations that will be outlined in the discussions and incorporate them to the Asset Mapping process.

Workshop Agenda:

12.00 – 1.00	Lunch – (main building of the Falls Brook Centre)
1.0 – 1.30	Introductions and Welcome (move to conference centre)
1.30 – 2.00	Project overview / presentation on goals and objectives
2.00 – 2.30	Community resiliency and models for collaboration
2.30 – 3.00	Asset mapping
3.00 – 3.15	Nutrition Break
3.15 – 4.00	Group exercise – identifying champions and partners
4.00 – 4.30	Where do we go from here?
4.30	Adjournment

**** Chaired and facilitated by Rick Hutchins**

**** Logistics, organization and minutes by Sophie-Michele Cyr**

Participation:

There were 45 invitations sent out 31 by e-mail, 13 by post and 1 by fax. A follow up by telephone was made with each one of them. 15 of them said they would come and 14 actually came.

There were 20 participants in the workshop. A number of regrets were sent and in a few cases these were due to inclement weather. The meeting facilities at Falls Brook



accommodated the group well and all of the participants were able to participate actively in discussions. There was a broad base of participation from the entire region and a few guests from outside of the region who contributed expertise and knowledge both of community and process.

List of participants:

REPRESENTATIVE FROM	REGION
Facilitator - Renaissance College	Keswick Ridge
Canadian Organic Maple Company Ltd.	Bristol
Environment/ISO Superintendent Fraser Paper Inc.– Juniper Operation	Parish Aberdeen
Mayor-Village of Perth-Andover	Perth-Andover
Harvey Lumber Ltd.	Glassville/Parish Aberdeen
Dept. of Education-NB	Gagetown
Rural District Planning Commission	Woodstock
21 Inc.	Fredericton
AGFOR Inc.	Keswick Ridge
Committee Against Transfer of Crown Land Allocation - CATCA	Juniper
Deputy Mayor – Town of Nackawic	Nackawic
Town of Nackawic	Nackawic
Hopes Seeds & Perennials and Community Committee of Glassville	Glassville
Meduxnekeag River Association	Dumfries
Resource People from Falls Brook Centre Staff	
Community Development Coordinator	Knowlesville
Executive Director	Knowlesville
Sustainable School Coordinator	Knowlesville
Renewable Energy Coordinator	Knowlesville
Organic Agriculture Program Coordinator	Knowlesville
International Intern Program Coordinator	Knowlesville
Net Zero Researcher	Knowlesville
Public Engagement Coordinator	Knowlesville

Notes from the session:

Key assets mentioned in small group discussions:

Natural:

Natural assets that makes recreation possible, the St-John River, fishing rivers ex: the Miramichi River, maple forests, clean air and water, natural phenomenon ex: the Balancing Rock (near Juniper), nature sports: hunting & fishing, winter sports like skiing, salmons & trouts, Crown Land & Acadian Forest diversity, 4-seasons, rolling hills.



Social:

Recreational clubs: seniors, potlucks, United Churches as a networking tool and spirituality, Chapters Red Hatters, volunteer fire department.

Build:

Schools, hospital, recreational centres, the new highway, trains and the rail siding, nature trails: for 4-wheelers, ski-doo's, and for bike and walking, fire hall, Woodstock historical buildings (First incorporated town in NB).

Physical status:

Being near the US border, being central located in the province, close to Fredericton.

Intangible:

People's entrepreneurship, extensive & technical skills, people's willingness to be involved, a safe place to leave in, safe schools, community work in schools, health care. Heritage value & settled families, open space & beauty, new ideas ex: Woodstock Town Revitalization, good neighbors.

Economic:

Many small businesses (Vs one big major employer) , cost effective housing, maple syrup, value added mills and sawmills, farming, certified seed potatoes, tourism, power commission: cheapest energy in the province (Perth-Andover), McCain Foods, Crown Land, small hydro potential, commercial quality wind power, biomass potential, Falls Brook Centre.

Purpose of this exercise:

The goal of this asset identification exercise was to get the participants to reflect on the assets in their communities from a "have" perspective as opposed to a "deficit" or have not perspective. The region has a wide range of assets and this was very much emphasized in the exercise. We only asked for 6 from each participant in order to facilitate more discussion. This initial range of assets identified will be used as a benchmark as we move into the next three community sessions.

After completing the asset identification exercise participants were asked to recommend community "champions" and organizations to which we could connect with and invite to the next three sessions. The list is below. We will also follow up with participants who felt that had more to recommend and would give it further thought.

Identified community leaders:

REPRESENTATIVE FROM
Speerville Mill
Dumfries L.S.D. (local service district)
St-John River Society
RCMP Woodstock
MRA



Woodstock Food Bank
Deputy Mayor of Woodstock
NB Power / Prince William
Pokiok
Meduxnekeag River Association
United Church
(Parish Aberdeen/Juniper)
Harvey Lumber Ltd.
Free Press
Juniper Convenience Store
Juniper
Journalist (Nackawic)
Business man (Nackawic)
Town Council (Nackawic)
Volunteer (Perth)
Business (Perth)
Health (Perth)
Agriculture (Perth)
Recreation (Perth)
Forestry (Perth)
Service Club (Perth)
Fire Dept. (Perth)
Rec council (Juniper)
Juniper Elementary School
Dairy Farmer (Juniper)
Parish Representative
Store owner
Nackawic Lions Club Centre
Fire Chief (Nackawic)
Chair - Pandemic Influenza (Nackawic)
Neighborhood Watch
Drost Insurance (Bristol)
Chamber of Commerce
Carleton North
Dairy Farmer Knowlesville (375-1090)
Knowlesville Women Institute
Knowlesville Women Institute
Knowlesville Women Institute
4-H Organization
Multicultural Association Florenceville
Shiktehawk Bible Camp (Bristol)
Argyle Friendship Club
Woodstock First Nation
Derrah Buldozing
Mc Cain Computer Programmer
Meduxnekeag Farmer (youth)
Home schooling (past teacher) Woodstock
O'Toole Woodworking
Insurance Co. Hartland
Glassville
Health nurse Woodstock
Perth-Andover



Perth-Andover
Economic Council of NB/Conseil Économique du NB (dossier ruralité)
Recreation (Perth)

Participants from the champion meeting of Dec 14th provided us with a list of 64 champions for their home community from Nackawic to Perth-Andover. We have tried to make contact with all of them for the regional workshops. For some of them, we couldn't verify the contact information.

Outcomes:

We asked participants: How can we work and communicate together? What are your recommendations to carry out this project? Feedback as follows:

1. It was proposed that we make a video of storytelling:
 - M. Fred Harvey's story of his family settlement and his struggle to access crown land wood.
 - M. Gus Hargrove's story about him saving a maple forest.
2. It is important to engage people, on a one-on-one basis, to share their stories and assets, especially those who are not attending the workshop:
 - It was proposed that, in the framework of this project, we should give and create an access to group discussion on internet.
3. Youth will be hard to reach. We have to do what is possible to engage them in this process.
4. There was a strong feeling about the importance of doing a follow up. This project must help to develop an action plan as an outcome.
5. Yes the mills are closing! We have to focus on what is left and what is still around. There was a feeling that now was a good time to discuss the accuracy of the Crown Land Act.

We will be following up on these recommendations as the process moves forward. Some of the identified issues will be used as "cases" in the next three community sessions. For example the two "stories" from Mr. Harvey and Mr. Hargrove.

This discussion was invaluable to the project. There were many good suggestions and opportunities for us to use them within the process. We closed the session with a discussion on challenges and moving this initiative forward. Once again, there was a solid participation from all of those in attendance and a number of good recommendations and cautions for the organizers.

There are mixed expectations for the project but overall a solid community champion support. As one participant noted "Actions will be the key". In order to get



community support and a longer term buy-in we will need to have an action focus and work diligently to get as many community champions involved as possible.

The final discussion focused on the following question; What are the threats to the community assets? How do we sustain them and build upon them? Participants offered a number of strategic considerations that will be invaluable as we move forward;

THREATS	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>The government is not supporting the small businesses. There is no money available from the banks (Royal Bank, Scotia Bank).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Make a list of all the policies that are a threat to small businesses Ex: Transfer of crown land allocation policy. - We need to us the existing tools and human resources to address this issue. Ex: Enterprise Carleton. We don't and shouldn't be building an additional vehicle to get were we want to go. -Perhaps Enterprise Carleton etc. could fund a report which assesses the affect that the Gov. policies have on small businesses. -There must be a broadly supported initiative.
<p>As it is, New Brunswick's natural resources are not benefiting New Brunswickers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Crown Land Act must be revised. It needs to be more accurate to the present situation. -Electronically discuss our Crown Land Act. -Finding a use to the forest will prevent its uncontrolled harvest. Ex: Non Timber Forest Products and maple products.
<p>For any issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Have the students from University make a case study to outline a situation that will help to have a better point of view and to address a particular issue. -Pick on and us existing local structures to build a solution. (explore existing governance models) -Us the existing assets as possible. Ex: entrepreneurship skills, will power, schools and infrastructures.
<p>We must maintain the entrepreneurship skills that are fund to be a strong asset at the moment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Have entrepreneurship taught in schools through hands-on material about real cases and representation of the real life. -Also in the schools, there must be more true skills-set and more techno classes. The learning process has to be based on real issues.