



# **South End Community Action Network**

## **Strategic Visioning Session Report**

**January 17, 2008**

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## **Introduction**

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Sixty-three (63) participants attended the Strategic Visioning Session held at the Royal Canadian Legion (Lockerby Branch) on the evening of Thursday, January 17 st,2008 with the goal of developing action plans for the City geographical location known as South End. The Strategic Visioning Session was the second meeting with residents in the area discussing the development of a Community Action Network, following a successful Interest Group Meeting held December 17, 2008.

## **Process**

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The following made up the agenda for the day:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Background to Healthy Communities
- Greater Sudbury Police Services - Constable John Daoust and Constable John Coluzzi
- Review of the meeting notes of November 17, 2007
- EnviroSCAN (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Strategic Visioning: Using the Healthy Community pillars
- Proposed ideas, projects and initiatives, determining our priorities
- Formation of a Community Action Network Steering Committee
- Work plan leadership - who will play a lead role?

## **EnviroSCAN Report**

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As part of the invitation to the Strategic Visioning Session, participants were asked to consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats present in the area. Participants were then given some time to work in groups to provide the most common themes. The following information provides the ground work on which to build a strategic plan for the Community Action Network.

### **Strengths**

Participants responded in the following manner to the focus question: “Looking inward at our community, what are our community strengths?”

- We have safe and friendly neighbourhoods / good sense of community.
- We have plenty of green space available.
- We have a good mix of residential and commercial areas.
- We are close to schools and other amenities (shopping, health, sport facilities).
- We have access to city staff / communication with staff.
- We have a stable resource base (strong, steady economic growth).
- We have a good recycling program.
- We have good bus service.
- We have a good mix of ages.
- We have fast emergency service response
- We have natural waterways within our boundaries.
- We have neighbourhood /playground associations
- We are accepting of cultural diversity
- We have a Healthy Community Plan
- Rich in natural resources/ lakes.

## Weaknesses

The following responses came as a result of the following focus question: “Looking inward at our community, what are our weaknesses?”

- We are dealing with increase noise pollution (road, industry)
- There is a lack of by-law enforcement and consolidation of existing by-laws.
- We are dealing with poor drainage (water management / storm and sewer )
- We lack a larger community /recreation centre (pool -rinks-soccer fields)
- We lack park /green space within developed neighbourhoods.
- We have poor road intersections /linkages (ex: Parking at Old Burwash Rd, Loach’s Rd, Regent St.).
- We have poor snow removal / clearance of roads
- We need sidewalks along Regent St.(ex: from four corners to Lo-ElLEN and Mallards Landing)
- We need better bear control (Pioneer Road)
- We need water services (Pioneer Rd, Richard Lk, McFarland Lk)taxes vs lack of service
- We have construction businesses in residential zones.
- We have aging infrastructure, can’t keep up with development.
- The City is not acting on community ideas/input/lack of accountability
- We have speeding on local roads ( Ester Rd., St. Charles Lake Rd, Regent St. Loache’s Rd)
- There is conflicting interest between developers/planners/land owners not listening to people’s will.
- We have road congestion and poor road design.
- Development affecting and destroying natural environment
- We have light pollution
- We have high taxes.
- We have a lack of access to walking and biking trails
- We need a neighbourhood watch program
- We need standards for pesticide use to protect water.
- There is lack of support for Sudbury’s Aboriginal population
- We need to prepare for an aging population lack of affordable housing
- The roads are in poor condition (potholes)
- We need to improve the appearance of city entrance.
- We lack traffic lights on Hwy 69S -Mallards Landing
- We need better communication from city at the neighbourhood level.

## Opportunities

The following are the responses to the focus question: “Looking outward from our community, what do you feel might be some of the opportunities that we might take advantage of?”

- We have an opportunity to tap into community involvement
- Work with community planning and developers to include green space and bike paths
- We have lots of space for future development.
- Look towards meaningful community engagement and consultation.
- Partner with schools for green space and use of facilities.
- We have lots of green space available.
- Promote tourism with our natural resources.
- Developing human resource potential -being a center for diversified growth
- Create businesses that are value added to mining
- Potential for further recreation development at Countryside Complex
- Further development of shopping facilities
- Promote our beautiful natural resources to recruit professionals /doctors
- Link to Hwy 400 for safety and future economic/tourism growth
- Make use of human resources (seniors and teens)
- Further development of industrial area.

## Threats

Possible threats were identified when asked the following focus question: “Looking outward what do you feel may be some of the threats that will challenge us?”

- We must deal with conflicting views between residents/developers/city staff.
- We need to deal with public input into development before it starts.
- We need to deal with too much development affecting lakes
- We must deal with the fear of personal safety crossing roads.
- We must deal with youth out migration.
- We have to deal with financial limitations or lack of funding.
- We must deal with high levels of traffic.
- We must deal with aging infrastructure.

## Healthy Communities Strategy Background

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City of Greater Sudbury staff conducted a brief presentation concerning the City’s Healthy Community Strategy. A Healthy Community model embraces a broad vision of health, one that recognizes balanced economic, environmental and social development that enhances human health and quality of life (World Health Organization). The Healthy Community Strategy identifies four strategic priorities:

- Active Living / Healthy Lifestyle
- Natural Environment
- Civic Engagement / Social Capital
- Economic Growth

The full City of Greater Sudbury Health Community Strategy is available at:

[www.greatersudbury.ca/content/dept\\_cd/documents/Healthy\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Report\\_complete.pdf](http://www.greatersudbury.ca/content/dept_cd/documents/Healthy_Communities_Strategy_Report_complete.pdf)

## Strategic Visioning Priorities - next 5 years

### Active Living / Healthy Lifestyles

- Community Centre / Expand -complete complex Countryside 32
- More parks and greenspace 19
- Active transportation (Sidewalks and bike paths) 18
- Create more play space in new and future neighbourhoods 18
- Improve public transit 4

### Natural Environment

- Lake water quality 24
- Pesticide elimination 22
- Improve drainage 20
- Green space protection 17
- Wildlife protection 2

### Civic Engagment / Social Capital

- Road design (Safety) 25
- Civic consultation 12
- Speed limits (Community Safety) 7
- Traffic control (Community Safety) 7
- Police presence (at playgrounds) 3
- Affordable housing 1

### Economic Growth

- Zoning Regulations 22
- Repair Ester street install storm sewer and sidewalks 10
- Planning Input 5
- Small business development 4
- Alternate Business Development 2
- Federal money and government support 2
- Large business contribute to community facilities 1
- Remove business from residential area 1
- More diversification / encourage energy alternatives 1