

Township of Perth South

Visioning Session: Examining the what to do in the next five years

**Strategic Planning
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March 17, 2009**

Background Context

This report is a direct replication of the findings from community discussion groups held on March 17, 2009 in the Township of Perth South. The community members answered the question, “in five years the Township of Perth South will...”, as how they hope their community will be. The report covers the answers given by community members and the number of people that considered the answers to be most prominent. Each community member was given eight votes to choose the most important visions for the next five years. Each community member was required to vote for one statement in each category: Economics, Environment, Culture, and Social. The remaining four votes were placed at the will of the community members. There were a total of 241 votes made. Figure one illustrates the distribution of votes: Economics (30%), Environment (29%), Culture (22%), and Social (19%).

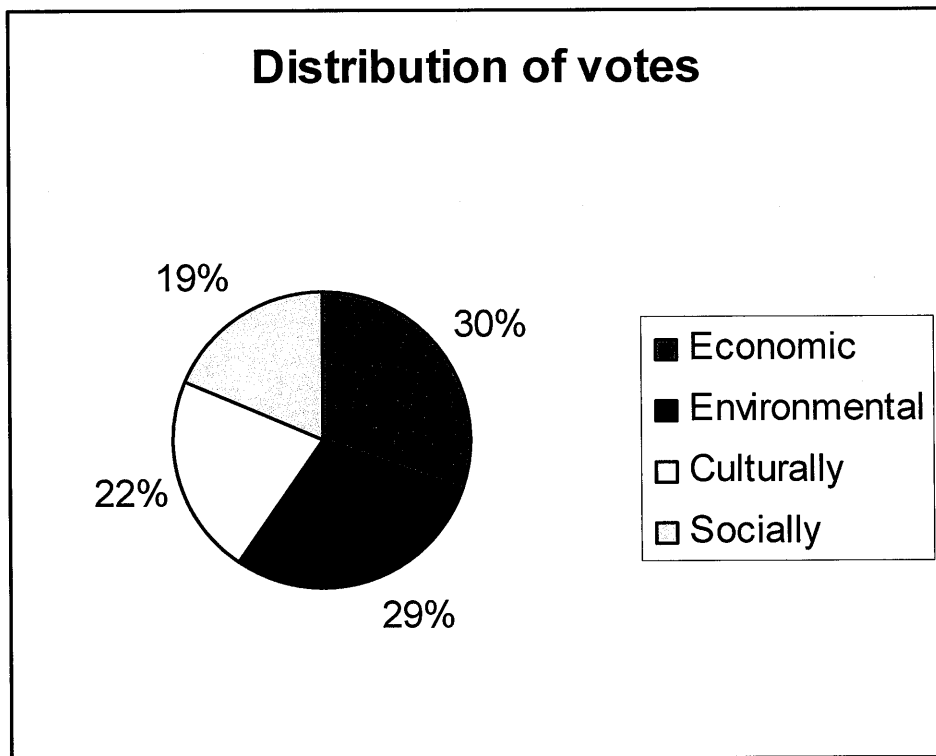


Figure 1: Distribution of votes by category from community discussion participants in the Township of Perth South

RESULTS:

Economically, in 5 years the Township of Perth South will

- grow & develop in rural industrial and rural residential - investigate and remove roadblocks to growth (12)
- reduce red tape which prevents development (9)
- continue to set the pace in agriculture that we have now (8)
- service an urban settlement area (6)
- develop industry within our boundaries (5)
- not have annexation to urban centres (5)
- require changes in severances and in the population base (4)
- expand power sources that depend on agricultural products – using animal bi-products for power (3)
- be debt free (3)
- diversify into secondary agriculture – different food crops (2)
- investigate possibility of Perth County becoming a region (2)
- be more self-sufficient i.e. food, energy, etc. (2)
- have greater employment opportunities (2)
- maintain land base in the township (2)
- have an industrial park – areas set aside for other industrial opportunities besides farming (2)
- have greater development (2)
- diversify primary agricultural base (1)
- be stronger than our urban neighbours (1)
- working cooperatively with neighbours (1)
- stay/be the same (1)
- get ahead of the economic wave by taking advantage of our geography (0)
- be less dependent on bulk commodities (0)
- have different scale farms (0)
- draw in agricultural industry (0)
- increase tax base – increase population (0)
- make the community a friendlier environment for development (0)
- have municipal services i.e. sewage (0)
- keep farms going for youth to have work (0)
- taxes will be higher (0)
- hydro will be higher (0)
- be in a growth position (0)
- be vulnerable/falter (0)
- make farms affordable (0)
- advance through technology (0)
- introduce more business opportunities (0)
- require changes in current course (0)
- have highest tax rate in Perth County (0)

Environmentally, in 5 years the Township of Perth South will

- get into green energy (10)
- have a more convenient household hazardous waste collection (10)
- increase the tree coverage on less productive land to prevent erosion (8)
- not accept any municipal or industrial sludge (6)
- have increased use of alternate and renewable energy resources (6)
- have improved water quality (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams) (4)
- have long-term sustainable farming practices (4)
- have energy saving incentives (4)
- have designated bike paths on the roads (3)
- use all energy from waste and gasification for energy (3)
- push for hydroelectric power generation at Wildwood Dam (2)
- have better waste control and environmentally-friendly farming techniques (2)
- have a municipal recycling program specifically for Perth South (community-led rural design) (2)
- be relatively unchanged (1)
- be run by urban decisions (1)
- steer away from “bedroom” communities (work and live here in Perth South) (1)
- increase urban municipal accountability for water pollution in this community (downstream awareness) (1)
- set up a peer review committee for provincial environmental policies (1)
- set up an education program for the environmental policies (i.e. pesticide certification course) (1)
- have greater waste reduction (0)
- have a better understanding of what we put on our agricultural land (timing of when to apply manure) (0)
- have a viable water supply (0)
- pave more gravel roads (0)
- have long-term sustainable protection of water resources (0)
- have more corporate responsibility for a waste-neutral community (0)
- have even stricter rules (0)
- have everybody more conscious/better educated (0)
- deal with more challenges (0)
- be dictated to by the conservation authority (& other special interest groups) (0)
- have an environmentally-friendly community (0)
- have better government regulations (0)
- have more accountability for laws in place (0)
- have more recycling of toxic materials (0)
- have a decrease in sites for junk cars (0)

Culturally, in 5 years the Township of Perth South will

- keep more young people in the community (13)
- have more agricultural/community development and sustainability (i.e. more sustainable agriculture development) (10)
- be amalgamated (5)
- have smaller farms, more local food production (4)
- be forced to work together to survive (3)
- be more progressive (3)
- have rural attractions that can be promoted to surrounding urban areas (3)
- have a commitment to recreational opportunities (i.e. for youth) (3)
- expose culture to those who have not experienced it (2)
- stay/be/remain the same – status quo (2)
- be much more urbanized (1)
- need new people participating (1)
- tap into the tourist industry (1)
- be a more ethnically diverse community (1)
- have resource promotion of Perth South's good qualities (1)
- be the same unless we evolve (0)
- exist because of its strengths (0)
- be identity challenged (0)
- see new people participating in clubs (0)
- be welcoming of more diverse people (0)
- be more diverse (0)
- be more blended (0)
- have a stronger service clubs (i.e. Optimist Club) (0)
- be explaining agriculture industry to others (0)

Socially, in 5 years the Township of Perth South will

- have a higher population through severances and increased hamlet sizes (14)
- have ways which draw people into the area (culturally, agriculturally, etc.) (9)
- have more housing developments (smaller lots for non-farmers) (9)
- be carrying on the same (2)
- will have less churches, schools, & community centres (2)
- be a desirable place to live with regards to sports and entertainment (1)
- be a preferred location for quality of life (1)
- be suffering from declining birth rate (1)
- shop within first, outsourcing later (1)
- have more collaboration/support of each other (1)
- have better attendance at Township meetings (1)
- have rural issues better represented and urbanites better informed on rural living (1)
- create a need for urban to appreciate the rural (1)
- have a baby boom emphasize the advantages of rural small schools (1)
- have service clubs will work together to develop 1 large festival or event (0)
- have a shortage to providing health services (0)
- have a proud rural identity (0)
- have inner dependence (0)
- be more socially diverse (0)
- be a healthy progressive community (i.e. schools, service clubs) (0)
- be less dependent on urban centres for recreational opportunities (0)
- have community involvement (0)
- have more opportunities which encourage young families to remain (0)
- have more social opportunities to service younger generations (0)
- have recreational opportunities for teenagers (0)