



OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

POTENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIONS REPORT

March 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW POTENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIONS REPORT

1.0	BACKGROUND	4
2.0	ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY VISION	6
2.1	Identification of Five Over-Arching Themes	6
2.2	Plan It Peterborough Community Consultation	7
2.3	Strategic Planning Documents.....	10
3.0	PROVINCIAL PLANNING CONTEXT	29
3.1	<i>Planning Act</i>	29
3.2	Provincial Policy Statement	31
3.3	Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe	32
4.0	OFFICIAL PLAN MAJOR POLICY DIRECTIONS	34
4.1	Complete, Healthy Communities	34
4.1.1	Providing a Range of Housing Opportunities	35
4.1.2	Providing Affordable Housing.....	36
4.1.3	Facilitating Appropriate Intensification	37
4.1.4	Planning For an Aging Population	38
4.1.5	Supporting Community Infrastructure	39
4.1.6	Safe, Inclusive, Healthy Neighbourhood Design.....	40
4.2	Environmental Sustainability.....	41
4.2.1	Protect, Enhance and Expand Natural Areas/Green Spaces	42
4.2.2	Promote Sustainable Building Design and Green Energy.....	43
4.2.3	Protect the City's Urban Forest.....	45
4.2.4	Planning for Access to Local Food.....	46
4.2.5	Greening Industrial/Employment Areas.....	47
4.2.6	Sustainable Servicing Infrastructure and Waste Management.....	48
4.3	Economic Strength	48
4.3.1	Supporting Innovative Employment Opportunities.....	49
4.3.2	Protecting Employment Areas.....	50



4.3.3	Foster and Strengthen Partnerships	51
4.3.4	Promoting and Supporting Tourism	52
4.3.5	Developing a 'Business Brand' for the City	52
4.4	Unique and Vibrant Places and Spaces	53
4.4.1	Revitalizing Peterborough's Downtown	54
4.4.2	Achieving a High Level of Urban Design	55
4.4.3	Preserving and Enhancing Our Cultural Heritage	56
4.4.4	Supporting Arts and Culture	57
4.5	Connectivity and Mobility	58
4.5.1	Promoting Active, Alternative Modes of Transportation	58
4.5.2	Promoting Pedestrian-Oriented Development	60
4.5.3	Incorporating Accessibility into New and Existing Development	61
4.5.4	Improving Road and Major Transportation Connections	62
5.0	CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS	63

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW POTENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIONS REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

An Official Plan is a document that has status in law pursuant to the provisions of the *Planning Act*. It provides for a long-term comprehensive framework for land use decision-making in our community. It affects our everyday lives through policies about where and how housing, employment and other land uses will be developed. It shapes how our neighbourhoods will look and feel in 20 years. The Plan aims to create a better living environment within the City by taking into consideration important social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors.

The *Planning Act* requires municipalities to review their Official Plans every five years and hold a public meeting to allow the public to provide comments. In April 2011, staff unveiled Plan It Peterborough – the City's Five-Year Official Plan Review – with the launch of the Plan It Peterborough website (www.peterborough.ca/planit). The Official Plan Review exercise is being carried out in two distinct phases. Phase One entailed a review of issues and policy options and involved extensive consultation with key stakeholders, advisory groups and the public to determine their views and priorities for the community. Phase Two will be a policy renewal phase to formally update the Official Plan through a series of amendments to reflect the outcome of Phase One.

As outlined at the outset of the Plan It Peterborough campaign, Phase One of the Official Plan Review is to conclude with the preparation of this Potential Policy Directions Report for Council's approval together with a formal public meeting to present the priorities of the community to Council in accordance with Section 26(3) of the *Planning Act*. This report synthesizes the messages heard from the public and stakeholders and identifies strategic opportunities and options for translating those messages into Official Plan policy. Five planning themes are identified as over-arching principles to provide direction on the development and revision of planning policies. These themes and their corresponding policy directions will guide or influence staff's thinking and actions with respect to both identifying priorities for planning policy change and developing future amendments to the Official Plan in order to provide the Plan with a solid foundation that reflects the community's values.

FIVE OVER-ARCHING AND INTERCONNECTED THEMES **TO GUIDE OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW**

Complete Healthy Communities

Range of Housing
Affordable Housing
Appropriate Intensification
Community Infrastructure
Safe, Inclusive Neighbourhood Design
Aging Population

Environmental Sustainability

Natural Areas/Green Spaces
Sustainable Building Design and Green Energy
Urban Forest
Local Food/Urban Agriculture
Green Employment Areas
Sustainable Servicing and Waste Management

Economic Strength

Innovative Employment
Creative Economy
Tourism
Protected Employment Areas
Partnerships
Business Brand

Unique and Vibrant Places and Spaces

Downtown Peterborough
Urban Design
Cultural Heritage
Arts and Culture

Connectivity and Mobility

Active, Alternative Transportation
Pedestrian-Oriented Development
Accessibility
Road and Major Transportation Networks

2.0 ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY VISION

The Official Plan sets out the community's vision for its future. To help establish this vision, staff sought a diverse range of public and stakeholder opinions through an extensive consultation program. To complement this program, an interdepartmental advisory committee comprised of representatives from all City departments reviewed the findings of the public and stakeholder consultation to identify opportunities and implications associated with implementation of the consultation feedback.

To build on the valuable information received during the public and stakeholder consultation program, staff also reviewed and summarized strategic planning documents that have been completed by other City departments and community stakeholders in recent years to reflect their significant volume public and stakeholder consultation and researched municipal planning policy trends.

2.1 Identification of Five Over-Arching Themes

The input received from the public and stakeholders during the Plan It Peterborough consultation as well as the recommendations and messages contained in the various strategic planning documents completed over the past several years were assessed and can be synthesized into the five over-arching themes as follows:

1. Complete, Healthy Communities:

- Healthy mixed-use neighbourhoods that are part of an integrated, vibrant and diverse community that includes a balance of housing, employment, community services, parks and open spaces all within walking distance;
- Compact and inclusive housing; and,
- Context-appropriate intensification of downtown and commercial corridors.

2. Environmental Sustainability:

- Protect and enhance natural environmental systems, functions and resources over the long term; and,
- Incorporate and promote sustainable development practices and initiatives.

3. Economic Strength:

- Promote economic vitality and provide for a balanced and diverse range of innovative employment opportunities that leverage the City's strengths; and,
- Protect employment areas over the long term.

4. Unique and Vibrant Places and Spaces:

- Enhance downtown vibrancy while preserving heritage quality;
- Recognize and enhance the inherent and unique aspects of Peterborough and create focal points, gateways, experiences and landmarks; and,
- Strive for high urban design standards in the public and private realm.

5. Connectivity and Mobility:

- Plan for transit, active transportation, and pedestrian-oriented development to reduce dependency on the private automobile; and,
- Expand and enhance trail systems to promote connectivity, mobility and accessibility within and between neighbourhoods, employment areas, parks and open spaces.

As Plan It Peterborough shifts from reviewing issues to identifying opportunities for land use policy change, these five themes are being used as over-arching principles to provide direction on the development and revision of planning policies. As principles, these themes will guide or influence staff's thinking and actions with respect to both identifying priorities for planning policy change and developing future amendments to the Official Plan in order to provide the Plan with a solid foundation that reflects the community's values. These themes will be assessed and expanded upon further in Section 4 of this report.

2.2 Plan It Peterborough Community Consultation

Phase One of the Plan It Peterborough Official Plan Review exercise generated a significant amount of interest, feedback and valuable ideas from both the public and key stakeholders. The focus of the consultation was to discuss issues and opportunities for strategic planning directions and to engage the community on their vision for the future. Overall, staff met with close to 400 individuals at public open houses, stakeholder workshops/meetings and guest speaking

engagements. Since June 2011, staff engaged the public and stakeholders as follows:

- Three public open houses/workshops:
 - Saturday, June 4, 2011 – Evinrude Centre;
 - Thursday, June 9, 2011 – Peterborough Lion's Club Community Centre;
 - Tuesday, June 14, 2011 – Westdale United Church;
- Four issue-themed stakeholder workshops:
 - August 23, 2011 - Healthy Communities and Social Services;
 - November 17, 2011 - Natural Environment and Open Space;
 - November 17, 2011 - Business and Economic Development;
 - January 31, 2011 - Land Development, Home Building and Real Estate;
- Three guest speaking appearances:
 - September 21, 2011 - Peterborough Newcomers Club;
 - October 3, 2011 - James Strath Public School Grade 8 class; and,
 - October 14, 2011 - Affordable Housing Action Committee; and,
- September 21-22, 2011 - A two-day provincial Municipal Plan Review workshop with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and their partner Ministries.

A key focus of the public open houses was to elicit participants' vision for how they would like the City to grow over the next 20 years. Each workshop involved a staff presentation and facilitated small group discussions. Questionnaires and discussion booklets were used to further document public and community input through the workshop sessions. Following each workshop, a feedback report distilling the advice and direction from the workshop was prepared and is posted on the Plan It Peterborough web site (www.peterborough.ca/planit). Information banners were also posted at the Peterborough Public Library, the Peterborough Memorial Centre, and at the Lansdowne Place Mall in order to generate public awareness of Plan It Peterborough. Through the input that was received, many common visions for the City's future emerged including:

- A healthy community with a strong focus on active living, walkable streets, connected trails and opportunities for community interaction;
- A green, attractive, affordable and pedestrian oriented community;



- A community abundant with public spaces, trails, parks and gathering places that are accessible for all and connect neighbourhoods and communities to one another and to nature;
- A community of compact, walkable, mixed-use neighbourhoods with opportunities for playing, working, shopping, entertainment and community uses;
- A community with a vibrant downtown where new development preserves heritage and supports existing stores and destinations;
- An innovative community with growth in businesses and jobs that leverage the strengths of the City;
- A community with multi-sectoral employment opportunities that are stable and supportive of small business, creative culture and youth;
- An inclusive and diverse community with integrated housing for all incomes, ages and ethnicities;
- A community for people of all ages and abilities;
- A community with efficient public transportation and reduced automobile reliance;
- A community that supports safe and accessible active transportation with cycling and walking for all ages; and,
- A community of quality buildings designed to a comfortable scale with appropriate heights, mix of uses and attention to the public realm.

Additionally, through the stakeholder workshops, participants also emphasized a desire to create a community that:

- Strives to achieve environmental sustainability and proactively plans for environmental issues such as climate change, drinking water quality, air quality, waste management, noise, odour and light pollution;
- Fosters business growth and is welcoming to new and innovative business opportunities;
- Is an attractive destination for newcomers; and,
- Is socially responsive by providing an accessible built environment that enhances access to healthy, locally-sourced food, affordable housing and community services and facilities.

Additionally, since its launch in April 2011, almost 100 people have responded to a public survey on the Plan It Peterborough website. The online survey asked people to select 5 topics (from a list of 12) that they felt to be most important to the City's future development. The top 5 topics (in order of frequency) that people identified as being most important to the City's future development were:

1. Preserve natural environment/green spaces;
2. Maintain a vibrant downtown core;
3. Design pedestrian-oriented streets;
4. Expand/enhance trail network; and
5. Design streets to support a variety of transportation choices.

When asked in the online survey what keywords people would like to describe Peterborough's future development, the most commonly cited keywords were "Green", "Sustainable", "Progressive", "Environmentally Friendly", "Accessible", "Community-Centred", "Vibrant", "Active", "Inclusive", "Affordable", "Healthy", and "Beautiful". The input received through the online community survey closely reflects the vision expressed through the public and stakeholder workshops.

2.3 Strategic Planning Documents

The input received through the Plan It Peterborough consultation builds on a significant amount of community consultation that has been undertaken through various strategic planning documents that have been completed by City of Peterborough as well as by other community stakeholders over the past several years. A brief summary of the documents reviewed for possible incorporation into the Official Plan is presented here.

GPA 2020: A Vision for Our Future (1997)

In 1997, Peterborough City and County councils authorized the Greater Peterborough AEDC to co-ordinate a community visioning exercise for Peterborough. "Peterborough: The Natural Place to Be" was the slogan adopted to capture the essence and spirit of what the community desired to be by the year 2020. The Vision 2020 process identified the natural environment as Peterborough's single most significant feature and that high priority should be placed on enhancing this feature through a linked network of trails. The following community vision was presented as a foundation upon

which a set of key principles and recommended areas for action were then identified:

“By the year 2020, the Greater Peterborough Area will be sought out by many, and admired worldwide, as a uniquely healthy, diverse, enriched community, which balances and promotes vibrant economic and employment opportunities while honouring the natural environment and valuing its cultural heritage.”

Community Social Plan (2003)

This plan developed by the City and County of Peterborough under the leadership of the United Way established a framework to address social issues in Peterborough based on the vision of creating a “safe, healthy, and caring community” that balances social, economic, and environmental well-being and where every person is able to participate fully. The Plan contained the following goals:

1. To promote and enhance the arts, culture, heritage and recreation sectors of our communities;
2. To develop a co-ordinated effort and model which will effectively support community-based health care services in a pro-active and efficient manner;
3. To ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully and meaningfully participate in all aspects of life in our communities;
4. To create an environment that promotes the healthy development of children and youth in our communities, so they achieve their full potential as adults;
5. To increase the level of involvement in community activities and public decision-making processes by all segments of our communities;
6. To enhance the economic security of all residents through the enhancement of employment opportunities and access to income security programs;
7. To develop partnerships and co-ordination which will provide the greater Peterborough area with long-term sustainability of its natural resources;
8. To ensure that all people at all times have access to sufficient amounts of safe, nutritious, and personally acceptable foods in a manner that maintains human dignity;



9. To realize a community in which all residents have access to decent, affordable, suitable housing; and
10. To promote respect for human dignity within our communities, and to ensure that everyone's human rights are protected.

Housing Needs Analysis and Strategies (2003)

In 2003, the City conducted a Housing Needs Analysis study that also included a strategy and recommendations to address affordable housing issues in Peterborough. Points and recommendations relevant to land use planning in this strategy included:

1. Continue to reduce parking requirements for affordable housing projects on a case-by-case basis;
2. Support Peterborough Housing Corporation (PHC) in its plans to intensify and/or redevelop its existing properties for the purpose of creating additional affordable housing units;
3. Actively encourage the provision of infill housing in designated areas;
4. Establish a "housing first" policy that considers the use of surplus municipal land for the construction of affordable housing first by private and non-profit development groups;
5. Permit alternative development standards for affordable housing projects on a case-by-case basis;
6. Recognize that "down-zoning" activity needs to be considered carefully in the light of its impact on reducing the land potentially available for affordable rental housing in the community;
7. Examine policies to help preserve its existing rental housing stock;
8. Permit secondary suites in new subdivisions and offer incentives to homeowners to bring illegal accessory apartments into compliance; and,
9. Review existing group home policies with a view to reducing barriers imposed by distancing requirements and other such regulations.

Flood Reduction Master Plan (2005)

In July 2004, the City was hit by a severe rainfall event that caused significant flood damage. Shortly after the flood, the City retained UMA Engineering Ltd. (UMA) to investigate the causes and determine remedial measures to improve the operation of the drainage system and reduce the risk of damage from future flooding. The Flood Reduction Master Plan was prepared under the Environmental Assessment Act to plan infrastructure improvements as part of the City's overall systems. Subsequent Environmental Assessments were also conducted for all of the creek watersheds in the City to deal with project-specific issues.

Vision 2010: Strategic Plan for Recreation, Parks, and Culture (2007)

This Plan was completed by the City as an update to the original Strategic Plan for Recreation, Parks, and Culture undertaken in 2000. The plan's purpose was to "enhance and maintain an infrastructure of recreation, parks, arts, culture and heritage" based on the following over-riding principles:

1. Ensure that arts, culture, heritage, recreation and parks are recognized as key determinants for a community ensuring a high quality of life for its citizens;
2. Ensure that the planning and delivery of these services, programs and facilities are integrated into all community planning;
3. Plan our community within the context of the changing demographics; and,
4. Commit to increase accessibility of these services, programs and facilities to all our citizens.

Points and recommendations in this plan relevant to the Official Plan and land use planning include:

1. Continue to expand/enhance trails into a more interconnected system by developing linkages into neighbourhoods;
2. "We must change perspectives and build communities for people, not cars";
3. Develop enhanced transportation system with a focus on expanding/maintaining bike lanes and providing alternative transportation options;



4. Ensure sidewalks are built in all subdivisions;
5. Increase access to green space; plan and acquire more green space at neighbourhood level, develop community gardens;
6. Plan for neighbourhoods as community/service hubs in which recreation, cultural, and social programs are offered; decentralize approach to service delivery;
7. Increase commitment to maintaining a healthy environment;
8. Develop and promote the heritage, cultural, commercial and tourism aspects of the downtown;
9. "Development and infilling that encourages/allows more people to live downtown must be a priority";
10. Look to move the Canoe Museum to a site downtown on the water;
11. Refurbish major streets to include green space, trees, and planters;
12. When new developments are planned, have the building near the sidewalk and the parking at the back to promote a more pedestrian-friendly community;
13. Encourage intensification of the existing City and limit urban sprawl;
14. Landscaping and walking trails should be built along Jackson Creek where it runs through the downtown; and,
15. Reduce parking requirements for higher density projects in downtown.

Central Area Master Plan (2009)

This plan was developed by the City and contains 22 strategies to redevelop and revitalize Peterborough's Central Area, identified as "the historic heart of the City." These 22 strategies are as follows:

1. Fulfill the full opportunity envisioned by the Official Plan by comprehensively pre-zoning all properties in the Central Area;
2. Prepare neighbourhood plans for distinct residential areas in the Transitional Uses Sub-area;
3. Celebrate the gateways to Downtown and acknowledge arrival;



4. Give priority to the completion of the Otonabee River Trail connections to downtown;
5. Create a civic square, a multi-purpose outdoor venue for gatherings and community celebrations;
6. Prioritize the renewal of the Charlotte Street right-of-way from Water Street to Park Street;
7. Develop an enhancement strategy for the Aylmer/Bethune corridor to promote a positive environment for investment and a safe interface between the Downtown Commercial Core and the Transitional Uses Sub-area. Establish a future for the Bethune Street right-of-way;
8. Investigate the opportunity to establish additional off-street parking supply in the new Café District (Hunter Street);
9. As part of the rebuilding of Bethune Street establish a north-south walkway/cycling corridor serving the Central Area connecting the Trans Canada Trail at Brock Street and Bethune to the Extension of the Crawford Trail at Townsend Street and Bethune;
10. Reach a sustainable municipal funding solution for an appropriate level of maintenance and safety [for downtown facilities];
11. Refresh the “Downtown” brand;
12. Develop a Downtown-specific Tourism Development Strategy;
13. Extend the municipal off-street parking supply in the Hunter Street East Business District (Village BIA Area);
14. Position the Industrial Conversion Area for long-range and intensive redevelopment purposes;
15. Refresh existing Implementation Plans in the following areas to account for the physical expansion of the ‘Downtown’ to the ‘Central Area’:
 - Site and Building Design Guidelines
 - Residential Intensification Study
 - Streetscape Design Guidelines

Develop new Implementation Plans in the following areas to support the growth implications of ‘Places to Grow’:



- Servicing Capacity and Constraints Study
 - Open Space Needs Analysis
16. Pursue a permanent off-street venue for a downtown Farmer's Market, initially in the Civic Square, and a downtown location *alternative* for the Peterborough Museum and Archives in order to enhance the critical mass required for a more successful tourism offering;
17. Use the Master Plan to confirm the downtown 'distinctives' as enshrined in the City's Official Plan, specifically that the priority functions of the Downtown, worthy of protection, are:
- Entertainment and Cultural Uses;
 - Major Office Uses; and,
 - Institutional Uses.
18. Implement the conclusions of the Jackson Creek Flood Reduction Environmental Assessment with a sense of urgency;
19. Seek to influence Provincial school funding policy so that local School Boards have the financial capacity to retain midtown schools in Peterborough;
20. Level the development playing field – tip it in favour of the Downtown if necessary; and,
21. Adopt a Community Improvement Plan for the Central Area.

Little Lake Master Plan (2010)

This Plan was developed by the City and intends to guide the use, decision-making, and management of Little Lake and its immediate surrounding area for the next 20 years. Points and recommendations relevant to the Official Plan and land use planning in the Little Lake Master Plan include:

1. Restore and maintain the natural environment around Little Lake;
2. Preserve and enhance cultural heritage features; encourage central downtown locations for the Canadian Canoe Museum, the Art Gallery, and the Peterborough Museum and Archives in the long term;
3. Complete the 7km multi-use trail around Little Lake and develop/maintain links to Trans Canada Trail;



4. Extend the urban streetscape character south along George St by redeveloping sites such as Craftworks, Market Plaza, No Frills, Public Works Yard, and Harvey's with more higher density mixed-use developments;
5. Intensification of Hunter St and redevelopment of former St. Joseph's Hospital site;
6. Re-discover Jackson Creek by re-establishing a visible water channel that features open space and fronting residential uses;
7. Intensify the lands around a possible downtown GO Station (current site of Chamber of Commerce building) and include the development of a public urban square;
8. Enhance streetscapes on key streets and enhance gateways into downtown; and,
9. Develop urban design guidelines for Hunter St, Armour St, and downtown area south of Charlotte St to the waterfront.

Draft Housing Strategy (2010)

A Draft Housing Strategy was developed by the City based on community and stakeholder consultation to provide strategic directions and recommendations for action on housing over the next 10 years. The strategy was based on the *vision* that "everyone in the City and County of Peterborough has the opportunity to live with dignity in housing that provides a solid foundation for participating in and contributing to their communities" and the *principle* that "housing is fundamental to a complete community, a healthy environment, a sustainable future and the personal well-being of everyone." Although the strategy has not received final approval from Council and its need has been superseded by a provincial requirement for a Housing and Homelessness Plan, the Strategy's recommendations reflect the consultation that helped shape the document and are therefore worthy of consideration as part of the Official Plan Review process. The draft recommendations are categorized under the following four 'Strategic Directions':

1. Ensure that housing is integral to healthy, sustainable complete communities;
2. Build and preserve affordable rental and owned housing to meet current and future needs;
3. People will be supported to find and retain appropriate housing;
4. Co-ordinate and strengthen community action and partnerships among housing and support providers.

Points and recommendations relevant to the Official Plan and land use planning in this Draft Housing Strategy include:

1. The City's current affordable housing target of 10% be amended to 25% of newly-created units to be achieved and monitored annually;
2. The City monitor production of affordable units for homeownership, low and moderate income rental units annually;
3. The City monitor and adjust affordable rent and ownership prices annually in accordance with available Census and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) data in order to reflect changing income levels and average house prices and market rents;
4. The City's Official Plan be amended to reflect the definition of "low income households" as those households in the lowest 40% of the renter household income distribution and that this definition of low income be reviewed annually using CMHC and Statistics Canada Census data;
5. The City encourage the use of LEED design concepts in all housing developments;
6. The City identify specific sites and potential partnership opportunities for residential intensification by updating the 1991 Downtown Residential intensification Study; and,
7. Amend the City's Zoning By-Law to permit secondary suites in new and existing housing.

Quality of Life Report (2010)

The Peterborough Social Planning Council assessed the 'quality of life' being experienced by Peterborough residents by administering a questionnaire that asked the following key questions:

1. What is your favourite part of living in Peterborough?
2. What are we doing well as a community?
3. What is the most important issue facing our region?

The feedback received through the questionnaire is of direct relevance to the OP Review as it asked residents what they most liked about living in Peterborough and what they felt to be the major issues and challenges facing the community as it plans for the future. The following summarizes the feedback and responses received for 3 of the 5 questions asked:



1. What is your favourite part of living in Peterborough?

- The City's natural environment and accessibility to parks/trails/open space/water (particularly Little Lake);
- A strong sense of community because people are friendly, caring, and actively involved in community events;
- City is small in its size and feel but still offers all the necessary services and amenities of a larger urban centre;
- Ease of getting around the City with little traffic;
- The City's proximity to the GTA and connections to the broader region;
- The City's vibrant cultural/arts scene (music, entertainment); and,
- The built heritage of the City's downtown core as well as its wide variety of restaurants and shops.

2. What are we doing well as a community?

- Creating walking and biking trails;
- Promoting and supporting various community events (i.e. MusicFest, Festival of Trees);
- Downtown improvements, particularly to the waterfront (i.e. Millenium Park, Hunter Street Café District); and,
- Paying attention to environmental and social issues (i.e. poverty, homelessness).

3. What is the most important issue facing our region?

- Poverty/homelessness/lack of affordable housing;
- Managing growth in a way that sustains the natural environment while maintaining a vibrant downtown core;
- Lack of job opportunities; the need for sustainable economic growth;
- Ensuring services such as health care meet the demands of an aging population;



- The need to attract more immigrants to sustain the City's population growth, particularly as its population ages; and,
- Increasing crime and drug use.

Community Action Plan (2010)

This Plan was completed by the Peterborough City-County Health Unit and includes actions and recommendations to transform Peterborough into a more walkable, bikeable, and people-oriented community. The development of the Plan was led by Gil Penalosa, an urban strategist celebrated around the world for helping create more people-oriented communities and famous for his work in Bogota, Colombia.

Points and recommendations relevant to land use planning and the Official Plan include:

1. Create pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and paths that physically separate pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles;
2. Complete the trail around Little Lake with separate lanes for pedestrians and cyclists;
3. Promote the use of trails by linking them to destinations; improve connections between parks and trails and between trails;
4. Create physically separated bike lanes on all arterials; begin with higher demand areas such as Sherbrooke St, George St, Water St, Lansdowne St, Parkhill Rd;
5. Increase the availability of safe and accessible bicycle parking;
6. Incorporate a 'Complete Street' policy into transportation planning that ensures that all streets are designed, built, operated, and maintained in a way that takes into consideration the needs of all users: pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and motorists;
7. Create a planning policy framework which promotes mixed-use neighbourhoods;
8. Create an outdoor public space on sites such as Louis St parking lot, southeast corner of mall parking lot;
9. Reduce car parking requirements in the downtown to allow for alternate use of the downtown space;



10. Create express routes through or around the City to alleviate downtown motorized traffic;
11. Redevelopment of Market Plaza for conference/retail/residential;
12. Recovery of Jackson Creek in downtown Peterborough;
13. Maintain heritage features; and,
14. Create ways to encourage more people to live downtown.

Morrow Park Masterplan Design Study (2011)

In 2011 the City completed a Masterplan Design Study for Morrow Park. The aim of the study was to examine the present conditions and use of the Park, and offer recommendations for a new vision that can guide plans for improvements in both immediate and long range scenarios.

The Morrow Park Master Plan recommends strategies to open the park up to everyday use while essentially maintaining current programming, but with elements allowing for each to co-exist. Phasing strategies were developed that will ensure all partners in the Park will have continuous use; existing facilities will remain in use until new facilities are provided for them.

Urban Forest Strategic Plan (2011)

This Plan was developed by the City and establishes a strategic plan for the long-term management and sustainment of the City's 'Urban Forest.' Points and recommendations relevant to the Official Plan and land use planning in the Urban Forest Strategic Plan include:

1. Increase the amount of space available for tree planting in all new subdivision developments;
2. Recognize the urban forest as a critical element of the City's green infrastructure in the Official Plan;
3. Include a definition of the term 'Urban Forest' in the Official Plan;
4. Amend the Official Plan to include a section directly related to the Urban Forest and that the OP recognize the Urban Forest Strategic Plan as the mechanism by which urban forest management is guided;



5. All sections of the Official Plan relevant to the 'Urban Forest' be reviewed and updated to recognize and include the term;
6. Investigate the development of a by-law to maintain the Urban Forest with no net loss;
7. Implement a mechanism for replacing losses to the Urban Forest either on the developed site, at an off-site location as directed by the City, or by providing a monetary contribution to a reserve fund that would be used to plant trees on City-owned land to replace the trees lost through development and construction;
8. Development applications that impact the health and condition of significant trees should provide an Arborist report on their health, condition, and value prior to development approval; and,
9. Create an incentive program for developers who develop sites that preserve and protect the integrity of existing significant trees.

Municipal Cultural Plan (2012)

This plan undertaken by the City focused on culture's role in creating a livable, sustainable community based on the following vision:

"Peterborough will be a vibrant city recognized for the richness of its cultural expressions and the diversity of its population. People will value the city's cultural vibrancy, including its connections to the water, its arts, festivals, heritage buildings, and streetscapes, as well as its long-standing history of settlement and industry. Culture will be a fundamental part of city building, entwined with all aspects of municipal decision making."

The points and recommendations relevant to the Official Plan and land use planning under the following strategic directions of the Municipal Cultural Plan include:

1. "Celebrate and Strengthen Our Region's Waterways, Cultural and Natural Heritage"
 - Complete the trail system around Little Lake and along the Otonabee River;
 - Ensure new developments do not negatively impact areas of natural heritage significance;
 - Promote local food; and,



- Designate heritage bridges.
- 2. “Strengthen the Arts”
 - Continue to support the public art policy and encourage methods to support inclusion of public art in new developments.
- 3. “Strengthen Heritage”
 - Make built heritage conservation of the downtown a corporate priority; promote heritage streetscapes as important economic assets; continue to implement the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program;
 - Commission a heritage conservation district study for the downtown;
 - Encourage protection of heritage resources as part of OP Review; and,
 - Adopt and implement Archaeology Policy.
- 4. “Strengthen Downtown as Cultural Hub”
 - Ensure the OP Review includes high urban design standards and encourages development of urban design guidelines;
 - Provide incentives to support upper floor development in existing buildings;
 - Support OP policies related to the value of primary and secondary schools in the urban core as a way to stimulate residential intensification;
 - Introduce guidelines to incorporate crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) for new construction in the core area;
 - Reinforce the City’s Transportation Plan priorities for enhancing active forms of transportation (e.g. walking, cycling, transit) and creating a vibrant pedestrian-oriented environment in the downtown;
 - Explore “complete streets” policy for the City that supports active transportation and design of streets to accommodate all modes of transportation; and,
 - Create a public square as per the Central Area Master Plan.



5. “Incorporate Culture in All Neighbourhoods”

- Support cultural innovation in both existing and new neighbourhood infrastructure and design projects; and,
- Review how parks and open space is provided at the local neighbourhood level.

Transportation Plan Review (2012)

In 2012 the City updated its Major Transportation Plan which includes a 20-year plan for improvements to the City’s road, trail, and cycling networks. The plan places particular emphasis on promoting and supporting active transportation and alternative modes of transportation. Points and recommendations relevant to the Official Plan and land use planning include:

1. Phased implementation of Sidewalk Strategic Plan to construct a total of 400,000 metres of missing sidewalk links;
2. An additional 63 km of on-road cycling trails and an additional 24 km of off-road cycling trails to be built over the next 20 years;
3. City to develop a Complete Streets policy that provides access and mobility for all transportation modes and for all users such as seniors, those with disabilities, and children;
4. A target to increase transit’s mode share to 6%; and,
5. Incorporate a Transportation Demand Management Strategy that promotes active and sustainable modes and introduces land use policies that are conducive to these modes.

Sustainable Peterborough: Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (2012)

The Sustainable Peterborough Plan establishes a 25-year vision for the Peterborough region and sets Goals, Strategic Directions, and Priority Actions to foster healthy environments, people, and economies based on the vision of creating “caring communities balancing prosperity, well-being and nature.” The plan aims to guide the reduction of environmental impacts, strengthen our social and cultural networks, and increase our economic prosperity while promoting sustainable development, defined in the Plan as “development that

meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The points and recommendations relevant to the Official Plan and land use planning under each of the following goals in the Sustainable Peterborough Plan include:

1. ‘Land Use Planning’ Goal: We will support the building of sustainable, healthy, and diverse communities through planning policies and decisions that are developed and made in a transparent, open and accessible manner.
 - Support the creation of pedestrian-oriented communities that encompass all elements we need within our community;
 - Encourage sustainable land use that considers the net environmental impacts;
 - Place priority on brownfield redevelopment before greenfield development; encourage remediation of brownfield sites by offering reduced development charges;
 - Develop and implement neighbourhood design guidelines with a Complete Streets policy that ensures equal opportunities for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, public transportation, and automobiles;
 - Develop and implement a set of local green building or development standards to encourage more sustainable building practices and techniques;
 - Develop and use a Sustainability Screening Process/Checklist to assess development projects;
 - Tier development charges to lot and/or dwelling size to encourage smaller, higher density developments; and,
 - Establish a pedestrian only road in downtown.
2. ‘Healthy Communities’ Goal: We will be a community where everyone has the opportunity and support to achieve their physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual potential.
 - Increase the availability of affordable housing;



- Encourage health and social services that focus on preventative care, are accessible, and meet the needs of our community as it changes; and,
 - Allow secondary suites in new and existing housing.
3. 'Transportation' Goal: We will have an accessible transportation network that places priority on active and efficient modes of transportation.
- Provide accessible and active transportation opportunities that are attractive alternatives to the private automobile;
 - Enhance public transportation that is accessible, affordable, efficient, and effective to support the needs of the community;
 - Complete the proposed Short-Term Cycling Network as outlined in the City's Transportation Plan Update;
 - Convert abandoned rail corridors to recreational trails; and,
 - Develop consistent sidewalk policies for new developments, requiring sidewalks on both sides of the street.
4. 'Natural Assets' Goal: We will preserve, enhance, and restore our natural assets to maintain ecological health.
- Design and manage public green spaces in such a way as to maximize the presence and functions of natural systems;
 - Conserve, manage and enhance our natural areas to foster a diversity of native species and habitat;
 - Maintain and enhance the quality of our air;
 - Encourage environmental conservation and stewardship through implementation of municipal property tax exemptions for approved practices;
 - Adopt the 'Kawartha's...Naturally Connected' Natural Heritage Strategy and integrate it into Official Plans; and,
 - Increase green spaces in already built up areas through parkettes; convert underutilized areas into new green spaces.



5. 'Agriculture and Local Food' Goal: We will feed ourselves sustainably with local, healthy foods.
 - Facilitate the production, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of local, healthy food;
 - Consider encouraging roof top gardens in new buildings as a means of producing food;
 - Consider the passage of a bylaw that would permit the raising of poultry in an urban environment;
 - Increase the number of publicly accessible community gardens; and,
 - Establish a Kawartha Food Hub.
6. 'Energy' Goal: We will minimize the amount of energy we use and maximize the production of local, dependable sources of renewal energy.
 - Establish energy efficiency standards for all new development which would consider LEED certification in all new construction and for renovations with the City being a leader in the development of its own municipal buildings;
 - Investigate the possibility for financial incentives for developments that meet certain efficiency standards;
 - Develop a Community Energy Plan that incorporates energy conservation, management of demand for energy, and planning for renewable energy conservation; and,
 - Consider installing traffic roundabouts in place of traffic lights.
7. 'Cultural Assets' Goal: We will support, sustain, and promote a wide breadth of community cultures.
 - Support the Peterborough area as a centre for the arts;
 - Maintain and enhance our cultural spaces; support public art and creation of artistic hubs;
 - Recognize and celebrate our culture and diversity; and,
 - Maintain the character of our built heritage.



8. 'Climate Change' Goal: We will reduce our contributions to climate change while increasing our ability to adapt to climate change conditions.
 - o Become active members in the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) to establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions with a corresponding plan for achieving a set target in emissions reductions.
9. 'Economic Development & Employment' Goal: We will create and retain prosperity by providing investment and employment opportunities within sustainable local and global markets.
 - o Continue ongoing streetscape efforts using Hunter St W as an example; and,
 - o Support local businesses to transition to sustainable models/practices.
10. 'Waste' Goal: We will reduce the amount of waste we generate by using resources wisely.
11. 'Water' Goal: We will make use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

These documents were reviewed for the purpose of looking to incorporating the major recommendations and principles of each into the Official Plan. Overall, analysis of these strategic planning documents strongly indicates the desire of the Peterborough community to:

- Grow in a more environmentally sustainable and socially responsible way;
- Become a more active and healthy community with particular focus on an expanded trail and bikeway network;
- Maintain and enhance Peterborough's unique identity while preserving its heritage quality, particularly within the downtown; and,
- Sustain and preserve Peterborough's natural environment and open spaces.



3.0 PROVINCIAL PLANNING CONTEXT

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 352/02 made under the *Planning Act*, the City of Peterborough is required to adopt and maintain an Official Plan for areas within its political jurisdiction. Furthermore, the *Planning Act* requires the City to review its Official Plan at least every 5 years. Since the City's Official Plan was last reviewed, the Province of Ontario has made significant changes to the provincial land use regulatory framework through amendments to the *Planning Act*, issuance of a new Provincial Policy Statement in 2005, and the approval of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe in 2006. Also, some studies recently completed by various City departments have land use planning implications that are currently not reflected in the Official Plan. The City's review of the Official Plan will serve the purpose of not only ensuring that the Plan continues to reflect the changing priorities and issues of the community, but also that it's up-to-date and in compliance with the prevailing Provincial planning legislation.

3.1 *Planning Act*

The *Planning Act* provides the fundamental land use planning framework in Ontario. It governs the overall content and direction of official plans through section 16(1), which states that an official plan "*shall contain goals, objectives and policies established primarily to manage and direct physical change and the effects on the social, economic and natural environment of the municipality.*"

The *Planning Act* also identifies 17 matters of Provincial interest that City Council "shall have regard to" when carrying out their responsibilities under the *Act*, including the preparation and adoption of an official plan. These matters are:

1. The protection of ecological systems, including natural areas, features and functions;
2. The protection of agricultural resources of the Province;
3. The conservation and management of natural resources and the mineral resource base;
4. The conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest;
5. The supply, efficient use and conservation of energy and water;
6. The adequate provision and efficient use of communication, transportation, sewage and water services and waste management systems;



7. The minimization of waste;
8. The orderly development of safe and healthy communities;
9. The adequate provision and distribution educational, health, social, cultural and recreational facilities;
10. The adequate provision of a full range of housing;
11. The adequate provision of employment opportunities;
12. The protection of the financial and economic well-being of the province and its municipalities;
13. The co-ordination of planning activities of public bodies;
14. The resolution of planning conflicts involving public and private conflicts;
15. The protection of public health and safety;
16. The appropriate location of growth and development; and,
17. The promotion of development that is designed to be sustainable, to support public transit and to be oriented to pedestrians.

Since the Official Plan was last reviewed, the *Planning Act* has been amended by a number of Acts including:

- the Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2004;
- the Transportation Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005;
- the Clean Water Act, 2006;
- the Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006;
- the Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006;
- the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009;
- the Good Government Act, 2009; and,
- the Strong Communities Through Affordable Housing Act, 2011.

Some key provisions of those amendments include:

- A requirement for municipalities to establish policies and by-laws to permit secondary residential suites in detached, semi-detached and row houses as well as in accessory buildings;
- The ability for municipalities to require dedication of land for commuter parking lots, transit stations and related infrastructure as a condition of subdivision approval;
- An expanded scope of purposes for which a municipality can establish a community improvement program subject to enabling Official Plan policy;
- The ability for municipalities to impose exterior architectural controls through site plan approval subject to enabling Official Plan policy;
- A requirement for municipalities to prepare, publish, make available to the public and implement energy conservation and demand management plans for their corporate operations and facilities; and,
- A requirement for municipal land use planning to conform with mandatory sections of the Trent Source Water Protection Plan.

In accordance with the *Planning Act*, any update to the City of Peterborough Official Plan must contemplate and reflect the recent changes in Provincial direction in a locally-appropriate manner.

3.2 Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is issued under the authority of Section 3 of the *Planning Act* and provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The new PPS came into effect in 2005 with the basis of building strong communities, protecting the natural environment, and supporting a strong economy. The PPS states that healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained, in part, by promoting efficient development and land use patterns which sustain the financial well being of the Province and municipalities over the long term. The PPS further states that “*in implementing the Provincial Policy Statement, the Official Plan is the most significant vehicle for its implementation*” and on this basis, Official Plans are required to include policies that identify and protect Provincial interests. The *Planning Act* requires Official Plans to “be consistent with” the policy statement.

The PPS provides three umbrella principles and a series of supporting policies. The three principles of the PPS are:

1. Building Strong Communities - Efficient land use and development patterns that support liveable and healthy communities, protect the natural environment and public safety, and promote economic growth;
2. Wise Use and Management of Resources - In order to maintain the long-term prosperity of the Province, environmental health and social well-being depend on the protection of natural heritage, water, agriculture, mineral and cultural heritage and archaeological resources; and
3. Protecting Public Health and Safety – Development shall be directed away from areas of natural or human made hazards that pose the risk of public cost, safety, and property damage.

3.3 Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) is a provincial plan that came into effect in 2006 to establish a policy framework for managing growth in the GGH to the year 2031. With a vision to building stronger, more prosperous, and complete communities, the Growth Plan guides municipal and provincial decisions on a wide range of issues that include transportation, infrastructure planning, land use planning, urban form, housing, natural heritage, and resource protection. The Growth Plan intends to achieve this overall vision through specific policy directions that aim to:

- Revitalize downtowns to become vibrant and convenient centres;
- Create complete communities that offer more options for living, working, shopping, and playing;
- Provide greater choice in housing types to meet the needs of people at all stages in life;
- Curb urban sprawl and protect farmlands and greenspaces; and,
- Reduce traffic gridlock by improving access to a greater range of transportation choices.

The Growth Plan contains intensification and density targets that municipalities within the GGH must adopt into their Official Plans and plan to achieve. While these targets represent only a portion of the Growth Plan's requirements that



municipalities are expected to adopt into their Official Plans, these targets are its central component intending to create a compact urban form that maximizes the use of our new and existing infrastructure.

Overall, to conform to the policy directions of the Growth Plan and to achieve its mandatory development targets, the City of Peterborough will be required to optimize the land within its existing built areas by strategically intensifying growth through both infill and redevelopment. This marks a substantial shift in Peterborough's traditional growth patterns where a large proportion of its new residential development has been single-detached dwellings built at the City's edges. The City is therefore faced with the challenge of shifting its predominantly low-density residential development patterns into a more compact, transit-supportive urban form.

In 2009, the City amended portions of its Official Plan to conform to the policy directions of the Growth Plan. While these new planning policies adopted the Growth Plan philosophy of building more sustainable, complete communities into the City's Official Plan, they also committed the City to develop and implement further planning policies and strategies to enable it to better execute the policy directions of the Growth Plan. The Plan It Peterborough process provides an opportunity to further refine how the City of Peterborough will plan to achieve the policy directions of the Growth Plan in a locally-appropriate manner.

4.0 OFFICIAL PLAN POTENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIONS

The Staff Report – Plan It Peterborough Progress Update – received by Council on April 30, 2012 provided five themes that were predominant throughout the public and stakeholder consultation. This section will provide a more detailed discussion of these identified themes and identify potential policy directions on how each of these themes could be addressed in the Official Plan.

4.1 Theme 1: Complete, Healthy Communities

Through the Plan It Peterborough process, there has been a considerable amount of support expressed for development that creates more compact, complete and healthy communities. Specifically, Peterborough is envisioned as being a complete community that meets people's needs for daily living throughout an entire life time by providing convenient access to an appropriate mix of jobs, local services, a full range of housing and community infrastructure including affordable housing, schools, recreation and open space, while also providing convenient access to public transportation and options for safe, non-motorized travel.

Increasingly, the correlation between built form and personal health is being recognized and the development of more 'complete communities' is seen as a means to create healthier communities that promote higher levels of physical activity.

Through the Plan It Peterborough process, participants envisioned creating complete, healthy communities by:

1. Developing mixed-use neighbourhoods that are part of an integrated, vibrant and diverse community that includes a balance of housing, employment, community services, parks and open spaces all within walking distance;
2. Providing a range of housing that is inclusive of all incomes, ages and ethnicities;
3. Context appropriate intensification of existing residential areas downtown and along commercial corridors;
4. Designing connected street networks that are accessible for all modes of transportation;
5. Developing connected green spaces that provide both active and passive recreation opportunities;

6. Promoting neighbourhood/community hubs that provide various activities and services; and,
7. Increasing access to local food through support for community gardens and local farmers markets.

Major Policy Directions

The major policy directions for the Official Plan under the theme of 'Complete, Healthy Communities' can be further categorized into the following subthemes of:

1. Providing a Range of Housing Opportunities;
2. Providing Affordable Housing;
3. Facilitating Appropriate Intensification;
4. Planning For an Aging Population;
5. Supporting Community Infrastructure; and,
6. Safe, Inclusive Neighbourhood Design.

4.1.1 Providing a Range of Housing Opportunities

A key component of a complete community is the ability to provide residents with a variety of housing choices that suit their housing needs throughout all stages of life. Stakeholders expressed that all people should be able to access housing regardless of their social or economic background.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Promoting a variety of housing in neighbourhoods;
2. Creating a more inclusive policy framework that integrates housing for all ages, incomes and ethnicities within neighbourhoods;
3. Avoiding the concentration of housing for certain population groups;
4. Policies that provide for smaller, more compact forms of housing;
5. Creating opportunities to transition to alternate forms of housing;
6. Permitting secondary suites;

7. Allow third storey dwellings as of right in certain areas; and,
8. Tier development charges to lot and/or dwelling size to encourage smaller, higher density developments.

4.1.2 Providing Affordable Housing

The urgent need for more affordable housing in Peterborough has been expressed during the consultation as a large proportion of the City's households are currently spending a significant amount of their incomes on housing costs. Stakeholders identified that providing more affordable housing in the City will require additional policy flexibility and significant political leadership on the part of the City.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Creating policies for more diverse affordable housing and more integration of affordable housing within communities;
2. Incorporate recommendations and policies of Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network to address issues of poverty and homelessness;
3. Improve location of affordable housing in proximity to community hubs, schools and activities;
4. Create safe, affordable housing through better by-law enforcement of property standards;
5. Assess role of municipality in facilitating affordable housing through fast-tracked approval process;
6. Permit alternative development standards for affordable housing projects on a case-by-case basis and identify opportunities for developing alternative forms of residential products;
7. Advocate for senior levels of government support and incentives for affordable housing to offset development costs and create affordable units;
8. Continue to reduce parking requirements for affordable housing projects on a case-by-case basis;
9. Establish a "housing first" policy that considers the use of surplus municipal land for the construction of affordable housing first by private and non-profit development groups;

10. Recognize that “down-zoning” activity needs to be considered carefully in the light of its impact of reducing the land potentially available for affordable rental housing in the community;
11. Examine policies to help preserve existing rental housing stock;
12. Permit secondary suites in new subdivisions and offer incentives to homeowners to bring illegal accessory apartments into compliance;
13. Review existing group home policies with a view to reducing barriers imposed by distancing requirements and other such regulations;
14. The City’s current affordable housing target of 10% be amended to 25% of newly-created units to be achieved and monitored annually; and,
15. The Official Plan be amended to reflect the definition of “low income households” as those households in the lowest 40% of the renter household income distribution and that this definition of low income be reviewed annually using CMHC and Statistics Canada Census data.

4.1.3 Facilitating Appropriate Intensification

It was expressed during the public consultation that the City should develop as a more compact community that makes better use of its existing built up areas through redevelopment and intensification. People expressed the need to limit the outward growth of the City as a way to preserve its surrounding agricultural land and existing natural resources. However, stakeholders also stated that development within existing built areas should occur in a manner that is contextually appropriate and only targeted to certain areas of the City.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Planning for higher densities along corridors to encourage transit ridership and more accessible living opportunities;
2. Requiring high quality design for infill development that maintains quality of life within existing stable residential areas;
3. Intensifying downtown while maintaining the human scale of the built form with appropriate heights balanced with preserving green spaces and parks;
4. Focusing on mix of uses, with more living space above existing uses;
5. Creating and promoting incentives for adaptive re-use of underutilized sites to create attractive, unique living spaces;



6. Supporting and promoting brownfield remediation and redevelopment of former gas station and abandoned sites;
7. Review the areas currently designated for Low, Medium, and High Density residential purposes in the Official Plan;
8. Consider policies and land designations to protect established residential areas;
9. Identify new housing styles that may be more conducive to intensification and provide flexibility for incorporating these in existing built up areas;
10. Incorporate flexible policies with clear built form standards and upfront planning approvals to help avoid NIMBYism reaction and delays for small infill projects;
11. Develop policies to allow the City to regulate both minimum and maximum height and density of development;
12. Create more live-work opportunities in downtown and along busy corridors through use of stratified zoning where units can easily be converted from live to work and vice versa; and,
13. Develop a strategy to facilitate student and rental housing in existing built up areas in partnership with schools, developers and municipalities.

4.1.4 Planning For an Aging Population

Peterborough's population is the oldest of any Census Metropolis Area in Canada according to the 2011 Census and will age dramatically in the coming decades. Stakeholders expressed the need to more strategically plan to address the issues and opportunities associated with this aging population.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Plan for smaller, unique housing opportunities for seniors that promote 'aging in place' and are in close proximity or co-located with services, amenities and community hubs;
2. Create a safe and secure social and physical environment for an older population with supportive design standards (e.g. sidewalk policies, curb heights, park facilities);
3. Accessible, affordable and convenient public transportation is available to older adults to conduct their daily activities;

4. Supporting transitional housing and promoting age-friendly community design;
5. Create more affordable housing and long-term care facilities with support services for seniors;
6. Support an active lifestyle of seniors by increasing the availability and accessibility of social and recreational opportunities; and,
7. Recognize that there is both a short-term and long-term demand for an increase in health care services and related business opportunities in Peterborough.

4.1.5 Supporting Community Infrastructure

Community infrastructure refers to lands, buildings, and structures that support the quality of life for people and communities by providing public services for health, education, recreation, socio-cultural activities, security and safety, and affordable housing. These services should be available to all residents regardless of age, ability, interest, cultural background or income level. As Peterborough grows, the need was expressed that the City must ensure that an appropriate range of community infrastructure is planned to meet the community's needs and to foster a complete community. Stakeholders would like Peterborough to be a community where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual potential.

Potential Policy directions:

1. Creating community/neighbourhood hubs that provide core services within neighbourhoods including cultural, commercial, recreational, home businesses, etc in order to promote interaction between people of all ages;
2. Utilize existing buildings such as schools, churches, and vacant warehouses for more multi-purpose, adaptable community-based spaces and service hubs in order to promote local incubators for community organizations, business start-ups, child care, after-school activities, seniors programming, etc; and,
3. Provide accessible health and social services that focus on preventative care and the needs of our changing community.

4.1.6 Safe, Inclusive, Healthy Neighbourhood Design

The need to design neighbourhoods to be more healthy, inclusive and accessible to all age groups, especially children and seniors was identified by stakeholders. Residents expressed the particular desire for neighbourhood public spaces to be more effectively designed in order to foster a greater sense of community that creates healthier, safer, and more pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Creating more diversity in the communities with an increased mix of uses;
2. Maintaining a range of living experiences – low density to high including private green space associated with land development;
3. Facilitating healthy, active and accessible community planning design for people of all ages, particularly youth and seniors;
4. Take a pedestrian first design focus by encouraging complete streets and attractive streetscape planning with buildings closer to the street;
5. Create more public spaces and places that attract people and provide opportunities for connecting such as village squares, outdoor fountains, chess games, skating facilities, and cafes;
6. Establish more outdoor open assembly space in the downtown;
7. Promote the recreational use of stormwater management ponds;
8. Ensure shade protection is available at outdoor venues;
9. Utilize paved areas (e.g. parking lots) for multi-purpose space;
10. Provide more passive recreation opportunities through small parkettes;
11. Creating more green spaces and trail connections in subdivision planning;
12. Enforce property standards by-laws;
13. The City to consider developing a checklist to assess the health impacts of all proposed developments;
14. Promote development of grocery stores within walking distance of all neighbourhoods; and,
15. Develop policies to promote safe community design based on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

4.2 Theme 2: Environmental Sustainability

Along with the recent adoption of the Sustainable Peterborough: Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, there has been a considerable amount of support expressed for the City to promote environmentally sustainable growth that enhances the City's natural, social, and economic environment. For this to occur, residents would like the City to plan with a longer term vision that anticipates how the City should transition over the next 50 years. Stakeholders would like the City to consider its Official Plan policies through a 'sustainability lens' that aims to guide the reduction of its environmental impacts, strengthen its social and cultural networks, and increase its economic prosperity. This would contribute to "sustainable development", defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The implementation of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan will play a significant role in contributing to Peterborough's environmental sustainability into the future.

Through the Plan It Peterborough process, it was more specifically envisioned that Peterborough would grow in an environmentally sustainable manner by:

1. Protecting and enhancing its natural environmental systems, functions and resources over the long term;
2. Incorporating and promoting sustainable development practices and initiatives;
3. Supporting urban agriculture and providing more opportunities to grow food locally;
4. Supporting green, renewable energy sources and promoting energy conservation and waste management;
5. Protecting the City's urban forest;
6. Positioning the City to address issues of climate change while maintaining its air and water quality;
7. Promoting existing and new industrial parks and employment areas to transition to become more environmentally efficient; and,
8. Developing a sustainable servicing infrastructure system.

Major Policy Directions

The major policy directions for the Official Plan under the theme of 'Environmental Sustainability' can be further categorized into the following subthemes of:

1. Protect, Enhance and Expand Natural Areas/Green Spaces;
2. Promote Sustainable Building Design and Green, Alternative Energy;
3. Protect and expand the City's Urban Forest;
4. Planning for Access to Local Food;
5. Greening Industrial/Employment Areas; and,
6. Sustainable Servicing Infrastructure and Waste Management.

4.2.1 Protect, Enhance and Expand Natural Areas/Green Spaces

Of great importance to stakeholders is the need to protect, enhance, and expand connections within and between the City's natural areas and green spaces in order to maintain their ecological health. These are considered to be integral to the quality of life that City residents currently experience.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Reviewing existing policies to ensure that the protection of the natural environment is a priority going forward;
2. Design and manage public green spaces in such a way as to maximize the presence and functions of their natural systems;
3. Conserve, manage and enhance our natural areas to foster a diversity of native species and habitat;
4. Maintain and enhance the quality of our air;
5. Encourage environmental conservation and stewardship through implementation of financial incentives for approved practices;
6. Integrate the 'Kawartha's...Naturally Connected" Natural Heritage Strategy into the Official Plan;
7. Increase green spaces in already built up areas through small parkettes while considering converting underutilized areas into new green spaces;

8. Developing pedestrian-friendly green spaces that are accessible for both active and passive users;
9. Support multi-purpose use of green spaces by various groups while valuing green spaces as community hubs;
10. Continue connecting green spaces through an expanded and enhanced interconnected trail network;
11. Review and update parkland policies to reflect community needs and values in the context of creating smaller more localized neighbourhood parks or parkettes for all ages within communities;
12. Create more mid-sized parks and sports facilities that are within walking distance of neighbourhoods and schools;
13. Provide policy support for endangered animal and plant species and significant wildlife habitat;
14. Permit limited use of environmentally sensitive lands for trails and outdoor recreation;
15. Provide flexibility to include the creation of parkettes, linear parks, trails and smaller neighbourhood recreation areas as part of required parkland dedication;
16. Retrofit older neighbourhoods through park redevelopment, creation of smaller parks and connections between communities; and,
17. Review opportunities for the City and school boards to share the use of parks, athletic fields and school yard facilities.

4.2.2 Promote Sustainable Building Design and Green Energy

Stakeholders would like the City to promote and encourage sustainable building design in all development and to support green, alternative energy forms. The City should establish the goal of minimizing the amount of energy the community uses while maximizing the production of local, dependable sources of renewal energy. In this way the City would be looking to do its part in reducing its contributions to climate change while increasing its ability to adapt to climate change conditions.



Potential Policy Directions:

1. Develop and implement a set of local green building or development standards to encourage sustainable building practices and techniques for all new construction and for renovations;
2. The City should lead by example and incorporate sustainable building standards and practices within its own buildings and facilities;
3. Develop a Corporate and Community Energy Plan that incorporates energy conservation, management of demand for energy, and planning for renewable and district energy systems;
4. Develop more energy efficient subdivisions by orienting new lots to maximize sunlight exposure, minimizing light pollution, increasing use of energy efficient lighting, permitting green roofs, permitting gray water use, promoting use of rain barrels, minimizing tree loss and increasing tree planting, reducing non-permeable surfaces and utilizing native landscaping material, etc;
5. Retrofitting community to allow for solar panels in parking lots, on rooftops, on school properties and in public spaces;
6. Create policies to promote green roofs;
7. Investigate the possibility for financial incentives and zoning flexibilities for developments that meet certain efficiency standards;
8. Allow for synergies in mixed-use zones between building use and building systems, such as energy sharing between housing and commercial uses;
9. Consider installing traffic roundabouts in place of traffic lights;
10. Considering developing a 'Sustainable Development Checklist' that would be used to screen and assess all development applications;
11. Protect air quality by establishing and achieving a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and,
12. Developing policies that commit the City to both climate change adaptation and mitigation.



4.2.3 Protect and Expand the City's Urban Forest

The City recently adopted an Urban Forest Strategic Plan as a way to protect, conserve, and enhance the City's urban forest. The recommendations contained in this Plan should be looked at for integration into the City's Official Plan.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Defining and including a section on the term 'urban forest' in the City's Official Plan;
2. Creating heritage designation for trees and tree cutting by-laws;
3. Increase the amount of space available for tree planting in all new subdivision developments;
4. Recognize the urban forest as a critical element of the City's green infrastructure in the Official Plan;
5. Include a definition of the term 'Urban Forest' in the Official Plan;
6. Amend the Official Plan to include a section directly related to the Urban Forest and that the OP recognize the Urban Forest Strategic Plan as the mechanism by which urban_forest management is guided;
7. That all sections of the Official Plan relevant to the 'Urban Forest' be reviewed and updated to recognize and include the term;
8. Investigate the development of a by-law to maintain the Urban Forest with no net loss;
9. Implement a mechanism for replacing losses to the Urban Forest either on the developed site, at an off-site location as directed by the City, or by providing a monetary contribution to a reserve fund that would be used to plant trees on City-owned land to replace the trees lost through development and construction;
10. Development applications that impact the health and condition of significant trees should provide an Arborist report on their health, condition, and value prior to development approval; and,
11. Create an incentive program for developers who develop sites that preserve and protect the integrity of existing significant trees.

4.2.4 Planning for Access to Local Food

Through the Plan It Peterborough process it grew evident that there is a growing interest and movement in the community to grow and purchase and increase access to local food. As a result, the need to provide further support for urban agriculture and a local, sustainable food system was identified. Stakeholders would like residents to be able to feed themselves sustainably with local, healthy foods.

Potential Policy directions:

1. Identifying and protecting food growing land from development;
2. Plant fruit trees in public areas and consider encouraging roof top gardens in new buildings as a means of producing food;
3. Allow and promote community gardens in public spaces and on rooftops;
4. Increase the number of publicly accessible community gardens;
5. Create a permanent downtown farmers market;
6. Create opportunities for access to local food markets within neighbourhoods;
7. Provide support for community kitchens in order to provide opportunities for residents to collaborate and learn cooking skills;
8. Supporting neighbourhood fresh produce stands in locations throughout the City;
9. Identify opportunities for farmers markets within City parks and neighbourhoods to promote local food and community interaction;
10. Fostering connections with regional agricultural producers;
11. Supporting food growing and sharing in neighbourhoods;
12. Consider a bylaw that would permit the raising of backyard chickens in an urban environment; and,
13. Look to establish a community food hub in a central downtown location to provide a community meeting space where people of all incomes can access nutritious food.



4.2.5 Greening Industrial/Employment Areas

Promoting existing and new industrial parks and employment areas to become greener and more environmentally efficient would significantly help the City in becoming more environmentally sustainable over the long-term. Stakeholders expressed the significant opportunity that exists to leverage business growth in green businesses and alternative energy. The City should explore the potential for the development of eco-industrial parks, which are defined as industrial parks in which businesses cooperate with each other and the local community in an attempt to reduce waste and air pollution, efficiently share resources such as information, materials, water, energy, infrastructure, and natural resources, and help achieve sustainable development with the intention of increasing economic gains and improving environmental quality.

Potential Policy Directions

1. Review servicing standards and consider policies to encourage development of new eco-industrial parks and for existing industrial parks and employment areas to transition to become more environmentally efficient and sustainable;
2. Major employment areas should be integrated into the City's public transit and trail networks with facilities in place to promote alternative modes of transportation;
3. Orient buildings to front onto public streets as close to the street line as possible to enhance access for pedestrians and cyclists;
4. Encourage higher-density employment and a mix of uses where appropriate, along designated transit corridors within employment and industrial areas;
5. Consider establishing minimum density thresholds in industrial and employment areas, where appropriate;
6. Support businesses to transition to sustainable models/practices; and
7. Plan employment areas to be transit-supportive, with a compact built form that minimizes non-permeable surface parking lots and maximizes tree planting to help reduce the urban heat island effect.

4.2.6 Sustainable Servicing Infrastructure and Waste Management

A sustainable servicing infrastructure system is important to stakeholders as they expressed that it should be the goal of the City to make use of its water in a way that enhances its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use it to drink, fish, and swim. Stakeholders would also like to see the greater use of waste management practices that promote an efficient use of resources and reduce the amount of waste that we generate.

Potential Policy Directions

1. Support and encourage new technologies and approaches to innovative stormwater and wastewater management servicing solutions;
2. Develop source water protection policies to conform with Source Water Protection Act legislation;
3. The City to co-ordinate its planning for potable water, stormwater and wastewater systems with surrounding municipalities in order to ensure that water quality and quantity is maintained and improved;
4. Promote water demand management and water recycling for the efficient use and re-use of water;
5. Support enhanced waste reduction, composting, and recycling initiatives and the identification of new opportunities for source reduction, re-use, and diversion; and,
6. Promote xeroscaping, naturalized areas, and naturalized ditches and swales for stormwater runoff and retention.

4.3 Theme 3: Economic Strength

There is a desire to create more employment opportunities in Peterborough and particularly, to create more stable full-time jobs to offset today's prevalence of contracted work. It was noted that there needs to be more of a balance between both residential and employment growth to ensure that the community does not become solely a commuter or retirement area. Stakeholders want Peterborough to remain a community where people can have opportunities to both live and work. The City should aim to create and retain prosperity by providing investment and employment opportunities within sustainable local and global markets.

Specific recommendations on how Peterborough can strengthen its local economy include:

1. Promote innovative employment opportunities that leverage the City's strengths in an increasingly knowledge-based, creative economy;
2. Develop and promote a 'business brand' for the City as its local economy shifts further away from a focus on traditional manufacturing;
3. Protect employment areas over the long term by maintaining supply of employment land and employment infrastructure;
4. Create a more integrated community with more live/work opportunities and local neighbourhood employment opportunities;
5. Foster and strengthen partnerships between post-secondary institutions and major employers to facilitate economic growth; and,
6. Promote and support tourism, renewable technologies and green businesses.

Major Policy Directions

The major policy directions for the Official Plan under the theme of 'Economic Strength' can be further categorized into the following subthemes of:

1. Supporting Innovative Employment Opportunities;
2. Protecting Employment Areas;
3. Foster and Strengthen Partnerships;
4. Promoting and Supporting Tourism; and,
5. Developing a 'Business Brand' for the City.

4.3.1 Supporting Innovative Employment Opportunities

As the City's local economy shifts away from its reliance on traditional manufacturing in a more knowledge-based, creative economy, there is a need to support more innovative forms of employment. This would allow the City to better leverage its competitive advantages. For instance, the presence of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Trent University, and Fleming College provides an opportunity for synergies and opportunities in research and innovation that could be capitalized upon for new business and employment growth.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Encouraging business location and expansion for a variety of sectors;
2. Explore opportunities for innovative employment such as clusters, think tanks, small incubators, studio space on the ground floor with offices and residential above, loft work space, and shared space;
3. Provide zoning flexibilities to ensure that a full range of opportunities for small and large businesses are permitted;
4. Relax zoning requirements for industrial areas to permit diverse uses;
5. Continue to promote Peterborough as a community that is attractive to creative individuals such as artists and musicians;
6. Encourage provision of infrastructure to attract jobs and quality;
7. Plan for communication/technology uses as a key driver of economic growth (i.e. location and permission for cell towers);
8. Encourage development of small local neighbourhood stores and businesses;
9. Plan for a variety of uses with more live/work home-based businesses, community and commercial uses;
10. Creating small office centres in neighbourhoods to promote business growth e.g. copy shops, coffee shops, small work spaces within communities, located near day cares, churches, and other community space;
11. Consider subsidizing development charges for new industry;
12. Identify opportunities to attract new industry spin-offs; and,
13. Provide assistance to retain and support existing businesses.

4.3.2 Protecting Employment Areas

Peterborough must have sufficient employment areas available to sustain future employment growth. In recent years, retail trade has gained prominence as an employment sector in Peterborough with the introduction of a number of big-box style retailers and the current expansion of Lansdowne Place mall. Like in many other municipalities, the rise of big box retailing has created pressure to convert industrial and office commercial lands for retail purposes. Municipalities must



protect and preserve employment areas and the Growth Plan for the GGH provides strict policy governing the conversion of such lands to non-employment uses.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Ensure that there is enough designated land for a variety of employment uses with the potential for servicing;
2. Consider creating standards for changes to employment land uses; and,
3. Review and identify additional lands needed to ensure a ready supply of serviced employment land.

4.3.3 Foster and Strengthen Partnerships

In an increasingly knowledge-based economy, the City should strategically look to leveraging economic growth through the fostering and strengthening of partnerships within and between institutions and major employers such as Trent University, Fleming College, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Leverage and promote partnerships with nearby municipalities by reviewing opportunities for business retention and growth through synergies that support new large scale industrial use in surrounding townships;
2. Work with post-secondary institutions to create opportunities for population and employment growth;
3. Expand connections with Trent and Fleming in cluster-based research and innovation;
4. Develop stronger partnerships between Trent University and downtown to integrate innovation, learning and enterprise within the built up area; and,
5. Consider Trent University's request for services to be extended to the east bank of their lands.

4.3.4 Promoting and Supporting Tourism

Peterborough is attractive as a destination for tourism due to its natural environment and richness of its lakes, trails, parks and proximity to cottages. Stakeholders identified tourism as a potential growth sector with opportunities to further capitalize on the City's cultural and natural heritage features and vibrant downtown.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Develop policies to recognize that tourism is vital to the strength of Peterborough's local economy;
2. Develop more tourism infrastructure in the downtown to leverage strengths and attract more people and companies into the City's core;
3. Consider designating the community as a tourist area that would see all services provided on holidays; and,
4. Recognize that there are further opportunities for Peterborough's tourism industry to be focused on eco-tourism, active living and history of the Area.

4.3.5 Developing a 'Business Brand' for the City

The City has an excellent quality of living and is well positioned as a regional hub for business and shopping. However, stakeholders expressed that a "business brand" that markets and promotes Peterborough as an excellent community for businesses to invest in and for people (particularly immigrants) to locate to is not very well established. There are concerns that Peterborough is viewed as only a blue collar town and a marketing campaign that promotes its emerging knowledge economy should be undertaken in order to better position the City to attract professionals and research and innovation. There is a need to create a brand that would emphasize Peterborough's competitive advantages that set it apart from other cities.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Consider Official Plan policies in consultation with stakeholders that establish Peterborough's 'business brand' that can be marketed and used to stimulate population and employment growth;
2. Recognize that attracting newcomers (both immigrants and other Canadians) is essential for sustained population and employment growth;

3. The City's 'business brand' should reflect Peterborough's niche opportunities for employment growth that include:
 - Health care services;
 - Expansion of the Peterborough Airport;
 - Green and alternative energy;
 - Environmentally-focused, sustainable businesses;
 - Innovative and specialized high-end manufacturing; and,
 - Clean water technology.

4.4 Theme 4: Unique and Vibrant Places and Spaces

People expressed the strong desire for Peterborough to maintain and enhance the unique characteristics of the City that currently enable residents to enjoy a high quality of life. During the consultation, it was expressed that residents want Peterborough to maintain the distinct identity that presently distinguishes it from cities in the Greater Toronto Area. To preserve and enhance Peterborough's unique identity, it was expressed that development should occur in a careful and balanced way. The implementation of the City's Municipal Cultural Plan will play a significant role in the creation of unique and vibrant places and spaces in Peterborough.

Specific recommendations to create and enhance unique and vibrant places and spaces include:

1. Sustaining a vibrant downtown with new development that preserves its heritage value and supports existing stores and destinations;
2. Recognizing and enhancing the inherent and unique aspects of Peterborough and creating focal points, gateways, experiences and landmarks;
3. Preserving and celebrating Peterborough's cultural and natural heritage; and,
4. Striving for high urban design standards in the public and private realm.

Major Policy Directions

The recommended major policy directions for the Official Plan under the theme of 'Economic Strength' can be further categorized into the following subthemes of:

1. Revitalizing Peterborough's Downtown;
2. Achieving a High Level of Urban Design;

3. Preserving and Enhancing Our Cultural Heritage; and,
4. Supporting Arts and Culture.

4.4.1 Revitalizing Peterborough's Downtown

The downtown is a valuable asset and key destination for business and employment and was identified by many to be their favourite place within the City. The need for the City's downtown to remain a focus for redevelopment and revitalization was therefore emphasized.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Implement Central Area Master Plan strategies that include re-locating the canoe museum downtown and the development of an urban square for multi-purpose use;
2. Continue ongoing streetscape improvements using Hunter St café district as an example;
3. Provide a variety of housing options to attract more people to live downtown with a focus on young professionals and seniors;
4. Support schools and educational programming in the downtown as a way to encourage downtown density and to support a business and family environment;
5. Intensifying downtown through use of upper stories for residential and new condominium development;
6. Provide more convenient, accessible and affordable parking in the downtown;
7. Consider diagonal parking on one side of the street, wider sidewalks and narrower streets to promote a more pedestrian friendly, walkable environment;
8. Improve evening safety with better lighting and more evening attractions;
9. Create a permanent downtown farmers market;
10. Supporting growth in downtown business through innovative permissive policies;
11. Supporting an enhanced university presence downtown;



12. Developing more places like Millennium Park and the Silver Bean Café that are fully integrated, comfortable and attractive community spaces;
13. Encouraging the reuse of underutilized buildings and redevelopment of vacant and/or derelict sites such as those along Bethune Street;
14. Building on model of “Our Space” to increase safe places for people to access downtown;
15. Provide zoning flexibilities to provide a greater mix of housing, commercial and community uses;
16. Concentrate and encourage cultural and entertainment uses in the downtown to take advantage of existing shops and services;
17. Strengthen official plan policy to support the location of commercial offices in the downtown to attract employment;
18. Improve walking trail from Little Lake to restaurants on Hunter Street;
19. Improve connectivity between the waterfront and downtown;
20. Maintain heritage quality of downtown;
21. Update urban design standards for downtown commercial uses to encourage renovation and redevelopment;
22. Reduce parking requirements in the downtown to allow for alternate use of the downtown space;
23. Create express routes through or around the City to alleviate downtown motorized traffic;
24. Redevelopment of Market Plaza for conference/retail/residential; and,
25. Recovery of Jackson Creek in downtown Peterborough.

4.4.2 Achieving a High Level of Urban Design

Urban design is the collective term used to describe the process of designing and shaping cities, towns and villages. Whereas architecture focuses on individual buildings, urban design addresses the larger scale of groups of buildings, of streets and public spaces, whole neighbourhoods and districts, and entire cities, with the aim of making urban areas more functional, attractive and sustainable. Stakeholders expressed their desire to have the City planned to achieve a high level of urban design with age-friendly policies to improve the look and feel of



Peterborough while enhancing the accessibility of places for youth and seniors. While the City's Official Plan currently does not provide any specific urban design guidelines, the City has Site and Building Design Guidelines for the downtown that are in need of updating.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Develop stringent urban design and age-friendly policies in the Official Plan to ensure that buildings and places add to the experience of the pedestrian and enhance the mobility and accessibility for youth and seniors;
2. Promote sustainable, healthy and active community and building design standards;
3. Establish pedestrian and trail networks upfront during initial planning stages of new subdivisions;
4. Promote alternative and renewable energy in new subdivisions;
5. Create more public spaces that are attractive, comfortable and welcoming;
6. Leveraging architectural control for enhanced buildings and streetscapes;
7. Control and manage signage; and,
8. Consider the use of a Development Permit System to achieve enhanced levels of urban design in certain areas of the City.

4.4.3 Preserving and Enhancing Our Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage resources are the roots of the community. They may include structures, sites or landscapes that either individually or collectively are of historical, architectural, archaeological or scenic value. Cultural heritage resources may also represent intangible heritage such as customs, ways of life, values and activities. Residents would like these cultural heritage resources to be preserved and enhanced as they paint the history of the City and provide identity and character while instilling pride and contributing to economic prosperity.

Potential Policy Directions

1. Maintain character of our built heritage by continuing to protect and designate buildings, structures and landscapes of heritage value;
2. Continue to implement the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program;



3. Update Official Plan policies to reflect changes made to the Ontario Heritage Act in 2005;
4. Promote heritage streetscapes as important economic assets;
5. Explore the designation of the downtown or other areas of the City as heritage conservation districts in order to preserve heritage value;
6. Encourage the preservation of cultural heritage resources through the adaptive re-use of structures;
7. Develop policies to preserve significant archaeological resources and cultural heritage landscapes; and,
8. Develop policies to require the completion of a Heritage Impact Statement for any development that has the potential to impact a cultural heritage resource.

4.4.4 Supporting Arts and Culture

Peterborough recently adopted its first Municipal Cultural Plan which focused on the role of arts and culture in creating a more livable, sustainable community. Stakeholders would like the City to support, sustain, and promote a wide breadth of community cultures.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Assess and develop policies to implement the recommendations contained in Peterborough's Municipal Cultural Plan;
2. Promote location of more cultural destinations downtown such as the Canoe Museum;
3. Implement a public art policy and encourage inclusion of public art in new developments;
4. Support cultural innovation in both existing and new neighbourhood infrastructure and design projects;
5. Support the Peterborough area as a centre for the arts;
6. Maintain and enhance our cultural spaces and support creation of artistic hubs; and,
7. Recognize and celebrate our cultural diversity.

4.5 Theme 5: Connectivity and Mobility

Stakeholders would like Peterborough to have a transportation network that is efficient and accessible to all modes of transportation. The City recently updated its Major Transportation Plan which provides a 20-year plan for improvements to the City's road, trail, and cycling networks. The plan places particular emphasis on promoting and supporting active and alternative modes of transportation, reflecting one of the main desires coming out of the Plan It Peterborough consultation.

Specific recommendations for planning Peterborough's transportation network include:

1. Plan for transit, active transportation, and pedestrian-oriented development with less focus on the private automobile; and,
2. Promote connectivity, mobility and accessibility within and between neighbourhoods, employment areas, parks and open spaces.

Major Policy Directions

The major policy directions for the Official Plan under the theme of 'Connectivity and Mobility' can be further categorized into the following subthemes:

1. Promoting Active, Alternative Modes of Transportation;
2. Promoting Pedestrian-Oriented Development;
3. Incorporating Accessibility into New and Existing Development; and,
4. Improving Road and Major Transportation Connections.

4.5.1 Promoting Active, Alternative Modes of Transportation

It was strongly expressed through the public and stakeholder consultation that residents would like priority to be placed on expanding and enhancing the City's trail networks in order to promote active, alternative modes of transportation while creating a healthier, sustainable community.

Potential Policy Directions

1. Expand trail network and connections within neighbourhoods and throughout the City;
2. Convert abandoned rail corridors into recreational trails;



3. Transform Bethune Street into a trail corridor in the downtown that connects Rotary, Crawford, and Jackson trails;
4. Provide accessible and active transportation opportunities that are attractive alternatives to the private automobile;
5. Consider policies that make it less convenient to drive a car;
6. Enhance public transportation that is accessible, affordable, efficient, and effective to support the needs of the community;
7. Retrofit existing built areas to become more transit-supportive;
8. Complete the proposed Short-Term Cycling Network as outlined in the City's Transportation Plan Update;
9. Incorporate changes made to the City's recently updated Major Transportation Plan into the Official Plan (e.g. the 6% mode share to transit that has been approved by Council);
10. Create a safer environment for cyclists by having physically separated bike lanes on all arterials; begin with busier roads such as Sherbrooke St, George St, Water St, Lansdowne St, Parkhill Rd;
11. Permit a wide variety of higher density uses to locate along arterial and collector roads serving as transit routes, and within walking distance of major transit stations;
12. The location of major trip generators and uses frequented by transit-dependents such as seniors and those with lower incomes, should be decided in conjunction with the selection of transit routes and bus stop locations;
13. Transit operators should be consulted with when reviewing development applications for transit-dependent uses, to determine the location of transit routes and stops in relation to the proposed development and the adequacy of transit services to the site;
14. Identify major transit routes in Official Plan and/or secondary plans;
15. Consider adopting density targets for identified intensification corridors;
16. Review parking standards in areas with good transit service and develop a system whereby developers can "exchange" parking spaces for provision of transit/pedestrian/bicycle amenities;

17. Increasing accessibility to transit with more frequency and flexibility in service and better information about service schedule at stops;
18. Incorporate a Transportation Demand Management Strategy that promotes active and sustainable modes and introduces land use policies that are conducive to these modes;
19. Complete the trail around Little Lake with separate lanes for pedestrians and cyclists;
20. Use site plan control to evaluate how development applications contribute to transit-supportive environments; and,
21. Incorporate a 'Complete Streets' policy into transportation planning that ensures all streets are designed, built, operated, and maintained in a way that takes into consideration the needs of all users: pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and motorists.

4.5.2 Promoting Pedestrian-Oriented Development

Pedestrian oriented development provides clear, comfortable pedestrian access to commercial and residential areas and transit stops. It is achieved through a combination of design practices that support compact, mixed-use development, traffic calming measures, and a mix of housing types. Stakeholders expressed that this transition to pedestrian- and transit-oriented development would help eliminate quality of life impediments such as congestion and air pollution, loss of open space, costly road maintenance and public health services, inequitable distribution of economic resources, and loss of sense of community.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Create a strong policy focus on the pedestrian environment for all ages, all incomes, all abilities and all weather conditions;
2. Official plans, or subdivision guidelines adopted by the municipality, should state that a significant majority of residences, jobs or other activities/uses should be located within a 400 metre walk of a transit stop;
3. Develop consistent sidewalk policies for new developments, requiring sidewalks on both sides of the street with safe crossings mid-block and at corners;
4. Implement traffic calming techniques to create a safer pedestrian environment and reduce motor vehicle traffic;



5. Create pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and paths that physically separate pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles;
6. Creating more publically walkable space along the waterfront;
7. Implement the City's Sidewalk Strategic Plan;
8. Include requirement for pedestrian infrastructure (e.g. benches, rest areas, lighting) in neighbourhoods and parks throughout the City;
9. Reconstruct various downtown streets similar to what was done along Hunter St with wider sidewalks, pedestrian infrastructure and buried utilities;
10. Increase park space in neighbourhoods through small parkettes, village squares and community gardens;
11. Discourage automobile-oriented uses such as drive-throughs which detract from the character and function of nodes and negatively affect the pedestrian environment;
12. Support grid pattern of streets and consider placement of roundabouts instead of four way stops or traffic lights; and,
13. Consider closing off certain streets to cars during various City events and festivals.

4.5.3 Incorporating Accessibility into New and Existing Development

With Peterborough's rapidly aging population, stakeholders expressed the need to incorporate accessibility into new and existing development. The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) became law in 2005 to develop, implement and enforce mandatory accessibility standards in key areas of daily living. Stakeholders stated that in a more accessible built environment, people will be able to live independently or at least with less need for assistance in order to complete the normal activities of daily living.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Develop Official Plan policies to require new and existing development to comply with AODA legislation;
2. Ensure that streets and trails are accessible throughout the year;
3. Promote the development of barrier- free housing;

4. Ensure that all municipal buildings are built to accessible standards;
5. Improving accessibility to employment through transit, car pooling, cycling and walking;
6. Address transportation needs for physically challenged by improving accessibility through design and service improvements; and,
7. Locate seniors facilities in proximity to services and transit.

4.5.4 Improving Road and Major Transportation Connections

Stakeholders would like to see transportation improvements that would provide more efficient connections both within the City and to surrounding areas in Peterborough County and the Greater Toronto Area. This is because efficient transportation networks are seen as a key driver for business retention and growth.

Potential Policy Directions:

1. Promote increased connectivity of transportation networks for all modes between the City and surrounding areas such as the County and GTA;
2. Consider public transit service to surrounding rural areas;
3. Support increased rail connections to promote passenger and goods movement;
4. Increased bus connections for passengers;
5. Increased holiday transit service to support tourism in the downtown and to key destinations in the City;
6. Develop a more efficient north to east truck traffic movement in the City;
7. Improving road network with more efficient north to south movements;
8. Establish an interconnected network of streets in new developments and retrofit existing areas to maximize routing options between destinations;
9. Extend new streets and block connections across property lines and design networks to link with existing and proposed streets within the community;



10. Design or retrofit street networks so that a significant majority of residents or jobs are located within walking distance (e.g. 400 metres or approximately 5 minutes) from a transit stop;
11. Plan for higher street intersection densities and minimize block lengths to promote greater connectivity for automobiles and to enhance the walkability of neighbourhoods;
12. Design local streets to minimize the need for backtracking and provide direct pedestrian access to primary streets, transit stops and stations where possible; and,
13. Avoid creation of dead-end streets or cul-de-sacs to maximize street connectivity.

5.0 CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

This report sets out an overall vision for how the community would like Peterborough to grow and develop over the next 20 years. It presents and summarizes the potential policy directions for each of the five key themes that were predominant throughout the Plan It Peterborough consultation and in the various strategic planning documents. A series of Official Plan Amendments will be prepared to address each of these themes and translate these general directions and overall community vision into specific Official Plan land use policy. This process will also provide numerous opportunities for more focused public input and stakeholder consultation.

PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH

Help plan the city's future!

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING CITY OF PETERBOROUGH OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Peterborough, sitting as Planning Committee, will hold a Special Public Meeting pursuant to Section 26(3)(b) of the Planning Act, RSO, 1990, c. P.13 (as amended) as follows:

Monday, March 4, 2013

6:30pm

**Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Office
1994 Fisher Drive**

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING is to provide the public an opportunity to identify and discuss revisions that may be required to update the current City of Peterborough Official Plan.

The meeting will include a brief presentation from City Planning Staff to present the findings of the Plan It Peterborough Official Plan Review public consultation program which commenced in 2011 and to highlight planning changes that have occurred since the last comprehensive review of the Official Plan.

A copy of the current Official Plan is available for review at the Planning Division, City Hall or on the Plan It Peterborough section of the City's website at www.peterborough.ca/planit.

Other public meetings and open houses will be scheduled over the coming months as part of the formal amendment process to update the Official Plan. Notice of these meetings will be posted to the City of Peterborough website and local newspapers.

ANY PERSON may attend the special public meeting and/or provide written or a verbal representation. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may provide written comments by submitting them to the address below.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION relating to this matter may be obtained from the Planning Division, City Hall, (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday), by visiting the Plan It Peterborough website at www.peterborough.ca/planit, or by contacting the Planning Department at 705-742-7777 – Ken Hetherington at ext. 1781 (email khetherington@peterborough.ca) or Brad Appleby at ext. 1886 (email bappleby@peterborough.ca).

A copy of the agenda for the special public meeting of Planning Committee, including a Staff report and any attachments, will be available by 12 Noon on **Friday, March 1, 2013**.

Dated at the City of Peterborough this 26th day of January and 2nd day of February, 2013.



John Kennedy, City Clerk
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