



# Unity Plan: Huntsville's Guide to a Sustainable Future

## Community Forum 2 Summary Report

Wednesday, March 16, 2010, 7-9pm  
Algonquin Theatre  
Huntsville Civic Centre  
37 Main Street East, Huntsville, ON

The following Summary Report was prepared by Lura Consulting. Lura is a third-party, working with the Town of Huntsville and the community to develop the Town of Huntsville's Unity Plan. The Report closely follows the agenda and happenings of the second community forum, held on March 16, 2010. The report is not meant as a verbatim transcript, and is subject to review. If you have any questions or comments regarding the summary, please contact:

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## **1. Background on the Town of Huntsville’s Sustainability Plan**

The Town of Huntsville and Lura Consulting are working together to establish a sustainability plan (“Unity Plan”) for the Town. This project will lay the foundation for Huntsville’s future through an extensive community planning process that will identify a vision, measurable goals, strategic directions and associated actions for implementation.

## **2. Welcome, Structure and Purpose of the Meeting**

Liz Nield of Lura Consulting started the meeting, outlined the structure for the session and introduced Susan Hall, Project Director and Michele Locke, Sustainability Consultant. The purposes of the meeting were:

- To present the draft Vision statement
- To present the draft goals and objectives of the Unity Plan
- To provide an overview of the current conditions in the Town
- To identify actions for the goals and strategies identified

Liz Nield introduced members of the Working Group: Colleen MacDonald, Teri Souter, Councillor Fletcher, Councillor Greaves, Andrea Smith, and Mike Harrower and thanked them for their hard work and efforts to date. She then thanked members of Council in attendance.

## **3. Presentation**

Susan Hall provided an overview of the plan development process to date including the key sustainability theme areas identified and the goals and strategies under each of these themes. Participants were briefly updated on the current conditions under these goals. A pdf copy of the presentation is available for download at [www.huntsville.ca](http://www.huntsville.ca) .

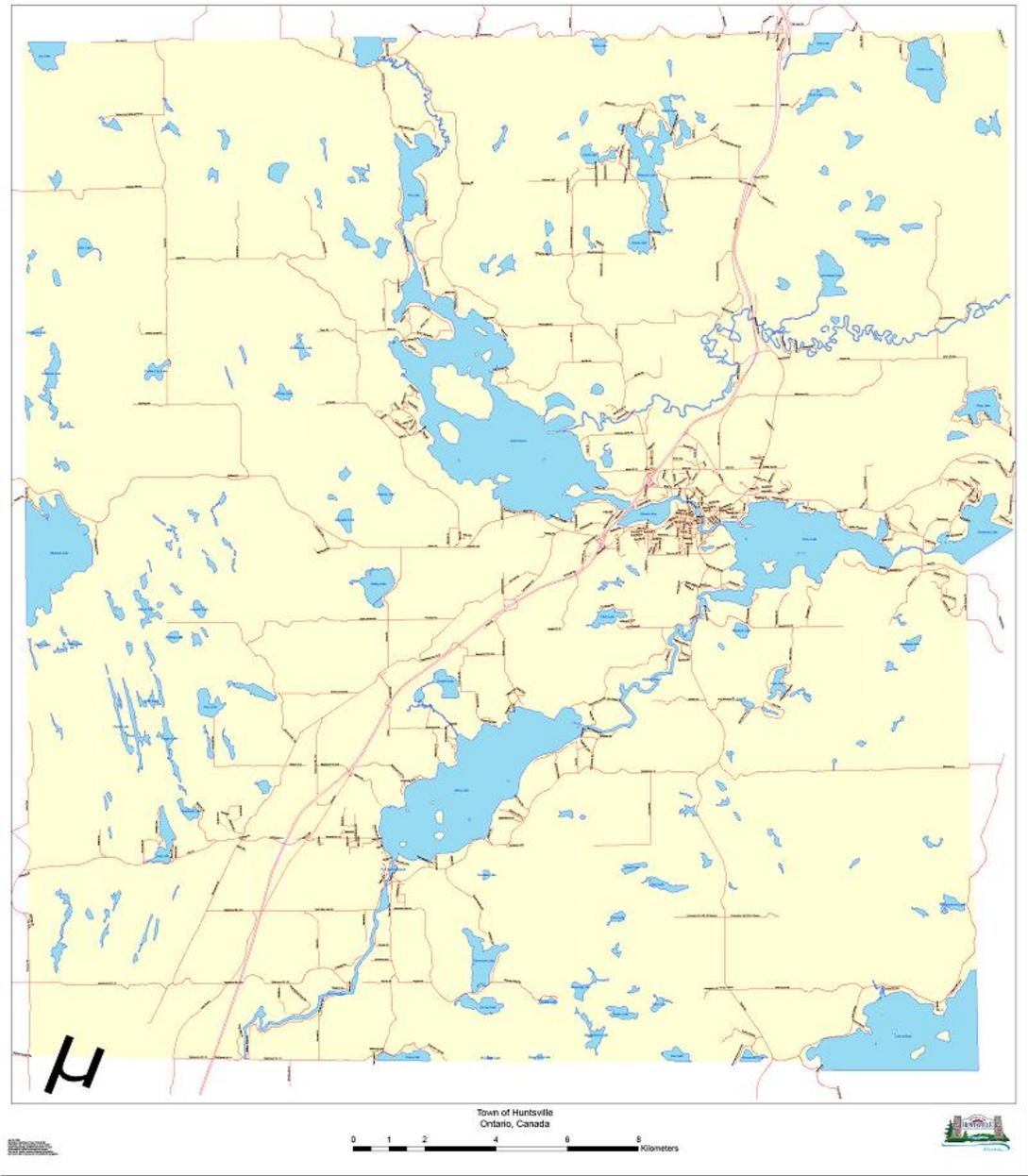
## **4. Working Session**

Participants were invited to participate in a World Café discussion session to discussion and identify actions for the Unity Plan.

Participants were also encouraged to mark on the map where they lived (see section 4.1), review the draft sustainability principles posted on the walls and provide any comments (see section 4.2), invited to sign their names to the Community Commitment (see section 4.3), as well as comment on the Draft Vision Statement (see section 4.4).

**4.1 The Study Area**

Participants at the meeting were asked to place a dot indicating where they reside. As Lura consults with the community, we will ask \participants to add their location to the map. This will give an indication of which areas of Huntsville are participating and where Lura will need to focus our efforts for outreach to gather input from those under represented areas to be sure that everyone in Huntsville has an opportunity to participate in the community-based sustainability plan.



## 4.2 Draft Sustainability Principles

The following Draft Sustainability Principles were posted and attendees were encouraged to provide final comments and suggestions.

1. Provide a long term guide for this community that balances economic, environment, and social needs.
2. Provide a high quality of life for everyone in the community.
3. Achieve a strong and resilient economy and a thriving social environment.
4. Protect and restore biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Provide this community with the necessary tools to be good stewards of the environment.
5. Build upon the positive characteristics of this community including its human and cultural values, history, and its natural and economic systems.
6. Foster participation and enable a collaborative effort to work toward a common, sustainable future.
7. Enable continual improvement of the sustainability plan through ongoing monitoring of plan performance and community needs.

*The plan is just the beginning...*

There were no comments received on the principles.

## 4.3 Community Commitment

The following community commitment was posted asking participants to pledge their contribution to the development of the plan.

*“I will make a conscious choice to participate in the Unity Pla:, A Guide to a Sustainable Huntsville. I understand that making a difference and being good stewards of our community can be as easy as a few changes in my daily routine. I want to join Huntsville Town Council in caring and protecting for our town, our country and our world and work towards a better future.*

*I pledge to get involved in the planning and implementation of The Unity Plan: A Guide to a Sustainable Huntsville.”*

27 participants signed the Community Commitment at the Community Forum 1 and additional participants added their signatures to the document during Community Forum 2.

## 4.4 Town of Huntsville’s Draft Vision Statement

The following Vision statement was presented and participants were asked to provide comment. The Vision statement was crafted based on the input received from the community and working group to date.

*Huntsville is a vibrant, welcoming and healthy place to live and play as we foster innovation, celebrate arts, culture and heritage, develop a strong and resilient economy and follow an ethic of social caring and environmental stewardship.*

Participants noted that the word recreation was not in the vision statement and should be added.

#### 4.5 Highlights of the World Café

Participants were asked to join one of three small group discussions. Each group discussed one of the three sustainability pillars: environment, economic, and social. Lura staff was stationed at each of the locations to facilitate the discussions.

After 15-20 minutes, participants were asked to move to next discussion group and they were able to contribute to all three pillars.

Although many of the goals and strategies fit into all of the sustainability pillars, the themes were separated into pillars for discussion purposes. A summary of the strategies under each goal can be found in the PowerPoint presentation available at [www.huntsville.ca](http://www.huntsville.ca)



Attendees were asked to consider the following questions at each of the three stations:

1. What actions can the community or the Town of Huntsville do move these goals and objectives forward?
2. Are there any goals or objectives missing?
3. What do we need to do to achieve this vision?
4. Do you have any comments on this vision statement?

### **Environmental Pillar**

The environmental pillar included the goals and strategies identified under the following themes:

- Natural Heritage and Environmental Protection
- Municipal and District Operations
- Land Use Planning
- Energy Conservation/GHG
- Critical Needs (Air, Water and Food)

### **Suggested Actions and Additions for the Environment Pillar:**

1. Need for water conservation protection.
2. Promotion of 4 stroke engines
3. Renewable energy, solar, wind.
4. Need for information, education and funding sources
5. Need for environmental codes and standards and a reduction of variances
6. Need for municipal incentives to encourage and stimulate environmental behaviours
7. A sustainable home model that people can view
8. A toxic taxi to drive around and pick up toxic waste. (used in other communities)
9. Need to build own solar panels
10. More sidewalks and right-of-ways.

### **Economic Pillar**

The economic pillar included the goals and strategies identified under the following themes:

- Economic development
- Affordable Housing
- Transportation

### **Suggested Actions and Additions for the Economic Pillar:**

1. Eco-technology – a huge opportunity – a place where people can see it in action – eco-tourism – could come here after University)
2. Adequate health services needed to keep people
3. Manufacturing or smaller innovative businesses

4. Tax incentives for green businesses
5. Offer innovation to draw businesses – go to them
6. Arts and Culture as an Economic driver
7. Major opportunity to capitalize on University of Waterloo and the G8
8. Promote Huntsville as an innovative green, sustainable place to come
9. Look at Ireland (for best and worst practices)
10. Transportation: rail line, buses, car pools (social networking site)
11. Affordable Housing: Plan for the Empire Hotel Site, Rent to Own, Support for Landlords, Mixed Income Housing
12. Continue this discussion and ideas about Sustainability Plan online

## **Social Pillar**

The social pillar included the goals and strategies identified under the following themes:

- Healthcare
- Recreation
- Arts, Cultural and Heritage
- Social well-being

## **Suggested Actions and Additions for the Social Pillar:**

1. If there are no jobs there is no social well being – however community wants to focus on industries that are green, sustainable and protect the natural resources
2. Fire at the Empire exposed the hidden poverty in Huntsville – not like Toronto – homeless aren't visible here
3. Need to address the reasons for poverty at all ages and for all demographics
4. Community Gardens led by community groups
5. We need to find ways to keep our young people here including meaningful volunteer positions and living wages jobs
6. Encouraged community to think beyond the status quo... how can they participate, implement actions, and help to keep their community sustainable, caring, and resilient.
7. Look at alternative models for affordable housing: communes, Transition Towns

## **6. Plenary Session**

Lura facilitators reported back to the attendees on comments, ideas and suggestions presented in the World Café at each of the three pillars. Comments from participants are found under each of the themes in this report

## 7. Next Steps

Input from the community will continue being sought through the distribution and collection of questionnaire 2 available online, at the Town Office, the Public Library and upon request.

The information gathered at this Community Forum will be used in conjunction with information from the Working Group and ideas from the community to create a list of actions based on the goals and strategic directions developed from the first Community Forum. Documentation on this project will be made available at the Town of Huntsville Offices and electronically online at [www.huntsville.ca](http://www.huntsville.ca)

Participants of this meeting were encouraged to bring home questionnaires and give them to friends or family members. All those who attended will be informed about future community events, as well as provided with information about the plan's accomplishments. Participants who provided us with their email addresses have been added to the Stakeholder list and will be updated through email. If you would like to be added to the Stakeholder List, email [unity.plan@huntsville.ca](mailto:unity.plan@huntsville.ca).

<b>Heads of Council and Council in Attendance</b>	<b>Working Group Members in Attendance</b>	<b>Lura Team Members in Attendance</b>
Mayor Doughty	Andrea Smith	Susan Hall
Councillor Fletcher	Mike Harrower	Liz Nield
Councillor Greaves	Councillor Greaves	Michele Locke
Councillor Coleman	Councillor Fletcher	
	Teri Souter	
	Colleen MacDonald	