



Town of Sidney

SENIORS, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROJECT

~ A Vision for the Future ~

PRELIMINARY

**Project Report
for
Town of Sidney Council
& Vision Committee**

Seniors,
Youth &
Families
Project



**Submitted
November 1, 2005
by the
SYF Project Steering Committee**



Table of Contents

Contents.....	i
Acknowledgements.....	ii
Executive Summary	iv
1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Project Consultation Process	2
2 Context for Action Planning	5
2.1 Emerging Demographics	5
2.2 Accommodation Statistics	7
3 Community Strengths and Concerns	9
3.1 General Community Strengths	9
3.2 Housing Strengths and Concerns	10
3.3 Community Living Strengths and Concerns	11
3.4 Recreation/Culture Strengths and Concerns	12
3.5 Transportation Strengths and Concerns	13
4 Implementation Priorities	15
4.1 Housing Goals and Recommendations	16
4.1.1 Priority Housing Recommendations	17
4.2 Community Living Goals and Recommendations	23
4.2.1 Priority Community Living Recommendations	25
4.3 Recreation/Culture Goals and Recommendations	34
4.3.1 Priority Recreation/Culture Recommendations	36
4.4 Transportation Goals and Recommendations	44
4.4.1 Priority Transportation Recommendations	46
4.5 2005 SYF Priorities and Vision 2000 Recommendations	53
5 Next Steps	56
5.1 Possible Follow-up Activities	56

Tables

Table 1: Sidney and Area Population Growth.....	5
Table 2: Estimates of Household Growth in Peninsula Area	5
Table 3: Percentage of Age Groups in Peninsula Area	6
Table 4: Estimate of Sidney Occupied Private Dwellings and New Dwelling Units.....	7
Table 5: Summary of Key Recommendations/Partners	57

Appendices

A - Summary of SYF Project Activities.....	A1
B - SYF Committees' Recommendations/Action Plans	B1-32
C - SYF Project Information Handout and Advertisement.....	C1-2
D - SYF Public Survey Copy.....	D1-3
E - Survey for Recreation/Culture Groups and Report	E1-9
F - Reports of Discussions Sessions With Community Groups.....	F1-13
G - Report of Discussion Groups With Community Residents.....	G1-46
H - Report of Action Plan Discussion Evening With Community Groups.....	H1-5
I - Public Open House Comments	I1-3
J - Public Survey Summary Report	J1-38



Acknowledgements

Many people have been involved in the Seniors, Youth and Families Project over the past 18 months to help with its successful completion (see the accompanying volunteers list). Their contributions in time, expertise and commitment cannot be measured, only greatly appreciated and acknowledged here –

- Town Council and staff for your forward thinking in initiating the project and offering ongoing support
- The Vision Committee for helping initiate the project and for being a helpful sounding board and source of support throughout the project's implementation
- SYF Project Chair Elaine Venables for her ongoing leadership and inspiration to guide the project and Sub-committees through the numerous project activities
- Sub-committee Chairs - Doug Henderson and Debora Johns (Recreation/Culture); David Hamilton and Karen Morgan (Community Living); and Jannelle Bailey (Housing/Transportation) - for bringing endless skills, clarity and commitment to their volunteers and consultation initiatives
- The 35 hard-working committee volunteers on the project's Steering Committee and 3 Sub-committees (Recreation/Culture, Community Living, Housing/Transportation) for the many hours you dedicated to this project and the community
- Project Coordinator Janice Howard for her support to the committees and project activities, and preparation of many project materials
- Consultants Jane Hall and Mary Martin for lending their expertise to help clarify directions and research activities for the project
- The Peninsula News Review and Judy Reimche for helping build community awareness and interest in the project through various newspaper articles
- The Mary Winspear Centre, Shoal Centre and Town of Sidney for the generous provision of meeting space for various project events

*"Alone we can do
so little.
Together we can
do so much."*

Helen Keller



SYF PROJECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS / VOLUNTEERS

SYF Steering Committee

Chair: Elaine Venables, Beacon Community Services, Manager Counselling & Family Services
Councillor Marilyn Loveless, Town of Sidney
Councillor Zeb King, District of Central Saanich
Councillor Anny Scoones, District of North Saanich
Peter Garnham, School District 63 Trustee, Society of Saanich Peninsula Museums
Tony Whittall, Sidney Ratepayers, Vision Committee

Sub-Committee Chairs: Janelle Bailey, Housing and Transportation
Doug Henderson, Recreation and Culture
Debora Johns, Recreation and Culture
David Hamilton, Community Living
Karen Morgan, Community Living

Town Staff: Rob Hall, Manager of Engineering Services
Jarret Matanowitsch, Municipal Planner
Dick Reynolds, Superintendent of Parks and Works

Housing/Transportation Sub-committee

Chair: Janelle Bailey Sealevel Management Group
Town Staff: Jarret Matanowitsch Municipal Planner
Brenda Hautaluoma PAC rep. Sidney Elementary and North Saanich Middle School
Peter Heywood Community resident
Adam Kanczula Community resident
Mabel Jean Rawlins-Brannan Community resident
Mel Satok Advisory Planning Commission Chair
Cheryl Weir Peninsula Taxi

Community Living Sub-committee

Co-Chair: David Hamilton Community resident
Co-Chair: Karen Morgan Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation, Executive Director
Town staff: Rob Hall Manager Engineering Services
Ruth Elvy Community resident
James Glickman Community resident, young adult
Mary Habgood Community resident, Mt. Newton Centre Society
Maria Kirley Beacon Community Services, Youth Employment Program
Kathryn Mason Beacon Community Services, Peninsula Seniors' Hot Line
Staff Sergeant Brian Muir Sidney RCMP Detachment
Diana Satok Beacon Community Services, Manager of Volunteer Services
Travis Stewart Saanichton Bible Fellowship Pastor
Barbara Whittington Community resident, UVic Professor Social Work
Stephanie Woods Parkland Secondary School student

Recreation/Culture Sub-committee

Co-Chair: Doug Henderson Panorama Recreation, Administrator
Co-Chair: Debora Johns Mary Winspear Centre, Executive Director
Town Staff: Dick Reynolds Superintendent of Parks and Works
Carol Anderson Peninsula Celebrations Society
Dianne Cross Saanich Peninsula Community Arts Council, President
Dr. Danny Daniels Peninsula Track Club
Heather Galey UVic student – MA Leisure Studies
Meredith Reeve Parks Canada, Communications Manager
Project Coordination Janice Howard



Executive Summary

Continuing the Town of Sidney's Vision 2000 initiative, Town Council and the Vision Committee decided in Spring 2004 to begin a consultative project to review a fourth Vision 2000 component - Seniors, Youth and Families (SYF). The SYF topics to be explored included:

- housing
- community living (safety, wellness, information sharing, community support)
- recreation and culture
- transportation

Strengths, areas for improvement, and action plans for change (i.e. goals, recommendations, action steps and responsibilities) were to be generated for these four topic areas to address the needs and interests of residents in the Sidney community and Peninsula area.

Consultation Process

A SYF Project Steering Committee and three topic Sub-Committees were formed, comprised of community volunteers representative of seniors, youth and families, with many also having work/volunteer experience in their topic area. The Committees planned an open consultation process to gather input from the public and community groups on the four topic areas. Between fall 2004 and fall 2005, the committees conducted the following project activities:

Phase 1: Information Gathering

Qualitative input activities were implemented, rather than statistical, quantitative research, to work within time and budget guidelines:

- Public survey – 5,300 distributed, 600 returns
- Email survey to recreation/culture groups – 84 distributed, 34 returns
- Three discussion evenings with community group representatives for housing, community living, transportation – 53 participants
- Fourteen discussion groups with community residents of all ages/stages – 104 participants
- Display, surveys and comment forms at community events

Phase 2: Action Planning/Reporting

The project Sub-committees acted as a conduit for the community's input, gathering information, reviewing and summarizing comments, and reporting on what was heard. Each Committee prepared draft action plans based on all information collected. The plans highlight key needs, goals, recommendations as well as possible implementation steps and partners for further enhancing recreation and culture, housing, transportation, wellness, safety, information sharing and support in the community.

Over summer and fall 2005, the SYF Sub-committees received feedback on the draft action plans through:

- **Circulating the draft action plans** to Sub-committee members, the Project Steering Committee, Vision Committee, Town staff and Council
- An **action plan discussion evening** with 44 participants from community organizations to review/comment on action plans and help identify priority recommendations
- Fine-tuning the draft action plans based on feedback to date and **re-circulating the full revised plans and top five priority recommendations** for each topic area to SYF Sub-Committee members
- A four-hour **public open house** – attendees submitted comments forms about top priorities/draft action plans for the four topic areas

Input received from these feedback activities was reviewed by the Sub-committee Chairs and used to prepare the final action plans presented in this report.

"Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

Anthony D'Angelo



Community Strengths

People contributing input to the SYF consultation activities were all very positive about Sidney and area. The community has many special attributes that make it unique and appealing to residents and visitors. Strengths mentioned most by participants include:

- Quiet, small town size, pace, ambiance
- Caring, friendly people, sense of safety
- Unique ocean side setting, mild climate, flat terrain
- Good opportunities for walking and cycling
- Beautification of the waterfront and gardens, increased use via walkways, piers, beach accesses
- Seasonal and special events instill community pride
- Good facilities, groups and range of activities for many leisure interests
- A strong visual and performing arts community offers appealing cultural activities, diverse artistic talent
- Revitalized downtown, appealing, clean streetscape, variety of strong, small businesses
- Community support from businesses, service clubs and other organizations, strong volunteer spirit
- Good services for those in need - e.g. Beacon Community Services, Lions Food Bank, seniors support services, Saanich Peninsula Hospital
- Good base of information resources and communication channels available
- Good access to Town staff and Council, staff's support of innovative partnerships, projects
- Opportunities for public input like the Seniors, Youth & Families Project consultations

Topic Area Concerns

Raising concerns in consultation activities was done in a constructive manner. Residents shared observations about current challenges and suggested different ideas for improvement to enhance the community even more. Project participants' comments about concerns regarding the four topic areas are summarized below.

Housing Concerns

- The pace, amount and density of new development – losing quiet, small town ambiance
- Many, expensive infill developments replacing affordable homes, rentals
- Difficulty finding/keeping accommodation if have lower income, special needs
- Less diversity and vibrancy in community - emphasis on older adults, fewer young adults and families moving/staying here
- Areas with singularly focus housing types and residents, adult-only developments, absentee owners – less sense of community
- Few incentives offered for developers, non-profit organizations to build affordable housing
- More long-term planning for housing/assisted living required to address needs of aging population



Community Living Concerns

- Many older adults, fewer families is creating divisive community dynamics and less cohesion
- Limited celebration of different cultures or recognition of the First Nations culture/presence on the Peninsula
- Few opportunities for youth, young adults and seniors to connect - misperceptions and stereotyping can develop
- Many different sources of information and services offered by community organizations, but little coordination of information dissemination and activity planning
- Challenge to find a family physician/book timely appointments, limited hours at walk-in clinics
- Information on health care and services in the community not always readily available to all

Recreation/Culture Concerns

- Need broader range of leisure activities at convenient locations to address different ages' interests and budgets
- No established venue for youth to socialize, do activities and cultural programming
- Limited opportunities provided through facilities/programs/events for different age groups to come together
- Limited opportunities in downtown area for evening shopping and cultural happenings
- Limited promotional activities, access points and parking for marine-based activities
- Parks in neighbourhoods need attention – more amenities, improved playgrounds, children's outdoor recreation activities, community cultural events
- No large community sports field facility is available to serve a range of outdoor sports
- Knowledge of, and the availability and rental rates of indoor (non-profit, private) and outdoor facilities are a challenge for some community groups
- Limited information sharing, event date coordination, and joint communication efforts across recreation providers and cultural groups - residents can have difficulty finding recreation/culture information sources

Transportation Concerns

- Neighbourhood pathways not properly surfaced, poorly maintained, limited signage and lighted - safety concerns and underutilization
- Sidewalks away from downtown - start and stop, inconsistent curb slopes, limited lighting
- Scooter drivers' unsafe practices, narrow sidewalks for many users
- The safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other path/crossing users at the Highway 17/ Beacon Ave. intersection and the deceleration lane from Highway 17 onto Beacon Ave.
- The safety of students getting to/leaving the three local schools via walking, cycling, car
- The amount and speed of traffic on residential streets, especially from through traffic
- The inconsistent four-way/two-way stops on Sidney Avenue, and the confusing/delayed timing of intersection signals on Beacon for pedestrians and vehicles
- Increased on street parking congestion from many new housing developments/residents near downtown, limited parking downtown
- Irregular repair of roads after construction projects, inadequate road cleaning, limited street lighting
- Use of alternative transportation not actively promoted, information not widely available
- When planning road work, must consider improvements to current bicycle lanes and new lanes
- Require more amenities for cycling and promotion of cycling in the Peninsula



Action Plans

Participants offered information about needs and solutions, and Committees prepared the action plans, all with the intention of helping shape new initiatives that can build on community strengths and make area residents' quality of living even better. The main goals and related recommendations identified by the Sub-committees for addressing challenges and new directions for the four topic areas are outlined in this Executive Summary. The recommendations identified by project participants as top priorities are indicated with the arrows.

Housing Goals and Recommendations

Goal A: Maintain a comprehensive housing strategy that addresses the housing needs of all ages, abilities and income levels

Recommendations:

1. Gather and maintain information to support effective housing decision-making.
2. Prepare a vision/key principles to guide the OCP review/document and direct the Town in maintaining current housing and overseeing future housing directions in the community.
3. Establish means for overseeing and receiving input to Sidney's vision for housing/community directions and development.

Goal B: Provide a range of housing types and affordability to support residents of all ages, incomes and abilities to help create a diverse community

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Review the OCP, zoning and bylaws to identify ways to plan for a range of housing types, including market and affordable, and ensure that these types are available in the community.
- ▶ 2. Identify ways in planning to provide a range of housing types within areas to foster mixing of resident demographic groups and a sense of community.
- ▶ 3. Explore ways to encourage local developers and other organizations to build housing in the community that is affordable and diverse in use.
- ▶ 4. Identify ways to protect current, and increase future affordable housing in the community to support families and residents with lower incomes.

Goal C: Address ways of controlling the pace and type of development and density to ensure the unique small town qualities of Sidney are maintained

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Ensure zoning provisions and design guidelines re: development/density support the Town's housing/community vision and continue to be closely followed when approving developments and working with developers. (see Goal A, Recommendation 2)
- 2. Balance density development with provisions for green space.

Goal D: Address the unique housing needs of seniors, people living with disabilities and others in need

Recommendation:

1. Assess and address the current and future housing needs of the aging population and other people with special needs.



Community Living Goals and Recommendations

Goal A: Increase the diversity of our community

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Identify ways of making the community more welcoming and supportive of families and young adults.
- ▶ 2. Explore the First Nations people's sense of isolation from Sidney and identify/pursue solutions together.

Goal B: Support connections between age groups in the community

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Explore ways to provide opportunities for contact across age groups.
- 2. Review the availability of facilities that can be used to provide opportunities for contact across age groups.
- 3. Identify a structure/group that can help oversee the interests and planning for youth, intergenerational contact and other community living initiatives.

Goal C: Enhance information sharing in the community

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Develop a coordinated approach to providing comprehensive, easily accessible information for all ages about community services, resources, programs, and events.
- 2. Increase the number of communication avenues for accessing information.

Goal D: Enhance the sense of safety in the community

Recommendations:

- 1. Explore opportunities to promote our community's high level of safety and to connect with residents about safety.
- 2. Address lighting needs in public places around the community - on streets, pathways, crosswalks.
- 3. Assess areas of road safety concern in the community and take steps to increase traffic safety.
- 4. Provide opportunities for youth, and for positive youth interaction with older adults in the community to help address safety concerns. (see Goal B, Recommendation 1)

Goal E: Provide resources and support to maximize the physical, mental and emotional well-being of community residents of all ages, abilities and income

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Examine ways to increase access to physicians/health care advice in Sidney and area.
- 2. Examine the distribution of information on physical and mental wellness to ensure that timely and appropriate information is getting to target audiences in the community. (See Goal C)
- 3. Promote active living and healthy lifestyle through community initiatives.
- 4. Examine current and future services to address the needs of aging residents.



Recreation/Culture Goals and Recommendations

Goal A: Utilize current facilities to their maximum potential to meet the needs of users and potential users

Recommendations:

- 1. Increase communications about opportunities to maximize community access to and use of indoor facilities, cultural venues and sport fields.
- 2. Address ways to improve the Iroquois Park soccer fields.
- 3. Use a coordinated approach to the Blue Heron sport fields enhancement/further development to meet local sports needs on the Peninsula and to act as an event destination facility, supporting tourism.
- 4. Examine options to improve the safety, utility and acceptance by youth/the community for the skateboard park.
- 5. Maintain/enhance tennis court facilities in the community.

Goal B: Work with municipalities, service providers and users to address new facility needs and create development plans for new facilities

Recommendations:

- 1. Explore provision options for a new or existing venue where youth can create their own recreational and cultural programming, and that can also offer the potential for cross-age group activities.
- 2. Explore options for providing access to a central pool (indoor and/or outdoor) in Sidney.
- 3. Address interest expressed for a water park in Sidney.
- 4. Address interest expressed in having a gymnasium available for a range of recreational activities for all age groups.
- 5. Address how to accommodate the need expressed for playing basketball (indoor/outdoor) in the community.
- 6. Address interest expressed in having a lacrosse box available in the Sidney community for formal and informal use.

GOALC: Facilitate the delivery of recreation and culture programs/activities to meet the needs of the broad cross section of Sidney and Peninsula residents (age, ability, income levels)

Recommendations:

- 1. Explore ways to maintain and broaden the level of community cultural opportunities and evening leisure opportunities/cultural happenings in the downtown area.
- 2. Encourage enhanced dialogue between the large number of service providers in the Peninsula area to address programming needs for all age groups and effective service delivery.
- 3. Encourage service providers to explore new youth program options.



Recreation/Culture Goals and Recommendations – *continued*

Goal D: Address current and potential outdoor recreation amenities to maximize residents' and visitors' use and enjoyment of the community's unique outdoor setting **Recommendations:**

- 1. Address ways to improve opportunities/facilities for marine based recreation and tourism activities.
- 2. Identify ways to improve the playground facilities for children at existing parks, particularly those farther away from the downtown core.
- 3. Identify ways to increase the amount, amenities and enjoyment of green space in the community.
- 4. Improve sidewalks, scenic walkways and pathways to maximize the safety, use and enjoyment of walking opportunities in the community.
- 5. Improve amenities for cycling in the community.

Goal E: Develop comprehensive, coordinated information sources to effectively promote recreation and cultural opportunities on the Saanich Peninsula **Recommendations:**

- 1. Complete the process of inventorying all cultural and recreational opportunities on the Saanich Peninsula, and prepare strategies for coordinated planning and communication to increase public awareness and participation in offerings.



Transportation Goals and Recommendations

Goal A: Maintain a comprehensive transportation strategy to guide transportation provisions for all needs

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Develop a comprehensive transportation plan, which incorporates a vision/guidelines and opportunities for public input, to help guide transportation planning and implementation in Sidney and the Peninsula area.
- 2. Continue to pre-approve plans for transportation initiatives so that when grants become available, funds can be applied for without delay.

Goal B: Improve traffic safety and flow on area roads

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Review traffic patterns on residential streets and recommend steps to improve safety.
- 2. Examine the signal timing/patterns at main intersections in the Sidney area to maximize vehicle flow and safety.
- 3. Review the stop sign patterns along James White Boulevard/ for flow, consistency and safety, and take steps to better inform the public of the signage and stop procedures.
- 4. Review the repair requirements and actual actions taken following the completion of construction work to ensure that impacted roads and driveways are returned to safe, clean, smooth surfaces for vehicles and pedestrians.
- 5. Assess the availability of parking in the downtown area and identify ways of easing limitations and congestion.

Goal C: Promote alternative transportation opportunities

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Inform and support residents of all ages and abilities to actively use alternate forms of transportation.

Goal D: Increase support of cycling in the area

(directly supports Goal C, encouraging alternative transportation)

Recommendations:

- ▶ 1. Maintain coordinated bicycle lane/road planning to ensure effective present provisions and future road/bike lane development.
- 2. Identify ways to maximize the safety of cyclists/other users on existing area bike lanes/paths/shoulders.
- 3. Review the use of bump-outs at crosswalks, and design any future crosswalks to maximize the safety of vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, skateboarders and other road users.
- 4. Provide more bike racks in downtown/other areas, placed in safe, visible locations.
- 5. Promote Sidney and the Peninsula area as a cycling destination and tourism activity.



Transportation Goals and Recommendations - *continued*

Goal E: Maximize safety and accessibility for pedestrians

(directly supports Goal C, encouraging alternative transportation)

Recommendations:

- 1. Examine existing neighbourhood pathways to identify ways to make them as safe, connected and accessible as possible for pedestrians, cyclists and other users.
- 2. Assess and maximize the safety of main pedestrian crossings in downtown intersections, residential streets and busy park areas.
- 3. Examine the current system of sidewalks in all areas (downtown, residential streets) and identify any changes that can be made to existing sidewalks and future installations to maximize safety and accessibility for all users.
- 4. Increase scooter users' knowledge and practice of safe scooter operation/interface with other sidewalk users.
- 5. Review the existing provision of multi-use trails (waterfront and other areas) and identify any changes needed to maximize safety and accessibility.

Goal F: Increase safety in school routes/zones

(directly supports Goal C, encouraging alternative transportation)

Recommendations:

- 1. Consider the placement of three-way stops in school zones to maximize pedestrian and car safety (e.g. Seventh and Henry, Resthaven and McDonald Park Road).
- 2. Address providing safe bicycle lanes that link the Lochside Trail pathway directly to Sidney Elementary School (along Henry) and to North Saanich Middle School (along McDonald Park Road).
- 3. Identify and implement ways to improve student safety on the roads immediately surrounding North Saanich Middle School and Sidney Elementary.
- 4. Identify and implement ways to maximize safety at Beacon and 7th and Beacon and Highway 17 for students coming to the local schools from the residential areas south of Beacon Avenue, and west of the highway.

Goal G: Increase safety at the Highway 17/Beacon Avenue intersection

(directly supports Goal C, encouraging alternative transportation)

Recommendations:

- 1. Take measures to remove pedestrians and other crossing/pathway users from the dangerous Highway 17/Beacon Avenue traffic.
- 2. Take measures to reduce speed in the northbound deceleration exit lane from Highway 17 onto Beacon Avenue.



Next Steps

The broad, open nature of the SYF Project's consultations contributed to the wealth of community input collected. The next challenge ahead is determining how to respond to the project's many recommendations.

With Town Council, staff and the Vision Committee having successfully initiated and overseen completion of the SYF Project, they can now turn to planning project follow-up and implementation. Although follow-up activities to the SYF consultation project are outside the terms of reference for the SYF Steering Committee, SYF committees discussed some possible considerations for project next steps:

- Sub-committees presented the top five priorities for each topic area as a first step for the Town in identifying implementation activities to begin addressing in the immediate/short-term.
- The SYF Project action plans contain many recommendations and implementation steps, some involving the Town of Sidney on its own, and others involving possible partner organizations. It would be useful for Town staff to review the top 21 recommendations and action steps to 1) identify those recommendations within municipal jurisdiction and determine what can be acted upon within current or planned Town initiatives; and 2) identify those recommendations outside of direct municipal jurisdiction and what community organization partners could address these initiatives.
- While the Town might not have a direct implementation role to play in some recommendations, it could provide an important leadership/facilitation role in getting dialogue started with partners around these initiatives, and offering support as needed to the organizations in implementing SYF actions steps.
- Review a role for the Vision Committee and/or some form of the SYF Steering Committee to help initiate/oversee action on implementation priorities.
- Means of assessing SYF implementation progress will be important (e.g. staff reporting to Council/Vision Committee, partner organizations providing updates on SYF follow-up activities).
- Communications to the public about the SYF Project need to be continued and expanded (e.g. make the SYF Report and summary available, opportunities for input to follow-up activities).

The project committees hope that Town Council and staff, the Vision Committee, and community organizations will find the SYF Project report useful in addressing changing needs and new initiatives to enhance housing, recreation/culture, community support, transportation and our unique Sidney area over the next 10 to 15 years.



1 Introduction

In August 1997, Sidney Town Council created a Vision 2000 Committee to develop a community vision, with input from Sidney residents, which would create policies and actions to help guide the community into the next millennium. After significant planning and community input, a Corporate Strategy Community Vision report was developed. Council and the Vision Committee then planned how to take action on objectives in the Vision 2000 report. Over the past five years, special committees and Town staff have successfully implemented recommendations for three components of the Vision 2000 report - tourism, the waterfront and downtown revitalization.

The Town decided in Spring 2004 to begin planning a consultative project to review a fourth Vision 2000 component - Seniors, Youth and Families (SYF). The SYF topics to be explored included:

- housing
- community living
- recreation and culture
- transportation

Strengths, areas for improvement, and action plans for change (i.e. goals, recommendations, action steps and responsibilities) were to be generated for these four topic areas to help address the needs and interests of residents in the Sidney community and Peninsula area.

A SYF Project Steering Committee was established in June 2004 to begin planning the project's consultation process and volunteer resources. Sub-committees were formed for each topic area in September 2004, comprised of community volunteers representative of seniors, youth and families, with many also having work/volunteer experience in their topic area (see page iii for a Committees list).

The Steering Committee chose to comprise committees and conduct research by topic area instead of by segmented seniors, youth and families demographic groups. This decision was made because the topic areas are of interest across the generations. Any needs and ideas voiced by residents, regardless of age and stage, are of interest to all in a united community, and the project process tried to reflect this.

The SYF Project report presents summaries of the research findings from the project's consultation activities - community strengths, gaps/needs, and action plans for enhancing housing, community living, recreation/culture, and transportation. These plans for each topic area include overall goals, related recommendations, possible implementation steps and potential partners.

The top five priority recommendations are identified for the four topic areas, but all recommendations raised by the community and reported by the Sub-committees are also included in the report appendices (See Appendix B). Committee volunteers and members of the public stressed that all information obtained through consultation activities is important and needs to be considered in planning the implementation of project recommendations.

The project Sub-committees acted as a conduit for the community's input, gathering information, reviewing and summarizing comments and reporting on what was heard. The parameters given to the project Steering Committee and Sub-committees for collecting and reporting on needs and ideas expressed by project participants was to think long-term and "outside the box", to create a vision to help guide the community for the next ten to fifteen years.

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

M. Wheatley



1.1 Project Consultation Process

The SYF Project Steering Committee developed a planning process that they hoped would maximize project awareness, participation and input from residents of all ages in Sidney and surrounding areas. See Appendix A for a graphic outline of project activities.

Qualitative input activities were implemented, rather than statistical, quantitative research, to work within time and budget guidelines. Outlined below are the key community consultation activities conducted for the two phases of the project - information collection and action planning/reporting. Project information handouts were made available, and articles/advertisements were run in the Town Talk newsletter and local newspaper to help inform area residents of these activities (see Appendix C).

Phase 1: Information Gathering

Five key consultation activities were undertaken with community residents and organizations to gather information on current strengths of the community, and on emerging needs and ideas for strengthening provisions for recreation/culture, housing, transportation and community living.

- **Public survey**
The public survey (see survey copy in Appendix D and Survey Summary Report in Appendix J) was prepared asking respondents to rate their satisfaction level and ideas for improvement with provisions for housing, transportation, leisure pursuits, information sharing, health care/prevention, safety and community support. Approximately 5,300 surveys were made available to area residents from December 1, 2004 to February 11, 2005. Six hundred surveys were returned, providing considerable confidence in the analysis of the numerical data, particularly as gender and age groups were well represented. See the separate *SYF Project Public Survey Full Report* for all survey research data.
- **Emailed Survey to Recreation and Culture Organizations**
Recreation/culture service surveys were emailed/mailed to 84 recreation and culture organizations in the Peninsula community, with 34 returns received (see Appendix E for survey copy and summary report). Respondents provided information about their organization's primary activities, clientele served, funding sources, marketing channels and their effectiveness, community facilities used and their effectiveness, as well as general comments on the strengths and gaps regarding recreation/culture provisions in Sidney and the Peninsula area.
- **Evening Sessions With Community Group Representatives**
A cross-section of community group representatives (a total of 53 participants) for housing, transportation and community living were invited to one of three evening discussion sessions (see Appendix F for summary reports of discussions with community groups). Open dialogue with participants gave the Sub-committees' members helpful insights about community strengths, gaps and ideas for improvement pertaining to the three topic areas.
- **Discussion Groups With Community Residents**
Fourteen discussions sessions were held with residents from different demographic groups in the community to build on research findings to date and receive more in-depth input to the strengths, gaps, and improvement ideas for housing, community living, recreation/culture, and transportation. See Appendix G for a summary of discussion groups with residents.



The 104 participants of the discussion sessions were identified via responses to the public survey, a March 30 Peninsula News Review article, an April 18 Town Talk article, visiting Parkland and North Saanich schools over lunch hour to sign up students, and liaising with managers of seniors residential complexes.

Ninety-minute discussion sessions were held with the following groups:

- Youth 12-14 years at North Saanich Middle School 12-14 years - 6 male participants, 11 female participants, 2 sessions
 - Youth 15-18 years at Parkland High School - 12 participants, 2 sessions
 - Seniors in Private Seniors Residential Complex (Shoal Centre, Norgarden, Beechwood) - 9 participants, 1 session
 - Seniors in Assisted Living Units at Shoal Centre- 6 participants, 1 session
 - Youth/Adult/Seniors combined session - 5 youth, 5 adult participants, 1 session
 - Large Evening Session
 - Adults with young children (under 12 years) - 6 participants
 - Adults with older children (teens/twenties) - 8 participants
 - Adults 19-29 years, no children - 8 participants
 - Adults 30-54 years, no children - 5 participants
 - Independent seniors living in own home, 55-64 years -7 participants
 - Independent seniors living in own home, 65+ years - 7 participants
 - Staff at NIL/TU,O Child and Family Services - 8 participants
- **Project Display at Community Events**

The SYF project display and distribution of the public survey was done at the December 2004 Community Programs Open House at Mary Winspear Centre and the Sail Past event. A SYF project booth was set up at the May 2005 Peninsula Community Days event in Iroquois Park. Volunteers were available to talk with booth visitors, answer questions about the project and encourage people to submit a written comment form about the four topic areas.

In addition to these five consultation activities, the SYF Project volunteers also:

- Reviewed Canada Census and CRD demographics as well as other information reports pertaining to Sidney and the Peninsula area.
- Conducted an inventory of community-living related resources, services, facilities, etc.



Phase 2: Action Planning/Reporting

As follow-up to community consultation activities conducted in the information collection phase of the SYF process, the Sub-committees reviewed all information and summarized the public's identified needs and ideas into draft action plans for their topic areas. The plans acknowledge the community's successes to date and highlight key needs, goals, recommendations and possible implementation steps for further enhancing recreation and culture, housing, transportation, wellness, safety, information sharing and support in the community.

The SYF Sub-committees received feedback on the draft action plans through:

- **Circulating the draft action plans** to Sub-committee members, the Project Steering Committee, Vision Committee, Town staff and Council for review and feedback (June/July 2005)
- An **action plan discussion evening**, September 28, 2005, with over 100 representatives of community organizations invited. The 44 participants in attendance (see Appendix H) met in small groups for their topic areas, did individual rankings of their top five priority recommendations, and reviewed/commented on the full action plans for the group's tallied top five recommendations. Participants were encouraged to also submit comment forms on all other action plans and recommendations. People unable to attend the evening session were able to receive emailed draft action plans for review and comment.
- Fine-tuning the draft action plans based on feedback to date and **re-circulating the full revised plans and top five priority recommendations** for each topic area to SYF Sub-Committee members.
- A four-hour **public open house**, October 26, 2005, with 30 attendees. Visitors had an opportunity to view a slide show about the SYF Project, talk with project volunteers, read displays about top priorities/summarized draft action plans for the four topic areas, and submit comment forms about the project findings/recommendations (see Appendix I).

Input received from all of these feedback activities was reviewed by the Sub-committee Chairs and used to prepare the final action plans presented in this report.



2 Context for Action Planning

Sidney and area is unique. It offers a wonderful ocean side setting and parks, plentiful recreation and cultural opportunities, appealing small town ambiance and safety, comprehensive local services and businesses, attractive housing, rural surroundings and proximity to urban centres. Many people have chosen to reside in the community over the decades, and more are continuing to relocate here. Housing sales and prices have soared, demand for more housing continues, and use of local amenities and services is growing steadily.

This report section profiles some of the emerging demographics and trends in Sidney. Priorities and action plans presented in subsequent sections reflect this changing nature of the area.

2.1 Emerging Demographics

Sidney has experienced over a 9% increase in population, higher than that in the Peninsula or the Capital Region as a whole.

	2001 Census	2005 CRD Estimate
Sidney	10,925	11,956 (9.4% increase)
Peninsula population (Sidney accounts for approx. 28%)	39,085	42,276 (8.2% increase)
Capital Region	325,754	354,206 (8.7% increase)

*Table 1: Sidney and Area Population Growth
(Source: CRD Regional Planning)*

The population figures for the Peninsula do not include the First Nations populations on the four Reserves. In 2003, the estimated population of the Reserves was 2,426. Aboriginal origin individuals residing off-Reserve account for 3% of Sidney's population and visible minorities account for 4% (2001 Census).

Sidney's growth in households in the last five years is double the growth occurring between 1996 and 2001. For the other Peninsula communities and the Capital Region, household growth has slowed in the past five years. Sidney's households account for 33% of the total households on the Peninsula.

Community	Households in 2001 (Census)	% Increase in Households 1996-2001 (Census)	Households in 2005 (CRD Estimate)	% Increase in Households 2001-2005
Sidney	5,278	5.4%	5,839	10.6%
Central Saanich	6,047	10.9	6,533	8.0
North Saanich	4,279	8.8	4,613	7.8
Reserves	932	33.1	968	3.9
Total - Peninsula	16,536	9.5	17,953	8.6
Total – Capital Region	151,461	11.1	162,262	7.1

*Table 2: Estimates of Household Growth in Peninsula Area
(Source: CRD Regional Planning)*



Because of its growing attractiveness to retirees, Sidney has one of the highest 65+ years of age populations in Canada, and the highest percentage on the Peninsula and in the CRD. It has lower percentages of the younger age groups than the two Districts and CRD. Almost half of Sidney's population (44%) is 55 years of age or older (versus 22.5% in the CRD).

Age	Central Saanich	North Saanich	Sidney	CRD	Canada
0-14 years	17.6%	14.7%	13.5%	15.2%	19.1%
15-24	11.8	10.8	8.1	12.8	13.4
25-44	24.3	18.9	20.8	27.8	30.3
45-54	18.2	20.6	13.5	16.0	14.7
55-64	11.1	15.4	11.5	10.2	9.5
65+	17.0	19.6	32.6	18.0	13.0

*Table 3: Percentage of Age Groups in Peninsula Area
(Source: 2001 Census)*

Sidney has a predominant number of residences with no children. Seventy-five percent of the total number of private households in Sidney are occupied by one to two people. Households with 3 or more people make up just 25% of the total households (2001 Census).

Project participants repeatedly commented on the number of families finding it hard to stay or move to the Sidney. The decline in the number of children in the area is reflected in the September 2005 closure of Greenglade and Sansbury Elementary Schools by the Saanich School District. A fourteen percent decline in student enrollment by 2008/09 has been projected for Sidney Elementary School (School Programs and Facilities Discussion Paper, Fall 2004).



2.2 Accommodation Statistics

Seventy-seven percent of Sidney's housing is owned, and 23% is rented (2001 Census). There is close to a 0% vacancy rate in Sidney (CMB Consulting report for BCS, Fall 2004). In September 2005, the average price for a single family dwelling in Sidney was \$374,000 and for a condominium \$298,000 (Victoria's average condo price is \$254,4000). Between October 2004 and September 2005, there was a 19% increase in Sidney's average sale price.

The Town of Sidney's Development Services department is kept busy tending to new developments in the community. Between 2001 and 2005, 458 new dwelling units were developed, and over two-thirds were multi-unit apartments or townhouses. Single family homes and duplexes have accounted for one-third of new dwelling construction in the past five years.

	Single Dwelling	Duplex	Multi-Units (apartments, townhouses)		Total
Estimate of Private Dwellings in 2001 Sidney	2,403 47% of total dwellings	631 12% of total dwellings	1,584 apmt. 31% of total dwellings	538 townh. 10% of total dwellings	5,156
New Dwelling Units 2001 to 2005 Sidney	89 19% of total new units	48 (+ 11 SD converted for secondary suites) 13% of total new units	310 (incl. 150 units at Shoal Centre and the Peninsula complex) 68% of total new units		458
Total Dwellings in 2005	2,492 44% of total dwellings	690 12% of total dwellings	2,432 43% of total dwellings		5,614

Table 4: Estimate of Sidney Occupied Private Dwellings and New Dwelling Units
(Source: CRD Regional Planning, Sidney Planning Dept.)

In 2004, there were 72 social housing units in Sidney - 35 for families, 33 for seniors, and 4 for persons with special needs (BC Housing). Social housing is rental accommodations subsidized by direct government financial support, usually owned and managed by a non-profit society or senior government housing agency.

In 2004, the average household income in Sidney was \$56,700, 4% above the national average (Financial Post Markets – Canadian Demographics 2004). However, approximately 43% of all households in Sidney have an annual household income below \$40,000 – the same level as the CRD (2001 Census).

More than 22,000 (16%) households in the CRD are in core housing need; 660 are in Sidney - approximately 12% of Sidney's total households (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation). In 2001, 8.8% of home owners and 28.8% of renters in Sidney were in core housing need (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation).

Housing is considered affordable if people can find a place to live that is in reasonable good condition and big enough for the size and makeup of their household without spending more than 30% of their income.

"Core housing need" is the term used to describe households that cannot find such housing.

Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria



The Sidney Lions Food Bank feeds 320 households (900 people) each month, serving the whole Peninsula. On average, people serviced by the food bank include:

- single parents - 31%
- two-parent families - 23.5%
- single people - 35.5%
- couples, no children - 10%

Forty percent of users are children under 16 years of age, while seniors account for 7% (versus 20% in Victoria).

In a survey conducted with Lions Food Bank users in fall 2005, of the 246 respondents:

- 58% come every month to that food bank
- 54% live in Sidney, 38% in Central Saanich, and 8% in North Saanich
- People have used the food bank for an average of 5.6 years
- 34 people have used the food bank for over 10 years.



3 Community Strengths and Concerns

Project volunteers and participants frequently acknowledged the many unique qualities of the Sidney area, and the numerous successes and strengths the community has and can build upon. Raising concerns in consultation activities was done in a constructive manner. Residents shared observations about current challenges and suggested different ideas for improvement to enhance the community even more.

This report section summarizes participants' input about general community strengths, and about strengths and concerns for the project's four topic areas.

3.1 General Community Strengths

People contributing input to the SYF consultation activities were all very positive about Sidney and area. The community has many special attributes that make it unique and appealing to residents and visitors. Over two-thirds of public survey respondents feel that the Peninsula community is "completely" or "almost completely" achieving a positive vision of being "a vibrant, connected, healthy community where people are supported and support each other, have a strong sense of well being, and have their needs and interests met."

The general strengths of the community most frequently mentioned by project participants include:

Quiet, small town atmosphere

- Appealing slow pace
- Can easily get around and access everything
- Friendly, helpful people, sense of safety

Unique, Accessible Waterfront setting

- Proximity to beautiful ocean scenery and beaches
- Good access for residents and visitors to enjoy the wonderful waterfront
- Temperate, year-round climate

Downtown Revitalization

- Variety of small, locally owned businesses active in the community
- Vibrant streetscape
- Attractive buildings, aesthetic appeal of sidewalks, lighting, street art
- Well-managed, clean appearance

Strong Community Spirit and Organizations

- Special events instill community pride and spirit
- Strong local fundraising, community organizations, service clubs
- Good services for those in need – e.g. Lions Food Bank, Beacon Community Services, various seniors support services, Saanich Peninsula Hospital

Accessible, Progressive Town Hall

- Good access to Town staff and Council
- Support of innovative partnerships (e.g. Shoal Centre)
- Opportunities for public input like the Seniors, Youth & Families Project's consultations

"I love the small town community feeling and lovely, friendly people. Please don't get too big."

75+ years

"Shoal Centre, Panorama Recreation Centre, Mary Winspear Centre, Saanich Peninsula Hospital, Beacon Community Services - we draw our strength, health and well-being from all of these."

75+ years

"There is a strong connection between Sidney business people and citizens, and good community activism to support cultural activities."

55-64 years

"There is easy access to administration staff. Councilors react positively to citizens' concerns."

75+ years

"Sidney is a 'rich tapestry' as a community and as an interwoven, vibrant network of community organizations."

Community Living Groups Discussion Evening, Jan. '05



3.2 Housing Strengths and Concerns

Project participants’ comments about the strengths and areas for concern regarding housing in the Sidney area are summarized below.

“Do not replace affordable family dwellings with high density seniors homes at every turn. I do not want to live in a ‘Florida type’ community with closed schools, no kids, no dogs, no fun and a lot of ‘old’ people playing cards and crafting!”
65-74 years

“If you remove all the affordable single family housing and replace it with condos and high-end strata homes, is it any great surprise we’re having to close schools? What about more Habitat for Humanity projects and subsidized housing for low income and disabled?”
30-54 years

“Knowing the present and future demographics of the seniors population, I would like to see more lower-income housing. All of us cannot afford these high-priced units (condos and rentals).” **75+ years**

“As of the last year, Sidney has become too commercial. Too many large condos seem to unbalance the town. If we don’t save the charm and sea views, we will even lose tourists!”
65-74 years

HOUSING STRENGTHS	HOUSING CONCERNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The small community allows people to have positive communication and relationship-building with Town Hall, Development Services and other departments, and the APC. - The Town departments provide helpful information and have a positive, “open for business” attitude. - The Town is open to working with non-profit organizations and exploring innovative housing/development options (e.g. Shoal Centre). - The designs of new business and housing developments are aesthetically appealing. - The combining of living and business spaces in some developments is very progressive. - The proximity of land in the District of North Saanich offers potential for future housing that could service Sidney residents. - The legalization of secondary suites is a positive step for affordable accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The real estate market and demand for higher-end accommodation is driving development directions, with new housing primarily for wealthy residents (e.g. empty nesters and seniors). - Expensive, high-density infill developments are replacing many affordable single-family accommodations (homes, rentals). - People with low to middle incomes have difficulty finding/keeping accommodation and staying in the community. - The community has limited diversity and vibrancy, with an emphasis on older adults while fewer young adults and families move or stay here. - The current accommodation demand for people with special needs (e.g. low income seniors, people living with disabilities, other health/social needs) is not being adequately addressed. With Sidney’s large percentage of older residents, long-term housing planning is needed (e.g. much more assisted living). - There are limited incentives for developers or non-profit organizations to build affordable housing. - Promotion of secondary suites to developers and home owners is limited. - The rate of new building and density of developments is impacting the small town ambiance and pace. - The sense of community is being impacted by large condo developments with limited green space, absentee owners, adult-only developments, pockets of seniors-only residential areas, etc.



3.3 Community Living Strengths and Concerns

Project participants' comments about the strengths and areas for concern regarding community living (connection, information sharing, safety, wellness) in the Sidney area are summarized below.

"People try very hard to make this a safe community. They watch out for neighbours and generally offer friendly support."

55-64 years

"I feel the elderly are intimidated too easily by youth. More needs to be done to bring these three categories (youth, adult and seniors) together, not only to make the community feel safer but also to give each group new perspectives."

19-29 years

"Fewer young families are coming here to live. I feel that a community must have a good balance of people to make it thrive. Unfortunately, this is not the direction Sidney appears to be going. Sidney has focused a lot of energy to make this a wonderful place for seniors but now needs to start focusing on young families again."

30-54 years

"Greater acceptance is needed of each other's diversity, multiculturalism, lifestyle, and economic class."

19-29 years

"Age doesn't matter – interest does, very much. The more we have going on, the more opportunities we have to connect."

30-54 years

COMMUNITY LIVING STRENGTHS	COMMUNITY LIVING CONCERNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Popular community events help draw residents of all ages together. - There is a strong network of active community organizations, and helpful information available from each. - Beacon Community Services provides a broad range of services to meet the needs of many. - The Community Development Office is becoming very active in the community and will have a new, prominent location. - The Peninsula News Review, Town Talk and Sidney website are good communication mediums with potential for even more information sharing. - The planned electronic reader board at Mary Winspear Centre will be a useful information source. - The small community, closeness to others and established neighbourhoods provides a sense of safety and security. - The RCMP does positive work in the community, schools and with the First Nations. - The services of local physicians, clinics and the Saanich Peninsula Hospital are greatly appreciated. There are also number of good health stores and alternative health professionals in the community. - Many indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities are available to help enhance individuals' wellness. - People of all ages are generally caring individuals who are open to exploring ways to connect and work together to strengthen the community and their own well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The increasing number of older adults and related housing developments is creating a 'silo' effect in demographic groups and community dynamics. There are fewer young adults and families here, and limited cohesion between them and seniors. - There is limited celebration in the community of different cultures or recognition of the First Nations culture/presence on the Peninsula. - The amount of development in town is leading to an increase in density, population, congestion and pace, and resulting in less sense of community connection. - There are limited opportunities for youth, young adults and seniors to connect with one another. Some misperceptions and stereotyping have developed, and some seniors are feeling threatened by youth. - Some of the community's younger people often feel like outsiders with few avenues to have their needs and concerns heard. - Young adults want to stay in the community but are challenged to finding affordable accommodation and suitable employment. - Streets, sidewalks and pathways in neighbourhoods have limited lighting and less safety in the nighttime. - There is an imbalance of information available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with more for seniors and less for families and younger people. Teens would like to be able to access more information, with some health information wanted confidentially. - There are many different sources of information and activities by community organizations, but more effort is needed to promote these sources and to coordinate information dissemination and activity planning/event dates, both within Sidney and with the two Districts. - Some people have difficulty finding out what is going on in the community. Many seniors are alone and lonely. - It is hard to find a family physician, those accepting are very busy with appointments, and walk-in clinics have long wait times. Information on health care services in the community is not readily available to all.



3.4 Recreation/Culture Strengths and Concerns

Project participants' comments about the strengths and areas for concern regarding recreation and culture in the Sidney area are summarized below.

"We have well-attended community events/traditions that are well known in our community and beyond. People outside our community come to enjoy our traditions. The events bring people together and build a sense of pride." **30-54 years**

"Seniors and families are two groups that don't mix much in Sidney. It would be nice to change that. When my kids reached their teens, they felt the seniors didn't like them anymore - some even crossed the street to walk on the other side." **30-54 years**

"There is a lack of outdoor summer recreation activities in our parks for older elementary age children up to early teens (e.g. water park, outdoor pool, day camps.) Other small towns do it!" **30-54 years**

"We would love to see a better skateboard park for our teenagers. The skateboard park we have is a pretty sad sight. A basketball court is also a good place to hang out. It is so very important to let them have a place to use and socialize." **30-55 years**

RECREATION/CULTURE STRENGTHS	RECREATION/CULTURE CONCERNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strong visual and performing arts community offers many appealing cultural activities and diverse artistic talent. The Mary Winspear Centre is a wonderful cultural facility for the community. - Many well-run seasonal and special events are held, appealing to different ages and drawing many residents and visitors together. - Panorama recreation centre, along with many other indoor/outdoor facilities, activities and community groups are available in the area to address residents' different leisure interests and encourage healthy lifestyles. - The Shoal Centre is an innovative facility. Many activities and services are available in the community to address seniors' interests. - Providers strive hard to offer leisure opportunities and make information available on services, programs and events. - The waterfront walkways, piers and beach accesses allow people to enjoy the beautiful ocean setting. - Many marine-based activities are available to residents and visitors. - Parks and attractive gardens are well maintained. Positive improvements have been made, and are planned for Tulista and Resthaven parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older adults have a facility and many activities offered in the community to take part in, however transportation and affordability can be barriers for seniors on limited incomes. - For youth, the outdoor basketball court was removed. Now, other than the skateboard park (which has safety concerns), youth have no established place to go for socializing and activities, especially in the evenings. - Youth like to attend band performances and perform themselves, but there are few venues in the area that are suitable for this, and use access and rate affordability are challenges. - The number and range of activities provided for young adults, youth and younger children need to be reviewed to ensure interests and needs are being met. Affordability and central locations are factors for participants. - There are limited opportunities provided through facilities/programs/events for different age groups to come together and participate. - Downtown businesses close and the area becomes vacant most evenings after 6 pm. Residents and visitors would enjoy occasional opportunities to take in evening shopping and cultural activities in the downtown area. - Access points and parking for marine-based activities are limited, and the unique opportunities available from the Sidney waterfront are not fully promoted. - Parks away from the downtown area are in need of attention – more amenities, improved playgrounds, better maintenance, etc. More opportunities for outdoor recreation and cultural programming in parks could be explored. - There is no large community sports field facility that can serve a range of outdoor sports. - People's knowledge of, and the availability and rental rates of indoor (non-profit, private) and outdoor facilities are a challenge for some community groups. - Information sharing, event/program coordination, and joint communication efforts across recreation providers and cultural groups can be limited. Some non-profit groups are experiencing budget constraints. Residents can find it hard to determine what is available/happening in the community.



3.5 Transportation Strengths and Concerns

Project participants' comments about the strengths and areas for concern regarding transportation in the Sidney area are summarized below.

"After living in a rural home for many years, I'm finding a much greater sense of community in Sidney, possibly because one is not dependent on a car to get around."

65-74 years

"This is not only a tourist town. Look at local needs too. Pay more attention to areas outside of the downtown core (e.g. traffic, speeds, roads, sidewalks, lighting, etc)."

30-54 years

"The road surface on many Sidney streets poses an accident danger. Trenches are cut across streets for service lines and left unfilled or the top is unfinished for months."

65-74 years

"The sidewalks are filled with sandwich boards. There is no need to put them right in front of the businesses on the main street. Limit only to side street businesses. Those with walkers, scooters or visual impairments have a terrible time."

65-74 years

"The traffic lights in Sidney do nothing to encourage reasonable safe, steady traffic flow. They hold up traffic and encourage frustrated pedestrians to jay walk."

75+ years

TRANSPORTATION STRENGTHS	TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The small town size and flat terrain allow people of all ages and modes of transportation to move around easily in the area. The temperate year-round climate is conducive to getting out and about in the community. - The Town's pedestrian-friendly initiatives and the area's bicycle lanes are appreciated by residents and visitors. - There is a good network of neighbourhood greenbelts and pathways in Sidney, offering potential for much use and enjoyment. - Many improvements have been made to the waterfront walkways making them widely used. - Improvements to Beacon Avenue have been beneficial for pedestrians and vehicles. - The two pedestrian overpasses installed solved large safety concerns and are well-used. - The Town has been supportive in addressing safety concerns for the expanded Sidney Elementary School student population. - Cycling initiatives in the area are being addressed cooperatively with the CRD and the two Districts. - Town staff complete transportation planning and traffic studies to address community needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A lot of focus and work has gone into downtown enhancement and tourism. Neighbourhood residents request that attention also be given to their areas' needs (e.g. sidewalks, streetlights, road cleaning). - The amount and speed of traffic on residential streets is a safety concern, especially from through traffic. Proper repair of roads after construction projects, and adequate street lighting are other needs. - Neighbourhood pathways are not well maintained, signed or lighted, resulting in safety concerns and underutilization. - Sidewalks away from downtown start and stop, have inconsistent curb slopes, and limited lighting. Sandwich boards on downtown sidewalks can pose problems. Scooter drivers' unsafe practices are also a concern. - The safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other path/crossing users at the Highway 17/Beacon Ave. intersection and the deceleration lane from Highway 17 onto Beacon Ave. is of concern. - Pedestrians and road users can be confused by the inconsistent four-way stops along James White Blvd/Sidney Ave, and by the timing of intersection/pedestrian lights along Beacon Ave. Safety concerns arise when people do not obey these signals/signs. Crosswalks elsewhere in town need to be more visible. - Increased development and density near downtown is increasing road congestion and on street parking shortages. Finding parking downtown is an ongoing problem. More parking is needed for the disabled. - Information on alternative transportation is not widely available locally (e.g. BC Transit schedules, car pooling, car sharing co-op) These opportunities can be more fully explored and promoted. There are concerns with some of BC Transit's schedules and routes. - Some people living with disabilities are not fully aware of transportation services available to them (HandiDart, Taxi Saver coupons, etc.). - More literature and incentives/promotions about active living/using alternative transportation could be made available.



	<p>TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS <i>-continued</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Waterfront walkways have inconsistent surfacing, and dog droppings can be a problem. Users would like the walkways to extend farther north.- Maintenance of existing bike lanes for safety, planning of new lanes in the area (e.g. Ardwell/McDonald Park Road between highway and Resthaven, other roads in North and Central Saanich) and adequate bicycle parking are ongoing needs. Cycling opportunities in the area are not fully explored or promoted.- Skateboarding is a main form of transportation for many youth, and their mobility in the community should not be restricted.- The safety of students getting to/leaving the three local schools is of paramount importance. Ways of increasing their safety need to be addressed (e.g. properly connected bicycle lanes, safe crossings at Beacon and Highway 17, stop signs/crossing guards on streets adjacent to schools).
--	---



4 Implementation Priorities

In the second phase of the SYF Project, Action Planning/Reporting, the committees' task was to listen to and review input from consultation activity participants and summarize the key needs and ideas for improvement heard. The volunteer members of the Recreation/Culture, Community Living, and Housing/Transportation Sub-committees worked hard to prepare action plans for their topic areas.

When reviewing public input and preparing the action plans, the committees identified many overlaps in needs and ideas for improvement across the project's four topic areas. Housing, community living, recreation/culture and transportation all contribute to residents' quality of life, with the four topic areas going hand in hand. And to have a diverse, balanced community of different ages and stages, a comprehensive, holistic approach has to be taken to support all types of residents. To help highlight overlaps between topic areas, links between different committees' recommendations are noted in the report's action plans.

Because the time and budget was not available to conduct fully objective, scientific research for the SYF Project, and because of the range and volume of topic comments, the committees' summaries of consultation findings are based on an analysis of strongly reoccurring themes emerging from input, and the general frequency of comments made. Within each action plan, the committees identified main goals (from overall themes in findings), related recommendations (developed based on needs/issues expressed), as well as possible implementation/action steps and potential partners (from participant input and committee brainstorming).

The topic Sub-committees presented their draft action plans to Town Council and staff, the Vision Committee, the SYF Project Steering Committee, and their own committee members for input. The plans were then distributed to community group representatives at an evening discussion session. Working in topic area groups, Sub-committee members and the group representatives identified the action plans' priority recommendations via a voting task and then provided feedback to help fine-tune the action plans' content (time and budget did not allow for a more detailed approach to identifying action plan priorities). Public open house attendees also provided input to the plans.

In this section of the report, all the goals and recommendations for the four topic areas are listed, and then the detailed action plans for the top five priority recommendations with each topic area are outlined. Appendix B presents the action steps for the other recommendations in each topic area - these recommendations are equally important and should be reviewed when planning any implementation initiatives.

It should be noted that input from consultation participants highlighted the many strengths that Sidney and the Peninsula area have to offer (see report Section 3). Participants offered information about needs and solutions, and volunteers drafted the action plans, all with the intention of helping shape new initiatives that can make the community and people's quality of living even better.

Project participants and volunteers have clearly kept in mind the guideline provided early on to the SYF committees of "thinking of our long-term community vision" when gathering and writing up input throughout the project process. This has resulted in, what the committees hope are, action plans that are forward thinking and comprehensive to help guide initiatives in Sidney and area into the future.

"The age imbalance in Sidney has resulted in an absence of a variety of services for all residents of Sidney, most specifically the youth and families who reside here.

By way of countering this situation, there has been recognition with the Town that if this community is to remain vibrant and strong, providing services and a positive quality of life for all, there must exist more balance among age groups and diversity of services."

**2000 Sidney
Corporate Strategy
Community Vision
Report**



“We have a beautiful, scenic community, which seems vibrant, healthy and safe. We need to safeguard this by not letting developers dictate development and the aesthetics of the town.” 55-64 years

“Much more lower income housing is needed. Young people, families, older people need a better variety of housing options. I am sick of seeing good, older housing around Sidney being torn down for upper income condos.” 55-64 years

“Housing is a cornerstone for building strong communities and access to housing is pivotal to community stability – it is a key determinant of a healthy community. Where and how people live not only affects individual health, but the well-being and character of the whole community.”

Consultant’s Report, Regional Housing Affordability Strategy 2003

“A healthy housing market can offer people with diverse interests and incomes a range of choices for housing type and tenure.”

Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria 2005

4.1 Housing Goals and Recommendations

The main goals and related recommendations identified by the Housing Sub-committee for addressing housing challenges and new directions are outlined below. The recommendations identified as top priorities are indicated with the arrows.

Goal A: Maintain a comprehensive housing strategy that addresses the housing needs of all ages, abilities and income levels

Recommendations:

1. Gather and maintain information to support effective housing decision-making.
2. Prepare a vision/key principles to guide the OCP review/document and direct the Town in maintaining current housing and overseeing future housing directions in the community.
3. Establish means for overseeing and receiving input to Sidney’s vision for housing/community directions and development.

Goal B: Provide a range of housing types and affordability to support residents of all ages, incomes and abilities to help create a diverse community

Recommendations: (Link for all → Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1)

- 1. Review the OCP, zoning and bylaws to identify ways to plan for a range of housing types, including market and affordable, and ensure that these types are available in the community.
- 2. Identify ways in planning to provide a range of housing types within areas to foster mixing of resident demographic groups and a sense of community.
Link → Community Living: Goal B, Recommendation 1
- 3. Explore ways to encourage local developers and other organizations to build housing in the community that is affordable and diverse in use.
- 4. Identify ways to protect current, and increase future affordable housing in the community to support families and residents with lower incomes.

Goal C: Address ways of controlling the pace and type of development and density to ensure the unique small town qualities of Sidney are maintained

Recommendations:

- 1. Ensure zoning provisions and design guidelines re: development/density support the Town’s housing/community vision and continue to be closely followed when approving developments and working with developers. (see Goal A, Recommendation 2)
- 2. Balance density development with provisions for green space.

Goal D: Address the unique housing needs of seniors, people living with disabilities and others in need

Recommendation:

1. Assess and address the current and future housing needs of the aging population and other people with special needs.



4.1.1 Priority Housing Recommendations

The priority recommendations identified by the Housing Sub-committee and related interest groups are detailed below.

Housing Priority Recommendation 1

Review the OCP, zoning and bylaws to identify ways to plan for a range of housing types, including market and affordable, and ensure that these types are available in the community. (from Goal B)

Link→ Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1

Comments from Input

- The Town is not an initiator of housing projects, but rather responds to proposals. However, the OCP, zoning and bylaws guide planning and decision-making for housing development and should support efforts to provide a range of housing for all ages and types of residents in the community.
- A strong theme in project feedback is the need to have a community with a diverse mix of age groups and income levels and a broad range of housing to address their needs. Demographic groups with housing needs requiring attention include families, young adults, average to lower income seniors and people living with disabilities.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Consider making OCP and zoning changes now to support future affordable housing (e.g. designate a percentage of housing that is affordable for low to moderate income households).
- Review the usefulness of integrating a housing vision/principles into a Comprehensive Housing Strategy within the OCP. (See Goal A, Recommendation 2)
- Encourage public input to any OCP review, helping them understand the scope of the content and impact on future housing directions and the community.
- Benchmark other municipalities' bylaws pertaining to the support of affordable housing.
- Refer to information/bylaw options in the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy document.
- Consider preparing bylaws to protect existing affordable housing and rental stock.
- Consider preparing bylaws to support the building of affordable/accessible housing.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney – Planning
- Advisory Planning Commission
- Other municipalities
- The public



Housing Priority Recommendation 2

Identify ways in planning to provide a range of housing types within areas to foster mixing of resident demographic groups and a sense of community. (from Goal B)

Link→ Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1; Goal B, Recommendation 1

Comments from Input

- Respondents of all ages commented that pockets of singularly-focus housing types/residents have developed in the community (e.g. just seniors areas). People would like to see different types of housing and residents mixed within areas to foster more diversity, integration and intergenerational connection.
- Education/awareness and appealing designs will be important to counter possible “not in my backyard” concerns from some residents.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Continue zoning efforts that support integrated, multi-use, multiple-type housing in all neighbourhoods.
- Encourage developers to consider a mix of housing/demographic types in areas.
- Consider zoning options to support corner neighbourhood stores to enhance the sense of community in neighbourhoods.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney Planning
- Advisory Planning Commission
- Developers
- Neighbourhood residents, the public



Housing Priority Recommendation 3

Explore ways to encourage local developers and other organizations to build housing in our community that is affordable and diverse in use. (from Goal B)

Link→ Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1

Comments from Input

- Developers are primarily building higher end homes, condos and infill homes for older residents with high incomes. They are not presented with incentives for developing more affordable housing and/or altering designs to accommodate different uses.
- Non-profit organizations encounter high costs/fees in trying to develop affordable housing. Habitat for Humanity commented, “We sell homes to qualified low income families at very attractive terms with mortgages which see payments plowed back to create yet more housing. About 15 homes built creates a cash flow for one new one per year. The cost to us and ultimately our families is an issue with growing land costs and building costs. Without the generosity of municipalities and donors we would not be able to build the high quality homes we have built to date in Sidney (7 by 2005, 11 by the end of 2006). We build simple, decent affordable housing, and need to control costs for many reasons. Partnering with the Town of Sidney in the future can be very positive, as long as expectations about costly finishes, and costly land, fees, servicing, etc. are managed.”
- Limited opportunities arise for Habitat for Humanity project sites. It is key to involve Habitat early in discussions for new developments to fit in with their planning needs.
- Some residents have expressed interest in leaving their property/land for affordable housing, but are not aware of how this can be done.
- A proposal for an affordable seniors living complex is before the District of North Saanich, on land by Lochside Drive just outside of the Town of Sidney. Other opportunities like this will likely arise in the future.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

a) With Developers

- Provide developers with information on the community’s shortage of and demand for more affordable family accommodation to help broaden their focus beyond high end developments for older adults.
- Consider giving priority to bonus density and zoning amendments for proposals that would create diverse, affordable housing.
- Consider having development permit fees lower cost for affordable housing projects.
- Discuss with developers the need/benefits of incorporating more secondary suites at the building stage.
- Encourage alternative housing designs with developers to help meet the changing needs of all ages of residents (e.g. “suiteable” when a couple, full house when a family, suiteable when children have left and owners’ parents need living accommodation).
- Encourage (e.g. via zoning forgiveness, bonus density) the development of sustainable housing (concrete and steel) that will be affordable into the future, with some measures for market/price control factored in. Look at the Langford model.



b) With Other Organizations

- Consider having development permit fees lower cost / subsidized for non-profit organizations.
- A percentage of fees collected from other building projects could be allocated for affordable housing projects.
- Support more Habitat for Humanity and Capital Region Housing projects in the community.
- Explore potential multi-sector partnerships (like Shoal Centre) to offer affordable housing development.
- Explore the availability of land, buildings in other areas for possible affordable housing partnering opportunities (e.g. Federal Plant Research Station land, closed Greenglade school property).
- Explore opportunities to liaise with service organizations (e.g. BCS, service clubs, churches) about providing affordable housing initiatives in the community (e.g. co-op, subsidized housing).
- Inform the public of opportunities to bequeath their property for affordable housing via CRD Housing, Habitat for Humanity and other non-profit organizations. Consider a possible role for the Town to play (e.g. tax receipts for land acquisition) in a local land/housing trust for affordable housing.
- Liaise with District of North Saanich planners to learn of any opportunities they are pursuing with developers to build affordable housing on land neighbouring Sidney.
- Keep informed of/support efforts of neighbouring municipalities to pursue ALR rescues, for allocating a percentage of land taken out of the reserve for affordable housing.
- Monitor the impact of the Regional Housing Trust Fund and consider Sidney's potential future support of the Fund.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney Planning
- Advisory Planning Commission
- Developers
- Districts of Central Saanich, North Saanich
- Habitat for Humanity
- Capital Region Housing Corporation
- BCS
- Service clubs, churches
- Regional Housing Trust Fund
- Property owners



Housing Priority Recommendation 4

Identify ways to protect current, and increase future affordable housing in the community to support families and residents with lower incomes. (from Goal B)

Link→ Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1

Comments from Input

- Families are finding it hard to move to Sidney or remain here due to high housing costs and few housing choices. An imbalance in residents is developing, with the majority of Sidney becoming comprised of older adults. Project respondents, young and old, each stressed the importance/need of keeping/attracting families to Sidney.
- Young adults and seniors on lower income also find it challenging to find affordable housing in the community.
- The majority of Sidney's new development is geared to high income seniors and other adults who can afford the expensive condos and infill homes.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Maintain existing co-op housing and rental stock, through avenues such as CMHC's Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).
- Promote to housing owners the need/benefits of providing rentals to the community.
- Promote to the community the legal secondary suites option for providing affordable rentals.
- Consider how an inventory/contact list of rental accommodation could be maintained and made available to members of the public looking for rental accommodation in the community.
- Identify ways to keep affordable, single family dwellings/lots intact, where their condition is suitable, rather than infilling with high density, expensive housing (e.g. restoration or new building projects by Habitat for Humanity).
- Keep affordable housing units affordable to future owners by ensuring that the unit can't be sold for more than the house index has risen.
- Consider ways to incorporate family housing into any new developments around school areas.
- Identify ways to encourage more affordable single family homes, townhomes, starter homes with backyards to be available in the community.
- Identify ways to work with strata councils at adult-only apartment/condo complexes to review bylaws to offer opportunities for younger people to live there.

Potential Partners

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| - Town of Sidney Planning | - Condo strata councils |
| - Advisory Planning Commission | - Developers |
| - CMHC | - Home owners |
| - Provincial and federal government grant programs | - Rental owners |
| - Habitat for Humanity | |



Housing Priority Recommendation 5

Ensure zoning provisions and design guidelines re: development/density support the Town's vision for the community and housing, and are closely followed when working with developers and approving developments. (from Goal C, also see Goal A, Recommendation 2)

Comments from Input

- Residents are concerned with the pace and amount of density development in Sidney. Too many affordable homes are being torn down and replaced with expensive, multi-storey condos and multiple homes built close to lot lines. This trend is harming the small town ambiance and reducing affordable housing.
- The Town's housing/community vision should incorporate maintaining the small town ambiance and an acceptable level of density.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- See Goal A, Recommendation 2 re: developing a housing vision/guiding principles.
- Review current zoning and design guidelines and adjust as required to ensure that the height restrictions, maximum homes per lot, green space, accessibility requirements, affordability level, etc. specified will result in development/density that supports the Town's vision for housing and the community.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney Planning
- Developers



“Pull our town together so neighbours become friends that can help inform, educate and network with us.”

30-54 years

“Encourage younger adults to remain in the area by increasing career and work opportunities, suitably priced accommodation and socializing facilities.”

55-64 years

“Address bridge building. Young adults bring the spice and vitality of youth. Seniors bring the wisdom of age and history.”

65-74 years

“More linkage is needed between old and young. Encourage youth to visit and offer volunteer help in seniors’ facilities. Encourage older people to volunteer in schools.”

65-74 years

“We must make further effort to get people of all ages moving, but especially the younger people (8-15).”

30-54 years

“Community information seems scattered. There should be a central information source regarding services, activities and events.”

65-74 years

“Clinics should be open later and more often on weekends so people can use them and not the hospital emergency for minors things.”

75+ years

4.2 Community Living Goals and Recommendations

The Community Living Sub-committee had a topic area that was less tangible than the other committees’ and initially included a broad range of subjects. To help develop a workable focus, the committee identified community support, information sharing, wellness and safety as their topic areas and prepared a definition/vision of community living:

“To live in a vibrant, connected, healthy community where people are supported and support each other, have a strong sense of well being, and have their needs and interests met.”

The main goals and related recommendations identified by the Community Living Sub-committee for addressing challenges and new directions for community support, information sharing, safety and wellness are outlined below. The recommendations identified as top priorities are indicated with the arrows.

Goal A: Increase the diversity of our community

Recommendations:

- ➔ 1. Identify ways of making the community more welcoming and supportive of families and young adults.
Links➔ Housing: Goal B, Recommendations 1-4
Recreation/Culture: Goal B, Recommendation 1; Goal C, Recommendations 2, 3
- ➔ 2. Explore the First Nations people’s sense of isolation from Sidney and identify/pursue solutions together.

Goal B: Support connections between age groups in the community

Recommendations:

- ➔ 1. Explore ways to provide opportunities for contact across age groups.
Links➔ Housing: Goal B, Recommendation 2
Recreation/Culture: Goal B, Recommendation 1; Goal C, Recommendation 1
- 2. Review the availability of facilities that can be used to provide opportunities for contact across age groups.
Links➔ Recreation/Culture: Goal B, Recommendation 1
- 3. Identify a structure/group that can help oversee the interests and planning for youth, intergenerational contact and other community living initiatives.

Goal C: Enhance information sharing in the community

Recommendations:

- ➔ 1. Develop a coordinated approach to providing comprehensive, easily accessible information for all ages about community services, resources, programs, and events.
Link➔ Recreation/Culture: Goal E, Recommendation 1
- 2. Increase the number of communication avenues for accessing information.



Goal D: Enhance the sense of safety in the community

Recommendations:

1. Explore opportunities to promote our community's high level of safety and to connect with residents about safety.
2. Address lighting needs in public places around the community - on streets, pathways, crosswalks.
Link→ Transportation: Goal E, Recommendations 1,2
3. Assess areas of road safety concern in the community and take steps to improve traffic safety.
Link→ Transportation: Goal B, Recommendation 1
4. Provide opportunities for youth, and for positive youth interaction with older adults in the community to help address safety concerns. (see Goal B, Recommendation 1)
Link→ Recreation/Culture: Goal A, Recommendation 4; Goal B, Recommendation 1; Goal C, Recommendation 3

Goal E: Provide resources and support to maximize the physical, mental and emotional well-being of community residents of all ages, abilities and income

Recommendations:

- 1. Examine ways to increase access to physicians/health care advice in Sidney and area.
2. Examine the distribution of information on physical and mental wellness to ensure that timely and appropriate information is getting to target audiences in the community. (See Goal C)
3. Promote active living and healthy lifestyle through community initiatives.
Links→ Recreation/Culture: All Goals
Transportation: Goal C, Recommendation 1; Goal D, all recommendations; Goal E, all recommendations
4. Examine current and future services to address the needs of aging residents.



4.2.1 Priority Community Living Recommendations

The priority recommendations identified by the Community Living Sub-committee and related interest groups are detailed below.

Community Living Priority Recommendation 1

Identify ways of making the community more welcoming and supportive of families and young adults. (from Goal A)

Links→ Housing: Goal B, Recommendations 1-4
Recreation/Culture: Goal A, Recommendation 4; Goal B, Recommendation 1;
Goal C, Recommendations 2, 3

Comments from Input

- Young families and young adults (early career age adults) are discouraged about lack of affordable housing. Some are having to move away, others are unable to move to Sidney, resulting in there being a decreasing number of families and young adults in the community and a growing imbalance of older residents. Respondents young and old commented on this imbalance and the need to attract and support families and young adults to live in Sidney.
- Respondents commented that many of the services and facilities in Sidney are geared to older adults, and that more programs and facilities (recreational, day care, etc.) need to be provided for young adults and families.
- A shortage of local jobs and inconvenient bus routes/schedules to downtown (for work) and post-secondary facilities pose challenges for young adults.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- A holistic approach is needed to welcoming and supporting families and young adults, as well as older adults. Housing and Recreation/Culture goals/action steps link in with Community Living action plans.
- Undertake steps to provide more affordable housing in the community for young adults and families.
- Provide and promote a broad range of leisure opportunities for all age groups.
- Ensure that promotional material for Sidney reflects the community's composition and support of all age groups.
- Liaise with BC Transit about bus route and scheduling needs for local young adults and other residents (See Transportation Action Plan Goal C, Recommendation 1).
- Liaise with employers, BCS, the School District and child care related organizations to inventory/assess affordable day care and after school care provided. Identify ways to address gaps in service/availability. Consider a local child care services registry.
- Explore with BCS youth employment services opportunities to encourage local businesses to offer more work opportunities for local youth/young adults (16 to 24 years). Consider a jobs registry for summer/other times of year.
- Consider incentives for businesses to hire local young workers - e.g. Town could establish a local business tax reduction for businesses hiring youth workers, and an award program to acknowledge these businesses.
- Have businesses, particularly the building trades, offer incentives (e.g. Incentive Scholarship Program) to attract youth to study in a particular field and return to Sidney for the work.



Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney
- Schools, School District
- Service and program providers
- Child care services
- BCS
- CDO
- Sidney Business Association
- Local businesses
- BC Transit



Community Living Priority Recommendation 2

Explore the First Nations people's sense of isolation from Sidney and identify/pursue solutions together. (from Goal A)

Comments from Input

- First Nations people feel there are few places in Sidney that are welcoming. Racism in schools was mentioned, as well as ageism and racism from some merchants in Sidney.
- Public transit from First Nations communities to Sidney is limited.
- There is limited evidence of the history/celebration of the four area First Nations communities and their culture in Sidney. The National Aboriginal Day celebration held at Tulista Park in June is a good example of an event where people can learn more about Coast Salish culture.
- Opportunities are being missed for First Nations youth to work locally and for others to contribute culturally to tourism, businesses and education.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Hold further dialogue with Nil/tu,o staff and other First Nations groups on the Peninsula to understand the current and desired state of the relationship with Sidney/Peninsula businesses, services, schools, community in general, and possible new ideas.
- Continue to support the links between youth and RCMP - First Nations people indicate these are good.
- Liaise with BC Transit about their promotion to First Nations communities of the new mini-buses servicing these areas.
- Work together on innovative ways to extend current First Nations representation in the community - e.g.
 - Chamber of Commerce could launch a Super Host program focusing on First Nations youth.
 - Continue the Town's efforts to talk with the First Nations about placing a cairn in a local park (e.g. Tulista, along Lochside Drive) to acknowledge First Nations ancestors in this area, and about the possibility of operating a First Nations business in this location.
 - Approach the First Nations to produce a history of the four bands to be placed on an appropriate permanent display in Sidney.
 - Encourage special workshops for students where First Nations visitors can teach/speak about their culture (e.g. like the Rotary Club/Parkland/First Nation carver Sidney wood sign project).
 - Encourage/assist with more special events in Sidney that celebrate the First Nations culture (e.g. Salmon BBQ, drum ceremony, National Aboriginal Day in June).
 - Consider other events/programs in Sidney that are of appeal/affordable to First Nations people and foster their involvement with other residents (e.g. representation at the Thursday Market, play performances, recreational activities)
 - Explore ways to promote Sidney activities/events of interest to the First Nations communities.
 - Approach the First Nations to hold an Aboriginal Art and Cultural show.



Potential Partners

- Peninsula First Nations Bands and Councils
- Nil/tu,o staff
- Saanich Native Support Program
- Town of Sidney
- RCMP
- BCS
- BC Transit
- CDO
- Chamber of Commerce
- Community Celebrations Society
- Service/program providers
- School Board, schools
- Media
- Saanich Peninsula Art Council



Community Living Priority Recommendation 3

Explore ways to provide opportunities for contact across age groups.
(from Goal B)

Links→ Recreation/Culture: Goal B, Recommendation 1; Goal C, Recommendation 1
Housing: Goal B, Recommendation 2

Comments from Input

- Youth and seniors together discussed how their lives don't "include" each other, nor an understanding of their skills, experience and needs.
- Stereotyping is common among seniors and youth due to misunderstandings of each other. Each age group is polarized.
- Many seniors do not have grandchildren in the area and many youth do not have grandparents in the area.
- Both age groups expressed interest in breaking down barriers and the gap between them through facilities, programs, events, etc.
- The pace and nature of development in the town is taking away the friendly, small town feel and residents' ease of connecting with one another and with the community.
- Some residents have difficulty knowing where to look for information on opportunities for social connection.
- Limited opportunities are available in the community for youth and seniors to connect.
- Residents enjoy the many special events currently offered in the community and these and new events are ideal ways to foster involvement/connection from residents of all ages.
- Respondents commented that there is limited exposure to/celebration of other cultures in our community and these would draw different age groups.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Work with providers and interest groups to identify possible cross-age social, recreational, learning and other activities/programs (e.g. ballroom dancing classes, music performances, lectures) that could be offered in the community.
- Explore ways with community organizations to offer mentoring/skill exchange opportunities between seniors and youth (e.g. through school initiatives, community workshops, BCS contact/skills/service list, adopt-a-grandparent/grandchild initiative).
- Work with the local schools and seniors facilities to identify ways to involve seniors in student activities (e.g. special invitations to performances, helping in classrooms, special guest speakers, granny/grandpa program in elementary school).
- Identify ways to bring young people into seniors facilities (e.g. preschool program at Shoal Centre/other seniors facilities, youth visiting/helping out at senior facilities, offer programs/events at Shoal Centre that appeal to young people).
- Identify ways to effectively promote to residents of all ages the programs, other opportunities available for support/connection (see Goal C).
- Identify ways to work with community organizations to broadly promote current events and develop new special events that interest/draw out residents of all ages (e.g. Wheels in Motion, parades, other markets, cultural celebrations, informal outdoor music performances).



Potential Partners

- BCS
- Silver Threads
- Private and extended care seniors facilities
- Panorama
- School Board, schools, student councils
- Youth Advisory Committee
- CDO
- Sidney Business Association
- Community Celebrations Society
- Business Sponsors
- Special Interest Organizations



Community Living Priority Recommendation 4

Develop a coordinated approach to providing comprehensive, easily accessible information for all ages about community services, resources, programs, and events. (from Goal C)

Link→ Recreation/Culture: Goal E, Recommendation 1

Comments from Input

- Information sharing is key to enhancing residents' sense of connection with the community and one another.
- Existing community directories and organizations (e.g. BCS, CDO, Sidney Community Profile by the CDO, Chamber of Commerce, Panorama) are in place and provide valuable information. However, a number of residents are not aware of these information sources or are unable to access them easily.
- Provider organizations who met for a SYF Project discussion group commented that they are not fully aware of what other organizations are undertaking, and that opportunities to formally connect/network with organizations would be nice once and awhile.
- The role and location of the Community Development Office has been positively evolving, but has resulted in a number of residents commenting they are unclear of the focus of this office.
- It is a challenge to keep all community information current and coordinated across organizations.
- There is no central place where people can go to find out what is happening and available in the community.
- There is less information available for youth and young families than for older adults.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Review successful information sharing models/organizations in place in other municipalities.
- Work with community organizations to determine how best to coordinate information collection, dissemination, updating, etc. (e.g. one organization oversees).
- Review the visibility/role/name of the CDO as a possible centre to meet the information needs of all residents, visitors and businesses.
- Building on existing information sources, coordinate an information-building network and the provision of a "catch all, one-stop" physical location for community information and a comprehensive directory of resources and services in the Peninsula area. The directory could be available via website and in hard copy.
- Consider how best to keep the community information up-to-date.
- Increase cooperation between municipalities in providing and promoting community information.
- Research the feasibility of providing an Information Hot Line to complement the directory.
- Identify a communications strategy for informing residents of all ages and visitors of information sources and how to access them.
- Identify an approach for service providers to network with one another on occasion to share information/planning, etc. (e.g. bi-monthly/seasonal luncheon, breakfast information sharing meeting).



Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney
- BCS
- VIHA
- CDO
- Sidney Business Association
- RCMP
- Key service and facility providers
- Surrounding municipalities
- Local media



Community Living Priority Recommendation 5

Examine ways to increase access to physicians/health care advice in Sidney and area. (from Goal D)

Comments from Input

- Adults with young children and older adults without children highlighted the lack of family physicians in Sidney and the difficulty in accessing consistent medical care.
- Some participants were “orphan” patients (family physician retired and no replacement has been found)
- Residents complained about the excessive wait times in walk-in clinics and early evening closing time.
- There is a shortage of local specialists.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Promote to the public and health care professionals BCS’s service of keeping a current list of physicians accepting new patients.
- Examine the possibility of a promotional program and municipal tax incentives to encourage family physicians to locate in Sidney. Provide additional information that Sidney is a family community, not a retirement community.
- Review the successes of other models used by communities to provide integrated health services under one roof (e.g. James Bay, Ladysmith).
- Explore, with Vancouver Island Health Authority, the possibility of specialized clinics (e.g. chronic disease management - arthritis, diabetes, stroke recovery) at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital or other central location that would take the pressure off existing family physicians in the community and open up patient spaces.
- Explore, with Vancouver Island Health Authority, “community health care clinics” that would make use of health care professionals such as nurse practitioners as well as doctors.
- Liaise with existing private community walk-in clinics to discuss hours of operation (e.g. rotating late hours), possible satellite locations (e.g. Shoal Centre).
- Promote the BC HealthGuide and BC NurseLine telephone service available to residents for medical information.
- Promote wellness clinics available through Silver Threads/Shoal Centre.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney
- Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Health care professionals
- Clinics
- BCS
- Shoal Centre
- CDO
- Victoria Medical Society



"I'd like to see parks /playgrounds improved (e.g. north end). Use some funds spent on seniors to help the next generation. The parks are in bad shape - my children don't even care to use them."

30-54 years

"Sidney needs more activities for the youth living here. There needs to be somewhere they can go to socialize (supervised) to do what they will that is safe and acceptable."

30-54 years

"Events involving main street activity are exciting and good for business. Community happenings filled with people make a town fun. More events like this would be nice. Hats off to the CDO, Celebrations Society and other groups who do so much."

55-64 years

"Encourage a variety of events at Mary Winspear Centre for different age groups and different entertainment interests."

30-54 years

"Provide more access to affordable leisure activities. Performances and activities can be too expensive for pensioners. Many seniors are on a very limited income and paying \$3 for an activity each time they go can even be too much."

65-74 years

4.3 Recreation/Culture Goals and Recommendations

The Recreation/Culture Sub-committee referred to "leisure pursuits" in its research activities with the public to reflect all recreation and culture interests. Leisure pursuits were defined as, "what people do in their free time to fulfill and enhance their quality of life."

The main goals and related recommendations identified by the Recreation/Culture Sub-committee for addressing challenges and new directions for recreation and culture are outlined below. The recommendations identified as top priorities are indicated with the arrows. It should be noted that all recreation/culture recommendations help address the Community Living Goal E's, Recommendation 3 – "promote active living and healthy lifestyles through community initiatives."

Goal A: Utilize current facilities to their maximum potential to meet the needs of users and potential users

Recommendations:

- 1. Increase communications about opportunities to maximize community access to and use of indoor facilities, cultural venues and sport fields.
- 2. Address ways to improve the Iroquois Park soccer fields.
- 3. Use a coordinated approach to the Blue Heron sport fields enhancement/further development to meet local sports needs on the Peninsula and to act as an event destination facility, supporting tourism.
- 4. Examine options to improve the safety, utility and acceptance by youth/the community for the skateboard park.
Link → Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1; Goal D, Recommendation 4
- 5. Maintain/enhance tennis court facilities in the community.

Goal B: Work with municipalities, service providers and users to address new facility needs and create development plans for new facilities

Recommendations:

- 1. Explore provision options for a new or existing venue where youth can create their own recreational and cultural programming, and that can also offer the potential for cross-age group activities.
Link → Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1; Goal B, Recommendation 1; Goal D, Recommendation 4
- 2. Explore options for providing access to a central pool (indoor and/or outdoor) in Sidney.
- 3. Address interest expressed for a water park in Sidney.
- 4. Address interest expressed in having a gymnasium available for a range of recreational activities for all age groups.
- 5. Address how to accommodate the need expressed for playing basketball (indoor/outdoor) in the community.
- 6. Address interest expressed in having a lacrosse box available in the Sidney community for formal and informal use.



GOALC: Facilitate the delivery of recreation and culture programs/activities to meet the needs of the broad cross section of Sidney and Peninsula residents (age, ability, income levels)

Recommendations:

- 1. Explore ways to maintain and broaden the level of community cultural opportunities and evening leisure opportunities and cultural happenings in the downtown area.
Link → Community Living: Goal B, Recommendation 1
- 2. Encourage enhanced dialogue between the large number of service providers in the Peninsula area to address programming needs for all ages and effective service delivery.
Link → Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1
- 3. Encourage service providers to explore new youth program options.
Link → Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1; Goal D, Recommendation 4

Goal D: Address current and potential outdoor recreation amenities to maximize residents' and visitors' use and enjoyment of the community's unique outdoor setting

Recommendations:

- 1. Address ways to improve opportunities/facilities for marine based recreation and tourism activities.
- 2. Identify ways to improve the playground facilities for children at existing parks, particularly those farther away from the downtown core.
- 3. Identify ways to increase the amount, amenities and enjoyment of green space in the community.
- 4. Improve sidewalks, scenic walkways and pathways to maximize the safety, use and enjoyment of walking opportunities in the community.
Link → Transportation: Goal C, Recommendation 1; Goal E, all recommendations
- 5. Improve amenities for cycling in the community.
Link → Transportation: Goal C, Recommendation 1; Goal D, all recommendations

Goal E: Develop comprehensive, coordinated information sources to effectively promote recreation and cultural opportunities on the Saanich Peninsula

Recommendations:

- 1. Complete the process of inventorying all cultural and recreational opportunities on the Saanich Peninsula, and prepare strategies for coordinated planning and communication to increase public awareness and participation in offerings.
Link → Community Living: Goal C, Recommendation 1



4.3.1 Priority Recreation/Culture Recommendations

The priority recommendations identified by the Recreation/Culture Sub-committee and related interest groups are detailed below.

Recreation/Culture Priority Recommendation 1

Increase communications about opportunities to maximize community access to and use of indoor facilities, cultural venues and sport fields.
(from Goal A)

Comments from Input

- Area facilities can be underutilized, as can sports fields (municipal, school facilities), even when they are in good condition.
- Not all groups know how to book fields for their use.
- Knowledge of indoor spaces (public, private) - what is available at facilities, costs, amenities, booking procedures, and contact information - was indicated as lacking.
- Some community groups commented that it is a challenge to get access to facilities at suitable times and at affordable rates.
- The closure of the Iroquois Park Clubhouse for group use removes a meeting space from the community inventory.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Do an inventory of indoor facilities (public and private) and sports fields available for group use, including amenities and rates.
- Identify ways to communicate the location, rates, amenities and rental steps information to the public/groups (e.g. Recreation and Culture Information Guide, Town Talk, website).
- Encourage facilities to produce a one page “rental information” document to provide user groups (Mary Winspear Centre has an example of this).
- Encourage public and private facility owners to explore access policies (e.g. hours available, rates, types of users) that can facilitate effective use by local non-profit groups. Review consultation findings from the Fall 2005 Independent Business Study of the Mary Winspear Centre.
- Liaise with the School Board to clarify their access policy and identify ways to increase access to school fields and facilities after school hours (evenings, weekends, summer). Communicate this information to the public/groups.

Potential Partners

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| - Field providers | - School Board |
| - Provider partners | - Private facilities |
| - User groups | - Saanich Peninsula Community Arts Council |
| - Mary Winspear Centre | - CDO, Sidney Business Assoc. |
| - Shoal Centre | - Chamber of Commerce |
| - Panorama | |



Recreation/Culture Priority Recommendation 2

Explore provision options for a new or existing venue where youth can create their own recreational and cultural programming, and that can also offer the potential for cross-age group activities. (from Goal B)

Link→ Community Living: Goal A, Recommendation 1; Goal B, Recommendation 1; Goal D, Recommendation 4

Comments from Input

- In all project consultation activities, all age groups repetitively expressed the need for a multi-purpose community youth facility/space in a central location for youth to use for a variety of recreational, cultural and social purposes. This would be a place for the youth to go, to give them a focus, entertainment, and chance to hang out safely. Youth would have opportunities to work together to create something for themselves and the community.
- Youth comment that residents are concerned about youth hanging around, and explain the fact that they are hanging around indicates a strong need for a facility for youth to go to.
- Although the youth use schools, Panorama, Mary Winspear Centre, their parents' garages and other venues for cultural pursuits, there were many comments about cost, availability and liability issues that became insurmountable for this age group.
- They desire a low cost, sound-proof space for rehearsing, and opportunities for open mic nights, to listen to peers' bands.
- They also discussed having entertainment nights at local coffee houses that could stay open later and provide a space to serve different age groups at different times (e.g. "tweens" some evenings, older teens other nights, adults other times).
- Although a youth centre once existed in Sidney on the Sanscha lands, all age groups indicated this was not the healthy atmosphere they desired, and that any new youth facility should not be developed by the skateboard park.
- The benefits of Panorama were expressed, but some people indicated it is too far away (hard to easily travel to) to adequately meet the needs of area youth, and the Mary Winspear Centre is too formal for youth to feel comfortable using on a regular basis.
- Participants suggested any community youth facility be configured so other age groups feel comfortable there. Intergenerational activities could be undertaken to foster connection between different age groups.



Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Explore striking a committee to study existing venues that cater to youth – e.g. other youth centres, James Bay Community Centre, coffee houses, other towns such as Prince George.
- Have this committee prepare a business plan and feasibility study for a community youth centre, including possible partnerships of organizations to run the project, sponsorships (explore grant options for the planning process), donations of equipment.
- Consider seeking funding to hire a local youth coordinator to link with youth and to help create a business plan for operation of a community youth centre.
- Strike a Youth Coordination Group to survey peers' wishes and desires, prioritize these, and later develop programming/youth employment opportunities at the centre.
- Identify a clean, multi-room space with amenities that can become a community youth centre in the Sidney area.
- Look at possibilities of youth employment to maintain, run programs, custodial, etc. Ensure basic "structure" and supervision is in place to keep venues and activities "safe" yet appealing to youth.
- Explore insurance and security needs.
- Study the feasibility of putting a rehearsal venue into a community youth centre (e.g. sound proofing room(s) for rehearsal purposes and renting at low cost). Consider cultural programming partnership opportunities with cultural groups.
- Look at existing venues in the short-term (e.g. Mary Winspear Centre, schools) for youth's cultural programming and identify their down/low usage times. Examine if they could offer a youth rate, for youth activities and rehearsals at low cost.
- Talk with coffee shops re: sponsoring youth opportunities in their spaces after hours (e.g. one night per week coffee house/entertainment in the evenings - open mic, listen to own bands).
- Investigate other activities that could be offered in such a facility such as counselling, employment services, clinics, classes, training, mentoring, and other cross-age group activities. Refer to ideas generated by Sidney's Youth Advisory Committee in Spring 2005.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Beacon Community Services
- CDO
- Sidney Business Association
- Chamber of Commerce
- PACs
- Panorama
- Saanich Peninsula Community Arts Council
- Mary Winspear Centre
- Business community/coffee shops
- School District
- Other funding partners (i.e. other levels of government, Canada Council, catalyst programs)



Recreation/Culture Priority Recommendation 3

Explore ways to maintain and broaden the level of community cultural opportunities and evening leisure opportunities/cultural happenings in the downtown area. (from Goal C)

Link → Community Living: Goal B, Recommendation 1

Comments from Input

- Few opportunities exist for leisure activities in downtown Sidney after 8 pm, other than restaurants. Streets and sidewalk areas become almost empty in the evening, missing out on opportunities for lively community happenings and for residents/visitors to connect with one another.
- Residents and visitors like to stroll near downtown and would enjoy being able to visit shops on some evenings, and view arts/cultural happenings downtown.
- Respondents like attending outdoor concerts in Sidney and would like to see more of these offered, both in the downtown area and in other community parks (e.g. in north Sidney).
- People spoke positively of community dances that were held in past years (e.g. at the Sidney Hotel).
- Respondents commented on the high level of cultural activities available (visual and performance arts based) in the Town of Sidney and the Peninsula.
- Respondents attended many cultural events at the Mary Winspear Centre, Shoal Centre, in churches, at the bandstand, in library, in schools. They wished there was even more available but indicated that sometimes cost to attend was a barrier.
- Cultural providers consistently commented on difficulties with marketing coordination, funding, low attendance causing budgeting problems, volunteer burnout, rental costs, inability to afford paid staff, all possibly leading to dissolution.
- These concerns were also brought forward by non-sports related recreation groups (i.e. Dog Training clubs, Gardening Clubs, Book Clubs, etc).



Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Liaise with the CDO, Sidney Business Association to explore the feasibility/options for having later evening shopping on a seasonal basis (e.g. summer, Christmas) for one or two evenings.
- Consider opportunities to have scheduled/coordinated street entertainers (e.g. buskers, musical performances in alcoves along main street – by Snapdragon Nursery, Victoria Bird House, Beacon Landing, Beacon Plaza alcove) and café live music entertainment offered.
- Explore opportunities to (i) have more outdoor concert performances in the downtown area and area parks, and (ii) offer community dances of appeal and affordability for different age groups.
- Work with Mary Winspear Centre, Saanich Peninsula Community Arts Council and other local arts groups to identify possible performers.
- Consider a joint marketing campaign to promote benefits of cultural opportunities.
- Explore other funding sources and partnerships with the business community.

Potential Partners

- Community Celebrations Society
- CDO
- Sidney Business Association
- Chamber of Commerce
- Local businesses, coffee shops
- Mary Winspear Centre
- Saanich Peninsula Community Arts Council
- Culture provider groups
- Town of Sidney
- Panorama
- BCS
- Media Partners
- Museums
- Sidney and North Saanich Vancouver Island Regional Library



Recreation/Culture Priority Recommendation 4

Address ways to improve opportunities/facilities for marine based recreation and tourism activities. (from Goal D)

Comments from Input

- The offshore waters and the neighbouring Gulf Islands provide world class opportunities for such activities as sea kayaking, diving, charters, etc. The upcoming changes to the Bevan Street pier will add to these experiences.
- Respondents commented that Sidney does not fully promote these wonderful resources. The Waterfront Committee project supported increased promotion of area kayaking.
- Adequate beach access, overnight and day parking near beach accesses, drop off areas (so short distance to haul gear), as well as a lack of support facilities for these activities were cited as challenges.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Work with marine activity businesses and interest groups to identify key challenges/needs. Recognize and address the impact of excess activity and parking in residential areas.
- Prioritize locations for development of improved access, amenities (e.g. expanded Bevan pier, new park area plans along Lochside Drive).
- Identify ways to effectively address near-by unloading and parking needs. Consider designating some Town parking areas as overnight parking spaces, with a maximum stay limit.
- Approach marinas regarding providing long-term/overnight parking for kayakers and/or shower facilities for divers.
- Work with the Chamber of Commerce and other destination marketing organizations to fully promote area marine activity opportunities once adequate support for these activities is in place.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney
- Diving organizations, clubs and businesses
- Charter firms
- Kayak and paddling clubs and businesses
- Kayak guide associations
- Marinas
- Chamber of Commerce
- Sidney Business Association
- CDO
- Tourism Victoria
- Neighbourhood residents



Recreation/Culture Priority Recommendation 5

Complete the process of inventorying all cultural and recreational opportunities on the Saanich Peninsula, and prepare strategies for coordinated planning and communication to increase public awareness and participation in offerings. (from Goal E)

Link → Community Living: Goal C, Recommendation 1
(to develop a community information guide (web and print), but keep the recreation/culture guide separate).

Comments from Input

- Although there are many good guides to what particular facilities/groups offer (e.g. Panorama Recreation Guide, Saanich Peninsula Arts Council literature) and comprehensive lists have been started (e.g. CDO/Sidney website listing), there is no comprehensive list that covers all kinds of culture and recreation opportunities (facilities, groups, services).
- Marketing efforts of individual providers do not seem to be reaching all residents. Ways of coordinating communication and advertising need to be explored to effectively reach a broader market.
- Although most event producers put time and money into posters, ads and listings about their upcoming events, comments were made by all age groups surveyed that they still found it hard to know about upcoming events.
- Some service providers commented that more coordination between event providers is needed. It is hard for groups to know what date to choose for their event and sometimes selected dates conflict with other community event happenings. There is no one place to contact to find out about upcoming event dates.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- With the CDO, discuss the possible role of the office as the gathering and distribution centre for a recreation and culture information guide.
- Link in with the inventories started by the CDO for the Sidney website and Sidney Community Profile document, Saanich Peninsula Community Arts Council Membership list and by the SYF Project Culture and Recreation Sub Committee. Include information on recreation and cultural groups, program, services, facilities, parks, beach accesses, etc.
- Inventory rental spaces available (e.g. community facilities, churches, private facilities' space) and related information for inclusion in the guide.
- Put together a plan for keeping this information/data base up to date in the most timely and cost efficient manner (e.g. staff, volunteers, students' community hours to do guide research).
- Promote the availability of the guide and website information once work is complete (e.g. local paper, Town Talk, possible posters).
- Work with schools to develop an approach for effectively distributing community information.
- Review access to/use of the poster boxes in downtown.
- Explore options for coordinating event date planning across organizations.
- Discuss with the Peninsula News Review ways to increase the visibility of the Community Calendar.



Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney
- CDO
- Sidney Business Association
- Panorama
- Mary Winspear Centre
- Shoal Centre
- Recreation and culture provider groups
- School District, schools
- Local media



“The sidewalks are non-existent or too narrow in some areas, full of cracks, unsafe curb slopes, uneven segments and dips caused by poor driveway entrances. They are potentially dangerous and should be upgraded. With the large number of walkers and scooters in Sidney, consistent, wide, even sidewalks are needed.” 55-64 years

“There needs to be a service to provide education to the seniors who have scooters. It is becoming more dangerous for people walking.” 30-54 years

“More defined paths/signage in and out of cul-de-sacs, and through neighbourhood greenbelts would be good, along with a map of walking paths. In some areas it is difficult to know if you are trespassing on someone’s lawn or whether it is really a public path.” 75+ years

“There are many ways to enter Sidney and few to leave. Make other routes out to the highway and discourage through traffic in residential areas.” 34-45 years

4.4 Transportation Goals and Recommendations

The main goals and related recommendations identified by the Transportation Sub-committee for addressing transportation challenges and new directions are outlined below. The recommendations identified as top priorities are indicated with the arrows.

Goal A: Maintain a comprehensive transportation strategy to guide transportation provisions for all needs

Recommendations:

- 1. Develop a comprehensive transportation plan, which incorporates a vision/guidelines and opportunities for public input, to help guide transportation planning and implementation in Sidney and the Peninsula area.
- 2. Continue to pre-approve plans for transportation initiatives so that when grants become available, funds can be applied for without delay.

Goal B: Improve traffic safety and flow on area roads

Recommendations:

- 1. Review traffic patterns on residential streets and recommend steps to improve safety. **Link** → Community Living: Goal D, Recommendation 3
- 2. Examine the signal timing/patterns at main intersections in the Sidney area to maximize vehicle flow and safety.
- 3. Review the stop sign patterns along James White Boulevard/ for flow, consistency and safety, and take steps to better inform the public of the signage and stop procedures.
- 4. Review the repair requirements and actual actions taken following the completion of construction work to ensure that impacted roads and driveways are returned to safe, clean, smooth surfaces for vehicles and pedestrians.
- 5. Assess the availability of parking in the downtown area and identify ways of easing limitations and congestion.

Goal C: Promote alternative transportation opportunities

Recommendations:

- 1. Inform and support residents of all ages and abilities to actively use alternate forms of transportation. **Links** → Community Living: Goal E, Recommendation 3
Recreation/Culture: Goal D, Recommendations 4, 5

Goal D: Increase support of cycling in the area

(directly supports Goal C, encouraging alternative transportation)

Recommendations: **Links** → Recreation/Culture: Goal D, Recommendation 5 Community Living: Goal E, Recommendation 3

- 1. Maintain coordinated bicycle lane/road planning to ensure effective present provisions and future road/bike lane development.
- 2. Identify ways to maximize the safety of cyclists/other users on existing area bike lanes/paths/shoulders.
- 3. Review the use of bump-outs at crosswalks, and design any future crosswalks to maximize the safety of vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, skateboarders and other road users.
- 4. Provide more bike racks in downtown/other areas, placed in safe, visible locations.
- 5. Promote Sidney and the Peninsula area as a cycling destination and tourism activity.



Goal E: Maximize safety and accessibility for pedestrians

(directly supports Goal C, promoting alternative transportation)

Links → Community Living: Goal E, Recommendation 3

Recreation/Culture: Goal D, Recommendation 4

Recommendations:

- 1. Examine existing neighbourhood pathways to identify ways to make them as safe, connected and accessible as possible for pedestrians, cyclists and other users.
Links → Community Living: Goal D, Recommendation 2
- 2. Assess and maximize the safety of main pedestrian crossings in downtown intersections, residential streets and busy park areas.
Links → Community Living: Goal D, Recommendation 2
- 3. Examine the current system of sidewalks in all areas (downtown, residential streets) and identify any changes that can be made to existing sidewalks and future installations to maximize safety and accessibility for all users.
- 4. Increase scooter users' knowledge and practice of safe scooter operation/interface with other sidewalk users.
- 5. Review the existing provision of multi-use trails (waterfront and other areas) and identify any changes needed to maximize safety and accessibility.

Goal F: Increase safety in school routes/zones

(directly supports Goal C, encouraging alternative transportation)

Recommendations:

- 1. Consider the placement of three-way stops in school zones to maximize pedestrian and car safety (e.g. Seventh and Henry, Resthaven and McDonald Park Road).
- 2. Address providing safe bicycle lanes that link the Lochside Trail pathway directly to Sidney Elementary School (along Henry) and to North Saanich Middle School (along McDonald Park Road).
- 3. Identify and implement ways to improve student safety on the roads immediately surrounding North Saanich Middle School and Sidney Elementary.
- 4. Identify and implement ways to maximize safety at Beacon and 7th and Beacon and Highway 17 for students coming to the local schools from the residential areas south of Beacon Avenue, and west of the highway.

Goal G: Increase safety at the Highway 17/Beacon Avenue intersection

(directly supports Goal C, promoting alternative transportation)

Recommendations:

- 1. Take measures to remove pedestrians and other crossing/pathway users from the dangerous Highway 17/Beacon Avenue traffic.
- 2. Take measures to reduce speed in the northbound deceleration exit lane from Highway 17 onto Beacon Avenue.



4.4.1 Priority Transportation Recommendations

The priority recommendations identified by the Transportation Sub-committee and related interest groups are detailed below.

Transportation Priority Recommendation 1

Develop a comprehensive transportation plan, which incorporates a vision/guidelines and opportunities for public input, to help guide transportation planning and implementation in Sidney and the Peninsula area. (from Goal A)

Comments from Input

- Residents shared examples of the impact that the growing number of residents and visitors in the Sidney area are having on all aspects of transportation infrastructure, safety, etc.
- People talked of the need for a vision/ guidelines the Town can use to guide transportation planning and services.
- The two neighbouring Districts are tackling transportation initiatives (e.g. new bus routes, new trails) that link into services for Sidney.
- Changes are being made to the transportation infrastructure – residents/users like and dislike them (e.g. brick sidewalks, curb bump-outs, curb/driveway slopes). Many residents/users have not had an opportunity to provide feedback on these changes and their other transportation needs/interests.
- Emergency evacuation plans and exit routes need to be considered when designing roads and residential areas.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Review the Town’s current long-term transportation materials and identify how to update/expand them into a comprehensive strategy/plan.
- As part of the document, prepare a vision/guidelines for transportation within Sidney for the next decade which addresses the need for safe, effective mobility for all modes of transportation (vehicles, cycling, walking, scooter riding, skateboarding, carpooling/ sharing) to ensure that Sidney is a community planned for people of all ages and abilities, cars and all other modes of transportation.
- Examine ways to incorporate the transportation strategy’s content/directions into the OCP.
- Identify ways to communicate elements of the strategy to the public and interest groups and receive their input.
- Consider the development of a Transportation Advisory Committee comprised of engineers and representatives of different modes of transportation (e.g. cycling, pedestrian, scooters, vehicles) to help prepare the transportation plan and provide input to the implementation of current and future transportation initiatives (e.g. roadways, sidewalks, pathways, bike lanes, car sharing, transit, evacuation plans).
- Continue liaising with the two Districts and working cooperatively to assist in the planning and promotion of regional transportation opportunities.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney Planning, Engineering
- Districts’ Planning departments
- Transportation-related organizations
- Cyclists, pedestrians, scooter, skateboarders and other users



Transportation Priority Recommendation 2

Review traffic patterns on residential streets and recommend steps to improve safety. (from Goal B)

Link → Community Living: Goal D, Recommendation 3

Comments from Input

- Residents expressed concern about excess speeding on residential roads in the community, especially Resthaven and Bowerbank.
- Bowerbank can become narrow from car parking on both sides of the road, increasing dangers for pedestrians and cyclists when cars speed along.
- Concern was also voiced about the amount of through traffic on residential roads (e.g. Resthaven, Bowerbank) trying to leave Sidney and go southbound on Highway 17.
- The amount and speed of traffic entering Weiler off of the southbound Highway 17 exit has increased.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Work with local police to assess the nature of traffic and degree of speeding problems on residential roads (e.g. observation of speed, whether local or through traffic, traffic/speed counter).
- Work with police to identify ways to ensure proper speed limits are followed on area roads (e.g. increased monitoring/enforcement, speed watch crew, posting more speed limit signs).
- Assess the design of the traffic flow and explore further measures to minimize speeding and increase safety (e.g. installing traffic calming devices in areas of constant concern (along Bowerbank, Resthaven), more 4-ways stops on Bowerbank to deter through traffic, review the need for a universal speed limit (e.g. 40 km) and related signage throughout Sidney with different speed signs posted in special zones only).
- Consider possible measures to decrease traffic on main residential streets (Resthaven, Bowerbank) leading into/out of Sidney (e.g. an additional southbound access onto the highway in the north part of Sidney).

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney – Planning, Engineering
- RCMP
- Area residents
- Ministry of Transportation



Transportation Priority Recommendation 3

Inform and support residents of all ages and abilities to actively use alternate forms of transportation. (from Goal C)

Links → Community Living: Goal E, Recommendation 3
Recreation/Culture: Goal D, Recommendations 4, 5

Comments from Input

- Residents comment on the increasing amount of traffic, parking challenges and congestion in the Sidney area as the population and density increases.
- Residents are not fully aware of the alternative transportation opportunities available to them in the area.
- There are limited promotions to encourage residents to pursue alternative transportation options.
- Some respondents indicated they were not aware of walking groups operating in the community.
- Many pathways and trails exist in the community, but some residents are not aware of them, and others shared safety concerns.
- Residents throughout the Peninsula voiced challenges/ideas regarding bus service from BC Transit (e.g. scheduling of buses, routes to outlying areas, availability of schedule information, comments on new community bus service).
- Some people living with disabilities have limited knowledge of transportation services available to them.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

Education/Promotion:

- Make effective use of publications and websites to provide information on alternative transportation (e.g. Town Talk and newspaper articles, Town website and links, BC Transit schedules, BC Transit services for the disabled).
- Connect with active living/health-related organizations to make promotions/literature available.
- Pursue special events, incentives that encourage biking, walking, etc. (e.g. bicycle/pedestrian safety week, incentives to bike/walk to local events).
- Identify how to effectively promote walking groups operating in the area.
- Pursue and promote to the public upgrades done to area pathways, bicycle lanes/trails, etc. and make maps/brochures available to encourage increased use/alternate transportation activities.
- Explore ways to encourage/educate developers to incorporate more options for alternative transportation (e.g. bylaw variance that permits fewer parking spaces with savings used for bus passes, Victoria Car Share memberships, bike storage areas for residents).
- Inform the public and businesses of carpooling and the Car Share Coop opportunities available in the area (e.g. make literature available from these transportation organizations).



Public Transit:

- Provide resident feedback to BC Transit to help them evaluate current schedules/routes/usage and identify/implement any possible improvements (e.g. feedback on new community bus service, get students to Parkland School on time, later evening bus returning from Victoria, more morning express buses to Victoria, have #75 bus stop at Shoal Centre to provide residents in that area with direct transportation to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital, more frequent buses to the local hospital, airport, Panorama).
- Liaise with local organizations that service people living with disabilities to ensure that information on BC Transit/HandiDart/Taxi Saver Coupons, and other transportation services is readily available.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney
- CDO
- Local Media, Town Talk
- Provider Organizations (Carpooling organization, Victoria Car Share Coop, cycling groups)
- Active living/health-related organizations, groups
- Developers
- BC Transit
- Taxi Companies
- Committee for People Living with Disabilities
- Organizations servicing people living with disabilities
- Area residents



Transportation Priority Recommendation 4

Maintain coordinated bicycle lane/road planning and implementation to ensure effective present provisions and future road/bike lane development. (from Goal D)

Links → Community Living: Goal E, Recommendation 3
Recreation/Culture: Goal D, Recommendation 5

Comments from Input

- Residents expressed interest in more bike lanes for the area but appreciate the challenge in planning and developing them (e.g. hard to do on existing, narrow roads/shoulders, has to be factored into design/engineering of new roads).
- Roadways identified by residents as requiring bike lanes span all three municipalities.
- Numerous roadways were identified for possible new bike lanes (e.g. Mt. Newton X Road, McTavish Road, West Saanich Road, Stellys Road, roads within Sidney).
- Improvements to existing lanes were also requested (e.g. extend Lochside Trail lane from McDonald Park overpass to Resthaven to maximize safety for students and other trail users; improve safety of this trail crossing at Ardwell; connect the Lochside Trail to Sidney School via a safe bicycle lane; pedestrian/bicycle overpass from Lochside Trail across Beacon at Highway 17) (See Goal F, Recommendation 2; Goal G, Recommendations 1, 2).

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Continue working with the CRD on the Regional Cycling Network plan, which guides the development of bike lanes/road planning in the Peninsula area. Use this to specify where/when bike lanes are to be improved, and new ones are to be considered for existing roads, types of lanes, barriers/markings, etc.
- Incorporate a community master cycling plan in the Town's OCP and any Town transportation plan prepared (see Goal A, Recommendation 1). The provincial government's Cycling Infrastructure Grant Program will provide 50% of funding for cycling infrastructure projects from a community master cycling plan.
- Liaise with the two District's planning departments to gain an understanding of their bike lane initiatives and maintain a regional bike lane planning approach.
- Refer to bike lane development strategies being undertaken by other municipalities within the CRD, and within other regional districts (e.g. GVRD).
- Consult with local cycling advocacy groups/representatives to assess need, ideas for bike lane locations and design.
- Present any bike lane plans to interest groups and the public for input.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney Planning, Engineering
- Central and North Saanich Districts' Planning departments, North Saanich Parks Commission
- CRD
- Provincial government
- Cycling Groups
- Area schools



Transportation Priority Recommendation 5

Examine existing neighbourhood pathways to identify ways to make them as safe, connected and accessible as possible for pedestrians, cyclists and other users. (from Goal E)

Link → Community Living: Goal D, Recommendation 2

Comments from Input

- Residents like the trails and parks interspersed throughout residential areas and try to actively use them, but expressed concern about their unsafe surfacing, lack of maintenance, lighting, signage, connectivity, etc. People commented that the Town owns these park areas/pathways and has responsibility to properly maintain them.
- If population, density and vehicle congestion increase more in Sidney, encouraging use of alternative transportation and healthy living activities (cycling, walking, etc.), as well as providing proper amenities (e.g. paths/walkways) to do so will become increasingly important.
- Proper surfacing/clean-up needs to be done on the pathways/in parks before signage and promotional activities are put in place to encourage increased use.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Examine residential pathways to assess current conditions and identify:
 - maintenance deficiencies - address these as required (e.g. brush clearing, safe, regular surfaces, litter)
 - safety/lighting deficiencies - consider lighting installation needs to increase safety of pathways at dark, liaise with neighbours
 - signage deficiencies - consider ways to inform users of the location, direction and destination of pathways (e.g. painted footsteps, information signs at street entrances where pathways are located further down) to improve use and connection between pathways
- Consider developing a walking/cycling brochure/map outlining the benefits of walking/cycling and availability of pathways/shortcuts in the area. Distribute via Town Talk, schools, local facilities/businesses, CDO, etc.
- Promote the availability of pathways to residents and visitors via local publications (e.g. Town Talk, Town website, local tourism publications).

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney Planning. Engineering
- CDO
- Chamber of Commerce
- Neighbourhood groups
- Cycling groups
- Schools



Transportation Priority Recommendation 6

Take measures to remove pedestrians and other crossing/pathway users from the dangerous Highway 17/Beacon Avenue traffic.
(from Goal G)

Comments from Input

- ICBC lists Beacon Ave and Highway 17 and Beacon Ave. and 7th St. as the top two crash and injury locations in Sidney.
- Many residents voiced concerns about safety issues for people (pedestrians, cyclists, scooter users, etc.) trying to cross the highway to/from west Sidney, and cross Beacon Avenue.
- Safety issues will be even greater once retail development on the west side of the highway is completed.
- These concerns are compounded by the increasing number of cars, pedestrians and cyclists that are crossing these roadways now that Greenglade school is closed and those families travel to Sidney Elementary twice per day.

Possible Implementation/Action Steps

- Conduct a study of the safety hazards and options at the Beacon Avenue/Highway 17 intersection, considering the involvement of appropriate transportation and government partners.
- Consider bridging the Lochside trail pathway north and south of Beacon with a pedestrian/cyclist overpass to avoid the dangerous crossing on the roadway.
- Consider development of a second pedestrian/cyclist overpass running from the west side of the highway to connect with the first overpass.
- If a pedestrian/cyclist overpass concept is approved, have plans drawn up and ready in the event that government funding becomes available.
- Continue to have the Town's Highway 17 interchange footprint drawn up in the event that government funding becomes available.

Potential Partners

- Town of Sidney Planning, Engineering
- Ministry of Transportation
- RCMP
- School Board, local schools
- Cyclists, pedestrians & scooter riders of all ages and abilities
- Area residential groups



4.5 2005 SYF Priorities and Vision 2000 Recommendations

The Vision 2000 project resulted in a Corporate Strategy Community Vision document. Numerous topic areas and action plans were covered in the report, including transportation, community culture and seniors/youth/families. These Vision 2000 action plans have been reviewed and recommendations common to this 2005 Seniors, Youth and Families Vision Project Report are highlighted below. There are a number of similar concerns/priorities in the Vision 2000 report and now in 2005 which helps confirm the importance of recommendations from the 2005 SYF Vision Project.

The following general quote from the 2000 Community Vision document pertains directly to many of the 2005 SYF Project's recommendations:

“The age imbalance in Sidney has resulted in an absence of a variety of services for all residents of Sidney, most specifically the youth and families who reside here. By way of countering this situation, there has been recognition with the Town that if this community is to remain vibrant and strong, providing services and a positive quality of life for all, there must exist more balance among age groups and diversity of services.”

Vision 2000 Community Living Directives

Vision: To extend and create activities/services that enhance quality of life and facilitate intermingling between seniors, youth and families.

Recommended Actions:

- Ensure that youth in Sidney feel supported and heard. Provide a voice for youth through a Youth Advisory Committee under the guidance of a youth worker or mentor. Research the approaches taken by Calgary and Ottawa in the creation of a community “youth voice” to help create a mandate for the committee.
- Increase the supply of work experience opportunities for local youth (e.g. cooperative programs, apprenticeships, career days, youth shadowing days).
- Creative innovative ways of celebrating and publicizing local youth activities and achievements (e.g. media coverage, Council awards).
- Create a “buddy system” between seniors and youth to encourage participation in local leisure, recreation and education opportunities.
- Improve safety initiatives to create a safe, comfortable, secure environment for residents of all ages. Improve understanding between age groups through mixing opportunities. Expand community policing programs (e.g. increasing bicycle and foot patrols, and community outreach programs by the RCMP). Examine opportunities to improve evening street lighting to make people feel safer at night.
- Establish Sidney as a “Child Friendly Community” (like initiatives in Ottawa, Calgary). Identify “child friendly” restaurants, museums, playgrounds, retail stores, etc.
- Explore the possibility of expanding peninsula-based palliative care and palliative beds.
- Encourage activities that support and facilitate communication, support, leadership and service provision between social service agencies. Review activities to determine gaps in service, effectiveness and ease of access for the public.



Vision 2000 Housing Directives

Recommended Actions:

- Increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Increase the quantity and diversify the mix of residential development in order to adequately serve the needs of local seniors, families, couples and young adults.
- Encourage higher density developments with no age restrictions as a way of enhancing the availability of affordable housing.
- Create additional low-cost housing in co-operation with other levels of government, based on successful models already in place in Sidney.

Vision 2000 Recreation/Culture Directives

Vision: To provide support, and provisions for the co-ordination and management of opportunities to assist the various community organizations to pursue their activities.

Recommended Actions:

- Ensure that the arts and recreational activities are given the opportunity to flourish in the Town of Sidney.
- Develop a plan for creating a “unified cultural voice” by facilitating a meeting between key business interests, the local arts community, and cultural and artistic organizations.
- Promote arts and culture as a viable economic business opportunity and a means of improving the quality of life in the community. Organize and conduct joint promotion of special events and cultural activities.
- Develop an “ideas database” of examples of successful artistic and cultural events from other communities.
- Improve the effectiveness and distribution of information about local events and activities to the general public (e.g. increasing the number of information kiosks in high-traffic areas of Sidney).
- Have Council encourage and support the expansion of existing festivals and events and the creation of new ones. More downtown fairs, festivals, street sales, etc. should be explored.
- Ensure a sufficient supply of playgrounds and playground equipment in the community to meet the needs of toddlers, pre-schoolers, school age children and youth. Ensure that all existing playgrounds are continuously upgraded to current safety standards and that a regular inspection schedule is developed and adhered to. Explore potential partnerships in the development of these facilities to help offset municipal costs.
- Continue development of the skateboard park by installing trees, park benches and other improvements designed to encourage mixed uses. Encourage the creation of a “Friends of the Skateboard Park” consisting of youth and other interested people to take responsibility for supervision, safety, clean-up and fundraising. The skateboard park should be part of the Sidney Parks system.
- Provide support to a drop-in youth centre in conjunction with existing youth services (e.g. Panorama, BCS). Consult other municipalities to find successful models.



Vision 2000 Transportation Directives

Vision: To create transportation policies and priorities that serve the broader needs of the community.

Recommended Actions:

- Address the balance between the needs of cars and traffic, versus human values and quality of life issues for residents.
- Establish a permanent Transportation Advisory Committee consisting of transportation specialists, stakeholders and public representatives to ensure continuity of transportation planning principles and to monitor transportation planning issues and the implementation of transportation plans.
- Improve the communication of transportation issues, plans and planning decisions to the public via a public awareness program (e.g. open houses, information campaigns, simple literature).
- Ensure future planning which impacts the transportation infrastructure is planned to give priority to pedestrians on streets:
 - Expand traffic-calming methods to ensure increased safety of pedestrians by giving priority to the development of crosswalks, pedestrian refuge areas, and other means of conflict avoidance between vehicles and pedestrians.
 - Determine methods of ensuring that the streets continue to be safe for student/child pedestrians.
- Create policies which help alleviate the conflict between “through traffic” and “destination traffic”.
- Develop a plan for efficient movement of traffic and pedestrians over major and minor streets in residential neighbourhoods, including a network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways.
- Encourage cycling and walking as a viable means of transportation. Increase the supply of cycling/walking paths by developing a plan to establish well-signed bicycle routes within the community, with adequate, strategically placed bicycle racks.
- Enhance the public transportation system to make it possible for residents to have easier access to work, shopping, education and recreation.



*“Continuity
gives us roots;
change gives us
branches,
letting us stretch,
grow and
reach new heights.”*

Pauline R. Kezer

5 Next Steps

Gathering all the quality of life insights generously offered by the community was, in a way, the straight-forward aspect of the SYF Project. The individual and collective responses speak to the needs, visions and possible action steps for the four topic areas. Project volunteers and members of the public who took part in consultation activities often commented on the broad, open nature of the project, the wealth of community input collected, the many useful recommendations generated, and the importance of following up on concerns and ideas raised.

A different challenge now lies ahead – determining how to take action on the project’s recommendations. So many opportunities can be explored for helping our community grow to additional “new heights” and become even more unique and complete.

5.1 Possible Follow-up Activities

With Town Council, staff and the Vision Committee having successfully initiated and overseen completion of the SYF Project, they can now turn to planning project follow-up and implementation. Although follow-up activities to the SYF consultation project are outside the terms of reference for the SYF Steering Committee, the SYF committees discussed some possible considerations for project next steps.

- The project committees found it difficult to allocate implementation timeframes for all recommendations, feeling Town staff would be better able to determine how initiatives fit within Town plans. Instead, the committees presented the top five priorities for each topic area as a first step for the Town in identifying implementation activities to begin addressing in the immediate/short-term.
- The action plans in this report contain many recommendations and implementation steps, some involving the Town of Sidney on its own, and others involving possible partner organizations. It would be useful for Town staff to review the top 21 recommendations and action steps to:
 1. Identify those recommendations within municipal jurisdiction and determine what can be acted upon within current or planned Town initiatives. Having staff review implementation initiatives that fall within their work portfolios could help begin to address possible Town action on recommendations. Follow-up activities by existing, and any potential new/revise, Town committees, could also be considered.
 2. Identify those recommendations outside of direct municipal jurisdiction and what key community organization partners could address these initiatives. Many organizations are already exploring joint initiatives (e.g. Panorama Recreation, Beacon Community Services, Mary Winspear Centre), opening the door to other possible new undertakings suggested in this report.

Table 5 on pages 57/58 summarizes possible Town roles and key partner organization liaison for the top 21 report recommendations.

- While the Town might not have a direct implementation role to play in some recommendations, it could provide an important leadership/facilitation role in getting dialogue started with partners around these initiatives, and offering support as needed to the organizations in implementing SYF actions steps. Providing a copy of the SYF Project report/pertinent recommendations to potential partner organizations could be a possible first step in opening up communication and dialogue with organizations. Means of updating the Town on activities/progress by partner organizations would be needed to help the Town keep current on the status of SYF recommendations’ implementation.



- Review a role for the Vision Committee and/or some form of the SYF Steering Committee to help initiate/oversee action on implementation priorities (under Council and staff direction) – e.g. start planning how to address recommendations, help facilitate conversation/action between partner organizations. Means of assessing SYF implementation progress could also be addressed by this committee.
- Town staff could report back regularly to Council and the Vision Committee on what is being accomplished with SYF action activities (by the Town, partner organizations) to help further implementation progress.
- Communications to the public about the SYF Project need to be continued and expanded. People at the open house commented on the scope and importance of the project’s recommendations and suggested all residents should be made more aware of the project. A copy of the final report could be posted on the Town website and excerpts could be included in newspaper articles. A brief summary handout could be prepared for distribution through Town Talk and other avenues in Sidney. Opportunities for public input to follow-up planning/implementation of recommendations will also be important.

Table 5: Summary of Key Recommendations/Partners

HOUSING TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS	TOWN ROLE	KEY PLANNING PARTNERS
GOAL B: Provide a range of housing types and affordability to support all residents, and to create a diverse community		
Recomm. 1 - Review the OCP, zoning and bylaws to plan for a range of housing types, and ensure they are available in Sidney	Lead	APC
Recomm. 2 - Identify how planning can provide a range of housing types within areas for demographic mixes and community	Lead	APC, developers, neighbourhood residential groups
Recomm. 3 - Encourage local developers and other organizations to build housing that is affordable and diverse in use	Lead	APC, developers, Capital Region Housing Corp, Habitat for Humanity, BCS, District of North Saanich, non-profit groups (e.g. service clubs, churches)
Recomm. 4 - Identify ways to protect current, and increase future affordable housing	Lead	APC, Developers, home and rental owners, Habitat for Humanity, CMHC
GOAL C: Address controlling the pace and type of development/density to maintain the small town qualities of Sidney		
Recomm. 5 - Ensure zoning provisions and design guidelines re: development/density support the Town’s housing/community vision and are closely followed with developers	Lead	APC, Developers
COMMUNITY LIVING TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS	TOWN ROLE	KEY PLANNING PARTNERS
GOAL A: Increase the diversity of the community		
Recomm. 1 - Identify ways of making the community more welcoming and supportive of families and young adults	Initiate, Involvement, Support	BCS, SBA, CDO, BC Transit, recreation/culture providers, child care services
Recomm. 2 - Explore the First Nations people’s isolation from Sidney and identify/pursue solutions together	Initiate, Involvement, Support	Nil/tu,o services, Saanich Native Support, Bands/Councils, RCMP, BCS, CDO, Arts Council
Goal B: Support connections between age groups in the community		
Recomm. 3 - Explore ways to provide opportunities for contact across age groups	Initiate, Support	Youth Advisory Committee, BCS, Silver Threads, Panorama, MWC, SD63/ schools, Celebrations Soc, CDO, SBA
Goal C: Enhance information sharing in the community		
Recomm. 4 - Develop a coordinated approach to providing comprehensive, easily accessible information for all ages about community services, resources, programs, and events	Initiate, Involvement, Support	BCS, CDO, Panorama, MWC, Arts Council, other facility/service/program providers, VIHA, RCMP
Goal E: Provide resources/support to maximize the physical, mental and emotional well-being of all residents		
Recomm. 5 - Examine ways to increase access to physicians/health care advice in Sidney and area	Initiate, Support	BCS, VIHA, local health care professionals/clinics, Silver Threads



Table 5: Summary of Key Recommendations/Partners - continued

RECREATION/CULTURE TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS	TOWN ROLE	KEY PLANNING PARTNERS
GOAL A: Utilize current facilities to their maximum potential to meet the needs of users and potential users		
Recomm. 1 - Increase communications about opportunities to maximize community access to and use of indoor facilities, cultural venues and sport fields	Initiate, Support	Field providers, S.D. 63, user groups, facility operators, Arts Council
Goal B: Work with municipalities, service providers and users to address new facility needs and create development plans for new facilities		
Recomm. 2 - Explore options for new/existing venue for youth recreational and cultural programming, and cross-age group activities	Initiate, Involvement, Support	Youth Advisory Comm, student councils, BCS, Panorama, MWC, SBA, businesses
Goal C: Facilitate the delivery of recreation and culture programs/activities to meet the needs of the broad cross section of Sidney and Peninsula residents		
Recomm. 3 - Explore ways to maintain and broaden the level of community cultural opportunities and evening leisure opportunities and cultural happenings in the downtown area.	Initiate, Support	CDO, SBA, Arts Council, MWC, Pen. Celebration Society, Chamber of Commerce
Goal D: Address current and potential outdoor recreation amenities to maximize residents' and visitors' use and enjoyment of the community's unique outdoor setting		
Recomm. 4 - Address ways to improve opportunities/facilities for marine based recreation and tourism activities	Initiate, Involvement, Support	Dive/kayak/paddling organizations, charter businesses, SBA, Chamber of Commerce, neighbourhood groups
Goal E: Develop comprehensive, coordinated information sources to effectively promote recreation and cultural opportunities on the Saanich Peninsula		
Recomm. 5 - Inventory all cultural and recreational opportunities on the Peninsula, and prepare strategies for coordinated planning and communication to increase public awareness and participation	Initiate, Support	CDO, Arts Council, Panorama, MWC, Shoal Centre, leisure provider groups
TRANSPORTATION TOP 6 RECOMMENDATIONS	TOWN ROLE	KEY PLANNING PARTNERS
GOAL A: Maintain a comprehensive transportation strategy to guide transportation provisions for all needs		
Recomm. 1 - Develop a comprehensive transportation plan, with a vision/guidelines and public input opportunities, to help guide transportation planning and implementation	Lead	APC, potential new Transp. Adv. Committee, transportation interest groups
Goal B: Improve traffic safety and flow on area roads		
Recomm. 2 - Review traffic patterns on residential streets and recommend steps to improve safety	Lead	RCMP, neighbourhood groups
Goal C: Promote alternative transportation opportunities		
Recomm. 3 - Inform and support residents of all ages and abilities to actively use alternate forms of transportation	Initiate, Support	Active living/health orgs, Committee for People with Dis., BC Transit, altern. transp. orgs, cycling/walking groups, CDO
Goal D: Increase support of cycling in the area		
Recomm. 4 - Maintain coordinated bicycle lane/road planning to ensure effective present provisions and future road/bike lane development	Lead	CRD, Districts of North & Central Saanich, cycling groups, area schools
Goal E: Maximize safety and accessibility for pedestrians		
Recomm. 5 - Examine existing neighbourhood pathways to make them safe, connected and accessible as possible for users	Lead	RCMP, neighbourhood groups, cycling groups
Goal G: Increase safety at the Highway 17/Beacon Avenue intersection		
Recomm. 6 - Take measures to remove pedestrians and other crossing/pathway users from Highway 17/Beacon Avenue traffic	Lead	RCMP, Min. of Transp., schools, cycling/other transp. interest groups



In concluding this report, Town Council, staff and the Vision Committee are to be commended for initiating the Seniors, Youth and Families Vision Project and offering their ongoing support to project activities. It is hoped that this report will be a useful working document for Town Council and staff, the Vision Committee and community organizations in addressing changing needs and new initiatives to enhance housing, recreation/culture, community support, transportation and our unique Sidney area over the next 10 to 15 years.



Appendices

Due to the quantity of pages/photocopying required, the full Appendices will be included in the final SYF Report.

For this preliminary report, just Appendix A – SYF Project Activities, and Appendix B - Sub-Committees' Recommendations/Action Plans are included so readers can review an outline of the consultation process and the contents of the full action plans.