

ORONO COMMUNITY FORUM

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

JUNE 18TH, 2003

The following is a summary of the comments made by attendees (approximately 80) of the Orono Community Forum on June 18th, 2003 at Orono Town Hall. The comments were recorded as answers to the questions posed. The comments were as follows (**bolded** comments denote the most important issues to a particular group). **The bolded comments received general consensus when put forward to the entire forum.**

1. WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS OF LIVING IN ORONO?

ANSWERS:

- Empty stores;
- **Limited supplies in town (i.e. stationary);**
- Public transit;
- **Lack of employment: full and part time and for students;**
- **Parking;**
- Lack of materials in the library;
- **No sewers;**
- **Limited local summer programs for youth and adults; local support for major events e.g. more in town and at fair grounds;**
- **Pool open sooner and longer;**
- Another bank machine; and
- Medical center.

- **No public transportation out: (for those without) cars, elderly;**
- Minimal retail selection;
- **Real estate prices high-to move into Orono; lack of availability of real estate and rental properties;**
- **Lack of sewers limits growth;**
- **Lack of jobs (lack of industry);**
- **Lack of white linen restaurants (or fine dining restaurants);**
- No parking; and
- Lack of youth activities.

2. WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT LIVING IN ORONO?

ANSWERS:

- **Library within walking distance;**
- **Essential businesses: bakery, drug store and newspaper;**
- **Post office;**
- **Arena;**

- **Park, Swimming pool, Walking trail, Athletic association;**
- **Community involvement: volunteers;**
- **Fair;**
- Parades;
- Churches; and
- Friendliness.

- **Services easily accessible (you can walk there);**
- **Neighbours (friendly community);**
- **Crown Lands, walking trails, public pool and park;**
- **Arena, Fair: used for community events**
- Mature trees: Orono does not look like a new development;
- **Traditional downtown: Main Street**
- Family oriented community: lots of families and children;
- School located in town: keeps a youthful and lively feeling;
- Horticultural society;
- **Community newspaper: we care about local events;**
- Established businesses;
 - Mosport
 - Kirby Ski Hill
 - Cat World
 - The Garden Path
 - Durham Farmer's Co-op
- History of the town;
- Fire department; and
- Seniors community.

3. WHAT CURRENT BUSINESSES DRAW NON-ORONO RESIDENTS TO SHOP HERE?

ANSWERS:

- Village Bake Shop;
 - Terrens;
 - Medessa on Main;
 - Orono Fuel and Lumber (cottonwood fabrics);
 - Garden Path;
 - Orono Antique Mall;
 - Blue Berries; and
 - Cat World.
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- Cat World;
 - Lumber Yard;
 - Flower Shop;
 - Bakery;

- Antique business;
- Orono bike trails;
- Orono park;
- Orono arena; and
- Orono fair, horse and dog shows.

4. WHAT BUSINESSES WOULD MAKE THE MAIN STREET MORE APPEALING?

ANSWERS:

- Downtown needs services;
- Clarke library needs much outside maintenance on this beautiful building;
- Laundromat (more than we need services);
- Car wash;
- Communal service (badly needed, this is a necessity);
- Public washrooms needed; and
- Medical clinic for Orono.

- **Skateboard shop and/or park;**
- **A fine dining restaurant (to attract tourists);**
- **Need to identify an identity (i.e. an arts and crafts shop);**
- Public washroom;
- Successful businesses;
- Helpful businesses (i.e. customer services);
- Use town hall;
- Businesses that make use of natural beauty such as Orono's trails and park;
- Everyday shops such as a drugstore;
- Mostly locally owned businesses;
- **Butcher shop, Fruit market, small grocery market; Farmers market (at fairgrounds);**
- **Independent bookstore;**
- **Liquor store (Wine) and cheese shop (on Main Street);**
- **Existing businesses should expand.**

FOLLOW -UP SUGGESTIONS?

- **Unchain the town: make it user-friendly;**
- **Unique enterprises;**
- **Advertise Orono's assets (i.e. bike trails);**
- **Advertise in the *Ontario Tourism Magazine*; and**
- **Install new signs for entrance to Orono.**
- **Pub-finer eateries;**
- **Antique gift shops;**
- **Gallery to feature local artisans, musician theater (better use of existing venues);**
- **Public transportation; and**
- **Skate park.**

5. WHAT WOULD YOU NOT WANT TO SEE CHANGED IN ORONO?

ANSWERS:

- **Quaint homes;**
 - Small business;
 - **Library;**
 - **Park;**
 - **Fair grounds;**
 - Community development;
 - No sewers (a split on this issue 50/50);
 - Public school.
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- **Friendly village atmosphere;**
 - **Our local paper (loss of);**
 - **Open areas and spacious lots;**
 - **Public lands around Orono;**
 - Downtown look;
 - Library (loss of);
 - **Public services (loss of):**
 - **Library**
 - **School**
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- Would not want to lose Orono's parks and trails;
 - Small town atmosphere;
 - Forestry land;
 - School and arena;
 - Some growth but not high-density population;
 - Our independence from the Municipality; and
 - Link with the rural community.
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- **Leave the school in town;**
 - Leave the post office, library and fire department;
 - **No MEGA developments or uncontrolled development;**
 - **No big box stores;**
 - Park, Crown Lands, trails (a sense of nature);
 - **Not to lose the family values of the community and its friendliness;**
 - Keep the Main Street flavour, just make it so that it is a viable business atmosphere; and
 - **Keep and improve existing services so people will want to spend their money here...it isn't necessary to bring lots more.**

6. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGE IN ORONO?

ANSWERS:

- **Businesses could improve street appearance by:**
 - **Cleaning windows**
 - **Sweeping sidewalks and the road curb more often**
- **Communal service for the village;**
- **Garbage containers need to be emptied more often and have lids;**
- **Animal control doesn't follow up on resident complaints about cats and dogs: need better follow up;**
- **Unused stores: place something in the windows to hide what is inside;** and
- **Orono is not located on the maps in the *Clarington Community Guide*. add to the map(s).**

- **Clean up facades on Main Street; (restore older buildings on Main Street);**
- **Better signage;**
- **Traffic barriers/reducers (i.e. crosswalk).; and**
- **More soccer fields since there are 320 kids in Orono.**

- **Advertise our assets (i.e. bike trails);**
 - **Attractions Ontario**
 - **Clarington Tourism Guide**
- **Outside café and bar;**
- **Better signage both into and out of Orono (i.e. signs for park and raceway);**
- **Replace Watson garage with info booth; and**
- **Advertise south entrance (35/115) as the main exit to “Lovely Downtown Orono”**

- **Attitude (positive/negative) it can happen in Orono;**
- **Trees: do not prune**
- **Creativity: display positive attitude;**
- **Put Orono on all maps;**
- **Welcoming attitude (i.e. washrooms);**
- **Welcome diversity;**
- **Pretty façade (i.e. Victorian or between the wars era);**
- **Welcome youth;**
- **More flowers (watered);**
- **Outdoor eating (upper tier e.g. fine dining);**
- **Close Main Street to vehicles; and**
- **Perhaps move Peter Boots' signs to a place of prominence where they could be appreciated.**

SUMMATION

The Orono Community Forum was an opportunity to brainstorm some ideas of how the village can and should change, and specifically what the residents in attendance do not want to see change.. The attendees (+/- 80) were very articulate and passionate about what they like about living in Orono. Some of the responses were surprising, such as the suggestion of a “finer” dining facility. While, others such as civic beautification and the promotion of public amenities can be built on. Debate over whether sewers and communal services will be a benefit or a drawback will continue.

While people discussed growth and change; a common definition of these terms is needed (“the take home assignment”).

NEXT STEPS

The results of the community forum will be reported out to Council (after the summer recess) along with a recommendation to prepare a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) that builds on the comments obtained at the community forum.

Notes transcribed from the sheets prepared at the community forum.

Should you have questions, clarifications or other comments please contact
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ORONO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Public Information Centre

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

October, 6, 2004

The following is a summary of the comments made by attendees (approximately 40) of the Orono Community Improvement Plan, Public Information Centre at Orono Town Hall. The comments were recorded as part of the question and answer period following the presentation of the recommendations of the community improvement plan.

The traffic on Main Street (inside and outside downtown) are exceeding the posted limits and additional enforcement should be done. Other ways of slowing the traffic down should be considered.

Additional signage at Taunton Road and Main Street is needed to let people know what's in Orono

Who's responsible for line painting on Main Street, it needs to be done more often.

The Regional Works Depot on Taunton Road is an eyesore can we suggest to the Region that they should landscape the area.

Promote Orono through the local Bed and Breakfast establishments by providing specific information on restaurants and attractions.

Get homeowners to participate in the beautification of Main Street.

The Neighbourhood Watch program should be expanded to deal with vandalism and kids hanging out. Police should be notified of any vandalism of other law enforcement issues.

NEXT STEPS

The results of the public information centre (attended by the community focus group) provided support for the problems, issues and deficiencies that the group has been working on solutions to. The priorities set by the community focus group are in keeping with the sentiment of those attending the public information centre. Based upon the response the focus group has asked staff to complete the community improvement plan for presentation to Council in 2005.

Notes from the comments made during the Public Information Session at the community forum.

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