



PRESS RELEASE

TAY VALLEY TOMORROW...*make it yours!*

Tay Valley, June 24, 2011 –

The Council of Tay Valley Township is calling on all residents to speak up and be heard as we launch an extensive public engagement project to set a community vision for the next 25 years and beyond. We have named this strategic planning process **TAY VALLEY TOMORROW...make it yours!** and we need everyone's input.

What is special about Tay Valley? Why did you come here and why do you stay? What will Tay Valley be like in twenty five years? What is the role of local government and what do we need to do to support our community vision?

To answer these questions, the Tay Valley Council is initiating a genuine community dialogue to gauge the needs and desires of our constituents. "We need the community to set a game plan for the Council, rather than us trying to direct the community," states Reeve Keith Kerr. "We were elected to serve the public and we need to know what is important to them," the Reeve states.

To gather this public input, the Council invites ALL Tay Valley taxpayers, young and old, seasonal and permanent, resident or business operator, to attend one of four public forums:

- Thursday, July 7th - ABC Hall in Bolingbroke
- BBQ 6-7 and meeting 7-9

- Saturday, July 16th - Maberly Hall in Maberly
- Meeting 10-12 and BBQ 12-1

- Saturday, August 6th – St. Bridget's Hall in Stanleyville
- Meeting 10-12 and BBQ 12-1

- Wednesday, August 10th - Township Hall on Harper Road
- BBQ 6-7 and meeting 7-9

- FREE BBQ AT EACH SESSION AND GIFTS FOR PARTICIPANTS!

More information about the public forums is attached.

Residents are also encouraged to provide input through the township website at: www.tayvalleytwp.ca , by email to tomorrow@tayvalleytwp.ca or via our new facebook page: www.facebook.com/tayvalleytownship or they can just talk to any of the members of the Strategic Plan Working Group (list attached).

“This is an exciting process that will allow the community to identify major goals and set the priorities for the Council,” states Deputy Reeve Susan Freeman. These goals will direct the development of specific strategies to meet those goals. The goals and the strategic initiatives will become a Strategic Plan for the township that will be presented to the community again for further input later this year. The goal is to have a final draft of the plan approved by Council by next spring. This information will then provide the direction needed for a review of the Official Plan as well as long term Infrastructure Plans and Service Delivery programs. “As your council, we are responsible for overseeing operations for you today, but also for your grandchildren tomorrow,” expressed the Deputy Reeve.

The Council has chosen not to contract an external consulting company to conduct this project but rather to do this ‘in-house’ with our own staff, the Council and community volunteers. To assist the Council and staff through this process, we have established the Strategic Plan Working Group. This is an eclectic group of Tay Valley residents selected to represent various interests within the Township. This dedicated group of volunteers have helped us design this public process, will help facilitate discussions at the public forums and will guide us through the analysis of all your input. Their job doesn’t stop there, however. They will be called back together at least once a year to assess how well the Township is doing in actually implementing the strategic initiatives and judging whether we are genuinely working toward the community’s goals.

A complete list of this working group is attached and full bios for each will be available on our website.

So if you care about Tay Valley and you want to have a say in what your township will be like, get involved and make sure your voice is heard!

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Contacts:

Reeve Keith Kerr	613-267-4025
Deputy Reeve Susan Freeman	613-264-0613
CAO Robert Haller	613-267-5353 ext. 123

Strategic Plan Working Group

Sector	Name
Agriculture	Phillip Jones
Arts	Jackie Seaton
Construction & Development	Gord Ennis
Environment	Cheryl Nash
Families & Youth	Connie Willows
First Nations	Gerald Majaury
Heritage & Historical	Susan Code McDougall
Industry	Larry Sparks
Lake Associations	Eugenia Flett
Small Business	Paul Zammit
Young Adults	Sandra Stewart
Council	Keith Kerr
	Susan Freeman
	Bill Avery
	Mark Burnham
	Brian Campbell
	Roxanne Darling
	Greg Hallam
	Wayne Jordan
Staff	Robert Haller
	Noelle Reeve
	Rob Tremblay
	Amanda Mabo
	Casey Buchanan

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...make it yours!

Public Forum Outline

These public forums are hosted by Council and each of the sessions will begin or end with a BBQ. We also have small gifts of a tote bag or can cooler for everyone who attends.

The public forum itself is a 2 hour session in which all participants are invited to sit around tables in small groups of 6 to have open and frank discussions.

There are 3 topics to discuss and your group will get 20 minutes to discuss each topic.

Those topics are:

1. *WHAT MAKES TAY VALLEY GREAT?*
 - *why do you live here or summer here, why did you come here and/or why do you stay?*
 - *what are our greatest assets?*
 - *what are our best bets for improvement or success?*
 - *what is most important to preserve and how do we do that?*

2. *WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR TAY VALLEY IN 25 YEARS?*
 - *how would you want to describe the area in 25 years?*
 - *if you had 3 wishes for Tay Valley in 25 years, what would they be?*
 - *what do we need to do to get to that 25 year vision?*
 - *What challenges might we encounter in the next 25 years?*

3. *WHAT IS THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT?*
 - *what does the township do well?*
 - *what could the township do better?*
 - *what could the township do that it currently doesn't?*
 - *what could the township stop doing?*

At the end of the three 20 minute discussions we will put all the thoughts up on the wall. Then everyone gets five sticky dots to place on their own top priorities and help us to narrow down the choices to identify priorities for the township.

Again, the whole session should be done in 2 hours.