

E-mail Submissions

The following comments were submitted to imagine Bridgewater via e-mail. Wherever possible the submissions have been left unchanged from how they were received. Some submissions however, have been altered for spelling, grammar, and explicit language, or to clarify wording for readability purposes.

- I am glad to see that finally people are concerned about making Bridgewater become a town that people will want to move [to] or visit. I would like to list my ideas: This is not a shipping port like Liverpool, Hantsport or Sydney for example. It is ridiculous!!! To have those three ugly ships in the river is crazy. How they ever got there was a major mistake by someone. They totally ruin the look of the river. There must be a way to get them out. Only small craft should be allowed to tie up at the wharf.
- The two parking arcades are absolute eyesores. They do nothing to make the river look attractive. One was painted last year but when you drive over the bridge they do nothing for the river's beauty. Someone said to me when I moved here that they were a mistake to have ever been built. The old bridge needs to be painted.
- Take a look at the many other towns around Nova Scotia and see what they have done such as in the Valley like Wolfville and Kentville. In the summer they have beautiful baskets of flowers hanging throughout their main streets. Yes, they cost money but those towns are beautiful.
- At Christmas time you hang wreaths up on the posts that should have been thrown away years ago. It doesn't cost that much to hang up new ones each year. You leave Christmas lights in the trees, which should be taken down after the season. Let the trees grow properly.
- Why isn't there someone who will buy and demolish those vacant buildings along King Street across from Dooley's. What potential for new buildings or a park. Put in a classy restaurant and boutiques along the waterfront. **FOCUS ON THE RIVER!!!**
- Just a thought. How about setting up an anime convention, like Anime North in Toronto, or like Comic-Con? Something for fans of anime, video games and the like. And it could be a venue for artists to showcase their talents.
- As a fairly new resident of the "Town of Bridgewater", I would have to comment that there are many areas of opportunity for the future, but developing an identity with heritage should be the centre of focus.

My first observation is that, the town is not the most visually appealing town on the South Shore. Mahone Bay, Lunenburg and Liverpool are by far better destination choices for anyone coming into the area as a visitor (From Away).

The only reason one might come into town would be for a trip to the shopping

destinations. Why else would you want to drive up "King Street"? It certainly would not be, to view the lovely "Parking Structures" currently blemishing an otherwise potentially beautiful waterfront.

I do realize "Parking" is and will always be an issue for urban development, but this prime real estate is something that could be crafted into a destination spot that would boost tourism within our community.

- Bridgewater must take two steps to continue to grow as a vibrant community. One is to amalgamate with Lunenburg County thereby stopping the outflow of tax dollars by businesses that are taking advantage of lower tax rates in the county and still tapping into the consumers of Bridgewater. Lets face it Wal-Mart is not out in Cookville because of the large number of customers who live in the county. The same goes for Auto Row in Hebbville and Nauss Brothers in Wileville.

The other important step is to apply pressure of whatever sort is needed to get highway 103 twinned from Halifax past Bridgewater. The province seems to believe that there isn't enough traffic to warrant this, but highways are drivers of development and therefore must lead that development.

Another thing that should be happening is strengthening our South Shore Regional Hospital by going after expansion and improvement. If we are to continue to grow we had better be able to give people access to a family doctor and more medical care in town.

I only moved to Bridgewater last September. I came from a small town in northern Ontario. My wife, daughter and I all love it here in the friendliest community we have ever lived.

The people of this area are doing much more RIGHT than wrong. Lets all work together to continue to seek improvement while not losing what we already have. In order to do that we must know and appreciate what we already have.

- Hi, We retired to Bridgewater six years ago and feel this is where we will stay. When we first retired here we walked every day around the "Duck Pond" which is in Woodland Gardens behind the DesBrisay Museum. We loved it! and it was so clean and well cared for. It certainly is not that way now!!! All around the edge of the pond and beside the path is now full of plastic bags, garbage, and several shopping carts are rusting in the water. What an opportunity the town is missing. Neither Mahone Bay nor Lunenburg has a park as beautiful as this one could be to offer its residents. When we first walked there, it was so serene and clean and beautiful, there was even a little island where turtles sunned themselves, and at one time we counted 18 turtles! Last year there were 3 and a few weeks later I saw them floating dead in the water. It is so sad, the little island has garbage on it, the trees are falling down all around it and we as a town are still trying to be another Mahone Bay!! Concentrate on what we have now, and when that is attended to and as good as it can be, then move to another area such as the riverside. It will take years to clear away all the ugly construction beside the river and, meanwhile, we are letting an opportunity slip away (again!!) to clean up and improve an existing beautiful and unique area right in the centre of town.

I am sure that right now the town could approach the different high schools and offer the graduating classes money (and probably not much!) for their graduation ceremonies in exchange for their labour in cleaning up this beautiful park.

We need to make the park a place where families will go to have a picnic; where seniors will go for their daily walk (it is a wonderful area to walk in for seniors, not too hilly!); where elementary classes could have their closing picnics; etc. It is a family oriented park, both by location and topography. Please, please start something now to save it.

- First of all, I like the idea of imagine Bridgewater. It has the potential of being a good way to get the whole community involved.

My vision is that Bridgewater should be aesthetically pleasing. I think something needs to be done to the waterfront first. People are complaining about the ships that are in the harbour. I, personally, don't see an issue with them. I think that the Mall property and Cinemas are very ugly. The addition of a few riverside stores would make the mall look so much better from King Street. The fact that the Cinemas are painted in multiple colours is not a really great thing either. Once we have the waterfront fixed, it's time to look at the houses around the town. There needs to be a few general rules. There are a lot of houses within town limits that are unsightly.

If you ask me, Bridgewater has great potential. It just needs a little help getting there.

- As county residents and seniors my wife and I shop in the 'market town of the South Shore ' regularly and plan to use the recreation complex when built. However with the increasing costs of traveling by car from the Riverport area we would welcome a bus service connecting us to Bridgewater and the other towns in the county. A group called the Citizens for Public Transit has been meeting for over a year with that in mind. We would be interested in further discussion on this component and addition to an imaginative Bridgewater.
- Upgrade the entrances to Bridgewater with treed boulevards welcoming visitors to our town. North Street especially since the town is planning to widen the street in the next couple of years. Upgrade the parkades with trees, benches, etc. still permitting parking for downtown shops. Beautify the town to attract residents and make it a place that residents can be proud to live. And finally, construct/attract facilities like recreation buildings (multi-use), cultural facilities (art galleries, playhouse, etc).
- We have the unique location of living on a beautiful river. Why not take advantage of this situation by having a "green area" or "walking trail" along the LaHave River from the new bridge to the "landing". Also, a summer water fountains in the river and decorating the two bridges with flowers etc..... are an excellent idea!

- What Bridgewater really, really needs is an "indoor" play area for children in the winter months. Perhaps a section of the mall beside Tim Horton's?
- A decent new accessible to all LIBRARY.
- Our council seems to be determined to make Bridgewater a retirement community. So how do you bring in the 30ish educated people to work, volunteer and really make a difference for the future?

I am a 34-year-old resident with two school age children. We travel to Tantallon to go to the library, Halifax to the pool and Dartmouth to shop. Of course our kids are fat and struggling to keep up in school, we have put no money into our future. Bridgewater has no draw to bring people to our town and to spend money. Our downtown core is run down, the parkades are ugly and businesses can't pay the rent.

We need a library. King Street needs some bylaws to make it beautiful and pleasant. The multi purpose centre is a must. We need something to bring families together in activity. We need to be greener.

- I think something should be done with the wharf behind Crown Tire on LaHave St. It needs to be cleaned up for various reasons. One of the major reasons is that when you drive up the river into town that is the first thing you see. Another reason is that I think it could provide some economic boom from the waterway. Imagine if all those ships and rotten boats were gone and the wharf was modified/cleaned up, there would be endless possibilities. Maybe a cruise ship (1000s of people) could dock, and business that ship and receive goods overseas could use the port of Bridgewater rather than trucking goods to Halifax. Even larger yachts of people visiting the area could dock. There have been quite a few in the past couple of years. One docked in Lunenburg that I know of for sure. Finally, if you are going to fix up one side of the river to make a place for people to sit and relax or place for boats to go into the river why not clean up the other side so you aren't looking at a pile of garbage when you sit and relax. Thank you.
- As a newcomer to the community I want to give you my first impressions and thoughts for a better Bridgewater.
I believe that the LaHave River and the Woodland Garden are the community's biggest assets but seem to be very neglected by the community. I envision a park that is well maintained, has clear signage for visitors, has interpretation, has a map of trails, has identification of where other paths go, and graffiti is removed immediately. Parking obscures the river. A walking loop would enhance the river's enjoyment immensely.
The no anchor signs along the river are very negative. I envision an area

to anchor, and signs to identify where to find it replacing the no anchor signs. I envision tourism information centre very active and for a longer season. It is in an excellent location and could draw the thousands of visitors traveling by Bridgewater's exit.

Services are bar none. Housing is very expensive. The downtown is becoming very vibrant and evidence is needed to entice a higher scale pub for work lunches. We have several green areas, particularly downtown but I envision them looking less tired and neglected. The town needs a specific image to reflect its uniqueness that should be used in all products, i.e. park benches, planter boxes, signs and more.

I envision more public information about Bridgewater's past throughout the community (such as along the green areas) and on local media. My vision is a showcase of gardens to draw visitors to and from the pond and Museum. The Museum needs better signage to make it more visible and better known to the community. Satellites of historic stories could be throughout the community. Guided and self-guided walking tours of historic aspects of the community are needed and need to be made more readily available to pick up throughout the community.

- I strongly feel that if we want Bridgewater to grow and attract young professional families to the area we urgently need to create better recreational facilities. Most importantly the proposed recreational complex slated for the Exhibition grounds. The whole area (not just the town of Bridgewater), cannot afford to have this project derail again and it should be given top priority. I also feel that Bridgewater should market the LaHave River toward recreational boaters. It is a beautiful trip up the river and many boaters on their way up and down the coast probably bypass it. Get rid of the old eyesores presently docked at the government wharf. Fix-up the wharf and construct docking facilities for boats. Procure land on the east side near the wharf and erect some vintage buildings overlooking the river, possibly a restaurant or microbrewery. Promote recreational boating up the river where people may want to spend the night, pick-up groceries, go to a show, gas-up or have a meal and a beer.
- It is my understanding that there are several new housing developments planned and/or under construction, in Bridgewater and NONE of which will supplement we seniors who are receiving the OAS supplement and/or spousal allowance. My husband and I now own and live in our own home, but feel that in the near future we will not be able physically to look after the care and maintenance of the home. During my inquiries I've learned that there is no way, with our income that we'd be able to afford to rent an apartment.

I would like very much to see accommodations for we seniors from the time we can no longer look after a home until it is necessary to acquire assisted living.

- This town is so ugly...do something about the buildings!!!!

- Can you imagine a community which supports small business, who's town officials assist in being creative and suggestive in bringing your business to reality instead of fighting you on non-critical issues? Can you imagine a community that supported business development, not just the big guys, in order to maintain youthful working opportunities so our young people did not leave due to economic exile? Can you imagine a community that embraced our youth and provided them with recreationally positive outlets instead of only supporting and caring for our retiring population; after all they [youth] will be your leaders. Can you imagine a community that embraced their greatest physical asset-the LaHave River and developed this asset into something that tourists and locals would enjoy and appreciate? Can you imagine a community which planned- long term-our wide spread trailer park, so it will be attractive in 30 years when current management retires etc. Can you imagine...although this initiative is positive the Town of Bridgewater has heard from the people for numerous years in relation to renewing their vision and they have chosen not to respond to the people. What will be different this time? Does it really taking funding from external sources for the Town of Bridgewater to listen to the people? Will anything be implemented? Good luck imagine Bridgewater we expect great things to come from you!!!!!!!!!!
- Bridgewater is a beautiful place, as we already know. Are there statistics on the breakdown of the population in Bridgewater? How many people live in town and how many live in the rural route community...Whom does Bridgewater serve? (We have Mahone Bay and Lunenburg as tourist areas and a lot of people from there come here to shop)...Do we want to attract the tourists from these areas and how can we do that? There is not a lot here to promote tourism. I feel we need some recreation facilities for the people who live here as well...will they be government run or private? An arena. Campsites/Cabins, walking trails, cross country skiing routes, bike paths, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, etc. can be offered to residents and tourists. There are many areas just outside Bridgewater where nature thrives for people to enjoy. Develop the outlet stores so more people will come here to shop. Create a flea/farmer's market, like St. Jacobs in Ontario. They also have outlet stores such as Levi, Paderno, Lego, etc. across the street. Get the spaces in the Bridgewater Mall rented. What will attract more people to our mall?
- The Bridgewater Woodland Gardens has some natural beauty with interesting history, geology, flora and fauna, but I think it has the potential to be a much more attractive focal point of our community. I dream of it having an interactive, interpretive nature trail that would be of interest to families, schools etc. It could be beautified with trees, shrubs, and flowers that would complement its natural state. I once visited a garden that had a fountain that moved in time with music (classical). It played once a day in the evening, with colourful lights to complement it. This part would be quite expensive I'm sure but it was a wonderful draw for tourists.

I also love the outdoor pool! There is nothing like swimming under the sun, in a safe place, but I would like see some research take place to investigate the possibility of updating it with a paddling pool or sloping entrance with slides and water features. (i.e. water features like at Victoria Park pool in Truro. It is wonderful!!)

Or add a "water park" type concept to the area behind the Desbrisay Museum adjoined to the pool. This would be a picnic area with little fountains and water games for kids to splash and play in.

And.....PLEASE, we desperately need an indoor pool, 2 ice surfaces and walking/jogging track. It was fun getting the chance to "share my dreams".

- I imagine Bridgewater with an attractive main street. Along the river side there is lots of scope for the imagination but have not any ideas at present. I just have a picture of a tree-lined park with benches, etc. but then I am not sure what can be done about parking for cars, which would come to the shops that would be attracted to the main street.

Since I am a reader and use the library I think this is an important issue that needs to be addressed. We need a location with more space and adequate parking and the present one is no longer suitable.

The Shipyard Landing Park is an asset to the town and shows what can be done to improve our image but I don't think the boats across the river from it do very much to make it an ideal spot to sit and relax.

Just a few thoughts.

- I imagine a Bridgewater with enough vision to create a new library, hopefully in the old Canadian Tire property, where space for the collection and parking are readily **accessible**.

I also imagine that current spin around budget will make that unlikely as there is so little commitment to the needs of the library in this town, always lots of talk, but never any action backed up with resources.

To then fall back on the ridiculous notion that the library was offered to the community in a fantasy of 'Phase 2' of the Recreation complex project which may never be built at all, never mind arrive at a Phase 2 in my lifetime, is simply to push the idea further into the abyss.

I am so very disappointed in this situation, but then I imagine Bridgewater doesn't see itself as a community, with a need to develop community resources such as a library. A great pity!

- What could Bridgewater have that Lunenburg, Mahone Bay or Chester doesn't offer, yet makes full use of our river?

Answer: A ROWING & CANOEING CLUB.

Convert the lower Parkade into a clubhouse and storage for boats.

Both competitive races for crews and individuals could be held between the narrowing of the river at High Head and the Town Bridge just like on the River Thames in London.

Why should Dragon Boat races (Bosom Buddies) always be held on Lake Banook?

One of the finest aerobic recreational exercises for young and old is rowing and/or paddling.

Think of the crowds of people congregating in our riverside parks and downtown area to cheer on local and provincial teams at a yearly Festival. I'm sure local businesses would be enthusiastic and give support to such unique activities

- I would like to see more input and energies put in by Town Council to promote and bring to fruition a skate park for the kids of Bridgewater and surrounding areas where they can use their skateboards and whatever.

It really bothers me that something that will help kids be active in a time when obesity and it's results is an unbelievable problem, when we complain soooo much about errant children, an answer that the kids are begging for is not given the same drive and consideration as adult activities such as the Osprey Golf Course where nothing seems to get in the way of improvements. Lack of money doesn't stand in the way there.

I know a facsimile of a park is available by times, but that is not good enough!

I'm no lawyer, but as far as liability goes, why can't the participating kids get a waiver signed by their parents? Use at own risk kind of thing. Why is it any different for the kids than for the adults? Accidents happen in any physical venue. Avoid what you can anticipate for problems and then learn as you go like any other project.

I would like to see a fabulous park for the kids.

- Have an off leash area for dogs and a heavy fine for those that do not clean up after their pets. Also, two volunteer cleanups per year once in the spring and once in the fall for pet lovers.

2. Pave a path for a long bike trail for health and fitness from Bridgewater to Lunenburg around to Mahone Bay and back to Bridgewater in a safe area where one does not have to be concerned about wild animals, perhaps beside the highway.

3. Charge people a fee when they drop off garbage at the dump \$2.00 or \$5.00 depending on weight to help in the expense of the waste management.

4. Have an indoor pool for over the winter fitness and swimming lessons without using a hotel pool.

5. Post signs in the winter to "Be An Angel" and help the elderly shovel their driveways and walkways for free.

6. Have a "Walking Club" for people to walk together 2 - 3 times per week all year round and make it a social event (a station for a coffee after the walk, a couple of potluck suppers per year, a barbeque after the walk).

7. Figure out a way of snow ploughing without jamming up residents' driveways so

they have to shovel (usually too crusty or cannot lift the snow) or hire someone (perhaps they cannot afford this) over the winter months. Be concerned and helpful to avoid health issues or heart attacks.

- For months now I have heard discussions about the new recreation centre. While physical activity is very important for our children, and us, I am very disappointed at the seeming lack of interest and support for a new library.

Just last week I was reading about the provincial testing of our children and, in light of their poor performance year after year, I would think that a focus on literacy would be extremely important to any growing community. In other words we NEED a new library much more than we need a new recreation centre, or indoor soccer field, which will cater only to those members of our community who can afford. Libraries are free and accessible to everyone.

In 1996 I moved to Lloydminster, Alberta, where I lived for 5 years. The first thing I looked into before moving was the type of library service that was offered. The second was the medical services.

For Bridgewater to grow as a community we need to drastically increase the number of doctors working in this area. It will be difficult to encourage families to move to an area where there is presently a shortage of doctors. My mother-in-law is an example. She is 70 years old. Her doctor moved away and she cannot find another.

Not only do we need to increase doctors, we also need to look at the other medical services that we provide. An example would be dialysis treatments. As I understand it, residents must travel to Halifax, some several times each week. Shouldn't we look at providing necessary services here?

So these are my thoughts of how I imagine Bridgewater in the future. A family friendly community offering a wide variety of necessary services.

Thank you and have a great day.

- Here are some thoughts on a new and improved Bridgewater...

The river is the biggest asset of the town; so improving the areas along the river would be a major priority.

The town officials a long time ago seem to have turned their backs to the river by allowing all the green spaces to be destroyed and replaced with concrete. It is very sad what has happened to this once beautiful area. The town is not attractive with concrete parking lots, gas stations and a shopping mall all on its banks. Look at what Wolfville did with their old library, and Bridgewater has a car repair shop in it.

Take a look at the communities of Belfast, Maine and Newburyport Mass. They both share a similar history with Bridgewater as being old clipper ship ports on rivers. Both communities have revitalized their waterfronts and have attracted people to their towns.

More green spaces, walkways, and access to the river will encourage more people to come and enjoy Bridgewater.

- As a former resident of Bridgewater, and a recent graduate of NSCC – Lunenburg Campus, I love this idea! Living just north of Edmonton, AB (in Gibbons – population under 3000) has opened my eyes to the potential that Bridgewater has.

Fort Saskatchewan, a city northeast of Edmonton, has 14,000 residents, but very little economic growth (but they're working on it). One of the big establishments that was brought into the city was the 'Dow Centennial Centre'. It has everything recreational under one roof and is funded by Dow Chemicals and the City of Fort Saskatchewan. This city is a hub of industry activity and they are always finding new ways to give back to the community. This centre was a fabulous idea. People come from Edmonton and all the communities around Fort Saskatchewan to use this facility. There is an ice arena, soccer field, gym, and theatre – all indoor - just to name a few.

I've attached a link for you to check it out for yourselves. I don't think that something this large is going to flourish in Bridgewater, but a smaller scale idea is certainly worth consideration. This facility not only invites visitors to the area, but also promotes fitness and health in an area that is lacking facilities. Sure, there's an ice arena in Bridgewater and a few fields to play during the summer, but what about the rest of the year? Or even June, when it rains 25 days out of the month?

- Ok, picture this, a building about the size of the old Canadian Tire, but not as tall. Inside there are many different rooms all around and each room is soundproofed and bands/musicians can rent out rooms (via membership/paying at the door) and they can practice and jam and just hang out in general. In the middle of the upstairs would be a lounging area with food and drink available, couches and etc. Downstairs is a hall designed specifically for shows around Bridgewater that promoters can rent out for a fee/damage deposit (Blockhouse Fire hall does this and it creates no problems)

Of course this is in the idea stage. I would love (and know many who would love) to have a place where musicians and teenagers could go and hang out. Not only would it solve the problem of teenagers having nowhere to go but do drugs and whatnot, but it would also encourage artistic and emotional growth in the community. I think this is a great idea for Bridgewater because there is a lot of unused talent here. Plus you can go far with this idea. If you were to use this idea I request that I be involved in the making of it because I have a vision for this. Thanks for reading.

- The Multipurpose Centre (proposed) should not be part of the exhibition site - it will be far too congested, plus the ugly police station is already; a blob on what was once a street of lovely homes. 2. The town does not do a good job of keeping itself clean, i.e. the decrepit signs at the Aberdeen entrance to the old mall which have been there for years and the unsightly garbage which is allowed to sit for weeks as on the property just below the St. Phillips street intersection on the left hand side going down the hill. Also the debris that only seems to be picked up once a year along the fence on Dufferin hill outside the exhibition grounds.

- Would like to see Bridgewater more walker friendly. Wouldn't it be great to be able to walk safely anywhere in town? I noticed recently some work being done on some storm sewer pipelines off Smith Ave. Wouldn't it be great if these could be made into walking route to Pine St.? One of them is used officially now but people often get wet feet in the brook.

I recently walked home from work but when I pass the Tim Horton's on LaHave St. there are no sidewalks there on either side. Also, if people want to walk out North St. to the Exit 12 area, there are no sidewalks.

With Active Transportation becoming a big topic, wouldn't it be great to have an AT Town? We already have a good start in this area with the Centennial Trail. Lets get people moving, help the environment and keep people connecting within their community right on our street/trails.

Thank you. Really like your public input format. Very forward thinking. Way to go!

- Although I live in Conquerall Bank, I work in Bridgewater and have been a resident of the town.

I imagine Bridgewater as developing its riverfront and downtown area. The LaHave River is a beautiful natural resource running right through town, yet it has been undervalued and uglified by parking lots, mall developments and fast food outlets.

The ugliest blight of all in Bridgewater is the former government wharf, with its rotting hulks of warships that are not at all representative of Bridgewater's rich shipping heritage. It is an embarrassment and an eyesore, and I am hopeful that there is some way of rectifying it in the future. I imagine Bridgewater with a proper marina and a picturesque functioning wharf, rather than the current junkyard.

- I believe that there should be more parks, activities and amusements for children. I believe we could seriously benefit from a small amusement park, something with water slides, bumper cars, go-karts, arcade, something small like Atlantic Playland would be great. Also the proposed fitness centre, but have it at a rate that even low income families can afford it. I also think it would be great to have something inside the mall such as they do in Greenwood mall for children, parents can drop children off and have them cared for while they shop. I believe it would be a great asset for the mall since it seems to be getting more and more empty every time I go in it. There would also be a great benefit to more playgrounds in smaller areas for kids like on St. Phillips St. I live in Wileville (which yes I know isn't Bridgewater) but we could benefit from something like that as well. If there was something in town that I could take my son to on my days off I am sure I would love to do that. Things like at Christmas time for crafts for kids where they can go make something for very little money, I know we have kids over a lot for us to go do fun things with and I would love more activities to do with them. Maybe doing something like magic shows, story readings, etc in one place (we usually don't go to the library because there are too many kids in such a small place). As I'm sure you've noticed by

now I believe we would benefit by a lot of new things for our youth again. An arcade is a huge benefit. I also believe that having activities for ALL kids, even the teens may help some of the kids who "need" to get in trouble all the time. I remember a youth club that was open 7 days a week where there was a TV, video games, dances, couches to just sit and talk, a pool table, etc and there was never a day when it wasn't busy. Charge somewhere around \$2 for entrance for the day. Almost every kid can afford that and it gives them an outlet for their energy rather than vandalizing. Thank you for your time!

- I have recently moved back to my hometown of Chester to find that many of people, both professional and non-professional, are drug dependant. I feel that we need to put more focus and funds into developing a healthier, better decision-making youth here. The main focus with treatment should be about self-esteem and not about the actual addition. Most detox facilities focus on the drug, and lifestyle training rather than building that person up with self-esteem for them to create a strong foundation for which to build a new life upon.

Professionals are less likely to go to a public treatment facility and therefore I feel that a private facility would be well served here with profits helping to fund a public treatment service for both in and outpatient basis.

All cities and towns can definitely benefit from more addictions resources but in a smaller town like Bridgewater the effects would be more quickly noticed.

I would be more than willing to be a part of a project or talks about such a program or facility.

It saddens me to see such potential being robbed of our Maritimers. Everyone could benefit from having better self-esteem. When you love yourself you will no longer harm yourself or others.

- I spent 10 years in Zephyrhills, Florida, during the 90's and every day we played shuffleboard - we had our own court in our park - plus we participated in an 8 park league once a week - we got to know many, many friends and had an enjoyable time while playing shuffleboard - it is great exercise and a wonderful sport (especially for seniors). I would very, very much suggest that Bridgewater somehow, someway obtain a shuffleboard Court for people like myself, who I am sure would truly enjoy it. Just a suggestion - in Dartmouth, N.S. they turned their arena into a shuffleboard court during the summer months, their aim was to obtain their own court and enable them to raise money, get grants, etc. so that they could play all year round - my friend who was involved in this has since passed away so I do not know what is happening there now. Thank you for your time and consideration.

- I use to live bordering the town park and spent a lot of quality time there. Hanging around as a teenager, skating, walking and biking.

Now as a father of two I continue to use the park, feeding the ducks, playing on the playground adjacent to the pool and strolling around the perimeter.

I noticed the brook run off waterfall coming down from the poolside is in major disrepair.

It was constructed of timber. My request for the town to better the natural look of the park would be to reconstruct the waterfall with large stones.

- I think it is very important for our town to have a pool that children can learn how to swim in all year around. As it stands we take our kids to a hotel for swimming lessons that does not even have a deep end. This is fine for little kids but when they get older it won't be so good. They don't even get to learn how to dive. I don't think we should have to take our kids to Halifax to give them the proper lessons they need. As it stands you have to rush to registration day stand in line for an hour before the doors open at Parks and Recreation to get your children in a class. I think it is very important.
- Use the river as a source of recreation; don't hide it with malls and parking lots.
- I attended the meeting last night at the high school and was prompted to discuss "Imagine Bridgewater" with my Grade ten students today. In groups of three, they produced the following suggestions for your consideration:

- 1a) There should be more sidewalks to encourage walking,
- b) local schools should be fixed up, cleaned and maintained so students can take pride in them,
- c) there should be more activities for the public,
- d) A walking bridge between Shipyard's Landing and the LaHave Street Field would encourage youth to use that facility,
- e) public transportation is important between Mahone Bay, Lunenburg and Bridgewater.

- 2a) There should be a venue for concerts/theatre,
- b) support (money + attitude) for a "real" skate park,
- c) fix the roads in town,
- d) support local business,
- e) help the youth feel respected,

- 3a) Build the multipurpose centre to house a sports centre, a learning centre and a senior's complex,
- b) decrease vandalism by painting over existing graffiti and building a graffiti wall to support student art,
- c) more shelters/support for people,
- d) clean public restrooms, centrally located,
- e) hire students to clean up the town.

The students talked at length about what was important to them and I have recorded for you their answers as they appeared in class and not my own interpretation of them.

- A community the size of Bridgewater with the diverse interests and age groups requires more library space and a recreation complex with a pool. Both of these facilities are essential for the health and well being of seniors as well as those who are more physically able. A pool would enable seniors with joint and limb problems to retain their mobility longer.

- I think during the summer months King St should be closed off from Dufferin St to the new bridge on Saturday evenings and have different musical groups able to play. Fund raising groups could sell ice /hotdogs/ice cream and drinks. Maybe it could be tried once or twice for the first year to see how it goes and how popular it is. Parking can be over at the mall and people can walk across the bridges. It would be nice to have an evening event that people could walk around on Main St in a casual way and just enjoy the evening
- There is a fair amount of time, energy, and money invested on a regular and ongoing basis to promote Bridgewater as a great place to live, work, and play. We encourage young people to stay, former residents to return, others to relocate here, business people to set up their shops and services here, and we invite tourists to visit.

Obviously, one of the first impressions a visitor receives of our town is a visual one. The physical appearance and condition of our Town, its streets, and public infrastructure all speak to the pride we have in our community. The same thing can be said of the residents of Bridgewater. The care and attention residents' pay to their own properties further reflects upon the Town.

There was a popular business book some years back entitled "Dress for Success" and its premise was simple if you want to be a success or perceived as a success, then you must look the part.

Is Bridgewater dressed for success? A simple stroll through Town (primarily the older sections) will soon present many situations that would suggest the contrary. Abandoned vehicles, buildings in a dilapidated state of repair, old tires, rubbish, and various other "eyesores" can readily be seen. There also seems to be a larger than average percentage of rental properties that fall under the category of 'poorly maintained'. Surely people earning income from these rental properties should be forced to maintain them to an acceptable standard.

This is particularly troubling given that there is a Town By-Law (Chapter 115 Housing and Building Standards), which supposedly addresses all these issues so that situations of that nature do not exist. It would seem that it is only enforced when a complaint is made. However the reality is that neighbours seldom wish to complain about their neighbours, anonymously or otherwise and why should they if there is a by-law in place to prevent unsightly premises within the Town?

I imagine a clean, tidy, and well-maintained town that is truly "dressed for success". A Town that instils pride in its residents and delivers a favourable impression to all who might visit.

There are opportunities such as the Earth Day Challenge and annual cleanup weeks but the problem persists. Perhaps we need a focused effort or event to draw attention to the matter, reinforce the existing by-law, and clean up the town.

Further, I would recommend that once a year the individuals responsible for enforcing the

unsightly premises by-law do a Town walk-about to make a first hand inspection of properties, investigate those who appear to be in violation, issue warnings or fines as required, and follow-up to see that results occur. It should not take a complaint from a citizen because everyone benefits when this particular by-law is enforced.

- I live outside of the town halfway between Bridgewater and Lunenburg. However my girlfriend and I both work in Bridgewater. I have many ideas of how to make the town better but I'll stick to my main points to try to keep this short.

Bridgewater has loads of potential. It has a strong sense of community, amazing people, and a beautiful waterfront. Ok, maybe the waterfront isn't beautiful but that's where the potential comes in. I believe that I share the dreams of many residents when I say that the waterfront is our biggest asset and should be the focal point of this community. We need to focus our efforts on rejuvenating the riverfront area. As many have said, the parkades are a waste and should be removed. Utilize that prime real estate for something that can benefit from the beauty of the river. It doesn't matter if it's a park, or a boardwalk, or a restaurant. What matters is that the people of Bridgewater can enjoy it. The cars don't care if they have a view of the water!

Now point form for the other points:

- NO FOUNTAIN IN THE RIVER!!! Keep the NATURAL beauty!
- Why do we have a Navy ship in Bridgewater? What is that other boat doing there? They do not fit.
- People with active lifestyles live healthier lives. Build whatever we need to promote physical activity. Don't let plans get stalled by government.
- Promote walking/biking/skating as a method of transportation and plan development to allow people to get around downtown without cars.
- Involve the Youth. Don't let Bridgewater become a retirement community. Balance of all age groups is crucial to a healthy community.
- Don't be afraid to change. To develop Bridgewater further we may need to shift our way of thinking.
- Bridgewater is one of Nova Scotia's greatest wasted opportunities: Here is a potentially attractive small town, minutes from the ocean on a beautiful river in a gorgeous province which, though the short-sightedness of town councils and uninspired developers, has been reduced to an ugly shopping centre with badly planned traffic flow. Imagine what Bridgewater could be...imagine the mall as an attractively designed shopping centre, not a brick block, with stores and restaurant patios FACING the river. Imagine parkland along both riverbanks with wharfs where LaHave river residents and ocean going travelers could tie-up right in town while they shop, dine or go the movies. Imagine that the old Dooley's Mall had been designated as the location for Wal-Mart and the other ugly big box stores, now on the outskirts of town where everybody has to drive to get there. Imagine a Niagara on-the-Lake or a Wolfville or a Sherbrooke and you'll realize where Bridgewater went all wrong.

What were the Mayors and Councillors of Bridgewater thinking, to allow the decisions that made Bridgewater what it is instead of what it could have been!

The town could really use a makeover, and a river front makeover could be a very profitable venture. If the mall was altered to make it face the river and you had cafes and stores facing the river, with patios and attractive places to shop it would draw a lot of tourists who are traveling the South Shore. Instead of just stopping for gas or some groceries, they would stop for a meal or a cappuccino or take a walk along the beautiful riverfront...and shop at the riverfront stores. Boaters could come right into town if there was a nice Wharf, and it could be an overnight destination for cruisers, Yachts and possibly larger boats. Re-doing the waterfront worked for so many towns in Canada from big cities like Halifax to small towns like Port Carling Ontario. The first time I laid eyes on Bridgewater, all I could think was "what a waste...what horrendous planning...who let this town slip?" Along with New Minas, and Spryfield, Bridgewater is one of Nova Scotia's embarrassments.

- Unfortunately since my family moved to the area in 1985 we have seen the Bridgewater waterfront lose its appeal and N.S. charm.
Having bulldozed the old railway station and any sense of character, the town's centre and waterfront has lost any of the charm that towns such as Lunenburg, Pictou, and Wolfville have been able to renew. Instead we have an unattractive mall with no visual access from inside to the river, which in my opinion would be a major asset. While on the subject of the mall, I wonder why has it been unable to become more of an attraction to the area. Is it poor management that has seen it continually lose stores? Personally I avoid going there, instead opting for the city or the beautiful malls in the valley or Bedford. The waterfront has been developed by a gas station, a vehicle repair shop etc. It has become totally unappealing.
There is a total lack of alternate dining places, other than fast food. Visitors to our home are taken to surrounding areas like Lunenburg and Chester to tour and dine. It has been more than disheartening to watch the squabbling over the building of a community centre. Guess the term 'community' goes out the window when talking about who's to get the bigger dollars!
Although the area has some very fine schools we are sadly lacking when it comes to being able to offer options to families with children with special needs.
Even after 20 plus years I still do not refer to Bridgewater as home. Plans after retirement include leaving the area.
- I would like to see the Courthouse turned into a performing arts centre after the new one is opened. Imagine, "The Courthouse Theatre". Sounds catchy don't you think. I feel it would be a great addition to the Town and I am sure the Province wouldn't mind parting with it when they are finished with it.
- I think Bridgewater's focus should be along the river. There could be a walking bridge across the water. I really think that we need more locally owned stores. People need to do something different. Yes nation wide organizations may make money, but if OUR people start unique businesses, OUR people will shop at them. Put some colour in your ideas. Make your stores vibrant and colourful. These types of stores attract people!!!
- I was thinking that it would be nice to have an outdoor hockey rink. It can be used as a skating rink in winter and be also for ground hockey in the summer time, leagues could be formed for Ball Hockey. Great for kids and evening activities for the whole family.

- I was unable to attend the meetings where it sounds like there was quite a lively discussion around opportunities for Bridgewater development. I hope that I am not being redundant in the ideas I am sending to the committee for review.

I feel that Bridgewater is a wonderful town and it could be a premiere destination for businesses, young families, and retirees - we can take advantage of the regional tourism/summer retreats if everyone works together to develop a vibrant community rich in culture with an even stronger sense of community than already exists.

Please find below list:

1. Emphasis on King Street development attracting entrepreneurs and localized small businesses (there are quite a few that already exist but far too many empty buildings) - Magazine/coffee shop (reminiscent of Atlantic News in Halifax) would be great on King Street, Art Gallery showcasing area/Nova Scotia talent, standalone clothing shops, children's clothing/toy store showcasing local artisans.
2. A high-end eating establishment is missing (recommend on King Street overlooking the river) and perhaps just a few more eating establishments throughout the town that are not fast food.
3. Beautification of King Street with flower lined, cobblestone streets to emphasize its significance to the town - something to draw people to the street to want to do business.
4. Perhaps more sidewalks on more streets to encourage walking.
5. Kayaking on the LaHave River - potential tourist opportunity.
6. Emphasis tourism-wise on the trails that currently exist with development of more bicycle trails on the waterfront.
7. Perhaps unrealistic - but all the buildings on both sides of the river do not take advantage of the views of the river and when looking across the river on either side it would be ideal to have businesses either take advantage of the views with their businesses (for ex. windows) or paint their buildings to be aesthetically pleasing.
8. Riverfront needs to be explored to its full potential on both sides of the river (as I understand it, there is a committee on the waterfront revitalization) whereby a boardwalk, paths, trails, mini-parks, marinas and seating areas are developed removing all the parkades and developing parking close by to draw people to the street to do business but to also beautify it to some extent - the parkades are one obvious issue to having a revitalized waterfront.

9. In conjunction with #8, creating a marketplace for various marketers to share their products and to generate interest in bringing people to either King Street (King Street Market...) or the other side of the river. It could be everyday of the week or just on weekends, year round or just in summer/fall.

10. King Street Festival - a themed festival (music, book, art) emphasizing the local culture (or a Folk type-festival).

11. A Music Venue for local talent and perhaps not so local talent to play live music.

12. Protection of heritage homes and preservation of history balanced with new growth of the town.

13. Bridgewater needs to build on its identity - if the current theme is to be the emphasis then it needs to be exploited and Bridgewater truly become the Main Street of the South Shore in some capacity through business development with a unique (or semi-unique) cultural element.

14. Encourage writers, artists, photographers, all artisans (pottery, quilting, knitting) to set up studios/shops in and around town.

Thank you for your time and the best of luck in developing our wonderful community.

- As a life long resident (60 plus years) I have a great imagination for Bridgewater, unfortunately over the past few years my imagination has been spoiled by the visions of debt. While it is nice to dream and nothing wrong with visions of the future, at what point in time does reality kick in? I imagine Bridgewater debt free, with a tax base within reason. I imagine Bridgewater with a Town Council that cares about finances and not of impressing other towns. I imagine Bridgewater without businesses and people if it continues to place us further in debt. While I think the "imagine Bridgewater" is a good campaign and headed in the right direction, we need to look after our staple items before we continue to place us further in debt. Our roads are in need of repair to name one major item. I wish the committee luck in the future with this project, but imagine reality for this town, not unreachable goals.
- I live outside town limits but have a business in town. I have two suggestions related to healthier community efforts:

Firstly I'd like to see Bridgewater support healthier lifestyles by developing an infrastructure that supports walking, biking and other forms of active transportation in the town. The sedentary lifestyle of NS residents costs our province \$69 million per year. There is a group associated with the Ecology Action Centre's TRAX program that is looking at improving active transportation routes in Bridgewater. We are eligible for government grants for these purposes. Laena Garrison is the contact person- email: trax@ecologyaction.ca

Secondly I'd like to see us have a vision that supports the health of our community in a broader perspective by developing a Sustainable Community -- one that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. As more of us become aware that our public health encompasses a larger view that includes being both socially and environmentally responsible, more communities are looking to developing sustainable plans.

There is a program that supports this initiative for communities- see www.thenaturalstep.ca which provides workshops, training programs, coaching and advisory services for interested parties that helps communities and businesses integrate social, environmental and economic decision making into a " holistic and scientifically rigorous framework" This month an offshoot of this group The Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative started its program. The contact person is Clare Levin at: clevin@gpiatlantic.org. Whistler, BC has a city- wide master plan and Halifax has used resources from The Natural Step group (originally developed in Sweden- with more than 60 eco-municipalities in that country) and I hear that Wolville is interested as well. Our sister towns of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay are showing interest in visioning sustainable communities. Let's ensure that a master plan for Bridgewater is sustainable and we access resources that have proven to be helpful in other communities.

- I think more than anything Bridgewater needs public pool. Swimming in a dirty, un-maintained pool at a cheap hotel is not a way to get people to lead more active lifestyles. A sports stadium that offers a variety of indoor sports not only will help the town of Bridgewater but all our neighbouring communities as well. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

P.S. The library is small and limited; sometimes you have to wait weeks for them to bring a book in from a better library. They could definitely use some more funding

- I would like to imagine Bridgewater with lower property taxes!
- Hi, Great idea for input from the public. I live outside of town on the river but work in Bridgewater. I would like to see a safe wharf or marina to dock my boat and a riverside restaurant(s) close by with outdoor seating where I can see my boat. The wharf below the parkade is creepy and forbidding.

The parkades should be removed and the waterfront developed with an eye for beauty. A play area for families would be nice with lots of areas to tie up a small boat.

- I think that the following would improve Bridgewater greatly:
 - more emphasis and access to the river including a walking trail
 - more trees and pedestrian friendly areas around the malls
 - traffic calming devices on the main street and perhaps closing off an area to vehicles entirely to increase the enjoyment of walking. This could include having the sidewalks widened and beautified with attractive paving, hanging baskets, lamps etc
 - demolishing buildings that are derelict and improving the facades of the existing buildings on Main St
 - Having a market day on Saturdays in summer to attract people to the locality
 - Getting rid of those old ships on the river and investigating the feasibility of a marina at that locality.

- In response to your advertisement regarding input into the kind of town I would like Bridgewater to be in the future, here are some thoughts for Imagine Bridgewater. This is in addition to the various other ideas (which I fully support) including the Recreation Centre, waterfront redevelopment, water garden...

Because Bridgewater is not on the main highway between the Port of Halifax, central Canada and the Northeast United States, we have to work a little harder and be a little smarter.

I imagine a Bridgewater that grows by embracing, enhancing and developing a lifestyle that is second to none by creating an atmosphere where people will want to live, work, relocate, play and raise families.

Amalgamation or regionalization

Probably the biggest obstacle and probably what has been holding the area back for so long is that we have too much government and these governments have conflicting visions. Amalgamation is a key to the Town and region's success. If we don't amalgamate the implementation of these conflicting visions will result in sprawl, disjointed planning and duplication. Look at the eyesores of New Minas/Kentville, Truro and Bayer's Lake for a few regional examples.

Case in point is the new South Shore Field House: success without government interference, success with government co-operation.

Sustainable communities - environmentally progressive

As the fad of the environmental movement turns into the new reality, I imagine Bridgewater (and area) as a leader in sustainable communities and active living. By creating compact neighbourhoods, a central shopping area, bicycle and pedestrian friendly roads and pathways you can add vibrancy to the town. Vibrancy breeds success and growth. As a sustainable and environmentally progressive community likeminded people will be drawn from all over to relocate, invest and start new or relocate businesses.

I imagine a Bridgewater (and area) that has:

- Winter skating on the town's outdoor ponds
- Canoeing and kayaking off Shipyards Landing
- Dragon boat or sculling practices on the LaHave River
- Embracing the concept of the walking school bus
- Windmills, solar or geo-thermal providing green energy to the community and region
- Eco friendly building standards and services
- Bike racks (and lots of them)
- A buy local policy (for Government) and a buy local campaign that keeps money here and people off the highways
- More walking trails
- Electric buses and cars (Town and resident)

- More and extensive trail systems
- Roof top gardens
- An increased focus on the three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
- A pesticide free community
- To fight hill fatigue, encourage and promote electric bikes, scooters and segways.

I imagine a Bridgewater (and area) that can sustain businesses:

- Eco tourism
- Spas
- Wineries (we now have two)
- Riverfront cafes
- Theatre and outdoor concerts
- Businesses with a strong Internet component that are looking for lifestyle
- Companies that design or build the new emerging eco friendly technologies

A facilitator for volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community and it is a dwindling resource so I also imagine Bridgewater (and area) as a community that embraces and encourages the best in people. A facilitator for volunteers:

- To match community need with community human resources (Social)
- To match enthusiasm to festivals and events
- To match energy to sports
- To match empathy to the needy
- To match leadership to projects
- To match wonder, enthusiasm, discipline and commitment to youth

I imagine a community thank you to volunteers (Free). Make it a party and make it FUN.

- A volunteer picnic, (lobster, salmon, CHOWDER.) movie at studio 7, scavenger hunt at DesBrisay Museum....

I also imagine a Bridgewater (and area) as a community that can create the conditions that will encourage people to be the best of their abilities. I imagine a community that can look through the forest and create and encourage partnerships that will provide real and sustainable benefits to people who need help and community projects that need a lift. I imagine partnerships that involve government, agencies, business, religious and community groups and that these partnerships put people and community first and ego last. I imagine curing problems, not curing symptoms.

Pride in one's community

Pride in one's community occurs when people would not want to live anywhere else.

Offering citizens simple (relative) and little diversions is just one way to help foster that community spirit.

Out door ice skating on the town ponds

Encourage street or block parties

Host a huge community picnic or BBQ at Shipyards Landing. (Free burger or hot dog and drink, music on the bandstand, friends and neighbours mingling. Low cost (about \$0.75

per person) (Find sponsors reduce the cost) very high enjoyment level, huge return in town moral.

Have broad charities like the United Way and South Shore Health put banners and fundraising barometers on public land.

Bridgewater supports the United Way of Lunenburg County

I think that the Town of Bridgewater should be the leader in reaching out and engaging all people in the area. I do believe that we are doing this with Canada Day and in particular Bridgewater Shines. (The Christmas Panels of Lunenburg County)

More than a new Library -

I imagine a new library that is not only filled with books, computers and new programming, but is also a home to all the groups and agencies that provide real benefits to our community. I am talking about agencies like Big Brothers Big Sisters, Literacy training, First Step Early Intervention, Weight Watchers and many more. The synergies all these groups could provide to “at need” members of our community could be amazing as well as the synergies that they could all provide to each other.

It could have meeting rooms of various sizes, classrooms, and a central reception and photocopy area, share as much as you can to reduce costs and increase the value to the client. Imagine while the kids are in the library for a program, Dad could be in a literacy class and Mom could be learning about nutrition or parenting...

A town that dresses for the future

I also imagine a town that exudes confidence - a town that dresses for the future.

As you drive down Aberdeen Hill and get your first look of the town and the river, you see a nice town of predominantly white buildings and black trim but a rather drab colourscape..... Now imagine driving down the same hill and seeing the town in a blaze of colours. Houses and buildings painted in yellows, different shades of blue, green... red doors, murals. Interesting, visual, memorable.

Why not organize a town wide house and business-painting season to kick off Imagine Bridgewater or the Bridgewater River Renaissance projects? Work with local paint suppliers and their paint brand-marketing departments to create a “Paint The Town” project. Try also to have a paint company advertisement created around the project promoting not only the paint brand but Bridgewater as well.

- Talk to Rafuse Auto Parts (They carry Benjamin Moore Paints - High quality-strong marketing)
- Talk to Home Hardware (They own their own paint manufacturing company).
- When you have a paint company consider the following:
 - Start a house painting school (with the paint company providing the teachers) to teach local students how to paint houses for a summer job.
 - Work out volume discounts with a paint company and local supplier to make the project more affordable to the residents.

-To create interest and provide incentive, have the paint company provide computerized or colourized photos of what the town looks like now and what it could look like after the “Paint The Town” project.

Correct Past Mistakes

The Bridgewater Mall is (unfortunately) an imposing presence on the riverfront; its location ill conceived from the beginning. However it doesn't have to be the way. Why not encourage the good corporate citizens at the Bridgewater Mall to construct a façade for the back (river side) of the mall; this façade would match other buildings that back the river or the streetscape on King Street thus providing continuity through the downtown core. This façade could feature the names and mock storefronts of the various mall merchants.

With the support of the Bridgewater Mall, the façades could be designed and constructed by students of building trades at NSCC, the S.T.E.P. Program at Parkview Educational Centre.... Roadblocks? Sure, but nothing a little co-operation and compromise couldn't cure.

Planning

The Town of Bridgewater Planning Department could and should insist that prospective developers adhere to some reasonable design standards and banish buildings, particularly in the downtown core, that have that bland industrial or boxy look and commit to an overall design standard.

I also imagine a community that promotes and incorporates and encourages alternative energy and heating sources into the towns/area building plan.

Information

I imagine the town having a large outdoor Community Bulletin Board, (Aberdeen & LaHave), announcing community events and information of interest. This could be built, funded and managed by the Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce or a real estate company. It's in town, and at a major intersection. You could also have a web cam of the bulletin board on the Town website.

Examples of information: School BBQ's, Town meetings, Community Events (Canada Day, Bridgewater Shines, Run for Life, fundraising targets and progress (United Way, South Shore Health)...

Caring Community

In a world of government cutbacks and chronic under funding affecting our communities' most vulnerable, it is imperative that communities find creative and novel approaches to provide value and services to their residents. It is also important that connections are made between government (all levels), businesses, schools, churches and social agencies and that these groups create outside the box ideas that will provide real benefits to people in our community.

Look back, move forward

Because Bridgewater is the Main Street of the South Shore and has been servicing the needs of the area and region for over 100 years, why not pay tribute to those communities that contributed to (and continue to contribute to) its success by erecting signs on light posts in their honour.

The Town of Lunenburg has erected colourful metal light post signs depicting various types of fish and mollusks providing a nice visual distraction. The Town of Bridgewater could do the same, creating signs that name a community i.e.; Pleasantville, New Canada, Italy Cross, Pentz, Hemford...and offer an artistic representation of that town or village initial industry or something else that they take pride in. (fishing, boat building, forestry, a mill, farming....)

- I have read that Bridgewater is one of the fastest developing towns in the province right now, and I am very excited about our town. Our town has many new businesses coming as well many old businesses leaving. Our Bridgewater mall is not doing so well right now. What I notice about our town is that it is not so much a tourism driven town. We have a lot of fast food restaurants and we are lacking a lot of shopping outlets or small boutiques. Our town sits in the middle of many tourist towns such as Lunenburg, Mahone Bay, and Liverpool. However, we do not have half the tourists visiting our town, they just drive through. I am currently a Tourism Management student at the college in Bridgewater and have lived just outside of Bridgewater all of my life. I personally would like to see our town develop into more of a tourist driven town. I think it would be great for our town. Bridgewater has a lot of history that is unknown to many and I think that we should share it. I think that creating more tourist attractions would also give teenagers and children around the community something to do. Tourism would bring activities for teenagers, children, and people around the community and outside of the community to enjoy. I think that tourism is the area our town needs to focus on. Bringing activities and making the town look a little nicer would bring business, which means development.
- First, congratulations on seeking public input. Now, making sense and action plans from the submissions will be a great task. Go for it.

As far as ideas, I will list a few that have been on my mind. They relate mostly to community development and enhancing the assets we have. I have been fortunate to have resided in different locales in NS, traveled greatly, and viewed the ideas put into practice by other forward thinking communities. Some thoughts to improve and enhance are often hampered by narrow thinking... can't afford it, 'fixed income argument' (hey, aren't most of us?), like it the way it is.... let's let those comments slide, and focus on development.

1. Enhance the waterway - open park areas, encourage weather appropriate ventures (kiosks), encourage the Mall to enhance its visual impact ... gardens/ sitting areas - why not an outside restaurant (works in many, many communities), repairs to improve visual impact of bridges, parkways (trees in planters can be used for plantings). Look to

ways to make the main street engaging, active. We frequently travel to Lunenburg and Mahone Bay ... they look active and vibrant on summer months; returning to Bridgewater, it looks like a ghost town (Maybe similar to the contrast between Hull and Ottawa).

2. Don't be afraid to copy a good idea. So what if we use an idea that another municipality has used. If it works, use it. Look at Sydney's boardwalk, Halifax's waterfront, and Lunenburg's bustling harbour - even if they only create an illusion of being active, it will stimulate the interest.

3. Discourage inactive buildings in a public place... one needs to only look at the former law office and restaurant on King Street. Can't the Town more actively promote interest in putting these buildings and others to use? I bet we can encourage use, rather than watch them fall into disrepair.

4. Get the rusting hulks out of town. I suggested sometime ago, that if they are such an asset, why not share the wealth. 4 months here, 4 in Lunenburg and 4 in Mahone Bay (better yet - park them off Rick's front door in the harbour).

5. Encourage use of the waterway... regattas, festivals on the water. Planned events to attract use ... while we can't copy the Tall Ships, there are other boating events we could promote - small sailing ships invitation (the sawpit locale would be great).

6. Keep the front street clean. Merchants, once, were asked to keep the area in front of their store clean - each day- but this seems to have fallen into the past. Encourage owners to enhance the front of their store... a few extra minutes a day by everyone will add up (plants for example).

7. Keep the streets cleared of weeds - as the summer progresses, weeds and grasses sprout from the many cracks, and by mid Aug, a small forest of such plants line the streets. A little work and encouragement will rid us of those sites that make it look like we do care.

8. Discourage the wholesale placing of refuse on the main street... what about sites where it can be stored (small, attractive containers) for pickup. It seems that some put stuff out the night before, and by morning it has been opened by the crows and gulls, and litters the street.

10. Finally, work to get rid of the "Plaza 500" - a nightly collection of cars, trucks, coffee cups, squealing tires... does nothing to enhance the town. (Don't get me started on the Big Ex grounds - in most communities these sites are now out of the town/ of course when this one was set, it was far enough outside of the main area, and in farm land - hey I remember the race track)

In summary, we should look to visual impact, pride, and forward thinking. Resting on what we have, rather than utilizing it in a creative and thoughtful way, will keep us from progressing. We want people to come here, stay here - make it attractive to live

here. A Promote Bridgewater plan.

Thanks for the opportunity.

- 1. More civic engagement, especially from youth. Imagine Bridgewater is a great idea, lets keep it going.
 - 2. A youth council who are consulted with on youth matters.
 - 3. Local government and service providers "engaging" youth as opposed to "programming" for youth.
 - 4. Bridgewater as a tourist Town...no thanks... we have our niche, lets keep it. That being said, we should not ignore the cultural, recreational and environmental needs of the residents.
 - 5. A playground in every neighbourhood, kids walking, boarding and biking to school, people kayaking in the river, and families swimming in the year round pool.
 - 6. Meeting places where people stop and actually talk to one another.
 - 7. People putting their trash in the trashcan, turning their cars off to go inside the local coffee shop, and walking and biking to work.
 - 8. The Region of Lunenburg...or something like that, where community and political lines are invisible and cooperation trumps animosity.
 - 9. A local government who supports or leads by example on all of the above.
-
- Forget the rotting hulks; forget the condition of south King St.; forget the first impression of our town, 'Little Los Vegas Tavern and Whatever'; forget the parkades (a true disgrace in today's standards for any town); forget the deserted Main St. on a Sunday afternoon (scary); forget the ugliness of the old Rafuse Motors building, now known as KO's (not many know the foresaid anymore); forget it all. Just, if nothing else, PLEASE, move those two septic disposal containers at LaHave Landing out of our main sight of view. Give me a break. What are we looking at here? A few pre scrap yard vessels or a couple of S#*!ers? Somebody PLEASE, open your eyes or hire somebody who can see.
 - My first thing is the ships; I like the look of the old ships, its right across from the landing so to be called Shipyard landing is neat, these people with the signs on there lawns get on with your lives enjoy the scenes. Not everybody likes every thing in life. More time should be spent on your town streets "main street of the south shore" your main street is in BAD shape.
 - This beautiful town was my home for many years, and after being away, I still have a part-time home there, which is like a little piece of heaven. It's on the LaHave. The river has to be the focal point, and the improvements already made are very positive. The obvious thing that everyone says is clean up the wharf. I live close to it, and it has enormous potential as a place for everyone to go. Make it attractive! There's lots of space there for a park, the Fraser could be a wonderful tourist attraction. But the rest of the old boats need to go, really, unless there's a good reason for them to be there, they're in pretty bad shape. That's one BIG thing.
Because I live on the river, I made enquiries last year about the quality of the water for recreational use, and swimming. I contacted various people, Parks and Recreation, the Department of Health, and the Town, for this information. To my surprise, I found out

that no testing is done on a regular basis; except by private citizens. In a town where the river is the main point, people need to know this. I know of one group who approached the town to use the river for a specific function and because they couldn't find out if the water was safe, they were unable to hold this event that would have drawn lots of people and their money to the town. Bridgewater needs to test the water, so to speak! I have a small business, and am interested in local business in the area, so I went to the Information Centre, on the very day the Bulletin reported it wouldn't open! I was shocked. Every town needs a resource like that, and I couldn't believe, that at the same time we are trying to raise awareness and the image of the town as a destination, there isn't a central information centre. No money for it? Should find some. Plant some flowers, put up the flags, hire an attendant, and celebrate this wonderful town as though we are delighted to live here and share it with others.

There are lots of other things, but those were three that I thought were biggies. I'm looking forward to spending as much time as possible in Bridgewater, and I talk it up wherever I go. Rediscovering the simple pleasures of this beautiful town with so much history is important and will benefit Bridgewater in the future.

Thanks for reading my comments. Have a great day.

- It seems as though the warships upset the people within the town and surrounding areas due to the unsightliness they possess. I am unsure if people know the history behind these ships. Do they know how luxurious these ships were? Just by “googling” the HMCS Fraser, I have come across so much interesting information. Maybe if they did they would be more sympathetic. I am not sure what the town can even do about the situation where it is operated by the Artificial Reef Society. My idea is a simple one. This is supposed to be a museum, why not make it just that. In a time of war, people have so much support directed towards our troops overseas. Just look at all of the ribbons on our cars, clothing and in front of our houses. Everyone knows someone in the forces that is going overseas, has been there or is there now. Everyone is affected by the consequences of war. Why not use this and turn the museum into something that will attract tourism. Make these ships, or at least one of them, into a memorial to our troops. To the men and women of our town and surrounding areas. I know that this will cost money, and the world revolves around money, but if people believe in something they can find it. You can have a gift shop inside the ship to sell items that support our troops, like the ones at some of the bases. You can have photos of our fallen men and women, the ones at battle, and the ones waiting to go to battle along the walls. Ask families for donations and have a plaque that states these names. Being in a family with military ties, I know how strongly the troops feel about fighting for their country. You never hear the family of a fallen soldier saying that they didn't die doing what they were meant to do. These families would be proud to have their son or daughters; husband or wives; brothers or sisters name on a dedication to all the blood, sweat and tears the endured fighting and training for what they believe. I have never been inside the ships to be honest, but I am sure that it is possible to find military items, past and present to decorate and make the museum into a museum. We had volunteers to upgrade the memorial at the cemetery, and I am sure that it would be possible to find volunteers to help with a project like this. Hopefully we can turn all of the negative comments into something wonderful with a little paint, imagination and love.

- As a non-resident who works and shops in Bridgewater I believe there are a lot of positives about the town. Many others have mentioned the need to do something more with the riverfront and I echo their comments. The LaHave is a beautiful river and could be a central attraction for the area.

We do need more facilities where individuals and families can enjoy leisure time together or with others. A larger, more accessible library is high on my list as is a full-sized indoor swimming pool. Both of these facilities demonstrate a forward thinking, and a smart community anxious to attract new residents and businesses. The continued back and forth battle between the Municipality and the Town concerning the location of a multi-purpose centre is an embarrassment for the area. Clearly it's time for voters to elect councillors who have a vision beyond their paltry little turf wars. Amalgamation seems a viable option to me.

Mall Location

The following comments and suggestions were shared at the imagine Bridgewater location in the Bridgewater mall during the six-week engagement phase. Wherever possible comments were captured verbatim, however, some comments represent a summary of a conversation between a community member and the imagine Bridgewater staff.

- Parkades should be gone, replaced with beautiful trees and benches. The Bavarian Restaurant is unsightly; if it can't be rented then at least, clean it up. Unused buildings shouldn't be left untended; owners should be obligated to keep empty buildings in good repair.
- Town should provide more activities/facilities for youth; monies spent on the police station could have been put towards projects like that. Learn to use town utilities properly (for example town ploughs, don't rub plough blades over bare roads). Keep the trails in Town well maintained. What we need to do is focus on our youth and nothing but. Youth are a critical issue in this town and these issues need to be addressed before things like police stations are built.
- To town council—when you hold meetings where you expect senior citizens to attend, they should be held in the afternoon. To Town Council—higher taxes will drive seniors who supported the town over the years out to the country or onto assisted income. Dominion (street) is a raceway during the evenings and weekends. Seniors would appreciate the police on foot or bike at least one or two days per week. Public Announcements—Program to help people to understand the Motor Vehicle Act regulations (education campaign).

- Bridgewater should get “smart traffic lights” which would change automatically to accommodate traffic rather than being on a set schedule. The stairs leading underneath the parkade needs a rail. They are unsafe.
- A set of streetlights is necessary at the intersection of Eisenhower Place and LaHave Heights. Will it take an accident (and a death) to get Council to put in a light?
- Town Council should support Riverfront Development with the removal of at least half of the parkades, to open up the riverfront to citizens and guests with a boardwalk or other similar structure. Also, progress should be made on a recreational complex.
- Dufferin Street through to the Post Office should be set up as a walking mall area with cobble streets and a good mix of restaurants and shops. Have a “golf cart” shuttle service that runs over the street. Cover the bridge up with an aluminium cover. Make the down town area more attractive with nice mural style paintings.
- Town should adopt a flower and persuade residents to plant it. During its bloom time hold a festival, which would attract people from all over. Hold contests for the best garden during the festival. Involve the local Horticultural Society in the project. It would take a few years to build up but would provide visual pleasure and a tourism draw. Some examples: roses or rhododendrons and tulips. There could also be a number of flowers, which bloom at different times to extend the “bloom season”.
- King street shops should be handicap accessible. Town should impose a bylaw that states that stores have to be accessible. Gazebo at Shipyard’s Landing should have an Entertainment Committee set up that books various entertainment each weekend throughout the summer. This would draw people to town. Costs could be recouped by selling snacks etc.
- Remove the Naval ships from the harbour, this will improve the look of the river.
- A bus service through the town and surrounding areas like there was years ago going through areas such as: Hebbville, Wileville, Lunenburg, and Mahone Bay. This would be good for people that can’t get around. Would be nice to have it travel through King Street, the Plaza, to the Mall, and the Superstore. Even on particular days would be nice to have.
- Town should have high technology jobs, not just the call centres. The town should have all of the houses and apartments fitted with solar panel power. This would welcome new business opportunities and create better, high-paying jobs. Every house should be able to be “power wise” and self-sufficient off of the solar power if the electrical grid went down. There should be bands playing in the summertime down by the water. Every street corner should have a camera for security, with someone watching the cameras 24/7, the cameras should be recording all the time and have the ability to zoom in on things and people who may be committing crime. By having the cameras it would be more efficient and it would reduce the cost of police officers needed. Town Council should help any new business that wants to start up by giving

them grants; they would also lower taxes in the town to invite business owners and new business to stay in the Town of Bridgewater instead of leaving to go to the outskirts.

- A gentleman brought in pictures of Sept-Isles, Quebec. He would like to see some of the things that are there here such as: kids' playground with slides and swings, a boardwalk running the length of the river, small buildings that could be rented out to vendors selling their wares. He would like to see bands playing in the summertime on a Friday or Saturday night. Would like to have picnic tables along the way and a volleyball court or some other type of sport. He said the waterfront area in Sept-Isle, Quebec started out small but over time got bigger and better.
- Someone has to stop putting off getting the recreation centre built and get it done. Buildings need to be repaired at the Exhibition Grounds and something needs to be done with the ships before they sink, one looks like it will collapse soon.
- What we need in this town is a place where you can enjoy some good entertainment. In a town this size it's not good when you have to go Chester or Liverpool maybe, or even Halifax. A town this size needs something to boost the economy and the resources. A town this size is growing more and more every day. This town has too many places to eat. We don't need any more of this. "WE NEED A LIVE THEATRE"
- Would like to see some trees or shrubs [along the river] instead of the parkades. Maybe one parkade would be enough. They would like to also see river tours.
- Amalgamation of Bridgewater and surrounding areas into one unit; with Bridgewater as the centre. Reduce the number of councillors and expenses; this will put us all on the same page and working together. Amalgamation will help move along the creation of a recreation facility; it would also strengthen us economically. Make use of the waterfront, there are a number of plans for it on file and the best possible use of it should be made.
- Some of the streets need sidewalks and something needs to be done to the waterfront to make it nicer looking and to bring in tourists. Also, [Bridgewater] needs culture in the town, too much retail.
- Put in a boardwalk along the river.
- Build the recreation centre, and pave the roads in town.
- Open up the backside of the mall with windows and entrances so that it can be accessed on the riverside. This would improve the visual quality of the mall, could have awnings, patios etc... and would increase traffic to the stores.
- Develop the river and put in a marina to get boat traffic in the summertime. This will be a boost to the economy because people will stop in the shops and restaurants and spend money. Also, would like to see something done with the parkades.
- More doctors in the area
- Stricter building codes / fire codes and parking space. Affordable housing. Talk with council to find out their comprehension about projects like imagine Bridgewater that

people need to take action. People don't get involved out of lack in "trust" from those making the decisions. Innocent people should not be put in jail.

- We would like to see the waterfront fixed so that boaters could stop in for the day and spend some money shopping or going to the restaurants. Bridgewater needs to put some money in the town and needs to keep with the times and do something with the Fraser, maybe make it in to a bed and breakfast (good tourist attraction).
- I would like to see more for the kids—a playground of some sort. Why do people have to pay to go watch a kid's hockey game?
- Flea market and vendors by the waterfront.
- Imagine more opportunities for kids in school to learn about skilled trades and how to work with their hands.
- Imagine companies investing in a public transportation bus or buses in exchange for reduced rates for their employees and free PR.
- The waterfront needs to be cleaned up and a recreation facility built for the youth.
- Spacious, bright library and a multi-purpose centre.
- Would like to see a place like in the Greenwood Mall called the "Roo's Place". It's a large indoor playground for kids. Parents can stay there with them or go shopping.
- I would like to see the roads along St. Phillips Street repaired and I think the town should order the owners of the trailers to fix them up. Would also like to see more police patrol in the parking lots at night, especially up around the Plaza (Rewards).
- We recently moved back to the area from Bermuda and are excited about imagine Bridgewater. Our ideas:
 - #1 Ask what is working well? What is not working well?
 - #2 Winter festival, plant gardens that look good in the winter, water fountain lit up at night
 - #3 Annual rowing/sculling festival, invite teams from Harvard, Yale, Oxford, and Cambridge. Transform the riverfront to mirror the festival. Themes: medieval etc. Would ultimately attract international visitors, diversity, and economic opportunities
 - #4 Starbucks and a boardwalk by the water
 - #5 More trees in the mall parking lot and encourage mall owners to incorporate riverfront beautification
 - #6 Flea market in the mall parking lot on Sundays
- The stairs going under the parkade across from the Bank of Montreal need a new railing. We also need smart traffic installed in the town.
- Youth are in trouble here and they need help I'm new to the area, moved here from Ottawa and I'm surprised at how much drug and alcohol abuse there is among the youth.
- There is a problem with jaywalkers, especially in front of the Royal Bank. Would like to see more policeman out walking, trying to stop this.
- Public transportation need. I believe it's needed for all ages of people
- The guard rails needs to be painted on north King Street.
- Stopped in to comment on the riverfront. Originally from Sault Saint Marie and thought it would look better to have Bridgewater's waterfront look something like it is in Sault Saint Marie, vendors on the riverfront.

- Bridgewater needs something to draw people to the town. Also need something for the people to display their talents.
- The town needs to get rid of the mayor and all the council. Bring in younger people for council with progressive ideas. Also, I want to see more industries brought in to get more people in the town.
- The taxes can't keep going up because the younger and older people can't afford to live here now. Says the town needs a CEO to oversee all the different departments. Says all the departments are now going against one another and a CEO would stop this.
- New resident- just moved to the area 5 months ago was very happy to see us here and that Bridgewater cares enough to want to get the resident's input. After explaining the project and giving him a brochure, said that he would like to see something with the ships. So far, he said, he is very happy with the town.
- It would be great to have a public transportation system for the community, but not like the one that they tried to have. I think it is imperative to have the buses run on a schedule, and try to keep them running for a while so that people can get used to using them and begin to depend on the public transportation system.
- Would like to see a multi-sport complex with many sporting events and specific up-to-date equipment. Would like to see a place where people can walk indoors. In the gym I would like to have wooden floors. Also anything that would entertain the young adults (18-30)
- We need a new library with more space because it's too crowded all the time. Would also like to see a walking bridge across the river by the ships.
- Came in to find out what there is to do in Bridgewater. Went to the tourist information centre but was surprised it was closed.
- We need a shuttle bus, one that stops ever hour. Would like to see the old mall renovated and turned into a youth facility. Every room could have something different for the young people to do. Examples: paintball room, go-kart room, indoor skate park, poolroom, remote control racetrack, and a driving range. Would also like to see river tours.
- Too many of the older houses are being turned into businesses. I feel the town should put a stop to any more of this happening.
- The riverfront should be the way it used to be. The parkades should be taken down and plants and trees put in along the river with space for picnic tables.
- More contact is needed between organizations and the youth or seniors when doing fundraisers for things like the Christmas Daddies. Would like to see ways for businesses to get youth involved in fundraising.
- More can be done with the river to attract people to the area.
- "If someone was given the job to destroy the image of the town, they couldn't have done it better than council. The shape the war ships are in is a disgrace to the people who fought for our country on those ships."
- This town needs an Olympic size swimming pool, or at least one that would be used for more than the summer months.

- Imagine Bridgewater gamble free. I think all the VLT machines should be taken out of the drinking establishments
- The town needs an indoor swimming pool
- Starbucks and other large chains, with outside seating, do something about the drug problem (hard drugs); schools should bring in football as a positive outlet for aggression. Relax immigration/ work permit laws.
- The town needs leadership that is not afraid to do something. Town should support people that want to do something and not go against them.
- Would like to have public transit in town and the surrounding area. Would like to see riverfront walkways and riverfront activities and walking trails on north King Street, near Parkview.
- In the new recreation centre incorporate childcare, family support centre, and the library to make it more accessible to families. Adopt a beautification theme. Town and downtown merchants should be able to have flower baskets this year. Try again to introduce at least one festival celebration during the year
- Would like to have a water fountain in between the two bridges.
- Use the riverside to bring in tourists and we need public transit.
- The parking meters should be taken out of the town. I also think the old courthouse should be torn down and not let anything go in there because it's not safe. It should be made into parking for town employees or the public.
- It would be a good idea to have an indoor skate park with cement floors and more geo caching sites in the town.
- Put a "fake face" on the mall and a cobble stone pathway along the river to try and make the mall seem more inviting. This would not only look good for the town, but also the mall traffic.
- "Redesign the mall to have a food court with patio on the river (ideal at Nothing Fancy location) New library in the Canadian Tire building"
- Lady stopped into ask about the project. She is a resident of Liverpool and wants to suggest that Liverpool's Town Council conduct a project similar to imagine Bridgewater. Praised our proactive approach. Made suggestions concerning King St. Would like to see trees on the main street.
- Bridgewater needs to be more culturally diverse to help build community within the Town. An active town is a healthy town. Economically it is better for the Town too.

Culture should be geared towards youth, because they are the future, potentially the future of Bridgewater. Active youth stay out of trouble (positive things to do). Bridgewater is a Town that needs to be more supportive and enthusiastic about starting programs, locations, and activities, promoting an active culture. Culture being arts, music, recreation etc...

This is a town without a lot to do or places to go (culturally); active for mind and body. There also needs to be fewer barriers to promoting and implementing these types of activities.

It seems like Bridgewater is expanding but a lot of the youth and young adults seem to be slipping through the cracks and people should feel welcomed within the Town and enjoy their time here, doing things they enjoy.

- Build green houses (locally) so that we don't have to import produce.
- Can't believe that we have no visitor information centre. Can't believe there is no money for it.

Bridgewater is the ugliest town on the South Shore- hang some flower baskets.
Town council is only interested in business; they need to focus on beautification.

A community theatre is needed (possibly at the community college) as well as community concerts. All these former community events that were held in the past should be brought back. We need to find a balance between commercial and aesthetic.

Community group Self-Guided Group Facilitation

Group 1

What comes to mind when we think of Bridgewater?

- ✦ Great place to live and do business
- ✦ Well-serviced community – something for everyone
- ✦ Main Street of the South Shore; a place to live, do business, and play
- ✦ Bridgewater has more to offer than people from away often think. It's a thriving town.
- ✦ There is a sense of community – it all starts with the people
- ✦ There is a beautiful river running through the heart of Town
- ✦ Lots of recreation and leisure opportunities
- ✦ Beautiful natural/environment assets

How could we make Bridgewater better?

- ✦ Increase civic pride; for example, when walking or biking we notice a lot of litter; people need to take more pride in their community
- ✦ Revitalize the downtown and waterfront, making it a vibrant area for visitors and residents and people wishing to walk and wheel. Waterfront trails for walkers, skateboarders, and people on bikes
- ✦ Safer routes for active transportation across the river/bridge
- ✦ A covered walkway across the river
- ✦ Improve access to the waterfront for active water pursuits such as kayaking.
- ✦ Increase the infrastructure such as bike lanes, safe connecting sidewalks, trails, signage, bike racks
- ✦ Lets imagine people swimming in the river without hesitation!
- ✦ More political cooperation with our municipal neighbours... we can't live in isolation
- ✦ A regional, sustainable transportation service
- ✦ A regional recreation centre that people can walk, board or bike to
- ✦ More cultural and civic opportunities like Canada Day and Bridgewater Shines that encourage families to congregate. Need dedicated human resources, paid and volunteer, to have a full, year-long slate of large community events where people walk and meet on the street
- ✦ More involvement from youth. Set up a youth council to advise Town council on youth issues

Communities that endorse active transportation:

(adapted from Health Canada)

- ✦ have dedicated bicycle lanes and routes;
- ✦ advocate for sharing the road with cyclists;
- ✦ undertake specific measures to ensure the safe integration of pedestrians, cyclists and other active users among motorized vehicle traffic;
- ✦ regularly maintain and upgrade pedestrian and cycling facilities;
- ✦ provide storage for bicycles throughout the community;
- ✦ have an integrated network of pedestrian and cycling paths that are designed for efficient transportation as well as recreation;
- ✦ favour urban design that reduces the distances that people have to travel to get to work, retail areas, schools and recreational/leisure pursuits;
- ✦ encourage the retail and service sectors to support customers who use active modes of transportation;
- ✦ plan streetscapes to be visually pleasing and inviting to pedestrians;
- ✦ have a network of greenspaces throughout the urban and suburban areas;
- ✦ make access to public transit easily integrated with pedestrian and cycling facilities to encourage intermodal travel;
- ✦ encourage driver education about how to share the road with multi-users;
- ✦ encourage feedback from citizens, pedestrian and cycling advocacy groups.



Active Transportation in Bridgewater



“We envision Bridgewater as a healthy, vibrant, sustainable community providing multiple modes of active routes and pathways which connect its people, neighbourhoods, schools, and workplaces”

The following organizations have been working together to enhance Active Transportation in Bridgewater:

- Town of Bridgewater:
 - Planning Department
 - Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
 - Council Representation
- Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
- South Shore Health

- South Shore Active Communities
- Ecology Action Centre

What is Active Transportation?

Active Transportation is a term that is being used to describe the encouragement of citizens to use human-powered transportation to move about their community and create the infrastructure that allows citizens to safely commute to and from work, school, businesses, playgrounds and green spaces.

Human-powered transportation includes walking, cycling, wheeling, in-line skating, skateboarding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and kayaking. The most popular are walking and cycling. (NS Department of Health Promotion and Protection [NSDHPP], 2006).

Having a walkable and wheelable community is important part of creating a healthy, vibrant and economically attractive community. Active Transportation has strong economic, health, safety, social and environmental benefits.

Active Transportation is Part of the Future for Communities because it...

Improves Business, Tourism and Property Values

- Pedestrian friendly areas improve retail areas and generate increased sales.
- Active Transportation infrastructure such as hiking and walking trails and bike lanes and paths attract tourism and boost the local economy.
- Properties near trails and neighbourhoods with sidewalks and green spaces increase property values and are attractive to buyers.

Improves Attractiveness and a Sense of Community

An enhanced infrastructure contributes to the attractiveness of the community and builds a sense of neighbourhood.

- Fosters a sense of community pride
- Contributes to strong community identity that attracts new businesses and citizens.
- More eyes on the street helps reduce crime and create a sense of personal and family security

Improves Health and Contributes Towards a Healthy Workforce

AT increases physical activity rates, which, in turn, create healthier citizens. Healthier workers means increased productivity, reduced sick days and injuries in the workplace.

- 62% of Nova Scotians and 61% of Canadians are currently too inactive to reap the health benefits of regular physical activity. It is estimated that physical inactivity costs the NS health care system \$66.5 million a year in

hospital, physician, and drug costs alone. Physical inactivity costs NS economy an additional \$247 million each year in indirect productivity losses due to premature death and disability (Colman, 2002)

- 32% of Nova Scotians, ages 2 to 17 are overweight or obese (NSDHPP, 2006). By the time students reach grade 11, only 1 in 10 is getting the activity they need to achieve health benefits.
- In Lunenburg County, 62% of adults and 27% of teens were overweight in 2005. These rates are higher than the rest of the province as well as the country (Canadian Community Health Survey, 2005).

Improves the Environment and Contributes Towards Sustainable Communities

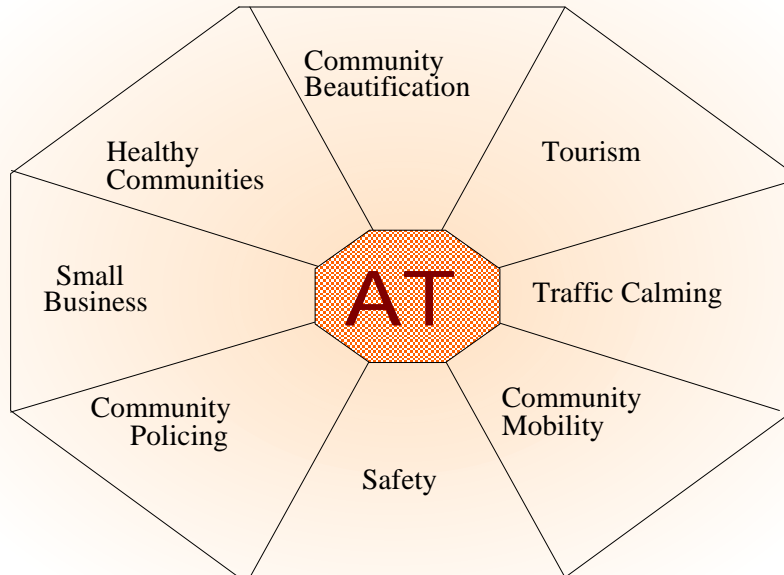
AT improves air quality by using non-polluting modes of transportation.

- AT reduces the number of daily vehicle trips and thereby reduces the amount of emissions into the atmosphere.
- Each motor trip that is switched to cycling or walking avoids releasing 26g of hydrocarbon, 20g of carbon dioxide, and 1.6g of nitrogen oxides per passenger mile (Go for Green, 2000)
- 1 in 4 NS youth suffer from asthma (NSDHPP, 2006).

Improves Efficiency and Safety

AT takes a load off of our overworked road network and reduces traffic congestion and the hazards it creates.

- Paths for pedestrians are efficient. They can handle 20 times the volume per hour compared to cars in mixed traffic. Therefore, less demand for costly investment in road infrastructure and maintenance (Go for Green, 2000).
- Road construction, repair and maintenance costs are reduced.
- Traffic congestion around schools poses a real safety risk to students. Safe routes to and from school will encourage children and families to bike and walk to and from school.
- Safe sidewalks will encourage baby boomers to retire in our community where they can walk or bike safely to and from services.
- Additional parking is not required which reduces land, construction and operating costs.



Communities Who Support Active Transportation:

- Have dedicated bicycle lanes and routes
- Advocate for sharing the road with cyclists
- Undertake specific measures to ensure the safe integration of pedestrians, cyclists, and other active users among motorized vehicle traffic
- Regularly maintain and upgrade pedestrian and cycling facilities
- Provide and encourage storage for bicycles throughout the community
- Have an integrated network of pedestrian and cycling paths that are designed for efficient transportation as well as recreation
- Favour community design that reduces the distances that people have to travel to get to work, retail areas, schools, and recreational/leisure pursuits
- Encourage the retail and service sectors to support customers who use active modes of transportation
- Plan streetscapes to be visually pleasing and inviting to pedestrians
- Have a network of green spaces
- Encourage driver education about how to share the road with multi-users
- Encourage feedback from citizens interested in active transportation

You Are Already Contributing!

- The Centennial Trail provides a natural AT spine through the town that connects to a multitude of destinations.
- By maintaining and clearing sidewalks for use all year around which allows for citizens to walk to work, school, shops, and for pleasure.

- By encouraging businesses to consider safe walking/cycling friendly environments. E.g. Mainline Market, The Superstore, Bridgewater Mall
- Mixed land use patterns that integrates residential areas with schools, shopping districts, and workplaces.
- By supporting events such as Walk Lunenburg County as well as hosting events such as Bridgewater Shines that encourages people to walk.

What Can Town Council do?

Create Connectivity- Make AT Part Of Your Land Use And Development Practices

- ❖ Plan for community design and urban land use policy and practices that will create a linked active transportation route to businesses, recreation, and park facilities, workplaces, homes, and schools.
- ❖ Design new roads and subdivisions with active transportation in mind
- ❖ Include policy statements that support active transportation in the MPS
- ❖ Continue to encourage local businesses and developers to support citizens who use active modes of transportation

Retrofit Existing Roads- Looking at capital upgrades through an “AT Lens”

- ❖ Retrofitting streets in town that are scheduled for upgrades with lanes, markings, and signage that supports bicycles.
- ❖ Retrofitting sidewalks for easier use of wheelchairs, strollers, pedestrians, and so on.
- ❖ Have a sidewalk specific management program

Dedicate Resources

- ❖ Includes Active Transportation in the Town’s 5 year capital strategy
- ❖ Allocate rural infrastructure funds and other “green” funds toward supports for Active Transportation.
- ❖ In Canada, only 1.2% of Canadians bike to work. But when asked, 66% of Canadians said they would be willing to leave the car at home if the appropriate infrastructure was in place (NSDHPP, 2006)

Support Physical Enhancements

- ❖ Provide leadership to continue to retrofit town parks and buildings with bike signs, lighting, railings and anti-idling signs, and bike racks.

Support and Participate in AT Initiatives

- ❖ Bike to work week
- ❖ Walk to school day/week
- ❖ Commuter challenge

- ❖ International Trails Day
- ❖

Build Knowledge & Understanding

Encourage staff, councillors, and committee members to attend learning events on active transportation.

- ❖ Recreation NS and NS Health Promotion and Protection hosting an Active Transportation theme conference in October 2007
- ❖ Bridgewater is one of six sites chosen to send youth and adult reps to an Active Transportation forum at Bible Hill in April 2007
- ❖ Go for Green offers local workshops at the request of a community

Group 2

Imagine Bridgewater suggestions:

1. A drop-in centre for youth in the town, with Pool, & Ping Pong tables, reading material, water & juice, TV, DVD's, music, etc.
2. Short-term child care for visitors or shoppers in town, for a minimal fee.
3. Permanent, concrete skate-park.
4. Beautify the town by cleaning up old run-down buildings, removing ALL graffiti as SOON as it goes up, and enforcing unsightly premises by-laws strictly.
5. Beautify the back of the MALL that destroys the view of the riverfront from King St.
6. Beautify the riverfront all along the town area.
7. Build the new Recreation centre with a gym, racquetball or/and squash courts, a pool, and gymnastics equip.
8. Tear down the Mall, and build a park fronting the river. Wal-Mart will have the mall emptied in no time anyway.
9. Paint the old bridge.

Group 3

Programs for kids especially preteen and teens

Boys and girls club (crafts and activities, facility—possibly old pool hall, exhibition building)
Help Skateboard Park
Water Park
Indoor pool
Work with high schools to get teens involved in community programs

Public Transportation

Bicycle rental (or subsidized bike purchase program)
Belly dancing

Forum for social action

Awareness of its existence
Venue comfortable
Free
Encouragement to voice opinions
Facilitated by “Café Canada or similar group
Possibly utilizing existing facilities (arena)

Public Transportation

Rural shuttles

Job Creation

Local ideas supported
Entrepreneurial Ideas
Bulk barn or similar
Lebanese store/Restaurant
Utilize old Nauss Brothers building on King Street
Trading Post (exchange)
Job opportunities for education required. More than just service jobs

Extend summer programs beyond 12 years old
Mentorship opportunities
Volunteering with businesses (organization by adults—possible credit at school)

Less Litter on the Streets

Garbage cans in more places
Sand cans in regular places for cigarette butts

Parks on LaHave Street side of town
Parks on King Street side of town
Have a play area at Shipyard's Landing
Have regular musical events at Shipyard's Landing

More Affordable Housing

Possibly rent to own
Nice apartments
Housing co-op
Town Council should have some teeth around slum landlords beyond the Tenancy Board

More Accessible Food Bank

Better houses
Friendlier approach
Morning hours for parents (hours are now at end of school and bus time)
Delivery (how do people carry the food home?)

Group 4

Bridgewater should be celebrating more Heritage holidays such as May Day on May 1st

Bridgewater would benefit from having a holiday similar to Oktoberfest, but with more focus on dance and music than alcohol.

There should be a Lumber mill museum because Bridgewater was built on the Lumber mill industry.

Bridgewater should focus more on tourism

Bridgewater would benefit from having more events during Christmas time like the popular Christ Kindl Markt in Germany. This is where around Christmas time there is a parade of sorts with Santa Claus. The streets are lined with shopping booths full of Christmas things like food, ornaments for trees, and various other trinkets. This sort of event would draw people in from all around and make the town busy and crowded again.

It would not benefit Bridgewater to copy Lunenburg and other small town events too close, but it would benefit to have some more events that may be similar to surrounding towns. It could turn out to benefit Lunenburg County as a whole for the results.

Group 5

Service committees and organizations shouldn't have to pay taxes on their premises because they give back to their community

Sewer free LaHave River

Town council has lost the respect of the people because of the issue of the recreation facility

Recreation facility issue needs to be settled. Bridgewater should go it alone because a town/municipality solution will never exist because of competing political agendas.

More parking on King Street

King Street should have a walkway that connects all of the parks

Marina and docking facilities would encourage more economic growth downtown and capitalize on the potential that the river has

Bridgewater needs to find a focus and implement.

Install cameras on streets (Dufferin, King Street, LaHave etc...) – this would provide significant added security at a low cost.

Utilize shipyards landing and other green space. Put in non-threatening paths (not tree lined and secluded)

Implement strategies for attracting new business to the area.

River front businesses that are pub like with outdoor decks (entertainment)

Solve the traffic congestion problem on North St. Glen Allan has been designed well, but North Street is a traffic problem.

Create a new route for big trucks so that they aren't traveling on North Street.

Add lights and well marked cross walks

North Street is a safety issue.

Bridgewater can't decide between tourism vs. industry. We should be catering to the working middle class who supports this Town. Give them things to do (entertainment)

Group 6

- **When you imagine Bridgewater's future, what comes to mind?**
 - Growth- More businesses coming to the area, small businesses with shops run by local people
 - Technology- Bridgewater has the potential to become a technology hub in the province.
 - Youth Inclusion- Acceptance, recreation activities, stuff to do. Places to go to create and atmosphere that is more welcoming.
 - Restaurants
 - Continued safety
 - Opportunities for youth
 - Vibrant waterfront- water taxis
 - Parks
 - Art
 - Sculpture
 - Public SS transit
 - Multi-purpose centre
 - Medical
 - Sports/ rec
 - Library
 - Clean
 - Safe
 - Green (no Tim's cups all around)
 - Known as a centre for _____ [left blank on original sheet]
 - Accessible, novel restaurants and convention centre
 - Boutiques
 - Expansion of business
 - Retail outlets (too many)
 - Too much fast food
 - More attractive
 - Bistros/ restaurants
 - Marina pontoons- by Sobeys side for fuelling up at Bob's [Shell] and Shopping
 - More trees/ shade in car parks
 - More attractive grassy/ flower areas
 - Bus service!
 - ACSBE
 - Recreation area/ centre
 - Maintaining history and diversity
 - Targeting 25-55 age group migration
 - Socio-economic growth that fosters esteem and community building
 - Tier II Junior Hockey Club
 - Becomes a focal point of South Western Nova Scotia for business development

- A pro-active leader in the green business development
- Integrating of immigrants, aboriginal, disability (i.e. Recruitment and retention)
- **What do you like about Bridgewater?**
 - The pace
 - ACSBE
 - I like that people smile
 - I like the fact that we only have 1 one way street
 - I like the small town feel with friendly folks
 - I like the fact that we have so many good quality resources available here
 - I like all of the parking
 - I like the trails
 - Free parking
 - ACSBE
 - Lighthouse publishing
 - Wave fish and chips
 - Tidal river with birds etc
 - Duck pond
 - Police
 - Indian farmer market
 - Gows, Bucks, Kikas, Buttercup etc...
 - Hot weather
 - Sobeys
 - Kia Dealerships
 - Appleberry Farmers
 - River Pub
 - SHAID yard sale
 - Wiles carding mill and ducks
 - ACSBE
 - Shopping
 - River location
 - Generally good facilities
 - How it has already expanded and grown in the last five years
 - The genuineness of people
 - Small town mentality with Big City convenience
 - Clean air and natural beauty
 - The potential it has for growth
- **When you think about Bridgewater what key words come to mind?**
 - Growth
 - Expansion
 - Fast food
 - River
 - Friendly
 - Main street
 - Amenities

- Accessible
- Clean
- Uneventful
- Safe
- Connected
- Motivated people
- ACSBE
- Community college
- County seat
- Municipality
- Joint stock
- Service Canada
- Church
- Building inspector
- School
- SSR Library
- Family resource centre
- ACSBE
- ALP
- Contours
- LaHave
- Hospital- pace maker surgery
- Desbrisay
- YMCA
- Walmart
- Daughter
- Curves
- Dirty
- River
- Fast food
- Shopping
- Town feel
- Quiet/ non-hectic
- Easy to find places
- Grimy/ Tatty [tacky?]
- Industrial
- South Shore hub community
- Where to do business
- Where progress flows

- **If money or politics were not a factor, how would you improve Bridgewater?**
 - Family resource centre
 - State of the art recreation centre
 - Bridgewater technical college
 - A festival that celebrates the Town
 - Progressive thinking and planning

- Becoming a desired place to live, operate a business in Nova Scotia
- A hotel and convention centre
- ACSBE
- Bistros and restaurants
- Trees- shade in car parks
- Green areas
- Bus service
- Pontoons- (Sobeys side of river)
- Fuel berth
- Waterfront development
- Full service centre with ACSBE part of it
- Linking and combining
- Clean up grungy buildings
- More flowers
- Markets
- Stalls
- Amusement parks
- Cross country skiing
- Bike rentals for trails
- More of a plan
- River
- Benches
- Skating down
- More stuff to do please
- Movie theatre not enough- Bring concerts and major events to the area
- More community festivals
- More opportunities for outings
- Not always expensive stuff
- Make King Street “nice” to walk down,
- Make the river accessible- have outdoor cafes on the river
- Live bands on the parkade
- Just more to do!
- More ACSBE!
- Buskers

- **What excites you about Bridgewater’s potential?**

- The fact that there are people and initiatives out there to try to improve things- forward thinking people.
- Opportunities that may be created if something actually happens with this.
- imagine Bridgewater project?
- Getting the opinions- as a model for other Town planning.
- imagine Bridgewater initiative
- Development
- Growth
- The canvas is prepped, ready for development
- The opportunity to do/ give to younger generations

- Choosing where to grow
- **What types of services are lacking in Bridgewater?**
 - Convention centre
 - Recreation centre
 - Technical college
 - Appropriate Daycare centres that are cost fair
 - Bus service
 - More café (restaurants)/ Bistros
 - Clothes store
 - Training courses/ college
 - Good restaurants
 - Overall plan for traffic, pedestrians etc
 - Meeting places
 - Good Chinese food, Vietnamese or Thai
 - Lawn bowling
 - Reform
 - Human services courses at Community college
 - Recreation facilities
 - Child care
 - Youth facilities
 - Outdoor cafes (in summer)
 - Festivals- Big Ones
 - Clothing shops
 - Restaurants- Not Fast Food
 - More senior care facilities
 - Multipurpose centre
 - Lack of post secondary options
- **What do you dislike about Bridgewater?**
 - No tourist bureau
 - Old school business
 - Owners who have been around forever, own everything, and resist change unless it directly benefits them! Retire Already!
 - Drug trade
 - Hoods and thugs
 - Old library
 - Lousy river development
 - Public parks to empty concrete spaces
 - ESS
 - Council/ Municipal Too many Too old
 - Lack of tourists
 - Ugly frigates
 - Fast food
 - Grimy look/ feel
 - The mentality that Bridgewater is good as is
 - The lack of people to rally behind action teams

- That it is not mentioned as the hub of the South Shore
- **Additional comments/ suggestions?**
 - Ships?
 - Overall I love Bridgewater! The past few years have demonstrated excellent growth potential. I really feel that the lack of recreation facilities is sad. My husband and I do not go to bars and other than the movie theatre, there's nothing to do! More opportunities Please.

Group 7

- Make more use of the river (shipyard's landing)
- Gazebo is inaccessible to older people and underused
- Riverfront use doesn't make use of the beauty
- Solutions?
 - Remove the parkade, make use of the space
 - Pay attention to the aesthetics
- Warf – town could make use of the space
- Transportation – needed desperately!
- Housing – more low income, housing for seniors, but expensive
- Town of Lunenburg has been accepting, encouraging – not Bridgewater.
- Mayor in Lunenburg is more closely involved and concerned with the lives of people. Bridgewater is focused on commercial.
- Lunenburg has vision for itself and was able to get support from outside.
- Bridgewater is “locals” vs. Lunenburg who have people who choose to be there.
- Bridgewater not welcoming (shop and get out) more welcoming?
- More welcoming would be to plan gardens.
- Bridgewater historical (mills, train station)
- Heritage homes not preserved.
- Shopping Mecca – does serve how to change the image of shop and drop
- Attitudes of town council and staff (vision for Bridgewater)
- Old time attitudes, no acceptance of advice (Council)
- Shifting the thinking of council and it will filter down
- More Bridgewater specific events (i.e.: scarecrow festival in Mahone bay)
- Water carnival.
- Take out parkades and put in walking trails, gardens, etc Will help king street economy
- Why Walmart?
 - Takes tax base

- Few part time jobs
- King street was beautiful, now sad
- Bridgewater water Carnival
- River pollution is an issue
- Community investment – events that people get excited about (spirit)
- Canoe club races, dragon boat races, use the river!
- Canada Day Events – Fireworks, street dance, activities (day time for kids, night time for adults)
- People don't engage (get involved) in Bridgewater
- Layout doesn't lend itself to involvement
- Concerts at shipyards landing with the fireman's band
 - Not well publicized
 - Loud speaker announcements
 - Reminds you, you're part of the community
- South Shore Chorale – practice at shipyards landing
- Lunenburg, Mahone Bay events are driven by community and planned by community.
- Bridgewater's demographic is not like Lunenburg or Mahone Bay. Bridgewater needs young families.
- Retirement community because of accessibility
 - Retirement community will push out young families
- Need more for kids and youth.
 - Youth Centre, but needs staff, funding, etc
 - Tend not to last
- Bridgewater was more of a community, now it's cold commercial and ugly
- Michelin community created a shift industry focused rather than people focused.
- More focus on people, emotional and cultural
- Tourist bureau gone
 - People want to talk to people, not just a Kiosk
 - Public washrooms are only in the museum when they are open, this is not good enough
- Mall dies – Town provides a common space for organizations to share (common administration)
- Exit 12 has everything to meet needs, why go to town?
- Bridgewater can't keep a good restaurant because of demographics (young) want family restaurant. This would change with a focus on tourism.
- Recreation
 - Painful, get it together
 - Changes every 2 weeks
 - Fieldhouse has been established quickly (no political agenda)
 - Stop fighting
- Put windows on the riverside of the mall
- Railway museum was lost
- DesBrisay seems to be ok, but finding is hard if you are not local.

- Duck pond (in the past)
 - Skating
 - Used to have beautiful bridge
 - Boy scout lodge
 - Fishing wildlife
- Engage youth in maintaining the town.
 - Sense of ownership
 - Empowerment of people
 - Youth maintaining the cemetery
- Ask the empire house and the community justice department; these are the kids we need to hear from.
- Town needs to support youth initiatives
- Step program, town could make use and involve them in town activities to help create feeling of ownership
- Bridgewater could be a bikers place (draw in bikers)
- Shopping (work with what we have)
- Bike show (town supported biker's weekend)
- Exhibition grounds is wasted 99% of the year, could be a Mecca, concert shows, etc. (Hank snow and bluegrass community)
- What other community size and demographic has been successful?
 - Digby
 - Shelburne
 - Pictou
- Used the waterfront
- Feeling, safety improved
- Why doesn't our town council talk to those towns to get information to improve Bridgewater?
- Cultural changes (council) takes time
- Have boats relevant to the town (ex. Logging barge)
- What would you build?
 - The railway station was beautiful
 - Mill
- Free standing historical information gardens, places to sit
- Lunenburg has skate park—draws youth
- Bridgewater is improving
- Youth in Lunenburg must feel connected enough not to vandalize (youth patrol)
- Teens aren't the problem—young 20's are because of alcohol
- More support for the library
 - Move to Canadian Tire building
- Small agencies located on King Street (to use vacant buildings) ex. Library
- Pothole festival—old mall parking lot)
- Old town vs. new town—old town seems to be dying
- Putting Resolve in old hospital was a good idea—showed vision
- Murals (art department) PVEC artwork through town

- Lifts spirit
- Promotes pride
- Show the history
- Who owns the land beside Ko's?
- Nauss Brother's land
 - Going to be housing units
 - For people with mental issues
- Supporting Habitat for Humanity—good
- Bikers (cyclists) camping at Shipyard's Landing—good
- Workshop for Town Council
- Dousing the council chambers and old police station to get rid of bad energy
- Pothole filling festival

Group 8

- Better streets/ sidewalks
- Upkeep on seniors homes (town)- [residential facilities]
- Business in downtown (more)
- Fix the traffic troubles on North St.
- Improve traffic problems caused with new apartment building on top North St. with traffic lights, or make the adjoining a thru-fair
- Seems to be no thinking ahead with Town planning (layout, traffic etc)
- Pool in the new recreation centre with good accessibility for seniors- not just for young people. Seniors pool exercise programs (at the new centre)
- Beautiful river
- Centennial trail
- River usage
- Use the old Canadian Tire as a new library which is more accessible and safer (currently stairs inside and out, and having to cross King Street are big issues for library patrons and discourage people from making use of the library- common complaint that workers hear)
- Provide more youth activities as this will help reduce vandalism and other petty crimes
- Make sure the recreation centre is designed for everyone
- Don't raise taxes-they're high enough. Higher taxes will make living in Bridgewater unaffordable for seniors.
- Revive the annual River festival [Contact person Harry Cook, former Mayor]
- Create docking facilities (at the Nauss building)
- More utilization of the river
- Cafes and restaurants along the river with outdoor patios (town should encourage)
- Better utilization of the river will increase tourism to Bridgewater
- River is an assets that should be used more effectively
- Build a new library that faces on the river (with outdoor patio)

Group 9

- Public recreation centre
- Affordable housing
- Transportation
- Playgrounds
- Affordable housing (to rent)
- Cultural (concert, theatre)
- Public transportation
- For teens:
 - Skate park
 - Drop in centre
- Cosco
- New businesses (ladies shop) to keep the dollars here and not the city
- Better signage and roads
- Another Tim Horton's
- Affordable housing that looks nice to deter drugs and alcohol
- Things for tourists to do to bring in money.
-

Group 10

When you imagine Bridgewater, what comes to mind?

In no particular order.

- Very green
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Clean
- Lots of open spaces
- People being active
- Inviting / warm / vibrant Town
- Civic Pride
- A community with choices
- Attractions to keep people moving outdoors - high use parks/trails
- Active senior population
- Variety of demographics, opportunity, housing

IMAGINE BRIDGEWATER

Page 2

- Sports & Recreation Hall of Fame
- Culture of positive action versus attributing blame
- Active heritage presence
- More appropriate, colourful, community-promoting murals
- More use of the river/waterfront parkland
- Healthy entrepreneurial community spirit
- One that balances the benefits of any new initiatives with fiscal responsibility / reality

- Inclusive

What would you do to improve the quality of life in Bridgewater?

In no particular order:

- Provide services to all / increase opportunities for connectivity
- Be willing to pay higher taxes for services
- Provide leadership
- Volunteer
- Support volunteers
- Ensure there are sufficient facilities to provide many options for activity and opportunities to meet community needs
- Develop waterfront
- Exhibit positive proactive attitudes
- Be open to new partnerships to achieve good things
- Embrace diversity - culturally and ethnically
- Constantly revisit our role and monitor our success by setting goals and constantly monitoring progress; align our goals with the public's and Council
- Improve community openness
- Realize that with significant decisions must come sufficient resources - invest in consultation
- Provide culture to create community synergy
- Realize that the stakeholders in this community encompass all members of this community

3. Describe the perfect Bridgewater. What would it look like?

In no particular order:

- See first question - Capture / enhance what was previously shared
- Parks, Recreation & Culture services available and inclusive/affordable
- Healthy, active, proud community
- Civic pride
- Enhancement of cultural activities and venues such as the performing / visual arts

IMAGINE BRIDGEWATER

Page 3

- Covered pedway at the end of the river
- Municipal golf course

The above ideas are a collection of all in attendance. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission trusts that these ideas, combined with all the other suggestions you receive, will help shape the future of Bridgewater.

Group 11

Would like Bridgewater to develop the waterfront.

Imagine Bridgewater with a walkway actually on the riverfront so that you would not have to walk along King Street.

Imagine Cafés along the waterfront that would attract people from all around.

Imagine extending shipyards landing to the park along the waterfront, possibly as the walkway or boardwalk.

Imagine flea markets alongside the river.

Imagine a youth centre to go up in Bridgewater for the youth. The youth could also be involved in creating the centre, which would mean it would not be disrespected.

Group 12

- Safe, affordable housing
 - Singles and families
 - Child friendly
- Enforcing the health and building codes
- More gardens-public gardens! Community gardens!
- Tear down mall and turn into public garden space
- Want to see indoor field house finished
- Transit system for all people- affordable, accessible
- Indoor pool and recreation centre
- The town has a Town Council with an imagination
- Recreation centre should include:
 - Library
 - Pool
 - Rink
 - Meeting rooms
 - Child care centre
 - Wheelchair accessible
 - Skateboard park
 - Family support centre
 - Sexual health
 - Branch offices of:
 - Service Canada
 - Community services
 - Health clinic
 - Women's clinic (with nurse practitioner)
- Improve river access
 - Walkway along mall side down to little park (encourage businesses to get on board)

- Be mindful that any plans and changes that happen do not alienate the working people that the Town needs.
- More neighbourhood parks and playgrounds (especially ones that are safe for young children)
- More affordable quality day care
- Childcare for shift workers- many jobs the town depends on are shift work.
- More nursing homes so the residents can stay in community
- More support for people to stay in homes longer
 - Transportation
 - Adult daycare
- Senior centre that is accessible
 - Coordinator hired to organize activities
 - Large meeting room/ kitchen
 - Opportunities for seniors and young children to interact on a regular basis
 - Free
 - Garden
- Senior centre gives people a chance to meet together and advocate on issues
 - Free income tax clinic
 - Share knowledge and expertise
 - With others in the community
- Idling by-law
- Town employees and government employees not allowed to use drive-thrus
- The town bans sub-divisions and apartments from “no clothes hanging rules”
- More supportive living for troubled youth, people with disabilities, seniors
- Alien landing strip
- Festivals- River festivals
- Walking tours
- Festivals- more community involvement from the beginning in the planning (all parts of the community involved, not just business)
- Council needs to respect the ideas and involvement of all citizens!
- Festivals need to be free- not about making money
- Transport program to assist people getting to Halifax for medical appointments
- Review terms of service for Council members- in the interest of keeping ideas fresh- length of service.
- Council needs to shift out of “that’s the way we’ve always done it” mind set.
- Strengthen partnerships with other organizations- tourist bureau, family support centre, Transition House:
 - Know what they are doing
 - Visit regularly\
 - How can we work together on a regular basis
- Consider parking in the expansion planning
- Traffic on North St.
 - Aberdeen- widened
 - Do something about big trucks
 - Silver’s hill- one-way.

- Sidewalks out to Walmart complex
- Sidewalks on both sides of Aberdeen.

Group 13

- Something for teens to do
 - Teen centre
 - Use some of the empty buildings
 - Pool tables, music, computers, programs, dance, racing, x-box games.
- Loitering laws should apply to all.
 - What about bikers at Tim Horton's
 - Seniors at lotto booth, aren't they loitering?
- Give teens an opportunity to volunteer at centre
- Give them training
- Have door people (bouncers)
- Give teens a voice in how the centre works and runs
- Use the band stand more often to show off talent- stuff for teens
- Help teens discover their talents
- Workshops for teens to learn more skills
- Find a way to get the different groups of teens to work together.
- Get teens interested in whatever projects
- Car shows
- Car races/ bike races
- Bring bikers rally to Bridgewater
- Bring antique car shows back to town
- Give young people with car fever an opportunity to show off cars
- Town has a real opportunity to draw more people in by having car shows
- Find a safe way to do car races
- Parks and Recreation (Town) needs to offer some free classes (fly tying)
- Do some survival/ wood skills training for young people
- Seniors and teens working together

- ATV's and snow mobiles on trails?
 - Should be allowed back

- Reinforce leash law and pooper scoop laws (start with Mayor)
- Dogs not on leashes is a big problem in Town

- King street needs to be beautified
 - By-laws on building premises

- Town vehicles must be parked at Tim Horton's no drive-thru

- Public transportation
 - Include New Germany in route.
 - Cord to ask driver to stop as well as regular stops
 - Mall, plaza, Walmart, Hospital, Community college
 - How would small children be accommodated?
 - Assistance for people with disabilities
 - Bus shelters
 - Everyone in the room would use it regularly
 - Advantages:
 - Affordable
 - Hospital access
 - Stop isolation
 - Safer for teenagers
 - Less drunk driving
 - Environmentally beneficial
 - Access to work opportunities

Group 14

As per your request, please find listed below ideas and suggestions that the clients and staff of Supported Community Living Options have made during client and staff meetings held at each of our homes and apartments.

- Make all sidewalks wheelchair accessible
- Remove the king street parkades
- Replace parkades
- No cobblestone sidewalks (interlocking), these grooves can cause falls with walkers and canes
- Better housing for apartment living – low income
- Indoor pool that is accessed at an affordable rate for low income people
- A centre for concerts, hockey games and community activities
- Recreation centre with a pool, gym and accessible library

- New playground
- New tennis court
- More walking and bike trails
- More benches to sit on in the town
- More pool halls
- New recreation centre
- Remove parking meters
- Musical entertainment all summer long at Shipyard's Landing
- New outdoor swimming pool – bigger
- In town transit (bus) for low income and wheelchair accessible individuals

Thank you so much for including us in your project and we hope our input will benefit in some way.

Group 15

The following comments/ suggestions/ ideas were submitted from a small meeting.

- Clean up the Waterfront!
- I would like to see free parking on King Street and the parkades left in place.
- Improve traffic on the East Side- Aberdeen and North Street.
- Live theatre
- Get rid of the boats that are in the lower end of Bridgewater.
- We do not need any higher taxes; so whatever you are doing for the town, leave the taxes alone!
- Get rid of the ships
- Improve traffic conditions
- Live theatre
- We need a family style restaurant
- Move the ships from our river!
- The Christmas trees to decorate Bridgewater are beautiful- in winter. But! What about some flowers for the Town in the summer. There are three sources:
 - Apple Berry Farm Market
 - Wiles Lake Farm
 - Hebbs Farm
- ... With some volunteers, couldn't we have flower baskets?
- Some day we need live theatre
- Recreation centre is much needed- with pool, rink, But! Be careful of our tax base.

Student led discussion sessions

Group1

- Football field
- Sports facilities (variety)
- Better mall
- Taco Bell/ Burger King
- Clean up
- Under 19 hangout
- Arcade
- Sports stores
- Redo roads
- Restructure
- Expansion
- Clubs
- Skate park
- Music venue
- Laser tag/ Glow in the dark mini putt.
- Better restaurants
- Better pool (indoor/ outdoor)
- New school (join BHS and PVEC)
- Gymnasium
- Better parks
- Get rid of ships
- Discovery centre
- Imax

- Waffle house
- Debit in the cafeteria
- Outdoor café

Group2

- Amusement park
- Recreation centre
- Better motel
- Casino
- University
- In town off campus-not whole university- certain courses
- Better roads
- Street lights
- More sit down restaurants
- Wider variety of food
- Bookstore (Chapters)
- Expand Town limits (more space)
- Nicer river
- Strip club
- Tear down Metmart
- Place like the Pavillion (bands)
- Campus in new subdivision – or Met Mart
- Indoor pool
- Two ice surfaces
- Squash courts
- 50/50 – Generate more revenue
- Softball- Youth
- Rugby/ Football (school or club)
- Lacrosse school team
- More variety of courses at NSCC
- Boxing club (more advertising)
- Martial Arts classes
- Clean the Duck pond
- Bigger skate park
- Local area park skate, bike
- Huge playground
- Clean up around houses yards etc...
- BHS up to grade 9- PVEC high school, Hebbville Elementary
- Ski hill- Transportation buses
- Higher minimum wage
- More jobs
- Bussing for BHS

Group 3

- What would you change?
 - Graffiti everywhere- clean it up
 - Clean up
 - More eagles
 - Get a theatre auditorium
 - Public gardens
 - Nice water fountain (at the garden)
 - Bigger mall (better stores)
 - Nicer school
 - New water fountains at school (we only have one good one)
 - Indoor pool
 - Hotel (not just Motels)
 - Better showers (or ones that work) at the school
 - Transit
 - More activities during Canada Day and Christmas
 - New outdoor pool
 - More reasons to get Bridgewater together ex- Bridgewater Shines
 - New tennis courts
 - More concerts at the exhibition
 - A concert stadium
 - Get rid of buildings to open up the waterfront
- What don't you like?
 - No more Condos
 - Dirtiness
 - Graffiti
 - Not enough tourist attractions
- What do you like?
 - How it is cute and little

Group 4

- Teen centre
- Mock tail bar
- Create bigger jobs
- More parks
- New hockey rink
- More flowers
- More events
- Concert centre
- Have dances in the summer
- Redo business
- Mall stays
- Move more into town
- More teen stores

- Bigger pool
- Better museum
- More courses
- More restaurants
- Have old style diner
- A drive in
- More tourist attractions
- Salt water pool
- A bus service
- A bus to the beach
- More trails
- More apartment buildings (cheaper)
- Multipurpose facility

Group 5

- When you imagine Bridgewater what do you want?
 - Bigger mall
 - More jobs i.e. mechanics, auto mechanics
 - The town be more young. Draw younger people in. A Youthful feel
 - University/ specific school i.e. art school
 - Bus route/ shuttle bus
 - Town daycare
 - Youth hangout like the lounge-but for teens
 - Wet/dry bar; venue big enough for local bands to play if wanted
 - The Town as a whole be excited about Bridgewater
 - Advertise the things that we already have better
 - New pool
 - Jr. Hockey team
 - New arena
- If you had magic powers what would you change in Bridgewater?
 - More police attention on drugs- Rehab centre
 - Clean up the river and get more use out of it- canoe races, water skiing, swimming
 - Clean up and use the underground parking on King St- maybe pave it
 - Rebuild the old bridge
 - The Fraser- turn it into something or get rid of it!
 - Have a place where ships can dock
 - Do something with the empty lots in town
 - Spice up King St- new paint make things brighter
 - Fix up the Kinsmen field
- After you leave Bridgewater what would it take to bring you back?
 - More jobs
 - More small business
 - Safer town for raising a family

- If you are a tourist, and have to stay in Bridgewater, what would you like to see
 - Scenery
 - Art gallery
 - Theatre- stadium theatre

Group 6

- Theme park
- Bars (more)
- Mini golf
- Restore ugly buildings (i.e. waterfront properties)
- Benches
- Ugly old bridge (get rid of it)
- Clean river
- Get a good shopping centre
- Eliminate Walmart and those companies out on the highway
- More cultural diversity encouraged
- Festivals
- Clean up the streets (paving and litter) and sidewalks
- Ban smoking
- Get rid of the ugly boats
- Public parks
- Get a Denny's
- More gift and antique shops
- More sports teams
- Fountain
- Mall moved from waterfront
- University

Group 7

- Not so many empty buildings
- Greener grass
- Indoor swimming pool
- New rink
- More business/ new business
- West 49
- American Eagle
- Laser tag
- Not as many old people stores
- More jobs for the youth
- LaSenza
- Nightclubs/ bars
- Get rid of old people

- Arcade
- Drive in movie theatre
- Destroy Bridgewater Mall
 - Replace with condo/ park
- Basketball courts
- High school make over
- Apartments by Community College
- Student housing
- UOB (University of Bridgewater)
- Even more student housing
- Improved exhibition grounds
- Fields with courts
- Activity centres
- Third bridge
- Improve hospital
- Hire more doctors (smarter/ better)
- Improve nightlife
- More community events/ improved events
- Amusement park
- Concert hall
- Hire bands
- Better parades
- Youth centre
 - Food/computers/place to hang out
- Teacher examinations
- More daycares
- More culturally diverse
- Cleanup the river
- Better outdoor pool
- Get rid of the rusting war ships
- Remove tavern
- Football
- Gymnastics/ spring floor
- Get rid of the parkades
- Dances on weekends
- Fix the roads
- Clean the duck pond
- Clean up graffiti

Group 8

- New facility
- Lounge
- Lots of grass and trees

- New bridge
- Basketball courts
- New performing theatre
- New shops
- Sporting stores/ footlockers
- Go- carting
- San Francisco
- Nike outlet store
- Radio station
- More rink dances
- Get a new school
- Small airport
- Skiing and snowboarding
- More playgrounds
- Piers
- More concerts
- Local TV station
- Imax
- Mini Halifax
- Montana's
- Barber shop
- More parties
- Museum
- Strip club
- Another gym
- Water park
- Clean the river
- Get rid of the warships

Group 9

- Youth centre (gym, movies, video games, dances, etc) (ages 12-18)
- Bigger skateboarding park
- Fix the Bridge's appearance
- Eating area outside (picnic tables, grass, walkway...etc) (BHS)
- Teachers who are more passionate about their subject (BHS)
- More teachers and more courses (BHS)
 - More languages, especially Spanish
- Improve our schools appearance (BHS)
- Speak out on Eastlink television
- A boardwalk along the river
- All year round theme park
- Sportsplex

Group 10

- Another bridge by Shipyard's Landing across the river to the other side
- Bike park
- University or another college besides NSCC
- Bigger mall
- Better and clean swimming pool
- Better roads
- Ski hills
- Public gardens
- Cleaner duck pond
- More stores and restaurants
- More big companies
- Better paying jobs
- Better transportation such as a bus station
- Take out parkades and put like a boardwalk from Shipyards to King St
- Get rid of the battleships in the river

Group 11

- Not enough jobs
- Not good enough post secondary options- want university
- Boring
- Get a better mall/ more stores- LaSenza, Winners
- Needs to be cleaner-too many cigarette butts
- Have youth centre
- Cleaner public pool
- Fix up the school
- Post secondary other than community college

Likes

- Everything in walking distance
- Good pizza places
- People want to leave for a change, not only because they don't like it. Want to see other places.
- Sports facilities are good but taking too long to get- bad location
- Indoor swimming pool, other than Wandlyn and Motor Inn
- Indoor skate park
- New Mayor and Town Council

Group 12

- Better parades
- Youth centre (with food, computer, and a place to hang-out)

- Teacher examinations
- More daycares
- More culturally diverse
- Clean up the river
- Better outdoor pool
- Get rid of the rusting warships
- Remove Tavern
- Football
- Gymnastics/ spring floor
- Get rid of the parkades
- Dances on weekends
- Fix the roads
- Clean the duck pond
- Clean up graffiti

Group 13

- Driving revaluations (?)
- Pave roads- improve them
- Another bridge
- Skate park
- Town council- seniors make decisions for younger people
- Youth population is low
- Old mall metmart
- Canadian Tire
- Things the town would need to keep us here:
 - Sportsplex
 - Job opportunities
 - Nicer restaurants not franchisees
 - Bars, places to socialize
- Make downtown nicer
- Paint up military boats
- Shipyards landing
- Marina
- What is it doing there?
- Irving tanks
- Make water side nicer
- Athletic stores big chain stores/ but we need little privately owned shops

Group 14

- A new sportsplex
- Bike/ skateboard etc park
- More stores and stuff (young people feel)
- Remove the old mall (met mart, old theatre)
- Theme park with Go carts/ mini golf/ rock climbing
- More youth activities
- “Teen lounge” (pool tables)
- Better job market for young adults (more opportunities to succeed)
- A theatre for performing plays, music etc...
- More arena dances
- More organized events like basketball and road hockey tournaments
- School improvements for example something behind the school
- Nicer places to eat not fast food restaurants
- More stores in town, not out by the highways (or maybe a shuttle bus system)

Group 15

- Thoughts:
 - Nothing to do- doesn't draw people to it
 - Mall not good (stores)
 - Stuff not close
 - Sportsplex
 - Pool
 - Nothing draws us back (jobs)
 - Not a lot of industry
 - Low budget for schools
 - More fundraising opportunities
 - Merging schools
 - Curriculum (more courses)
 - Shop
 - Media
 - Home ec
 - School name
 - Paint school
 - Decorate school
 - Ridiculous prices in the cafeteria
 - Food cold and unappealing
 - Not run down and graffiti

Student led discussions

Group 1

- Keep the smoking area
- Stop cutting down trees
- People are satisfied with Bridgewater, they like having [living in] a “small town” as everybody knows everybody
- Bridgewater is overpopulated
- Build a facility for youth –hang out with a pool park etc...
- Want the forest back
- A place for boxing ex) BCW
- Better school system
- People might help to build something if they are interested in it
- Better skate park
- There is now where to go [that is secluded] to go just screaming, hanging out campfires [reference to woods- area cut down for Walmart?]

Group 2

- Bridgewater is:
 - Nice town
 - Sucks
 - Like [the] theatre
 - Pretty good
- Negative aspects
 - No recreation centre
 - Boring mall
 - Lots of traffic
- Add: [What would you?]
 - Sportsplex
 - Rock climbing
 - Go karts
 - Taco bell
 - More “hangouts” to have fun
 - Basketball courts
 - Indoor pool
 - NBA team- major sports team
- Imagine Bridgewater: [What do you imagine?]
 - TOB
 - Don’t feel safe
 - Not exciting
 - Good place to die
 - Add paintball field
 - Need better things to do!
- Magic power:
 - Fly over Bridgewater

- Perfect Bridgewater
 - More organizations
 - Drive in movie theatre
 - Illegal street racing
 - Fireworks every night
 - Better fireworks on Canada Day
 - Monorail
 - Subway (underground)
 - Fixing basketball court near Michelin [St. Phillip's Street playground?]
 - Get more activities at the YMCA
 - Need space
 - Stop putting up stupid traffic lights/ stop signs- take them all out
 - Football!
 - Concert hall get bands
 - Better exhibition- get better rides
 - Theme park ex) six flags
 - Have to wear golf shirts
 - Be clean
 - Water park
 - Get rid of creepy carnies- get robots
 - Summer jobs- ice cream shops, more places like taste freeze, smoothie shack, bring Orange Julius back, Sushi bar, Red Lobster- too many fast food restaurants!
 - University in Bridgewater
 - Better mall
 - LaSenza
 - Mardi Gras
 - Canada Day- make Canada Day better
 - Cross country party for Canada Day
 - Better parades
 - Petting zoo with interesting animals (koala bears, camels, spiders, snakes, tigers).
 - Amusement park
 - Christmas fireworks
 - Social club dances
 - Roller skating rink with disco balls and old roller skates

Group 3

- Skate park
- Burger King
- Do something else for youth
- A better mall- more than one mall
- Better transportation system (free bus system)
- Mini golf course
- Indoor water park
- Taco Bell

- Starbucks
- Better outreach system for youth
- NASCAR race track (or any race track)
- Clean up the river!!!
- Cheaper ferry service
- Another ferry
- Another bridge
- Better, faster walk-in clinic
- Better walking trail
- Fences and rails
- Sportsplex
- Football field
- Do something with the vacant buildings (tear them down or use them)
- New hockey rink
- Community centre
- Community support
- More youth on Town committees
- Listen to youth, we are the ones who will be living here in 15 years
- A youth council sit on the Bridgewater Board
- Better food bank
- More walking trails
- More/ better retirement homes
- Adult groups (youth group idea)
- Family amusement park
- Upgrade the Duck pond
- Clean up the parks
- Public gardens
- Get rid of the Boats! Or use them! Sink them and use them as an artificial reef
- Clean the town up
- Better signage (so tourists don't get lost)
- Better/ more hotels
- Campgrounds
- More opportunities
- Better job opportunities
- University of Bridgewater
- Bigger better library
- Fix up the museum
- Auditorium with stadium seating
- Concert hall for musical venues
- More musical opportunities
- More activities, clubs and sports
- Better nutritional classes
- Motivational causes
- Cycling club

- Leave a wooded area as a nature reserve with walking/ biking trails
- Trails that don't go through peoples back yards
- Better education system
- More musical interest
- Music workshop
- Music theatre

Group 4

- Needs- a change of the community's attitude towards young people (we need to value and invest money and resources in our young people)
- A variety of restaurants (Ponderosa etc...)
- More stores in the mall
- Clean the place up (pollution)

Group 5

- When you imagine Bridgewater:
 - Michelin
- What would you like to improve
 - More shopping
 - Better waterfront
 - Sports centre, now!
 - More entertainment, activities, night life
 - More variety of restaurants
 - Less TOB
 - Cleaner LaHave
 - Better publicity
- What would make you stay:
 - More variety of jobs
 - Public transportation
 - Prettier scenery
 - Improve culture
 - Display culture
 - Theatre
 - Festivals
 - LaHave River Festivals
- Describe the Perfect Bridgewater
 - More culture; arts
 - A theatre/ performance area
 - Nice shops/ restaurants on the waterfront
 - Staples
 - Use old movie theatre buildings
 - Coffeehouse
 - Mall
 - Shoes
 - Orange Julius

- Pretzel maker
- Arcade
- Bulk Barn
- Restaurants; more variety
 - Buffet
 - Burger King (we don't need it. "fat capital")
- Activities
 - Rock climbing
 - Mini golf
 - Go Karts
 - Big indoor pool
 - Plays, musicals
 - T-ball
- Publicity
 - "Pretty commercials"
 - Better information
 - Better directions to...tennis court
- Follow through with new plans in the community

Group 6

- There's no recreation complex.
- Makes Bridgewater look poor.
- There's nothing to do.
- New stores.
- Less stressful.
- More law enforcement
- Outside sports are good
- Not a lot of opportunities for all ages
- Airport
- More diverse restaurants
- Unique attractions
- Not enough part-time jobs
- Bus system needed
- More teen facilities
- Art galleries
- Water park
- More places to go
- Hockey stadium
- Go- kart track
- Upper class restaurants
- Arcades
- Youth centre
- Better mall
- Better sports teams

- New pool
- More shopping
- Areas cleaner
- Costco
- Night clubs
- Job opportunities
- Food court in the mall
- More decorations around the area
- Fire department that is not volunteer
- Keep movies in theatres longer
- No teen books in the library
- Change the look of the library
- Better skate park
- Don't know how to get involved in Bridgewater's Town Council
- Advertisements in school for things outside of school

Group 7

- Improve mall- (better clothing stores, stores that are in the city, more people will come)
- Better skate park- concrete, bigger bowls Out by Canadian Tire, tear down the ugly parking lot, turn it into big skate park and gardens
- Sportsplex
- More coffee shops (Second Cup, Starbucks)
- New hockey rink
- Better restaurants (fine dining)
- Do something with the ships (hotel, restaurant)
- Taco bell
- More group activities (trips, surfing, make teens get active)
- More and different sports teams (town and school teams i.e. football)
- Bigger buildings
- Better transportation, in town and between towns
- Improve and clean town- trees down the streets, more gardens
- More jobs for teens (trust issue) with teens)
- More secondary schools get campuses from other universities, to keep and bring in students. Businesses follow students.
- Improve hotels
- Camp ground near New Germany (Check point for other campers)
- Steakhouse
- Improve duck pond, lights flowers
- Futureshop
- Plane tours business by airstrip rental hangers
- Planned trips or tours for teens
 - Tour outings to beach, surfing, wakeboarding, zoo, rock climbing, for teens 14-20 ages

Group 8

- Sports centre- basketball
- Taco bell
- Night club
- Free drinks
- Paintball field
- Drive in movie
- Legal street racing
- Fireworks
- Mono-rail
- Fix the basketball Michelin
- Concert hall
- Better exhibition
- Theme park
- Water slide
- Baskin Robbins
- Red Lobster
- Ponderosa
- More tourist site
- Petting zoo
- Lower the drinking age
- Roller skating PN

Letters to imagine Bridgewater

The following comments were submitted to imagine Bridgewater via regular mail and are presented here verbatim.

imagine Bridgewater:

Recreate the riverside of King Street from #599 to Dufferin St to the manner of Shipyards Landing- Charlottetown, Sommerside, Pictou have beautified their harbour areas creatively. This action would attract boutique shops to King Street.
Establish a library in the former Canadian Tire store.
Encourage one-story Townhouses at a cost possible for active seniors on reduced income.

Thank you for the opportunity to express these views.

What we need in this town is a place where you can enjoy some good entertainment.

A town this size its not good when you have to go either Chester or Liverpool maybe either one has good entertainment sometimes you have to go to Halifax.

A town this size needs something to boost the economy and the resource town this size is growing more and more everyday.

This town has to many places to eat we don't need anymore of this.

“WE NEED A LIVE THEATRE”

Dear Friends:

Re: Imagine Bridgewater

I would like to compliment the “movers” and “shakers” of 2007 idea. - Let's think about it. Let's talk about it - Let's do it. **A positive attitude.**

One point of interest, if I may, is the History of the Canadian National Railway value to this area, in particular to the Town of Bridgewater.

Some of the brief history, I would like to mention.

First Railway Station built in Bridgewater 1889, destroyed by fire 1982. 1906 December 19th first passenger train to reach Yarmouth from Halifax. The last Passenger Train to travel on the South Shore was October 27th 1969, the last Freight Train to travel on the South Shore was March 5th 1993. Bridgewater was promoted at one time as the HUB of the South Shore, not only by rail services, but also by highway. This important factor seems to be lost.

The railway industry to this area was at one time a major employer on the South Shore.

I would like this item (Railway Museum) placed on the Agenda for valuation and serious consideration.

Not so long ago - a CN Museum idea was started in Bridgewater collecting much memorabilia of which was a start to recognize Bridgewater as a Railway Center.

/2

/2

It is a disappointment to have seen this important piece of our history move outside of the Town of Bridgewater. Not only is it important to our local and surrounding residents it has appeal to many tourists. As well, the younger generation have little knowledge of the Railway's importance to the economy and the wonderful "mode" of transportation offered back in the 1900's.

I would like to suggest, this idea of a Museum that was started here in Bridgewater be "invited" back to it's once established roots and "Just Imagine Bridgewater" would really "shine". Let's do it!

Thank you,

May 9, 2007

Town of Bridgewater
60 Pleasant Street
Bridgewater, NS B4V 3X9

RE: Imagine Bridgewater

This is how our employees imagine this part of Bridgewater:

When I imagine Bridgewater, I think of family and growing up in a beautiful town. When driving through town I see the empty lot across from 215 Dominion Street, covered with broken cement, weeds and garbage. Why can we not have this space developed into a green space? For many of us that work in this part of town, it would be nice to have a place to take a lunch hour stroll.

When I look out our office window at 215 Dominion Street, I imagine a beautiful green area where people can take a leisurely stroll around winding paths. If they tire, they can rest on one of the park benches across from a large water fountain and watch children playing or people playing with their dogs. No ugly cement, broken glass, or garbage in sight. Just a beautiful park area for all to enjoy!

A park sounds perfect- what a great idea! Bridgewater doesn't have enough parks, and this would be much nicer than an ugly cement parking lot.

Working at 215 Dominion Street gives me a wonderful imagination of what could be something beautiful across the street. Instead of cement, which is cracked, ugly, and grey...Imagine fresh cut green grass that makes you take a

nice deep breath. Wouldn't it be nice to have a beautiful Bridgewater land marked park that everyone would want to see?

I imagine a beautiful green area with lots of grass, beautiful trees, park benches and picnic tables for people to eat their lunch and relax in the fresh air. On such a large green area people could take a blanket to lie down and watch the clouds go by, play ball or Frisbee with their dogs, or go for a walk. Families could gather for enjoyable times and make memories.

When I imagine Bridgewater, I imagine a beautiful town. It would be great to see beautiful green grass with blooming flowers in the lot across from 215 Dominion Street. I agree that it would make a lovely place on a bright sunny day to relax and enjoy lunch.