

CHAPTER 4

VALUES AND GOALS OF THE PLAN

The Plan's Goals and Policies are based on the following Community Values developed through a consultation process with Woolwich residents and businesspersons.

4.1 VALUES

Woolwich Community Vision Statement:

We are a safe, caring community with a distinct, rural and small town character, a diverse, prosperous, thriving economy with a healthy, sustainable environment, where differences are respected and mutual support is encouraged.

The Community believes these values are essential to fulfill our vision:

- our agricultural character and economy;
- our rural lifestyle and small town lifestyles;
- our ability to work together in a co-operative way with civility and courtesy;
- the contribution of volunteers in enriching our community life;
- our diverse cultural heritage, including our Old Order Mennonite community;
- our work ethic;
- our entrepreneurial spirit;
- our clean, healthy environment;
- the individuality of our communities, neighbourhoods and cultural groups;
- our community where all are respected and have opportunities to participate;
- the public decision making; and
- our diverse industrial/commercial sector.

Community Attitudes and Relationships

We Value:

- our close knit community with a strong emphasis on trust and good neighbours; and
- our small-town atmosphere with a perceived slower, safer, less hectic pace of life.

Settlement Development

We Value:

- our residential neighbourhoods, especially our areas of well-maintained, older homes on quiet, tree-lined streets;
- our location as separate "towns" in close proximity, but separate from, Kitchener-Waterloo;
- a moderate rate of well-planned, compatible new development on appropriate services;
- continued support of community facilities such as schools and stores;

- our commercial buildings preserved and restored in keeping with the small-town feeling;
- the close proximity of our communities to natural areas and parks;
- being able to walk or cycle to many of our daily destinations;
- streets, parks, trails and neighbourhoods that are safe, healthy and attractive “people places”;
- a community that provides housing to all income levels and provides a range of housing types, including senior’s housing;
- defined settlement boundaries;
- balanced residential/industrial development; and
- the range of services and retail stores available within the community which allow many to have their basic day-to-day shopping and service needs met locally.

Transportation

We Value:

- an appropriate transportation system meeting the needs of cyclists, buggies, pedestrians and motor vehicles.

Environment

We Value:

- a clean, green Township of Woolwich;
- the preservation and maintenance of woodlands, wetlands, watersheds, habitats and corridors for wildlife and wild plants;
- increased quality of the environment including soil quality, air quality, water quality in rivers, streams and wells;
- environmentally-sound practices by businesses, industries, including farms, and individuals;
- open spaces; and
- minimizing motor vehicle use.

Youth

We Value:

- providing appropriate opportunities for our youth in education, employment, housing and activities.

Agriculture

We Value:

- farmers’ right to farm;
- prime farm land;
- agriculture as an industry and our agri-business;
- the unique mix of farming and on-farm businesses; and
- continued provisions for “doddy” houses.

Employment

We Value:

- the wide range of opportunities for employment available within the community; and
- active, vibrant, commercial cores operating in harmony with adjacent, residential neighbourhoods.

Business Development

We Value:

- an atmosphere for economic development where existing business expansion and new business investment are encouraged;
- a healthy tourism industry, sensitive to community values;
- a strong and diverse retail/service sector;
- a strong and healthy industrial sector;
- entrepreneurship; and
- industry that is sensitive to adjacent land uses.

Planning Process

We Value:

- a decision-making process which is open and gives voice and choice to individuals, businesses, neighbourhoods and the community;
- a planning process which is timely, simple and cost-effective; and
- equal treatment for all.

4.2 GOALS

The Goals as outlined in this section are the basic decision-making guidelines of this Plan. They reflect the general long-range intent of the Plan and are further interpreted by the policies of the Plan. The Goals of this Plan are:

1. To guide future land use decisions in the Township in a manner that recognizes the “Rural – Small Urban” nature of the municipality, provides for the needs of existing and future residents, enhances the natural and human environment, separates incompatible land uses and ensures orderly development within the Township.
2. To preserve, protect and encourage the continued use of agricultural areas for agricultural purposes.
3. To protect, conserve, and wherever feasible, enhance and restore the natural environment within the Township for its valuable ecological functions and the enjoyment of the Township’s residents. **Modification No. 6**
4. To protect, conserve or wherever feasible, rehabilitate and/or reuse the heritage resources of the Township.
5. To provide for the management of natural resources within the Township in a manner that minimizes or avoids undesirable short and long-term impacts on the natural environment, the quality and quantity of ground and surface water, and the quality of life for existing and future residents. **Modification No. 7**
6. To minimize the threat to life and destruction of property from flooding and other natural hazards.
7. To concentrate the majority of growth in the Township within the Elmira, St. Jacobs and Breslau Urban Areas, with limited growth in other Identified Settlement Areas and Industrial/Commercial Areas where municipal services can be provided in a cost effective and environmentally responsible manner. **OPA No. 1**
8. To encourage a range of housing types, sizes and densities to meet the needs of existing and future residents.
9. To promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and the attraction of new businesses to the Township to provide for a balance of residential and employment opportunities, and short and long term employment stability.
10. To ensure the cost effective provision and maintenance of transportation (including road, rail, transit and air), water distribution, sewage collection, stormwater management and fire protection systems as required to service existing and future residents.
11. To provide opportunities for both active and passive recreational pursuits by combining the provision of parkland, sports fields, community facilities, and natural areas to satisfy the recreational needs of existing and future residents.
12. To promote a healthy community concept through policies such as directing community form and environmental protection.