

## Erin SSMP Public Community Meeting - May 4, 2009

The attendees were divided up into three equal groups, and were asked the following six questions regarding their thoughts, ideas, and concerns with the Town of Erin:

### Group 1

1) *What is the community's greatest asset?*

- Credit River
- The people: knowing residents
- Good tasting drinking water
- Small town atmosphere
- Topography
- Rural flavour
- Wildlife
- High taxation (assessment)
- Commuting to multiple large centers
- Centre 2000
- Great high school
- Shopping
- Proposed SSMP
- Trails
- Urban trails→to be developed
- Rural-linkage trails
- Historic buildings
- French immersion
- History of town
- Name of town
- Heritage sites→natural and historic
- Good design style→housing
- Access to sports
- Large volunteer base
- Erin Fall Fair→prelude to Royal
- Rodeos
- Agriculture base
- Conservation Authority
- Erin Radio
- Tree base
- Clean air
- Fishing opportunities→wild trout
- Amphibian population
- Children friendly
- Talented students→artistic
- Dedicated mentors to children
- Intellectual capital

- Good community spirit
- Ed Stewart's equipment
- Dairy and bakery
- Green community

2) *One reason you like to live here?*

- Access to amenities
- Small town atmosphere
- Away from hustle and bustle of city → noise, pollution
- Low density housing
- Friendly
- Birds
- Space and privacy
- Quiet
- Country smell
- Oasis
- CAN live here
- Hear the rooster

3) *What do you like least about Erin?*

- No public sewer system
- Main Street traffic
- Growth that has happened in the last 30 years
- Lack of public parkland
- No public transportation
- Inaccessible water resources
- Erin-Hillsburgh rivalry
- No opportunities for young adults
- Expensive for young adults and seniors
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of job opportunities
- Lack of industrial/commercial tax base
- Too many gravel pits below water table
- Too much water taking
- Lack of senior housing
- No curling club
- No public swimming pool
- Lack doctors → no building for health team
- Intolerance of diversity
- Limited adult recreation activities
- No night life

4) *Is there a place here for your children when they grow up?*

- No
- Maybe, depending on desire
- Have to leave for education and don't come back
- No place to live → affordable housing
- No community service opportunities

5) *What would make you leave Erin?*

- Win lottery
- Death
- No place to work
- Business opportunities elsewhere
- Taxation
- Need long-term care
- Housing like Brampton
- Realize equity in property
- If USA takes over Canada
- GTA West through property
- Have to go to the city for things to do
- Move closer to children
- Boredom
- Development → industrial/residential

6) *What would make Erin a better place to live in?*

- Public sewer system
- Emphasize recreational industry
- Control downtown traffic
- Countryside more accessible
- Better roads
- Affordable and senior housing
- More parkland and safe bike paths
- Parking
- Family health team building
- Housing design with small town feel
- McDonalds
- Swimming pool
- Public washroom on Main Street
- Urban walking trails finished and enhanced
- More integration of residential/commercial/light industrial
- Lower user fees for community groups
- Eliminate development
- Buy-up available property and demolish residences

- Lower taxes/more industrial to allow for lower taxes
- Support for local businesses → chamber of commerce
- Public transit links outside Erin
- Enhance heritage parkland
- Dams and fish barriers
- Clean-up behind Main Street stores
- Boardwalk on river
- An advocating advocate
- New subdivision development having at least two trees per lot
- Developer responsibility
- Truck bypass

## Group 2

1) *What is the community's greatest asset?*

- Great downtown → unique, pleasant old style, nice feeling
- Excellent recreation opportunities → golf course, rail trail, Centre 2000
- Location convenient to countryside
- Clean air
- Clean water
- Central location
- Access to GO Train
- Equestrian
- Safe
- Good services
- Walkable
- Culture
- Quality of life

2) *One reason you like to live here?*

- It's comfortable
- Clean living, accessibility
- Location → best of both worlds
- Quality of life
- Small town feeling
- Sense of community
- Surrounded by nature
- Heritage
- Unique village

3) *What do you like least about Erin?*

- Taxes are expensive
- Low industrial/commercial base → don't want it to mushroom, but would prefer light manufacturing
- Most of Erin down-wind from industrial land
- Main Street is main truck route
- Lack of pedestrian crossings
- Area behind high school used for dirt bikes
- High-density housing
- Gravel pits

4) *Is there a place here for your children when they grow up?*

- No
- Costs of homes are out of reach
- Taxes are out of reach

5) *What would make you leave Erin?*

- Increasing taxes
- Burden of sewage treatment plant costs
- Disruption of construction
- Loss of water due to aggregate
- Lack of EMS
- Not having a plan for the future

6) *What would make Erin a better place to live in?*

- Skateboard Park
- Improve trail network
- More health care opportunities in town → Medical Centre
- Lower taxes
- By-pass for trucks
- Pedestrian friendly downtown
- Green up the downtown
- Downtown parking

### Group 3

1) *What is the community's greatest asset?*

- Students/young people/schools→should be engaged
- Natural open spaces/Credit River→outdoor activities
- Safe→low crime rate
- Small town character/charm→tight knit community
- Community looks after each other and gives support
- Small community is key
- Proximity to bigger communities
- Historic downtown
- Recreation facilities are good
- Lots of space/low density
- Engaged churches
- Low taxes
- Hands-on government

2) *One reason you like to live here?*

- Quiet
- It is close to the GTA but is still a small town
- No light pollution
- Stores and shops
- Clean air and water/environment
- Less traffic
- School system is small, and has the same kids from start to finish
- It's exciting in a small town way
- Natural resources, rivers, trails
- Diverse/complete community
- Like the snow
- Advocate→small town newspaper
- People stop to see the nature

3) *Is there a place here for your children when they grow up?*

- No job opportunities
- Expensive to start out
- Nothing to do/no activities
- Lack of transportation
- The natural environment is valued and will bring kids back
- Familiarity/family

4) *What would make you leave Erin?*

- Disrespectful neighbours
- Incompatible uses
- Development that does not respect the town's assets
- Poor quality of air and water at unsafe levels
- Commercial polluters
- Unclean industrial
- High density
- Significant changes to what we have
- Disruption of construction and cost
- Wind turbines → economically don't work
- If the community became too busy

5) *What would make Erin a better place to live in?*

- Truck bypass
- Improve trail/bike system → something connecting landfill
- Recoup money from Winston Churchill
- Improvements in services
- Clean up Stanley Park
- Improve former school site
- Improve shopping area
- Boardwalk along the Credit River
- Doctors and a medical centre
- Better housing mix
- Clean industry
- More local employment
- More kids programs/activities
- High speed Internet