



STRATEGIC PLANNING: SURVEY RESULTS

April 2019

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Message to Residents

At the beginning of January 2019, the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris committed to preparing a Strategic Plan for the 2019-2022 term of Council. To assist Council in setting the strategic goals for the community, the municipality presented two opportunities for public engagement: an open-house was held on January 30th, 2019 to offer an opportunity for face-to-face discussion with Council members and staff, and a survey was conducted from January 25th to February 8th, 2019 to gauge what residents believed should be the goals for East Ferris as we move forward.

We would like to thank the 28 residents who attended the open house and the 107 survey respondents. We appreciate the time you took to attend the open house and/or complete the survey as we felt citizen engagement was paramount in assisting us complete our 2019-2022 Strategic Plan.

The purpose of this report is to provide residents and other stakeholders with the results of the survey.

Survey Results

For each question, a summary is provided which outlines the most common responses. Additionally, we have included individual responses received. The individual responses are provided in a literatim format; survey responses have not been corrected for grammar or spelling and appear exactly as submitted. Any responses received that included information pertaining to an identifiable individual or business, a legal matter, or that could potentially harm the municipality, or responses that were deemed inappropriate were excluded from this report.

Question #1

What level of priority do you feel the Municipality of East Ferris should place on the following services and ideals?

Survey Results Summary

This question asked respondents to prioritize services and ideals. The chart on the following page summarizes the results.

Individual Responses

In addition to prioritizing the services and ideals, additional comments relating to the level of priority for services and ideals were accepted. Below are the responses received.

“Internet service improvements, service is poor and cost is high. Protection of our Provincial Park and surrounding crown land”.

“I feel our community is as good as anyone could possibly wish for”.

“This community lacks a standard medical clinic. It is difficult to attract new residents and health care professionals when there is no facility or space currently available”.

“East Ferris needs to be more united rather than being from Corbeil or Astorville area. How can we develop a more inclusive community feeling?”

“Making sure that our Municipality always has growth in mind and fire department always has the tools and man power to protect our Municipality”.

“Protect and preserve our natural areas, woodlands and lakes etc.”

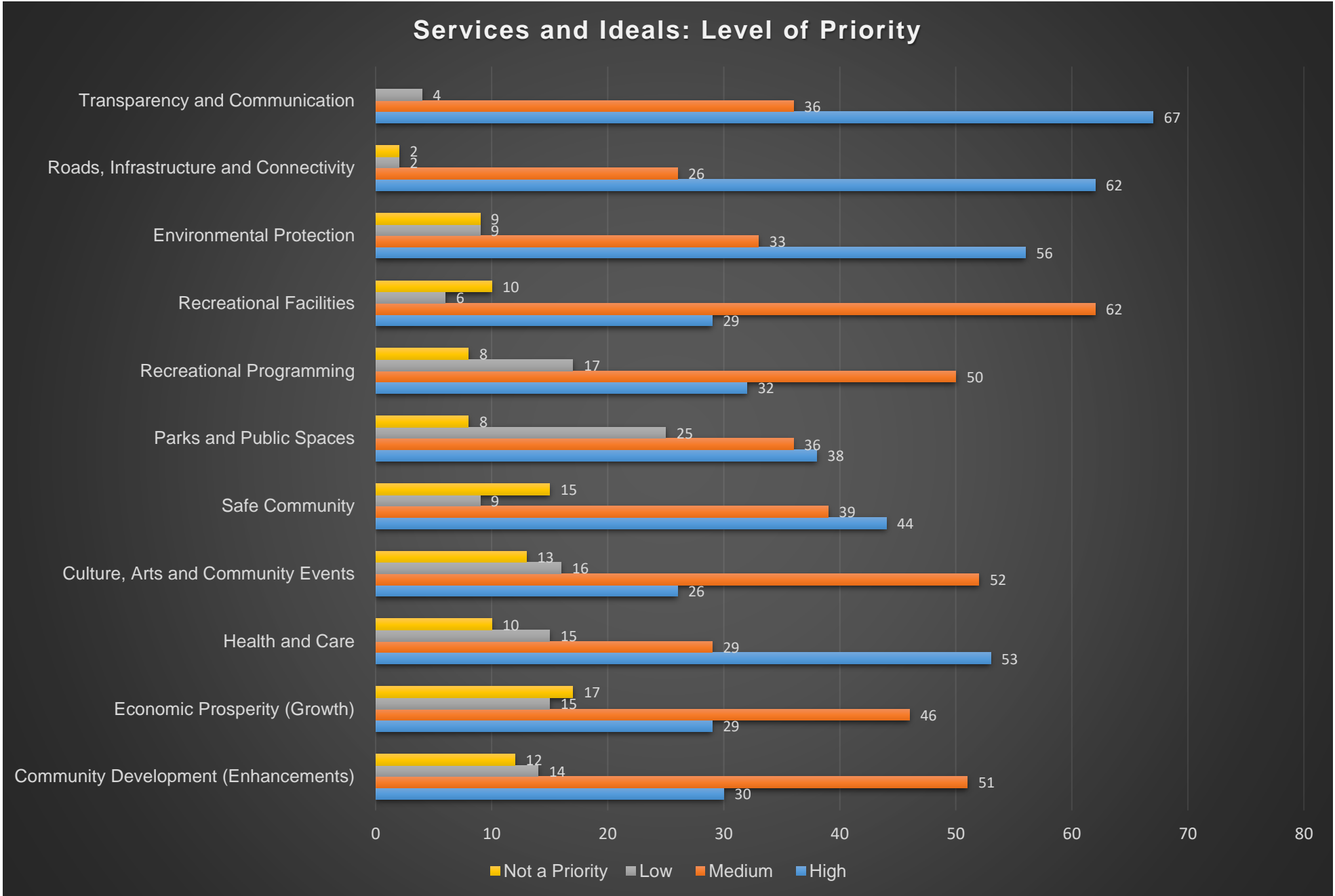
“Have a health in all policies approach”.

“Request for street lights at the entrance to 1st Centennial off of Highway 17, we live in a very viable community”.

“I understand development is inevitable but sincerely believe it needs to be done in a very cautious and thoughtful way to preserve the quality of life we expect here. This is a rural community”.

“Limits on development should be in place. We did not move here to be near a subdivision. Seems money is talking here”.

Chart 1



Question #2

What are the most appealing qualities and/or attributes about East Ferris?

Survey Results Summary

The most common comments in terms of the most appealing/desirable aspects of living in East Ferris are as follows:

- Residents like the current level of taxation (low/affordable)
- Residents enjoy the natural beauty of East Ferris' environment – lakes, forests, parks and green spaces
- Residents feel that there is a sense of community due to the activities, recreation facilities, and programs being offered by organizations and the municipality
- Residents want a safe, rural community
- Residents appreciate good road infrastructure and feel that the municipality is currently providing this
- Residents feel that it is beneficial that East Ferris is located in close proximity to the City of North Bay

Individual Responses

"Hydro seems to be reliable, did not expect that".

"Beautiful scenery, landscaping, friendliness, welcoming".

"Quiet, friendly, close to North Bay".

"Low taxes, friendly environment".

"The natural environment country atmosphere friendly people. The lakes are the jewels of the area".

"Country setting with many forested areas and lakes. Peace and quiet not found in larger cities".

"The lakes, nature, sense of community, the number of francophone living here and francophone services, proximity of schools, library and arena".

"Safe, quiet, dark. A great place to live and work. Lots of community involvement and activities. Friendly place".

"Community, friendliness, accessibility to Council, great Council".

"Since I have moved here I have been impressed with the community and all the support from all the other communities, how well you all work together".

"Safe community location (rural and close to urban center, lakes, rec facilities, library, effective fire protection service, good winter road maintenance".

"Location close to North Bay, access to recreation facilities (i.e. lakes, close to a large community".

"Is a community family".

"Natural beautiful setting and lakes friendly with good mix of young families and seniors".

"Friendly people safe to live here people are involved and invested in the community. I love the quiet rural nature of East Ferris".

"Good road infrastructure, good relationship with Municipality".

"Rural living, quiet friendly, safe, dark skies at night and know our neighbors".

"Rural setting, closeness to nature. Very friendly residents".

"The amount of services the Municipality has to offer. Overall, good roads that are well maintained."

"The countryside and lakes. We live in the country and so don't need parks and playgrounds to play in. Just leave us alone when we play on our property."

"Nature, Quietness, small community, taxes"

"Rural, country, living- space between neighbors but extremely friendly, helpful kind people, Welcoming spaces, beautiful facilities"

"The lakes attract many. There are many activities. The golden age club is very active. Saint Thomas d'Aquin school is a very modern building. The library offers wonderful services. The community Center is a great asset"

"Good roads, acceptable tax rate, ease of access to water for fishing, boating, reliable garbage pickup which includes blue boxes"

"Low taxes and proximity to North Bay"

"Proximity to North Bay and other areas. Great outdoor activities. Fantastic schools. The people and warmth of community"

"The outdoors are magnificent. An amazing community. A very nice place to raise a family and get away from the big city environment"

"Taxes lower than North Bay"

"Rural setting"

"Fare taxes, beautiful countryside, lots to do in area for all ages, friendly residents, Lake Nosbonsing"

"Low tax rates, room for growth, clean, quiet rural living with availability of "big city" services in North Bay. Availability of quality services in rural area, curbside garbage and recycling pick up, landfill site, arena, library, reputable fire department, kid's soccer league, access to lakes and boat launches, good road infrastructure."

"We are not a big community, sometimes staying the same is a good thing. Country living, lower taxes"

"It was more space, lower taxes and closer to family that brought us from North Bay. The tax difference has pretty much gone, but there still is room on lower water costs. Attention should be paid to how to lower the recent tax increase. The upfront and maintenance cost of a well and septic when amortized over the life of them will continue to have an economic advantage as the costs of services in North Bay continue to rise."

"East Ferris is a diverse and a nice place to reside."

"Carnival in February, small town, safe, people are kind, the parks/ soccer field/rink/courts/ beach"

"Country Life but close to the city (bedroom community). The overall taxes is what drew me into East Ferris; however they have increased for me almost 25% since being here making it almost comparable to North Bay. Powassan is looking better now as the drive is all highway into the city and only an extra 10 minutes (they also offer a lot of community enrichment)"

"Small town. Friendly people. Good RED program for kids."

"Rural living outside of North Bay with recreational activities for the family, schools and church. Feeling of family life in both French and English. Recognition of our ancestors. Really enjoyed celebrating Astorville Fete"

"Country life. It used to be the low taxes, but taxes are getting high based on the services we get"

"It's quiet"

"Quiet, close to town, has a school"

"Green space, taxes"

"Lower taxes, bigger lots, quieter rural areas than North Bay yet only a half hour from North Bay services and facilities"

"Country living and paved roads! It was our primary reason for choosing to live in the community versus Chisholm, coupled with the fact that East Ferris is a well-managed Municipality"

"How it is not an overpopulated area with neighbors almost touching"

"Lake Nosbonsing, friendly people, lower taxes than North Bay, close drive to North Bay"

"Friendly dependable community. Rural life"

"The space and rural aspect of the Municipality"

"The community"

"Natural beauty of spaces, lakes, fields, bordering forests, forests surrounding fields, rolling hills, lake low lands, parks, we love the new signs welcoming citizens to our communities. The signs transit a sense of pride and class"

“East Ferris provides a country setting vibrant of wildlife, agriculture, forested regions abound by lakes and rivers, all of which enables a health and stress free lifestyle”

“Easy going residents”

“Peaceful country setting yet close enough to the amenities of the city when needed”

“French culture, heritage, lakes, trees and countryside, low taxes rates”

“Varied landscape, friendly community, affordable living. Hunting and fishing”

“Beautiful, quiet community”

“Low property taxes”

“Country living”

“Location, outdoor activities”

“People chose to live here because it’s an attractive living environment with close proximity to North Bay, waterways, bike path, etc.”

“Country living with paved roads! It was our primary reason for choosing to live in this community versus Chisholm, coupled with the fact that East Ferris is a well-managed municipality.”

“Hunting and fishing”

“The people make it what it is: rural charm, small town feel, most neighbours really kind. Municipality would do well to recognize what people like about this place and then promote and nurture that more in its activities and messaging. I say more about this in the last box.”

“The people and warmth of community”

“That were not a big community, sometimes staying the same is a good thing”

“Living in a country setting (having LOTS of green space) and still being close to north bay”

“It’s people: past & present. Maintain history and achievements tied to achievements tied to Astorville and Corbeil. Encourager la francophonie. Un element qui differencie notre municipalite”

“Proper snow removal and road construction”

Question #3

What are the most unappealing qualities and/or attributes about East Ferris?

Survey Results Summary

The most common comments in terms of most unappealing/desirable aspects of living in East Ferris are as follows:

- There is a lack of services, programs and functions: professional and medical services; natural gas; events; children's recreational programs; restaurant, etc.
- There is a lack of green space, parks, playgrounds, an outdoor gathering area
- There is a lack of inclusiveness – sense of divide between Astorville and Corbeil residents/community
- We experience unreliable and slow internet speeds
- The former St. Thomas D'aquin school is an eye sore
- There is too much development/growth for our rural community
- Blue Green Algae in our lakes needs to be addressed

Individual Responses

"Lack of medical clinic and commercial space in Astorville".

"Lack of natural gas, some roads are in need of work".

"Length of time to get things done. Past tendency from Municipality to dwell on negative. Speeding on our roads".

"Lack of water safety and emergency service".

"Sometimes MacPherson Dr. needs a bit more attention in the winter, icy roads it's been a bad winter. Township has responded to my calls well".

"Roads need work, would like to have natural gas".

"Ability for active transportation, lack of shoulders, dangerous hills, corners with minimal/ no visibility. Roads have not evolved with population and speed".

"Development for developments sake. It seems developers get to build wherever they wish".

"In the past it appears that Council was not listening to resident's wishes, (i.e. Development on Guillmette Road, MacPherson Drive)".

"Website has very little information on it. Not enough social media, I find it hard to find out what's happening. Powassan is very active. Driving over the speed limit in Corbeil".

"Lack of infrastructure to grow or create a business, no restaurants".

"Development of subdivisions that are cropping up and ruining the concept of rural living".

"Rough roads, also the ditches keep washing away because they weren't built properly, too steep ditches".

"Lack of events for children, recreation should be geared to keeping children in the community (ex, swimming lessons). Lack of safe walkways for children and the elderly. Trails for example,

behind the school in Astorville, that connect the school to the church and to the store, that connect the new villa to the store, the arena, the library, the church. Traffic is fast and while the shoulder (on one side of the road) may be large, it's not safe enough for pedestrians of all ages"

"The government we elect coming into our lives on our property to tell us how to live our lives"

"No Restaurants"

"The encroachment's in the outlying areas and the development of subdivisions in rural areas where people bought for country living. It appears council has been willing to bend the rules and make exceptions for certain developers and investors significantly impacting the quality of life for the residents who are impacted by the impending development and clear cutting"

"The roads in the winter are often hazardous"

"Lack of reliable high speed internet (some areas for example, HWY 94, MacPherson Drive and others) do not have same service level. High speed is not as high which definitely impacts all citizens in those areas, existing and potential home based and store front businesses. That the Municipality of "east Ferris" itself continues to promote itself as two communities "Corbeil and Astorville. A great example are the new signs erected"

"I don't feel part of the community because I came from elsewhere. Makes it hard to want to participate"

"We lack creativity and innovation. (e.g. same old, same old with all the events) we have a tunnel visions when looking at our community assets (e.g. the same players/ companies are involved in every project)"

"Not the easiest for someone not from the area to get involved more. Would like to see efforts to continue bringing all citizens together. Not just for the benefit for some"

"Install solar panels to lower energy costs on community facilities"

"The blue green algae issue in Lake Nosbonsing is quite concerning. Getting health bulletins doesn't seem to be enough to fix or address the issue"

"Favoritism. Certain residents can get away with things depending on who they know"

"Internet availability"

"1. Difficult to engage long-standing committees, in-groups...some protectionism and fear of "outsiders") 2. Also, blatant conflict of interest (e.g. member votes in favor of development and then company with same name builds road on that development, send a poor message. 3. Transparency: Council minutes and agendas need to be posted much sooner that they currently are. It is usually months behind and agendas before meetings are hard to locate and not often posted until that time"

"Changing beautiful nature areas in subdivisions"

"The divide between Corbeil and Astorville which seems to be getting worse. We are one town which is East Ferris. The push for francophone culture and identity for residents of Astorville. This has been noted by residents of Corbeil. Lack of playgrounds and parks for kids. The town hasn't put money into this for quite some time"

"The gravel roads in residential areas are a big problem. Example is Edmond Road"

"Accountability by town hall. Left 3 messages about 2 issues and never got a call back"

"Lack of high-speed internet"

"The old St. Thomas School. Looks run down"

"Honesty, how Corbeil has nothing and Astorville has everything. The communities are divided still and this shows based on enhancements to the town centers. The Corbeil side though appears to be carrying East Ferris in residential development, yet when a new facility is created it goes to Astorville. Taxes are contributed from both sides and development needs to be shared for development"

"Bad roads"

"A few places could be cleaned up"

"How Corbeil has been left out from East Ferris and Astorville is the hub. How taxes have went through the roof over the last few years"

"No restaurants"

"Difficult to find decent internet and no natural gas lines so must rely on oil, wood or propane heat"

"Big Moose Road. No cable TV or cable internet. No Natural Gas. These are a must"

"Dirt Road"

"Are there any?!!"

"The skyrocketing price of land taxes and how the township continues to allow major subdivisions, I don't mind expansion but it doesn't have to be \$400,000 & \$500,000"

"Traffic at the bypass going from North Bay in the morning. Occasional blue green algae, people from the south buying up a lot of waterfront property to use as cottages therefore reducing the number of full time residents in the community"

"Lack of space on main roads to walk"

"Developers buying up land to build"

"Bike paths, a little narrow and Highway 94 (cars drive too fast anyways) How's the path from the end of Voyer Rd to Birches/ Booth coming along?"

"Increase in taxes"

"There could be more community parks...Beautiful Corbeil Central Park could be enhanced more than it is. Astorville needs a central area community outdoors gathering place. The old St. Thomas school yard could become that area. It could be converted into a central park...with bandstand...gardens, water splash-pad Park"

"Increased traffic flows and urbanization of the community. There has been significant "growth" within the community which is transforming the Municipality from a rural to urban setting. The

increased urbanization, has resulted in increased ability to enjoy the Municipalities surroundings due to risk from urbanization”

“Old St. Thomas d’Aquin school that has been left abandoned....unacceptable”

“Spread out, lack of services and amenities”

“People trying to make it something it’s not...always been a nice family community”

“Walkability”

“No restaurants”

“Lack of internet and decent television options”

“Cannot think of any”

“Seeing the countryside being built up”

“Too many towers around Lake Nosbonsing. Too many signs “Degagne Lot For Development...” in favour of the Development not, just not the over abundance of signage. Move the army tank to a less visible location in Memorial Park”

Question #4

What, if anything, do you feel the Municipality could do to support our environment?

Survey Results Summary

The most common comments in terms of how the municipality can support the environment are as follows:

- Look at ways to protect the quality of our lakes – water quality, commercial fishing/overfishing
- Create public trail systems to protect undeveloped lands
- Clean our community – community clean-up efforts and education programs
- Protect our landfill – encourage recycling program (promote and educate)

Individual Responses

“Perhaps employ someone even on a part-time basis to advise Councillors and staff on such things as preserving Milk Weed to ensure Monarch butterfly habitat and many other environmental issues”.

“Slow down residential development, don’t allow East Ferris to become overpopulated”.

“Protect ground source water”.

“Summer program for students, cleaning our ditches after the winter”.

“Just keep working at infrastructure and doing what can be done”.

“Not sure this is a Municipal issue, appears to be a septic issue around some parts of Lake Nosbonsing”.

“Ensure that planning and development around the lakes protects the water quality. Blue algae blooms will continue to get worse with climate change. Need to ban use of lawn fertilizer on waterfront properties”.

“Our park and rec facilities are great, but, more public trails would be great”.

“Stricter enforcement of development near water and protecting water quality”.

“Be aware of the local wetlands and support our wildlife. Could you pretty up the pond on Macpherson Dr. that you dried up”?

“Check the health of our lakes and waterways, blue green algae has occurred each year for the past three years”.

“Wide shoulders bike/ walking lane, sidewalk. Connect core areas to the street with options for active transportation trails. Green space (old school?) support programs for families (i.e. swimming lessons, early year’s center, community garden”.

“Protecting wetlands, buffer zones between any developments and ponds. No roadwork during turtles nesting season, every turtle nest along MacPherson Dr. was destroyed last summer”.

“Repair the wetland on Macpherson Dr. That has been drained. Check out residents not following Conservation Area guidelines on Trout Lake”.

“Include composting as part of the services. Stop approving subdivisions. Build trails to protect our environment”

“Stop allowing local contractors to install septic systems where it is clear from regulations that they should never be installed. Stop allowing people to dump truckloads of recycled asphalt into our creeks and streams”

“Limiting building on subdivisions and industrial businesses”

“Water protection is of the utmost importance; our lakes have recently been affected by blue green algae-although on the non-field side it’s important to address and mitigate before it becomes a larger issue”

“Make sure that people are not dumping waste in lakes. All lot of RV’s or trailers should be inspected for proper waste disposal of black water and grey water”

“Continue with minimum property sizes; eliminate number of bags of garbage allowed; eliminate dump trip drop off fees for residents. The last two practices definably do not show a municipalities desire to be environmentally conscious or that it recognizes that fact that not all family sizes are equal. Taxes should already cover garbage pick-up, garbage/dump, life/ services. No matter what the practice is in other communities dare to be different”

“We need to protect the future of our waterways and lakes. I am not educated in the status of our landfill site, but has anyone researched “landfill reclamation”? This project seeks to recover and reuse water material. It greatly reduces environmental risk. It is a technology driven, low

cost process. The stockpile it recovers is then sold to scrap processors for recycling. There appears to be many benefits”

“Protect the water and lakes. Work closely with surrounding areas and citizens to educate on how to keep lakes healthy.

“Install solar panels to lower energy costs on community facilities”

“Bring all partners involved with the environment to sit down and address the blue algae issue. I.e. Federal Ministry, Provincial Ministry, environmental groups, conservation authority etc.”

“Blue Green Algae look into it”

“Follow best practices around environmental protections. Lakes and rivers are vulnerable. Don’t take them for granted. Be a leader and encourage the public to do the right thing when it comes to water. Also, stop subverting 1 hectare recommended lot sizes in proposed developments. Quality over quantity. Take the long view....slow sustained growth”

“Uphold the by-laws on waterfront living. Study the effects of urbanization before subdividing countryside into lots”

“Is there a solution to the blue green algae issue in our lake?”

“Ensure there is no commercial fishing on Lake Nosbonsing. There are several ice shack operators”

“Cleaning up the garbage along roadways”

“Bring attention to the environmental concerns that are around locally and lobby the other levels of government to properly address them”

“Don’t let too many people build new houses (i.e. cut down too many trees)”

“This is sort of a loaded question. We do feel that we all need to help protect the environment and it should start with the individual first. The environment/ water falls under the provincial/ federal jurisdiction and it should be downloaded to the Municipal level we then only need to focus on the task at that time. Now if you are talking about our lake areas and blue/ green algae than I believe that 90% falls onto the property owner and 10% on the Municipality to enforce bylaws”

“Nothing. Not a priority. Please stop wasting our tax dollars on this”

“Better understanding of recycling and garbage disposal. Protect our lakes. Nothing”

“Keep in mind local wildlife and their habitat when making building plans”

“Better monitoring and enforcement of shoreline stewardship, particularly of older waterfront property septic systems”

“Keep the parks and possibly invest in them and maybe try a community outreach to maintain them”

“Educate the public on things they do that have a negative effect on the lake. (I.e. using shampoo in the lake, throwing dead perch in the lake rather than right away when ice fishing)

Monitoring proof of septic pump out every two years, what we can do to reduce chances of getting blue green algae in the lake, educating the public about what to include in recycling and what not to put in garbage bins that will not be picked up"

"Community effort for cleanup"

"Improve recycling with public awareness"

"Protect that lakes again with more public awareness"

"Anytime citizens are given the chance to embrace their proximity to the outdoors they are supporting the environment. Continued outdoor community activities, walkways in natural areas"

"The Municipality could consider a neighborhood association to hear from representing neighbors that can provide situational awareness regarding local environmental concerns that impact local properties. East Ferris Municipality hearing from elderly or indigenous residents may be well served by historical data. As per the Provincial Plan, the planning board needs to align itself with preserving green spaces, watercourses, and wildlife habitats that aid in managing carbon footprints"

"Protect from over development"

"Take care of all lake waters"

"Carefully plan for the future to maintain and improve natural heritage systems and features"

"Make it easier to recycle. Maybe provide recycling bins for residents to encourage recycling"

"Follow up on septic systems on waterfront properties or stricter guidelines. Reduce phosphates in lake"

"Protect lakefront"

"None"

"Plan for long term renewable energy project to benefit and serve the who community."

"Insure there is no commercial fishing on lake nosbonsing. There are several ice shack operators"

"Stop building homes or build homes farther apart from each other"

"Enforcement of current by-laws"

"Community in Bloom for both Astorville and Corbeil. Develop park in Astorville"

"Stock lake nosbonsing/fund the hunter and angler group. The lake is being over fished due to nippisings regs on pickerel"

Question #5

What, if anything, do you feel the Municipality could do to support our economy or local businesses?

Survey Results Summary

The most common comments in terms of how the municipality can support the local economy and businesses are as follows:

- Support and promote local businesses – shop local, update business registry on municipal website, provide free advertising on municipal website and Facebook page
- There is a need for available land and commercial rental space
- Facilitate opportunities for medical services/medical clinic
- Look at resolving the issue of unreliable, slow internet
- There is a need/opportunity for a farmer's market

Individual Responses

“Take a new look at bylaws that are, in some cases, too restrictive, (i.e. requiring someone to have 5 acres before they can raise chickens for eggs and meat. Put the emphasis on number of chickens and numbers of acres”.

“Support the existing businesses and start affordable developing spaces for new business. As a new business in the area, it was quite disappointing that there was nothing available until Marcells building was done”.

“Loosen some of the bylaws governing home based businesses (i.e. the restrictions about minimum land size for hobby farms”.

“Reasonable tax base”.

“A medical clinic is vital if you want to attract any new doctors and keep seniors living healthy active lives here”.

“Municipality to petition for additional high speed internet options”.

“Be more open to waiving fees for projects that create employment or when fees are proven higher than surrounding communities”.

“Open dialogue with local businesses”.

“Have a list of business at the Township and other offices of reliable workers who the residents could call”.

“Stop spending \$56,000.00 of tax payer's money to stop local business to help locals in need”

“More help to camps and cottages to keep their businesses going (re: succession planning)”

"Internet connectivity is a large detractor. I have the ability to work from home but am unable to due to poor connection and data caps because that the only service I could get. Businesses need internet access"

"Buy locally when possible. Free or low rates for advertising on Municipal internet site"

"Summer farmers market; fund public transportation service to transport citizens to services within the community (example, twice a week from one end of the community to the other get to the library; to programs offered at Corbeil Park Hall; to curling etc.)"

"Promote these businesses whenever possible"

"The small business portion of the Municipality website should update their business directory and keep it current"

"Internet connectivity in rural areas"

"Improve the internet services. One provider servicing the rural areas of East Ferris is not acceptable. More providers and faster speeds will not only please the tax payers of the community but attract businesses and improve the economy. Thought should be considered as an East Ferris being an internet service provider. Other communities have done so. Or, partner up with Hydro One and piggy back of their infrastructure to reduce the costs for delivery"

"Better internet"

"High speed internet"

"I thought the promotion of local roads that occurred recently was done well...visually appealing. Can the Municipality help promote local businesses on Highway 11 or 17? At the very least, can East Ferris have more prominent signs on highway 11 and 17 so people know where they are passing by? I think locals would take pride in that too"

"The Municipality has been very positive in supporting the economy but I have no idea how they support local businesses"

"Facilitate a farmers market to help home based businesses market their products"

"Try to get a Tim Hortons or place to have coffee and talk to other locals"

"Establish a Municipal or Co-Op type of high speed internet service provider"

"Provide them a tax relief"

"Free advertisement"

"I believe that as we continue to grow, we need growth in the nosiness and industry fields. To encourage existing and new growth in the community, I would propose that we create a deferred business tax system scale that would allow businesses to expand or come into our community and not be subject to the entire tax amount at first"

"Improve the internet. Businesses have a hard time to be competitive without a better internet service"

"Give tax breaks to local businesses who are looking to expand"

“Help to advertise the local businesses or promote them”

“Better internet”

“Improve the internet. Businesses have a hard time being competitive without a better internet service”

“Feed these cottages and homes along the lake with cable TV and internet and natural gas. Our tourists would love this”

“Tough area to address! Continue to inform and educate with respect to the positive impact of “shopping locally” (shopping in the broad sense which includes services)”

“Include a space for them on East Ferris website if not already done, build a plaza where they could be located together”

“Shop locally if possible”

“Keep taxes low, apply for all applicable grants”

“Just a little more of an accent on visual arts would send a message that the villages of Astorville/ Corbeil are prosperous, progressive and confident business environments. Beauty and success attract growth, creativity. People want to be where it’s at, or at least close-by (look at what the beautiful flower arrangements have done for the heart of Corbeil)”

“Develop specific locations in the Municipality as a business area, where the community can attend to undertake their banking, do their groceries, see a medical doctor, one stop shopping. The Astorville corridor around the Community rink/ rec center would also be an ideal location for a farmers market”

“Better internet connectivity for home based businesses”

“Identify improvements in cellular and internet services”

“Host a Christian revival”

“Maybe offer first year free table in trade show for businesses located in East Ferris”

“Keep tax increases to a minimum”

“Reduced zoning restrictions”

“Plan for long term renewable energy project to benefit and serve the whole community.”

“Keeping taxes low for business”

“Maintain current tax rate”

Question #6

What goods and services would you purchase that are not currently available in the community?

Survey Results Summary

The most common comments in terms of what goods and services would you purchase that are currently unavailable in our community are as follows:

- Professional and medical services – need for a medical clinic and pharmacy, additional doctor and dentist, etc.
- Restaurant
- Natural gas
- Transportation
- High speed internet
- Car wash
- Farmers market and hobby farms

Individual Responses

“Free run chicken eggs, poultry meats. Another doctor in the area would be great”.

“Food (restaurants), clothing and pharmacy”.

“Free run poultry and eggs, pharmacy goods”.

“Gift shop, car wash, bank, pharmacy, restaurant or coffee shop”.

“Restaurant and health care center, Accommodations (i.e. B&B or hotel)”.

“Improved internet service greater health care services and medicine, paramedical facilitates etc.”

“Natural gas and alternative high speed internet”.

“Health hub”.

“A little eatery place”.

“Medical building and community area support, having a local doctor”.

“Full service restaurant. Health care center, doctor, dentist, visions, pharmacy etc.”

“Pharmacy, massage, physio”.

“Almost everything”.

“A nice eat in restaurant”.

“Encourage support small hobby farms which sell fresh eggs. More seniors apartments to retain population and provide employment”.

“A good coffee shop/ restaurant”.

“Bring back swimming lessons for the kids in the summer, not at 8am when the water is freezing cold. Build a trail system to better access various parts of the community. Offer a shuttle to North Bay. Offer a service to get people around the Municipality, Golden Age Club, library etc.”

“Restaurants and other lodging”

“Health and wellness-there is minimal in the way of RMT, haircuts, a coffee shop, breakfast, lunch spot would be wonderful”

“Natural gas”

“Groceries, meat and fresh produce”

“Leisure activities. A little restaurant or coffee shop to sit in”

“Already try to support businesses in community”

“I would welcome multiple internet service providers to provide internet services in our township. There are many ways to do this. If the consensus is that people want improvements, then sharing this cost as a whole would be reasonable and affordable. Some communities are creating their own business to provide internet services as an infrastructure service, or partnering up with other providers like hydro to reduce costs and tapping into government funding for these services”

“High speed internet”

“I don’t know much about this one but, I would recommend doing more consultation with the community and collect some demographic information when you do so you can group the response by age at least ...people have different needs across the lifespan”

“Tim Hortons, Restaurant, Car wash, Fresh Farm produce, fitness gym in Corbeil”

“In Corbeil, I am 12 minutes away from Perron Building Supply and 13 minutes from Home Depot....I would appreciate a general store type of business where I could buy a few nails or screws without running into Home Depot”

“Grocery store”

“Boat or canoe rentals at Big Moose or South Shore boat launches”

“Corbeil could use could use a “No Frills” type of store around Corbeil corners. Right now I drive into North Bay to spend 200-300 weekly on groceries. I know that I am not the only one, but there is nothing here. Actually even if I need milk/bread I will drive to the city or wait until the next day as few corners stores that are here gouge the locals/travelers etc. I know firsthand that I am not the only resident that feels we could benefit from this type of store”

“Health Care”

“All is good as is. We work and go to North Bay almost on a daily basis and don’t feel we need to use our tax dollars to bring services here that are available in town. Keep our township rural”

“Corbeil corners needs a Tim Hortons or a No Frills, something like that. I believe that Corbeil could use a public pool or splash pad”

“More restaurants”

“I am still learning about what is available but I would use a local indoor pool if one was available”

“Cable TV. Cable internet. Natural gas”

“Pretty tough for business to compete with North Bay just 20 to 30 minutes away”

“A news outlet of some kind to allow people to find out what’s actually going on in our community”

“The problem is most of us work in North Bay so we are likely to buy our gas, groceries etc. in North Bay. Although I go to Perron’s Freshmart occasionally and Lucky 13 for beer and coolers. Most of my shopping is done in North Bay or sometimes in Callander”

“A small mall with a pharmacy would be an asset”

“Better internet services. Other services available in North Bay and don’t need to be available in East Ferris”

“A farmers market in the summer would be nice. Perhaps by Corbeil Corners in one of the parking lots. It’d be great to get to know local producers”

“Natural gas”

“Food, groceries, holiday rentals”

“East Ferris lacks a recreational planning that forces people to migrate to North Bay to recreate. Connecting to the existing Kate Pace Way trail system would connect East Ferris to North Bay, having rest stops with attached businesses along the trail would develop the community as a recreational healthy community. Moreover, these same trails can be used in multi-use capacity for cyclists, runners, hikers, walkers, x-country skiing in the winter months”

“Restaurant, medical office, bank and pharmacy”

“Restaurant and food services”

“Evangelical Church”

“High Speed internet”

“Café/restaurant”

“Restaurant”

“Food delivery”

“Renewable energy”

“Restaurant/hair salon”

“Natural Gas Services”

“In Astorville expanded Doc on the Lake. In Corbeil a restaurant where Janet’s used to be”

Question #7

Sometimes the smallest things we can do for our community have the biggest impact. Do you have a project or idea that could positively impact our community?

Survey Results Summary

Results vary greatly; therefore, a summary has not been provided. The purpose of this question was to have respondents think outside the box and provide unique ideas. The municipality will look at individual responses as we develop action items to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan.

Individual Responses

"A medical building. Would like to preserve our rural setting".

"Community hub, what are the needs and demographics in the community. Good relationship with schools and businesses".

"Additional public access to Lake Nonbonding (especially on the south shore). Ride sharing program/ website to encourage carpooling. Continue to support development of senior's villas".

"Could a medical facility be incorporated in a new office building"?

"Help out Golden Age Club".

"If there is sufficient work for a consultant to be hired regularly, as there seems to be a number of times a consultant is hired, create a position to fill the role".

"Children splash pad, contract work done before the fall frost. Lot size and building on smaller lots".

"Improved road surfaces, especially Lake Nosbonsing Road".

"Beach on south shore of Nosbonsing".

"The previous idea floated about a medical clinic combined with other commercial services, this is needed here".

"Development of more hiking trails, park areas. Use the old school for business and community services. Fix the Nosbonsing Road".

"I am trying to head up a health and wellness initiative that is starting to grow, but lack of adequate space is making it difficult".

"The Municipality should consider making an offer on the property on Guillmette Road which recently received approval for a subdivision. It would make a lovely conservation area for the community. There are already some trails on it and it's a beautiful forested area. It would go a long way in restoring the neighborhoods faith in Council".

“Biking lanes and routes could be developed. We ride these roads regularly, as well with friends from North Bay. Visitors from out of town look for healthy activities like this”.

“Encourage people to not throw grass clippings and brush into ditches. Encourage people to use garbage cans because every week the birds peck open bags and spread a mess. Something to help the turtles. Perhaps protective cages or signs could be provided”.

“Concentrate on our natural surroundings and nature”

“Responding to citizens sets us apart from large cities”

“Pilot project on green building technology”

“An activity outdoor park for seniors with various equipment. The school in Astorville could become a senior’s centre with bigger gym for pickle ball, a friendship center, coffee shop etc...it could be used for inter-generational activities”

“Farmers market along highway 17 (to maximize vendor sales)”

“There could be a designated booth at each community event that either educates the community or services as a fundraiser. For example, the arrival is free but there could be a booth where we could drop off donations for the bank or some other charity”

“Already wrote to council to express potential to increase curling club lounge to increase year round use”

“Public transit, small is fine, to North Bay or to the Community Centre and library, arena,a seniors bus would be awesome so our seniors can go out in the hot summers and frigid winters”

“Develop existing parks. Dugas Road, MacPherson Drive, Hillside Dr. Those areas have expanded over the years”

“Municipally provided internet”

“Bring back the basketball nets at the Community Centre, maybe have them bolted to the wall”

“We need to put East Ferris on the map. Unless you live here you don’t know where it is and the Dionne Quints aren’t even given credit for being part of Corbeil. I believe that we can bring a band or an attraction to town that will drive people into town”

“Provide a driving service for the elderly or sick to have groceries delivered to them and driving to bring them to appointments. Verses having medical services in the township. Embrace our culture and languages”

“I believe that we should enforce and put up signage that states we need to yield to first responders”

“Mini Mall/ Medical Clinic”

“A small mall with pharmacy would be an asset”

“There are some neat water parks we could likely give a try in Nosbonsing. I’m thinking of the City of Barrie, who has a floating obstacle /course playground. I’m not sure who operates it, just thought that might spark an idea with someone”

"When I was a youngster my parents would bring the family to the annual Astorville picnic. This was an amazing community event, perhaps a similar event would enable our community to reconnect and celebrate how East Ferris living is enjoyed by all"

"Develop existing parks- Dugas Road, McPherson Drive, Hillside Drive. Dugas and McPherson has potential to be a picnic and reading area so a gazebo and picnic tables would be nice. Those areas have grown and there is a need for good green space. For Hillside, the park is an open space with nothing in it. A playground would be nice"

"I suspect we have a lot of elderly people so to hold workshops on slips and falls, etc. Contact Public Health Unit for info. Provide suggestions to the number of residents who share private roads on how to maintain road in winter and summer, liability issues, sharing garbage bins, etc. Can be challenging agreeing on costs, provider, etc."

"A local restaurant/tavern/meeting area would help bring community together, families who eat together, stay together."

"Yes I do.... Bible studies"

"Safe neighbor program"

"Widen the road on Centennial Crescent. This road has become overly busy with the new developments and people can't walk or bike safely."

"A public private Uber type senior transportation services"

"Repave Lake Nosbonsing Road. Build new Municipal Office."

Additional Survey Comments

The final section of the survey provided an opportunity for respondents to provide any additional comments that they felt would be beneficial to our strategic planning. Below are the responses received.

"East Ferris has employees who provide great service. We like the annual municipal calendar. We like that East Ferris is on Facebook - growth in posts and communication is evident"

"Overall, love the living in Corbeil. Lucky to be living in the lake which is more affordable than other lakes in North Bay. Nice to see new member on city council."

"Staying a small community is a good thing; Sustainable approach to all projects is best."

"Municipality does a great job with the following: - tax mailout – very clear and well-presented – Calendar with all the key dates and information in it. That is great to receive. – East Ferris edition – glossy magazine. That is a great tool to showcase the voice of the place and I would encourage the municipality to support the growth of that magazine (more editions and more authors writing in it so more voices and stories get highlighted)."

“Continue the great work”

“East Ferris is a great place to live. Welcome to the new Councilors. Communication is of utmost importance and I notice that it has improved with the FB reminders about the Strategic Planning meeting coming up etc... Great Job! And thank you for considering the residents with this survey”

“We are very comfortable in our community and the hubs of the community are well used and appreciated. Holding the line on taxes is important so that people on fixed incomes can continue to live in our community”

“East Ferris is a great place to raise your children...At Carnival there should be bum slides and more outside activities for the children”

“My hope for this election cycle is to see the council improve the infrastructure for the dead zone for internet and foster business’ to grow and maybe bring more in”

“Promoting and supporting bilingualism is important”

“As a society we have reached the digital age. We use internet as a basic service for phones, communication (emails), paying bills, banking, online shopping, entertainment (t.v. movies) etc... Also businesses are doing more commerce through the internet by providing service electronically, selling products online etc. This will not only attract people but create business opportunities. As for the blue algae issue, I can’t be the only one that feels that a health bulletin in the news advising people”

“Thank you for the opportunity to complete the survey. Great idea”.

“I would like to know why there is a new structure put into place at the Cenotaph. The Municipality has been hush regarding the “spill” and the reclaiming process leaving out residence near or who are effected by the issue. Also, I would like to know if our fire department recoups any monies from Residences Insurance when going to fires/ accidents. I would like to also see the Municipality put up signage increasing the aware to the green flashing volunteer lights”

“I love our community”

“We drive to North Bay to participate in almost all youth sports/ activities. It would be great to have some summer programming options (near schools) for kids to join into. There must be some government funding available to hire some Canadore Rec students or Nip B.Ph. students”

“Side walk from the Freshmart to the building centre. People are crazy drivers on Village Road. There are children walking to St. Thomas and seniors out getting the mail and families walking their dogs”.

“All these outdoor amenities attract tourists and businesses to our arena and tourists, residents and businesses bring money...families bicycling together, stopping for an ice-crème or hot dog, stopping at the splash pad...and finally relaxing at their cottage. Accentuating the beauty of our natural landscape with the arts heightens community self-worth and promotes joy...trickling into our economy”.

“The recent election has resulted in change of leadership. I expect council to be transparent and place tax payers concerns in the forefront. Development must be assessed and carefully examined and must uphold and safeguard the environment and wildlife habitat. A balance must be struck between preserving the landscape, the country setting, versus urbanizing this community. Tax burdens from North Bay will no doubt increase pressures on Council towards local developments moreover increase property prices”.

“From a relative newcomer perspective it would be beneficial for municipality to encourage and assist with all exec’s from all organizations getting together to share ideas and discuss potential projects that would benefit all. Example having the curling club available in the summer for other activities such as shuffleboard and table tennis etc.”

“We moved to Corbeil 9 years ago from up north. And, chose to locate to east ferris versus north bay due to the country setting. Unfortunately I feel this is slowly deteriorating with the continuous building. Soon we will become an extension of the city and that would be very sad!”

Appendix A: Copy of Survey



STRATEGIC PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

East Ferris periodically conducts surveys as a means of soliciting ideas and opinions from residents, so we can better serve the community as a whole. Please take the time to complete our citizen survey. Your feedback is valuable, and this survey will assist the Municipality in assessing priorities for our community as we embark on our strategic planning process.

Survey results will be made available on the Municipal website and Facebook page in February 2019.

1. What level of priority do you feel the Municipality of East Ferris should place on the following service and ideals?

	High	Medium	Low	Not a Priority
Transparency and Communication				
Roads, Infrastructure and Connectivity				
Environment Protection				
Recreational Facilities				
Recreational Programming				
Parks and Public Spaces				
Safe Community				
Culture, Arts and Community Events				
Health and Care				
Economic Prosperity (growth)				
Community Development (enhancements)				

Additional Comments:

2. What are the most appealing qualities and/ or attributes about East Ferris?

3. What are the most unappealing qualities and/ or attributes about East Ferris?

4. What, if anything, do you feel the Municipality could do to support our environment?

5. What, if anything, do you feel the Municipality could do to support our economy or local businesses?

6. What goods or services would you purchase that are not currently available in the community?

7. Sometimes the smallest things we can do for our community have the biggest impact. Do you have a project or idea that could positively impact our community?
