

December 5, 2019

Township Council and the Portland Community
Township of Rideau Lakes
1439 County Road 8
Delta, ON K0E 1G0

**RE: “Creating the Future” – Community Visioning Exercise
Village of Portland
Final Report**

ZanderPlan Inc., in consultation with Mike Coxon (the Project Team), was retained to complete a community visioning exercise for the Village of Portland in the Township of Rideau Lakes. We have enjoyed working with Council and committee members, staff and residents of Rideau Lakes over the past few months through a series of community conversations and online input, and are pleased to submit this final report to the Township for your consideration.

VISIONING PROCESS

The Project Team was retained in mid-August, 2019, to complete the Community Visioning Exercise in response to the Request for Proposals issued by the Township in July. The project began with a meeting with staff and members of the Township’s Advisory Committee on August 16th, where the scope of the project and the proposed timelines were considered. A meeting with the full Advisory Committee was subsequently held at the Portland Community Hall on September 4th, where the workplan and timelines were confirmed. It was agreed that the Project Team would host three community conversations at the Portland Community Hall, and the discussion questions would also be made available to the public via Survey Monkey. Residents in the village of Portland and all homeowners with a Portland postal code were notified of the Visioning exercise by mail. The Survey was made available to the public from September 25th to October 16th, 2019. Three community conversations were held, two on October 4th (1 pm and 6 pm) and one on October 9th (6 pm). Residents were encouraged to attend only one community conversation or complete the online survey, so that their responses would only be counted once. Input was collected up to the end of the day on October 16th.

Following the collection of the data from the community conversations and the online input, the project team compiled the data into three summary sheets which were submitted to staff on October 28; a meeting to discuss the results was held with the committee on October 29th at the Portland Hall. The data summary sheets are attached as an Appendix to this report. A first draft

of the final report was submitted to staff on November 12, 2019, and the committee members and staff had an opportunity to review and comment. This Final Report is the end product from the visioning exercise.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

A total of three community conversations were held in the Village, with staff in attendance at each session to assist the Project Team. A total of 26 residents attended the first conversation at 1 pm on October 4th, and 14 people attended the evening session on the same day. On Friday, October 9th, there were 18 residents in attendance. Each session was run the same way, beginning with a positive conversation about the strengths and assets of the community. Participants were asked to answer the following question: What makes Portland a great place to live, work and play? They considered the question in small groups, and then the entire group discussed the results and recorded them on cards which were displayed on the wall. The group then worked together to sort the data under broad headings where possible.

The same process was followed as the group moved to consider two additional questions: What will Portland look and feel like in 2030? And, how will we know that we have made some progress? The answers to these questions were also discussed, displayed and sorted under broad headings. All the written feedback collected from the three conversations has been retained as part of the background material used to prepare this report.

ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey through Survey Monkey was made available for residents who could not attend one of the community visioning sessions. Township staff made the survey available through the website, Facebook page and other social media outlets starting on September 25th and ending on October 16th. Residents preparing the online survey were posed with the same questions and invited to submit their comments in writing. More than fifty residents responded to the online survey.

DATA COLLECTION

The Project Team worked to summarize the results from the community conversations and the online survey, gathering the data under broad headings for each of the three discussion topics; these summaries are included as an Appendix to this report. The Team subsequently met with the Advisory Committee on October 29th to discuss the process and the preliminary results. This final report summarizes the results from the visioning project for Council and staff consideration.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Participants in the visioning exercise were first asked to consider what they like best about the Portland area, what existing assets and strengths can be built on, and what makes Portland a great place to live, work and play. This was intentionally done to set a positive tone and get participants thinking in a positive way about their community. The strongest responses to this question all revolved around the Lake and the natural environment. Residents talked about the connection to the Lake and the beauty of the environment. Many of the other strengths and assets that were identified are spin-offs from the Lake, including parks and recreational opportunities and tourism.

The friendly, welcoming nature of the Village was also a strong asset identified by many participants. Residents indicated that they feel safe and welcome, have a strong sense of community and a feeling of belonging, and find neighbours to generally be caring and helpful. The small town atmosphere and affordability of the community were noted. Participants also spoke about the community involvement that they have observed, noting there are many community minded people and lots of talent and skills on which to build. They noted strong volunteerism and community involvement in events and activities.

The location of the village in proximity to nearby towns and cities, and the strategic location on Highway 15 were also identified as assets. Many participants noted that Portland has access to city services in Ottawa and Kingston within a reasonable distance, and the location of Portland on a major highway provides opportunities for the future growth of the community.

The variety of small town amenities and services that are available in Portland was also noted as a strength. Participants talked about the community health centre, the bank, library and post office, the LCBO, community churches and other assets which they felt contributed to the strength of their community. Participants also noted the affordability of housing and community facilities such as the Portland Hall contributed to the viability of the Town.

Finally, participants discussed the built heritage and the history of the community. This ties back to the overreaching asset of the Lake and the village's rich history of settlement on the Rideau system. A heritage core with quaint and charming older homes, a picturesque community and solid built heritage were noted as assets.

Overall, participants identified many things that they love about their community, and noted a lot of strengths and assets which can be built on going forward.

VISION 2030

This Vision of Portland in 2030 was created by consolidating the ideas and energy of over 120 people. Input was gathered through three public engagement sessions and data gleaned from over 50 survey responses and letters. All data/ideas contained in this Vision are taken directly from participants.

Ideas about what Portland should look like in 2030 have been grouped under several broad themes (bold text). Neither themes, nor ideas, have been prioritized. That being said, when looking at this Vision statement, readers might want to refer to what people have told us about the community's assets and what attracts them about Portland: the Lake and the natural beauty of the area and a welcoming Village where people care about one another.

This Vision statement can be used as a tool to help shape development, citizen engagement and promotion of Portland. Although there is a range of opinions and ideas about specific activities required to "create the future ", there is a high degree of consistency in what kind of Portland residents would like to see.

Vision 2030 - Summary of Themes¹

- **Improved, Sustainable Infrastructure, Responsibly Developed**
- **Portland as an example of sustainable management of tourism and development**
- **Vibrant village with an innovative economy - successful and stable small businesses**
- **Thriving, healthy and active community attracting young families, retirees and visitors**
- **Responsibly Managed and Developed Built Environment**

Vision 2030 – What People Said

Improved, Sustainable Infrastructure, Responsibly Developed

- ("bigger isn't better"; "much the same, but a bit larger")
- Balanced growth (i.e. growth doesn't hurt village feel or harm environment)
- Long term plan for proper infrastructure
- More affordable housing for families and seniors
- Graduated retirement facility (independent and assisted living)

¹ One participant's vision utilized a broad framework to explain her vision: "Portland -Microcosm of successful achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". Whereas this is one person's view, it does provide a useful way of connecting local development to the broader world.

- Safe walkable community; street redevelopment; improved street scape to attract visitors
- Integrated Transportation links (ability to get to/from Portland for people without a car)
- Adequate municipal water, sewer and septic system
- Improved municipal facilities: new library, community center and visitors center; Current hall maintained; active hall
- No more large buildings or complexes
- Commercial development limited, built in Victorian style
- Municipal and big businesses on Highway 15
- Electric docking for boats, cars, snowmobiles; no more traffic; adequate off -street parking, boat storage and access
- Better high-speed internet access
- Township offices at entrance to Portland; Moroni's property becomes Township office and library

Portland is an example of sustainable management of tourism and development

- Local food and labour
- Value of farming and local food
- Honour local heritage
- Economic development that honours and supports our natural assets
- Environmentally Conscious Development
- Plan to reduce climate change
- "Portland's future continues to be linked to the Lake" - Maintain, clean and improve environment -monitor and protect water quality along shoreline
- The Lake is Healthy & Enjoyed -sailing race; skate the lake is successful heritage event; vibrant Winter activities; lakefront interpretive center (boat building)
- Improved Harbour facilities; better public access;
- Active community (biking, hiking, canoeing outdoor gatherings and events
- Larger park, more green space
- Sustainable tourism: geology center; arboretum; multiple pollination gardens
- More Hannah park type community spaces on prime waterfront views; boardwalk, pier at Hannah Park

Vibrant village with an innovative economy - successful and stable small businesses

- Portland is an attractive destination
 - Center of Town -more activities for retirees; active living
 - Better presentation of government dock & seasonal parking
 - Waterfront festival; summer and winter special events

- Common themed and discrete signage: visual and textual
- Local investors, invest locally
- Improved by laws to support small business
- Green Economy
- Accommodation for tourists /visitors-small hotel (15-30 rooms); B&B(s)
- Build on services/infrastructure to attract businesses (drug store, a good grocery store, post office)
- Restaurant - visible from the highway & open year-round; ice cream shop; café
- Co-working and training center for growing Tech. Hub in Ottawa; retreat center

Thriving, healthy and active community attracting young families, retirees and visitors

- Renewed strength and pride in community
- Active Citizenship
 - Acknowledge home improvement and maintenance
 - Thriving volunteerism and events
 - Community is caring and supportive
 - Portland is home to young and old
 - Private money/investment
- Enhanced “youth-friendly community”
 - school with day care attached; splash pad
 - youth oriented community; more variety of kids’ recreation
- Improved Mobility and support for active living
- Electric car charging station; better bus connections to bigger centers; lit path from Kin Park to Village; sidewalks in good repair and accessible
- Community center is hub of community
- Virtual gathering spot web site/social media as community builders – to help connect with youth and cottages
- Other places for people to gather – café; restaurant, parks

Responsibly Managed and Developed Built Environment

- Heritage buildings have been maintained
- Beautiful buildings restored and constructed
- Any new development is low density
- Enforced/improved property standards
- Civic pride
- Community hall refurbished in current location
- Portland & Area Heritage Society informed and involved in evolution of Portland
- Emmanuel Center can become a beacon for arts and heritage in the community

- Development of Gallagher property retaining or repurposing the Anglican church
- Gallagher Property
 - Community driven solution
 - Greenspace /Park- farmers market (at pavilion) ; open air theatre, public use
 - Gallagher House rebuilt
 - Municipal infrastructure on Gallagher Property
 - Township office NOT on Gallagher Property-

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS²

Participants were asked to consider how the community would know that they achieved some or all of the changes and improvements that they envisioned during the community conversations. Many of the indicators that participants identified revolved around a strong healthy tourist industry that is active year-round, festivals and events, and an active and vibrant waterfront. A strong local economy, featuring restaurants, stores, services and tourist accommodation was also noted. Spin offs from these improvements were noted by the participants, including more local jobs, increased property values, and more dollars staying in the community.

Participants also anticipated improved services and infrastructure by 2030. Municipal water and sanitary sewers were discussed, as was reliable internet service, good roads and functional sidewalks, well maintained buildings and a lower carbon footprint. Protection of the water quality and managed of stormwater were also discussed.

Maintaining and growing the active, connected community was an important indicator for many. Participants stated that they would be looking forward to a community with a diverse demographic make up with children, adults and elderly live and participate together. They anticipate more full-time residents and permanent homeowners, with young families and elderly residents who can connect through a strong community hall and an active social network.

The continued protection and enhancement of the Lake as an important asset was noted. Participants talked about an attractive and inviting waterfront with enhanced parkland and recreation opportunities, balanced with the maintenance of good water quality and appropriate shoreline protection.

² As noted in the Vision , one participant put forth the idea that Portland would be well served if it tried to be a local example of the United Nations , Sustainability development Goals

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

OBSERVATIONS

A number of observations were taken from the surveys and community conversations:

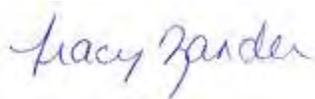
- Community identity seems strongly tied to the Lake (specifically) and to the natural environment.
- There was a lot of convergence with respect to broad themes in the Vision. The “how” or strategies may cause debate but generally it appeared that there is a shared vision.
- Economic, social and environmental development are intertwined - a triple bottom line approach is indicated³
- There are clearly some long-standing debates re: heritage buildings, the future of the Gallagher property and the degree of “business” that people hope to see (e.g. traffic, scale of buildings). It was evident that whereas there is probably no “right way” on any of these issues, people wanted to be involved in conversations and planning.
- A theme that seems to cut across the Vision is providing accommodation and other supports to enable older adults to age in place in Portland.
- With 125 + people having input into the visioning process, it appears that people want to be engaged in community building. It would be great to capture this energy in taking “next steps” in the local planning process. There also seemed to be substantial acknowledgement that people must go beyond simply providing opinions or having expectations of the Township. In addition to wanting to be part of decision making/planning, people spoke passionately about the need for local investment, taking personal responsibility and “working it out together”.

³ Triple Bottom line is a corporate management concept introduced in 1994 by John Elkington. The triple bottom line (TBL) is a framework or theory that recommends that companies commit to focus on social and environmental concerns just as they do on profits. The TBL posits that instead of one bottom line, there should be three: profit, people, and the planet. See <https://hbr.org/2018/06/25-years-ago-i-coined-the-phrase-triple-bottom-line-heres-why-im-giving-up-on-it>

CONCLUSIONS

The Project Team has thoroughly enjoyed working with Council, staff and residents of Rideau Lakes Township on this community visioning exercise. We sincerely appreciate the participation and candid discussion that came from the public, and would encourage the Township to build on the energy created by this exercise as you move forward to consider the implementation of this community vision. We would be pleased to assist the Township in future community engagement and strategic thinking should the need arise.

All respectfully submitted by:



Tracy Zander, M.Pl, MCIP, RPP

Encl: Appendix A: Community Assets
Appendix B: Vision Data
Appendix C: Indicators of Success

PORTLAND COMMUNITY ASSETS

The following data was obtained from three community conversations held in the Village of Portland (October 4th and October 9th, 2019) and from an online survey available to residents between September xx and October 16, 2019.

Approximately one hundred residents participated in the exercise. The following is a high-level summary of the key assets that were identified, in descending order of frequency:

Natural Environment

- the Lake, waterfront, peaceful and tranquil, beautiful, nature, recreation, parks, beaches, marina, dark sky, clean air, quiet

Friendly Small Town

- friendly, welcoming, caring, neighbours, safe, sense of community, helpful, small town atmosphere, close knit, belonging, affordable

Location

- proximity to cities and nearby communities, accessible to Ottawa/Kingston, strategic location, highway access, visibility

Basic Amenities and Services

- churches, health centre, LCBO, bank, post office, community facilities, library

Community Involvement and Events

- Skate the Lake, community minded people, community events, talent, volunteerism

Heritage and History

- built heritage, rich heritage, older homes, heritage core, charming, quaint, history of life on the Rideau, picturesque

Appendix B: Vision Data

Portland Vision 2030 Workshop October 4 Afternoon

Sustainable Tourism

Geology Centre
Arboretum
Multiple pollination gardens to boost tourism
Lake front interpretive centre boat building
Enhanced municipal beach
Tranquility
A vibrant cultural centre at the Emmanuel
Improved harbour facilities
Split of the Township harbour
Tourism based business

Modern Communications: Cell & Internet

Great high-speed internet available

Gallagher Park/Property

Gallagher park
Farmers market, open air theatre, public use
Community driven solution

Business Retention & Expansion

Restaurant
A good grocery store
An innovative economy
Stable and vibrant commercial base
A good year-round restaurant
Restaurant and or café
Marketing
More amenities
Mini hotel

Sustainable Enhanced Infrastructure

Municipal water and wastewater services
Improved municipal facilities eg library, hall
Senior housing complex
Transportation
Seniors facilities
Affordable housing
Much the same but a bit larger
Multiple housing options eg seniors, tourists
Street Redevelopment
Infrastructure improvements Service centre for twsp

Sustainable Environment

Clean the environment
Plan for climate change
Maintaining and improving environment

Enhanced Youth Friendly Community

A school with a daycare attached
Splash pad for kids
Youth oriented community
More variety of kids recreation

2-Portland Vision 2030 October 4 Evening Workshop

Services for Cottagers, Tourists, and Villagers

Vibrant village

Successful small businesses

Restaurant-visible from the highway, open year-round

Businesses for self-sustaining community

Grocery store, drug store, post office

Sufficient Infrastructure, Responsibly Developed

Better communication access, eg high speed internet

Balanced growth, traffic, parking, housing concerns

Biggers not better-do well

Long term plan for proper infrastructure

Build on services to attract essential businesses, eg. grocery store, drug store

Environmentally Conscious Development Is Reflected in the Community

Environmentally conscious development

Local labour and food

Honour local heritage

Active community, eg. Biking, hiking, canoe, gathering (picnic)

Economic development that honours & supports our natural assets

Value of farming community and local food

Land Uses that Reflect Village Assets and Natural Beauty

More public green space in the village and lake

Municipal and big business on highway 15

Boardwalk/pier at hanna park for pedestrians

More hannah park type community spaces on prime waterfront views

Waterfront-extended, beautiful, people friendly, accessible

Streetscape to attract visitors

Community Hall Refurnished in its Current Location

3-Portland Vision 2030 (October 9, 2019)

Protection of Gallagher Property

Greenspace on the Gallagher property
Beautiful park hosts community events
Farmers market at pavillion

Community Hub

Virtual gathering spot website/social media as community builder (youth/cottagers)
Replace restaurant
Coffee/restaurant gathering spot
Community centre is hub of community

Sustainable Development (environment, economy)

Electric docking for boats, cars, snow moblies as infrastructure
Safe walkable community
Local investors invest locally
Green economy
Improved by laws to support small business
No more boat trailers on the street
Better septic/water management

Responsibly Managed and Developed Built Environment

Heritage buildings have been maintained
Beautiful buildings restored and constructed
Any new development would be low density
Enforced/improved property standards

Active Citizenship

Acknowledge home improvement/maintenance
Thriving volunteerism and events
Private money
Community is caring and supportive
Portland is home to young and old

The Lake is Healthy and Enjoyed

Healthy lake
Sailing race
Skate the lake is a successful heritage event
Vibrant winter activities
Better public access to the lake

Township Office not on Gallagher Property

Township office at entrance to Portland
Moroni's property becomes Township Offices and Library

Integrated Public Transit

High Speed Internet

Microcosm of UNSDG 2030 Successful Accomplishment¹

Appendix C: Indicators of Success

What makes Portland a Great Place in which to Live or Visit?

Respondents

Responses

1	quiet, quaint, lovely old homes, the lake, tranquility, people's gardens; NO ugly box stores or offices blocking views of it's most attractive feature: the lake; waterfront area only has 2 story buildings near it; still a nice view of the lake;
2	Waterfront. Basic amenities. Claire Jacobs' Art classes are wonderful. Bayview staff are super friendly. Library is great. The scenery is amazingly beautiful.
3	Heritage core with proximity to highway
4	What makes Portland a great place to live or visit is: 1. Big Rideau Lake 2. Access to Highway 15 3. The potential that Portland could become the jewel of the Rideau that is so obviously should be
5	Waterfront, Kin Park
6	Nothing at the moment. It has fabulous potential with its prime location as the only village within TRL which is on the Rideau, positioning on Hwy 15 btwn Kingston and Smiths Falls/Ottawa, central location within TRL
7	Great waterfront. Charming and small. Tight knit community
8	I love the quiet town
9	A sense of community. I have been living here since 2012 and have loved it, and plan to live here as long as possible. People are friendly and helpful. Rideau Lakes is a beautiful place to be.
10	First, I would like to say that I have participated in an 'in person' Visioning Exercise. Although I found this to be a positive experience, the other people in my small group did not share my ideas and there were not enough words permitted to adequately express them. Thus, I hope this input will be considered. These ideas were not previously shared. Portland is a wonderful place because it is near the Big Rideau Lake and consists of a beautiful rural landscape, nestled within the gorgeous Rideau Lakes Township.
11	The waterfront, the small town atmosphere, the people.
12	Small ,close knit, community. Beautiful area.
13	the Big Rideau Lake
14	Affordable water side living and all of the recreation benefits that that allows without having to pay waterfront prices. This makes Portland an ideal place to raise a family. The seasonal businesses make for good student jobs close to home for youth. The village atmosphere feels comfortable and safe.
15	Lake, small, quiet, friendly
16	A Quaint Little Town, Unique simplicity peaceful and crime free. Easy Accessible to larger centres .
17	Local Community, Great access to Big Rideau Lake system, access to local Health services, Close to Ottawa, Kingston, Brockville

18	Portland is a good place to live or visit as it embodies a history of life on the Big Rideau. Living in or visiting the community is a way to connect with the lake and is a gateway to alot of natural beauty. The beauty of Portland is that it is not pretentious, but rather a place to experience the local laid back lifestyle.
19	The lake
20	Great sense of community, and of course the water.
21	Proximity to the lake, nature. Proximity to Kingston. Quiet. Safe. Cataraqui Trail. Beautiful trees in the village including those on Gallagher House property.
22	The VERY small town atmosphere. The NO BIG BOX STORES, NO TIM HORTON'S, NO FAST FOOD!
23	The lake
24	Big Rideau Lake and the natural environment surrounding the community.
25	the lake and the village atmosphere,
26	The lake is amazing
27	Location on the Rideau
28	The small community feel, the lake and beauty
29	Small village feel
30	Proximity to Big Rideau Lake
31	The lake and the parks
32	People are friendly and it is small and personable
33	Lake side location
34	access to the water by boat and swimming programs and activities at the Portland hall access to health care
35	- quiet and picturesque village overlooking a beautiful lake - close proximity to larger centres that allows you to commute to a job but return to the lake at night
36	The water
37	the lake going to the cottage and the great events at the united church.
38	Hanna Memorial Park. And I love that the village is nestled into a hillside.
39	It's people
40	Portland has the makings of a great destination city easily accessible from Ottawa or Kingston. HAs the capability to be another WestPort or the equivalent of a Gravenhurst of the Muskoka's.
41	Quite
42	The docks and the setting. Len's Cove and the LCBO are key too. The grocery store is ok.
43	It is real and accepting
44	The beautiful lake and the park.
45	Water access
46	Proximity to the Big Rideau Lake and the Rideau System. Quiet community with friendly neighbours.
47	The people and beautiful landscapes

48	<p>We don't go into the village because there is nothing there other than the LICBO. Grocery store is a disappointment because the food is stale and has made people sick. The restaurant The Galley, is over priced and closes early so we don't eat there, instead we go to Kingston. The gas station is great we appreciate the service being available 24hrs, and the staff is wonderful, Doc is an awesome guy and the station is open at 5am when we leave for work. Roseanne at the LICBO is wonderful too she brings in different products when we ask for them sadly they close early and close on Sundays so we have to go to Elgin. The beach is adorable and nice to have skate the lake. The people in the area are awesome and very supportive and helpful to each other. What's great is that the snowmobile trail takes us into Portland where we get gas and are often stopped by other snowmobilers asking where there's a decent restaurant to go to for food, sadly there is nothing at all to recommend so we send them to the Cove in Westport.</p>
49	<p>Access to Lake, public beach, friendly people, playground, amenities, community events like BBQ chicken dinner</p>
50	<p>Welcoming community in a beautiful location - quaint</p>

What Existing Strengths and Assets can we Build on?

Respondents

Responses

1	view of the lake; small size; nice older properties; quaint looking; + location on the lake
2	More dining options. More walking trails.
3	Heritage buildings and relatively stable population
4	<p>Along the Rideau there are very few access points from a town/village where views of the Rideau can be enjoyed from land. The view from highway 15 into Portland (southbound) could provide a beautiful view of the lake by removing some of the trees, this would make more people aware of the beauty of the lake and encourage more people to stop and visit the village.</p> <p>The Town dock should have a Township of Rideau Lakes Town Dock sign. At the moment Le Boat customers have no idea where they should be mooring their boats.</p> <p>We now have an empty lot where the Gallagher property was. Plans should be implemented rapidly to develop this property, preferably into an area which provides a hub to the town; perhaps owner operated store front with residential apartments above. If this lot is allowed to sit for too long it will just add to the whole feeling that the town is dying rather than moving forward and attracting more people/business.</p> <p>Houses/business that are deteriorating and/or adding to the run-down look of Portland should be subject to stricter property standards. The Moroni property needs to be demolished. There is also a building alongside the Gallagher property which is being allowed to fall into a mess with "Flea Market" goods scattered throughout the land, old cars/motherhome and general junk just left to suffer the elements. It should not be allowed right in the centre of a village which needs improvement and where the vast majority of homeowners are taking great care of their property. Business zoning along Water street should not allow for storage of junk for flea markets all over the property.</p>
5	Properties owned by municipality down by the water
6	See previous response. Also: High traffic area because of Hwy, launch point for island property owners. LCBO, Bank, Post Office
7	We have the waterfront, get more business and activity by it
8	Tourism- restaurants, better grocery store, coffee shop, drugstore, shopping
9	Community. The community gardens at the Health centre is great. Also more events in Portland other than Skate the Lake and the summer fun.

10	Clearly, the lake is the most valuable asset, as well as it's position within the Rideau waterway and system of lock stations. This asset must be protected and nurtured. Improved septic and drainage systems are essential, as well as strong regulations concerning water frontage and recreational usage (fuel, size of motors and speeds are of concern). Recreational opportunities are the strongest commercial assets. I hope Portland will see itself as part of a bigger network of towns and hamlets, benefiting from the entire Cataraqui Trail and the museums, lockstations and parks throughout the canal system.
11	More Hannah park type initiatives that showcase our waterfront not hide it. New builds and the cleanup of existing properties
12	Waterfront and green space.
13	the shoreline of the Big Rideau Lake
14	The lakeside location is definitely the finest asset. Proximity to the Cataraqui trail. Most parts of the village are picturesque. The government docks. Portland is very fortunate to have Country Roads Community Health located here. Events such as Skate the Lake.
15	Lake, beach, parks, green space, quiet village
16	The Community Centre Hanna Park The Beach Public Docks Anglican Church Purchase.
17	Tourism, 2 marinas, local services, etc
18	Please build on the laid back and peaceful atmosphere of Portland and continue to make it a welcoming and comfortable place for visitors without any frills. Most importantly please respect the environment and strive to do as little harm as possible to the wildlife, trees (flora and fauna) that we share this space with.
19	Hanna park
20	Natural heritage, community spirit, natural landscape.
21	Waterfront. Public dock and beach. Green spaces. Small but important business community including bank, LCBO, gas station, grocery store. Would be nice to better connect the Cataraqui Trail and Kin Park to the village.
22	The village's proximity to the water is it's greatest asset. Somehow get the parking lot for trucks and trailers out of the village core. Have public washrooms immediately accessible from the docks, garbage cans to control the litter, a boardwalk with space where where local artisan shops / market / craft / food etc. can set up during the warmer months, from the water back (drawing people back to hwy 15) instead of along the waterfront.
23	Clean water, historical heritage buildings, extended waterfront community
24	Great location, well established with dedicated, caring residents.
25	the lake,

26	Tourism
27	Cheaper real estate, proximity to smith falls and close to kingston. Natural beauty and outdoor lifestyle
28	The proximity to the lake
29	Natural surroundings
30	Develop the waterfront, restaurants, music in the park, incorporate the lake in the summer
31	Continue to build skate the lake. -get a band to play at the hall -I've sculptures - more food options Hold a summer festival Develop an economic development committee Creat a park on the old Gallagher House property, have bike rentals, ice cream shop, outdoor farmers market there. Build a crystal palace there like Perth has (great revenue source for town) Build paths for people to walk. Use the old rail road tracks, cove road, etc.
32	The galley could be better, and would attract more boaters
33	Lake, small community, easy to get to
34	Portland hall with the 2 floors, stage great kitchen Main hwy distance from cities and towns skate the lake and other activities health centre, bank LCBO gas station
35	- the lake, of course - winter and summer - strong volunteer base - active church organization - retirees with considerable knowledge and skills
36	Bring more attention to hwy 15 area
37	the church , skate the lake, post office lens marina,
38	Businesses! There used to be beautiful, booming little businesses in the village. The grocery store is a dump and sells rotten food. The restaurant on tgd corner is now in shambles, the boutuques that once werd are non existent. Tge waterfront properties are (mostly) a disgrace. Particularly beside the beach. And the large cedar gedfe of the government docks definitely detracts from the beauty that exists there. So much potential to beatify this little village!
39	Hannah Park, put a splash pad there for kids.
40	4 season Waterfront destination. Build on Lens Cove and Bayview as anchor tenants and develop the commercial waterfront in between and surrounding. To be honest, Lens Cove restaurant is a 1 star food restaurant.
41	Marinas
42	The waterfront.
43	Idk
44	Tourism. A family restaurant.

45	Waterfront and retail
46	Township owned property like the Gallagher House land, the community centre and the Hanna Park.
47	The community drive to gather together
48	People work together because we love our village. We are willing to support businesses and restaurants and pubs or bars if they're there in the village. We have the money to spend and so do our neighbors but there is nothing to spend it on in Portland other than gas and liquor.
49	Improving government dock and Gallagher property.
50	More local restaurants needed. In past vibrant community with Gallagher House that had a wonderful restaurant that attracted people to the community. Also ladies wear shop - Portside- made Portland a destination. Shops and restaurants need to be incorporated into the plan to attract visitors traveling on highway 17 - look what Kilborns has done to Newboro.

What would you like to see in the Village by the year 2030?

Respondents

Responses

1	Limited commercial development, built in Victorian / historical styles that attracts some tourism; e.g. a few cafes / restaurants; preferably in small one or 2 story "shops" with 1-2 upper residential apartments for the owner of the business, or other rental client; bookshops;
2	More options for affordable housing for families and seniors. More frequent bus service to larger Centres. Signature event in the summer months. More garbage cans. More pride in keeping houses and properties tidy and maintained. More apartments, condos, duplexes or similar housing options.
3	Better signage and more vibrant businesses to encourage visitors to make a stop and discover the beauty.
4	<p>A priority would be a revamp of the roads and sidewalks in the village. The regeneration of Elgin is impressive and a similar exercise would be a much needed improvement to Portland. People need to be able to walk around the village on sidewalks without the risk of falling because of the bad state of the sidewalks.</p> <p>Portland in the summer is a parking lot, Cars and cars with boat trailers are taken up by people who park for 1 or 2 weeks at a time. All other towns on the Rideau system have restricted parking, why is Portland an exception? There are parking areas but are not being used. "No Parking" signs should be in place similar to Newborough. Restricted parking on village streets would be a huge improvement.</p> <p>R35 should be maintained by the Township and hardened much like other roads have been. It is opposite the village and feels connected. More importantly it is an extremely busy road with customers from the marina, plus movement of boats, plus residents who are now mainly year-round. If business is to be supported I am sure the marina customers do not want to drive on a road which is most of the time very challenging and sometimes all but impassable due to the heavy use and especially after heavy rain.</p> <p>Sewer/Water system implementation would be a great asset to encourage more development and attract business.</p> <p>The use of the conservation area should be encouraged with the addition of a beach area. Other areas on the Rideau have beaches for example Westport, Rideau Ferry.</p>
5	New community hall, outdoor community space, library and mixed use of commercial/residential building.
6	Graduated retirement living facility (independent and assisted living plus LTC), township offices, new community centre/hall, a good pub, coffee shop and pub restaurant, a decent grocery store, EV charging stations, RV dumping station

7	A waterfront festival. More businesses you can walk to off the water. More advertising about portland
8	Local stores
9	Making it the centre of the township with more activities for retirees.
10	I would like to see adequate septic, water and drainage, safe, walkable and bike-friendly streets and opportunities to be active and gather together. I would like a broader concept of the village which includes the Portland Bay Conservation Area, boat launch and a restored boardwalk. There are a few areas of public access to the water now but this needs to be maximized over time for swimming and active watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddle boards).
11	<p>Considering the Community Centre, I think the location is ideal in our village but don't believe major tax dollars should go into renovation of an outdated older hall. Yes some minor repairs but I would prefer a new centre in the same location. I am not the only one who feels this way but there is a strong group that feel SAVE the hall no matter what!!!</p> <p>My second comment is that our waterfront is our strength and crucial to our future. Therefore the Municipality needs to take charge to make it the best it can be. That means a major tourism draw to the Gallagher property and relocation of the houseboat storage area on our main harbour. Give the property owners storage space somewhere else but you have to remove the hedge and storage and open the view to the lake and the municipal docks. There are a number of properties along water street that need a push to improve their setting. Hannah Park is a prime example of doing something right that benefits both residents and tourists.</p>
12	More young families. Fixed up, sidewalks and public property. More care put into homes. Pharmacy and better grocery store.
13	Municipal Infrastructure on the Gallagher House property such as offices and a library.
14	<p>Development of waterfront space to enhance its use and maintain free access to the lake.</p> <p>A new library facility.</p> <p>More commercial offerings.</p>
15	a larger park/more green space, updated community hall, larger library, another restaurant or coffee shop. No large buildings or complexes, no more traffic.

16	<p>Would like to see the community centre go through a face lift, add a proper commercial Kichen , redo the face, add patio doors and a outdoor deck, make it very desirable to rent out for functions to draw people to portland, encorporate it with Hanna Park . Make Money from it.</p> <p>Would like to see two docks at Hanna Park , one for swimmers and sitting on, the other for launching Kayaks. Would be nice to make Portland a desination for Kayakers Big Rideau is the best place for kayaking. Colonel By for an overnight stay also. Would like to see a side walk , walkable around the whole village.</p> <p>Would like to see a basketball Court for older children, Like to draw young families to Portland, not just a retirement community , a balance , which would any businesses like grocery store , restaurants , like to see the Township support the existing businesses , there are 500 boats in Portland alone. There are many regular weekenders from them alone, Ask them what they would like to see on weekends in Portland. It would be good to have a more Organized public docks, specific docks for larger boats and other docks for transeint small boats. Have hours of launching for Water St. From 8 a.m . before that they can launch on hwy 15 , Charge Boater \$10 for Non resident launches and charge for parking with a machine. Daily, weekend or weekly , Enforce a desinated truck trailer Parking with signs. Have more stop signs in Portland at all interections.</p>
17	More stores, Perth Main street style, restaurants, Pub(s), OPP station, Grocery store. More organized parking, trailers off of sidewalks etc
18	Would like to see steps taken to protect the environment, water quality, trees and wildlife in the village and surrounding area. Would be great if Portland could be an example of sustainable ways to manage tourism and any development with a focus on the priority of protecting the natural environment.
19	The Gallagher house rebuilt
20	Pharmacy, new community hall , better presentation/appearance of the government dock, and seasonal parking.
21	The town to be on municipal water and sewage. A lit path from Kin Park to the village.
22	have you ever been to merrickville, newboro or westport? a good variety of shops/attractions to keep people coming year round. a nice beach for swimming. a pharmacy, some smaller lease/buy commercial/office space (along 15, not in the village core). a beer store
23	A few businesses sustained by the lake population during the summer months. That requires easy boat access to the town however which is currently restricted by the townships self defeating policies on the use of its public dock

24	A municipal sewer and water system is the only realistic solution to the groundwater sensitivity identified in the Queen's University / Ministry of Environment study five years ago and the only way that slightly higher density seniors apartments, long term care facilities, affordable family housing and commercial services such as accommodation and restaurants can be achieved. Effective treatment of storm water is also needed.
25	a hotel and a breakwater
26	More small restaurants. Farmers market or some form of permanent stalls to sell local produce, cheese, beer, bread Pastries. Summer small music concerts jazz in the park that sort of thing. A local brewery. Coffee shop although these may be seasonal it may be enough to keep the village alive during the summer months. Maybe capitalize on the lake during the winter. Cross country ski, skating, fishing with fishing and cookouts
27	A co working and training centre for the growing tech hub in Ottawa. This could be a long term or short term retreat centre for companies like shoplift and others. A cool, cottage vibe compound where groups can go and disconnect from city and explore nature.
28	N/a
29	Restaurants shops
30	More restaurants events in the parc in summer
31	I would like to see changes implemented. Build community involvement and Portland as a tourists town. I also hope to see more shops and restaurants open.
32	Not sure
33	Electric car charging stations
34	Active hall with activities for all ages affordable housing available lake view like Mill Bay United church still active Portland Hall well maintained streets in good shape new businesses

35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portland is no longer a parking lot - the standing joke is it is 'open season in Portland, they don't care' - a 'pass' system for tax paying (incl. summer) residents for street parking, boat launching and dock usage - visitors pay to launch a boat, park huge trucks and trailers, some park and leave for weeks at a time, these are no longer half ton trucks and fishing boats, they are 100K to 150K worth of boat and motor alone - washing stations for boats so that invasive species are not getting a free ride to the next lake or into ours - we say we care but we do nothing - bylaw enforcement system has to change - completely and totally not effective as it stands - if we do not respect our home/village no one else is - "clean up and they will come" - attract business - perhaps an inn with a dining room - maintain green space - refurbished community hall
36	<p>Encourage business and home owners to update, bring more small businesses or restaurants</p> <p>Is it weird I have lived in the township my whole life and don't know what's passed RBC bank. Is there restaurants by the water, parks?</p> <p>This year i learned where the ball field is</p>
37	<p>a real grocery store ,at least like elgin, where everyone goes anyways,with fresh produce not just chips, a friendly staff that can actually move around to show you things you cant find and has honesty. iwent inthere in sick and he gyped me out my money and iwill not forget it and iwill tell other people it makes me sick. I don't think that will help the town any ,will it? this town is full of money waiting to be spent in the summer by cottagers, there is no reason why it shouldn't have nice shops and services like westport or merrickville. Everyone in town complains about this. expanding library and hours. more housing for seniors. tennis courts in town. adrug store.A restaurant. A better beach. A park. Better community centre with more functions. kayaking/paddleboard /canoe rental or something similar to draw people to area.Stores</p>
38	An ice cream shop or cafe. Small boutiques/stores for tourism and locals alike.
39	Current Hall maintained.
40	<p>Would like to the see the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Community boardwalk type of environment 2) Adult lifestyle condominiums 3) A Place to host outdoor concerts/venues 4) Water-ski evening shows 5) water ski/wake board ski school 6) farmers market taht accessible by boat and car
41	N/a

42	Another restaurant or cafe. A few shops.
43	Tim hortons at the gas station, a breakfast joint in the village. Rideau restaurant torn down and an exercise park be built. A weed shop in the old store on water street.
44	Development of the Maroni property. Hoping a family style restaurant and perhaps a few stores. It is an ideal location as it can be seen from HWY 15.
45	Vibrant waterfront , improvement in local retail..would be nice to shop right in Portland
46	Hopefully much soon than 2030 but I would like to see the old marina building on Hwy 15 gone and Moroni's restaurant gone. They are eyesores that give people going by the wrong impression of the village. It would be nice if some retail (say a pharmacy) and/or senior type residence could go in the spaces. I also like the idea of township offices at the Gallagher House property.
47	A new library, community centre and visitors centre. Local businesses and new infrastructure.
48	That's a long way off.. we would sure like to see something happen a lot sooner. Restaurants and bars/pubs that stay open until at least 11pm on weeknights with great food and reasonable prices.. we don't need anything fancy only good food for the money. We would then go out for dinner in Portland instead of driving to Kingston or Perth it Westport. We would love a quaint garden market grocery store like Kirk and Cathy used to have.. like the Gordon's Freshmart in Elgin. A bakery coffee shop would be amazing too... people love to go to breakfast restaurants and bakeries. Great when you're snowmobiling. A Theatre production show happening in the Community centre in Portland. Dances would be great.. on a Friday Night or Saturday night with great music.. great county Dance music.. weekend dance exercise classes or just dance lessons at the community centre would be great too. A lot of us work and can't do such classes during the week during daytime work hours.. we need these things in the evening and on weekends.
49	Development of the Gallagher property, retaining the Anglican Church (or re-purposing)
50	See above - more restaurants and shops to make Portland a destination for visitors and provide employment for residents

How will we know when we Achieve the Vision?
(what indicators or developments will be a sign of success)

Respondents

Responses

1	Success NOT based on the greatest number of vehicles and bodies seen in the street. Success is maximizing the sense of community and social life of its residents. "Development" for the sake of bringing tax dollars to township coffers is a sign of failure to nurture its citizens.
2	Increased tourism. Increased number of affordable housing options. Village homes and businesses have a well maintained look and a cohesive, welcoming feel. Great reviews on social media. Popular reviews on sites such as Air bnb and Trip Advisor. Festivals that attract thousands and all those people stay in the Rideau Lakes area. Portland is seen as a wonderful locations for retreats and meetings. And the townspeople have stopped arguing and they get along.
3	Increased visitation numbers, stronger businesses, younger general population.
4	Success will be measured by how many people will want to live/visit Portland and when new business will want to come in. Portland is starting to evolve from its origins as a transient port serving summer vacation homes to an area now where more people are living full time. If this trend continues then the vision will have been achieved. However, people need the services and amenities associated with today's lifestyle for this to happen.
5	OverLI satisfaction, togetherness between visitors, residents and surrounding communities
6	Portland is as much a destination for residents as Westport, a must stop for people travelling Hwy 15 to Ottawa and boaters transiting the Rideau Canal. Price of housing rises. Retirement destination of choice for current residents and those who have come to love the Rideau
7	You will have more tourism and see better curb appeal from both the road and the water
8	Tourism all year long
9	Happy to continue living here for my retirement.

10	The streets of the village will be full of people walking, biking, using wheelchairs and enjoying this beautiful space. Cars and boat trailers will be parked on the periphery due to the creative and low emissions initiatives of municipal government (parking near the Hwy with electric shuttles bringing pedestrians and boaters back to the village and their vessels (for a fee). There will be an attractive boardwalk and other appealing waterfront usage. People will fully benefit from the experience of RL Twp by travelling throughout the network of villages/lock station, measured by #'s of visitors and/or #'s of rides on local tour buses. Small business people will begin to see Portland as a good place to begin entrepreneurial activities.
11	When Water Street becomes attractive and inviting for both residents and tourists and offers a view of our lake along the length of the street. Some tough decisions but good ones needed. Change needs to happen and I think the Council are on the right track 🍷📍
12	Pretty obvious.
13	a more attractive and busy waterfront will attract more small businesses and restaurants.
14	Waterfront spaces will be well used by locals and visitors, allowing businesses to thrive. The town will feel pride in its resources and facilities.
15	the community is proud to call Portland home
16	When things are actually done.
17	As above.
18	Signs of success will be that Portland will be an environmentally conscious and green village and that every project taken on will take the Hanna Park approach, protecting the shoreline by leaving native plants and a green border, planting flowers and shrubs to attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators and leaving mature trees where they are. Cultural events that happen should respect the environment and nature and should reflect a sustainable approach. A big sign of success will be a healthy shoreline and lake.
19	More permanent home owners, or landlords that perform regular maintenance, when residents gravitate towards Portland rather than other communities.
20	Have to town on municipal water and sewage. Have more local year round businesses, especially restaurants and cafes. Have less run down properties. Have a beautiful and safe connection between the village, Kin Park and the Cataraqui Trail, a path for walking and cycling.
21	when the locals are happy
22	When there are thirty local day traffic boats tied up at the dock representing lake based users who are doing things in town (and no reserved and overnight spaces blocking other visitors from the lively life in town).
23	The facilities noted in #3 will be achieved.
24	presence of a hotel and a breakwater and the benefits they will bring.
25	A centre as described

26	You may have more families living in the village . The stores that ate present are not just meeting the needs of a transient community
27	The existence of the aforementioned
28	Better roads, more families
29	It will be a success based on the economic growth in Portland. Summers will be the biggest indicator, with tourists.
30	Probably when you have more traffic in and out
31	What vision? I don't understand this question
32	population growing and affordable housing lots of activities at the hall the Portland hall is well maintained inside and out
33	When we feel a sense of pride!
34	Traffic flow Oh let's bring attention to places like the library. I am loving using Lombardy library. Let's draw attention to what we have to offer.
35	Activity in the town . Money in the community. people will stay here and shop. it well look like a town people working together. Outside people saying they are going to Portand for the day.
36	Co-operation from the township would be my first pic. Allowing conversion of properties to become commercial. Permits and inspections to be timely. Allow for people's visions to become a reality without the hassle. And when you see the hustle and bustle in the streets again and the sense of community, yoh know you have done something great!
37	When you start restoring Portland's buildings vs tearing buildings down. Improvements to the government docks. Advertise parking areas and better utilize Hannah Park.
38	a) Increased population b) commercial waterfront development (restaurants, shops, etc). c) increase prosperity, jobs for the community d) increased taxes, etc.
39	N/a
40	People will come just to see the village rather than just to launch their boat. Newboro has it and it doesn't even have waterfront.
41	Good clean water, insta hashtags on signs ect. No plastics and all things sold to go in glass or metal.
42	More visitors to the village. Interest in people looking to settle in and near the village.
43	Concrete plans
44	Crappy unoccupied structures torn down. Increased commercial base.
45	People returning to Portland to patron local businesses. The visitors centre welcoming new boaters and the library and community hall acting as hubs of the heart of the community

46	<p>We have achieved our vision when everyone wants to come to Portland instead of Westport. Success is</p> <p>Measured by the number of restaurants and bars and coffee shops and grocery store that are open decent hours and are full of customers and People.</p> <p>People loving to go into Portland off the snowmobile trail because there are great places to eat in the winter.</p> <p>Thriving theatre centre filled with attendees enjoying great performances and socializing with each other at the local pub in town after the show.</p> <p>Having everyone come out to dances on the weekends and enjoy great music like they have at the cove.</p> <p>Portland has so much more to offer if we just give the village a chance to develop to serve the clientele.. and the clientele that have the money to spend are the working folks that love to go out and socialize together. Our strength is to bring people together over great food and great music in a great village.</p>
47	Gallagher property not empty and exit from government dock not unkempt.
48	Portland become a destination - I want to visit a tearoom on the water - or roadhouse.

PORTLAND COMMUNITY: INDICATORS OF SUCCESS IN 2030

The following data was obtained from three community conversations held in the Village of Portland (October 4th and October 9th, 2019) and from an online survey available to residents between September xx and October 16, 2019.

Approximately one hundred residents participated in the exercise. The following is a high-level summary of the key indicators of a successful community in the future that were identified, in descending order of frequency:

Tourism

- supportive tourism development, farmers market, bustling community, great reviews on social media, festivals, location for retreats and meetings, increased visitors, destination, year round tourism, greater use of the Lake, attractive and busy waterfront, cultural events, more boat traffic, hotel, economic growth

Business and Economy

- restaurants, year round businesses, thriving community development corporation, commercial waterfront development, jobs for the community, increased property values, money stays in the community, jobs, destination

Services and Infrastructure

- water and sewer, good internet, drainage, water quality, basic services for residents, better roads, sidewalks, increased property values, lower carbon footprint, well maintained buildings

Active Connected Community

- community participation by all ages, demographic diversity, young families, sense of community and social life, satisfaction, retirees, more permanent homeowners, full time residents, affordable housing, population growing, activity in the town, active community hall, active artistic community, Gallagher Centre and Emmanuel Centre, community pride

Nature/the Lake

- attractive inviting waterfront and parks, Lake is clean, community green space, active waterfront for visitors and residents, environmentally conscious, green village, shoreline protection, lower carbon footprint