

LSD of Douglas
Information Session
June 28th, 2016
Cardigan

Dave Duplessis, Chair of the Local Service District of Douglas Advisory Committee opened the meeting and welcomed all.

Dave gave an overview of the roles of the LSD Advisory Committee as well as an overview of the budget and cost associated with services.

Overview:

- We are divided into three areas with different tax rates for each area;
 - Douglas Inside – from Route 104/105 intersection northeast along the Keswick River and up Route 104, including Route 616 and a portion of Route 620 towards Stanley.
 - Douglas Lower – along Route 105 to the City Limits and all side streets excluding the Carlisle Road.
 - Carlisle Road and all side streets therein.
- Fire service mainly comes from the Keswick Valley Fire Department with the exception of a portion of Douglas Lower and Carlisle. These areas are serviced by Fredericton Fire Service and this amount has been increasing over the years with an increase of 52000.00 in the 2016 budget.
- All members are elected for a four year term, we are an advisory council only and have no authority for financial collecting and spending – this is done from the central office through the current Minister of Local Government Brian Kenny.
- Policing has been turned over from Provincial taxing to Municipal taxing over the years, when the Municipal taxes goes up the Provincial goes down.
- Garbage collection, animal control, recycling, recreation and administration services costs are all items listed in the budget as well.
- The LSD of Douglas has been presented with maps that have carved off sections of the LSD into proposed Rural Communities, it is our intentions to inform the residents of your area of these maps and information we have received concerning Rural Communities.

Overview of the initial Pros and Cons of a Rural Community vs an LSD

Pros

- Community governs itself by providing residents the opportunity to choose representatives who will make decisions that reflect their views and concerns for their area.
- Each designated area (ward) will have its own representative which is similar/same as a City, Town or Village.
- Better identify the needs and concerns of local services and better align services, needs and wants of the area that they are willing to fund.
- Ability to make local decisions and budgets.
- By law making powers and enforcement with Rural Planning, dangerous and unsightly premises, zoning.
- Financial powers, budgets, set tax rates, user charges, access to financial assistance programs.
- More authority on the RSC11 Commission – presently all Mayors on RSC 11 has a seat and voting authority, of the remaining 25-30 LSD Chairs, only 6 of those have a vote.

Cons

- Another level of Government
- Need Mayor and councillors .
- Need administration clerk and office accommodations (current admin costs increased by 34% for Douglas lower and Carlisle in the 2016 budget).
- Taking on too many services to rapidly (only Rural Planning, Emergency Planning, Recreation, and administration must be taken on).

*Please note that as time progresses and more information is gathered, pros and cons will change.

- Meetings has taken place over the last three months with the LSD's of Keswick Ridge and Estey's bridge to view the maps they were presented with and a newly formed committee called the York Incorporated Community has been put together to further identify the need or desire for a rural community, this name was chosen as a generic name that reflected the area but is by no means the name of a Rural Community if we are successful in forming one.
- Subsequently, surrounding LSD's of Keswick Ridge has come together to form a working group called York Community. The last meeting was held on march 29th , at such time the name York was chosen as a generic name that cover the area in which we are looking at incorporating.
- We are here tonight to share this information. At some point, a decision will need to be made on these issues and it is better to be proactive. The choice needs to be yours. At present, it looks like there are three options – connect with the proposed York Community, or with the Estey's Bridge Community or stay as is. What the stay as is will look like in a few years' time is anybody's guess. The movement does stem from the Finn report which suggest that our areas be included with Fredericton.

John McPhee, Chair of LSD of Bright

- This is the 8th year for the LSD for me, our area includes the Mactaquac area, most of Route 104 and up and out to the Becaquimic area. If we don't have an LSD then we don't have a voice and I think it is important to have a voice, I stay on because we need a voice. With the talk of a Rural Community, we really do need a voice or we will just be where Government puts us and we may not like that.

David Coburn, Chair of LSD of Keswick Ridge:

- Overview of the LSD of Keswick Ridge.
- Fin report came out in 2008/09, the areas of Carlisle, Douglas, Keswick, Burtts Corner, Zealand, Keswick Ridge were all noted as being a part of Fredericton.
- At that time, we the LSD of Keswick Ridge were concerned about that report and started talking about a Rural Community and in the winter of 2011/12 we reached out to our Fire Service area which includes parts of the LSD of Bright and Lower Queensbury to further discuss the viability of a Rural Community and with positive feedback we decided to proceed with the communities of interest.
- Local Government present the varying LSD's maps and proceeded to tell each that we were all on board.
- Our LSD began talking with the LSD of Kingsclear, this talk began with the issue of the Mactaquac Dam.
- We are now talking with the LSD of Douglas, Kingsclear, Bright and Queensbury to determine an interest.

- We have since learned that Local Government has chopped of pieces of the LSD's of Kingsclear and Douglas, we feel the residents of the areas should choose where they want to be.
- We have chosen a generic name of York for our working group.
- At the end of the day, it will be the individual communities that decide on a Rural Community and the boundaries. It seems you have 3 choices – towards Estey's Bridge, west or towards the city – change, I do believe is coming.

Debby Peck, Chair of the LSD of Kingsclear:

- Gave an overview of the LSD of Kingsclear.
- With recommendation that we amalgamate for cost savings of the LSD tax bases, back in 2005 the LSD's of Hanwell approached the LSD's of New Maryland and Kingsclear to discuss forming an RC, they were turned down by New Maryland but received a positive response from Kingsclear.
- These two groups worked together for a period of two years, eight people from each LSD were in this group, they gather much information and submitted a letter to Government for a feasibility study.
- In 2012 the Minister agreed to proceed a feasibility study, subsequently, the LSD of Kingsclear opted out. – this was done through phone surveys, paper surveys, etc.
- Hanwell proceeded with a plebiscite for this area and with only 500 people out to vote, they were successful in becoming an incorporated community.
- Right now – our advisory committee is responding to the Minister of Environment's directive to us that the current government is moving towards a Rural Communities and the RSC 11 will be assisting the LSD's in that move to become RC's. There are various maps like the two proposed tonight and as David mentioned, the decision will be yours to make as it should be rather than one we have to accept. Our LSD will continue to engage with other LSD's to continue the discussions of an RC.

Robin Anderson, Chair LSD of Estey's Bridge:

- I can't add much more other than to say that change is coming so we should be thinking of this concept.

Map Viewing by residents-

- From the floor ◦ From LSD Chairs

Questions: We will try and answer your questions.

- My property is half in the Parish of Stanley and half in the Parish of Douglas, speaking of crazy maps, the LSD of St. Mary's also started out much the same way as Keswick Ridge and then they were presented with a map that included this area. Where I live, many of our interests would more in line with the Stanley and Nashwaak region. I was under the impression that the Rural Communities were based upon communities of interest – my community of interest would be the Stanley region. From the meeting with the LSD of St. Mary's, our next step was to find out what the community of interest would be from this area. It is my inclination that I would like to have a councillor to represent me from around the Stanley area.
 - In saying that – whatever area you go with, you will still be dealing with the bulk of the population.

- Regardless this is the first of a series of meetings in the area, not the last, think about your community and where you want to see it, this is the first time in 50 years that we may have the opportunity to choose your community boundary.
- When we talk about where we belong, and I see on the map places like Mazerolle Settlement, if there were decisions to be made here, would they really care about what we need or want in this area or would the people that we are closer to like Stanley would care more because this is where our kids go to school, we go to church, etc.
 - If you lean to the Stanley area/St. Mary's area, you will still feel the same effect, the larger populated area will still be near Fredericton. If you have strong representation then you should be well represented. The councillor has to address the concerns of the citizens. Theatrically, it should all be equal.
- The larger population of St. Mary's will be close to Fredericton, what do you mean?
 - Same either way, population is always closer to Fredericton
 - The tax base will reflect your needs, if you require something in your area, then it is paid for by your tax base.
- So we would have more say as an RC
 - We would have a lot more say than LSD's.
- Tax rate, nobody knows what that will be?
 - Taxes never go down
 - We currently pay administrative cost to the Province but don't get a good return on our money, that may change. We pay for things like our budget but don't receive them in a timely manner.
- Every argument for a RC has a bit more say on major projects like Mactaquac & Sisson, being near Stanley and the Nashwaak region, I would want them to have a bit more to say on the economic benefits or downsides of the Sisson Project, the same as Kingsclear would want a say on the Mactaquac project, As the area I live in, I would rather have a say from the Stanley/St. Mary's standpoint as this is the area that would be most affected. It seems that Stanley will be dumped in the St. Mary's project whether or not St. Mary's or Stanley wants that.
 - Local Government is telling us each a story.
- What is the benefit for Douglas to keep it?
 - Economic spin off
 - Tax base
 - Since the Sisson Project is in the LSD of Douglas, it would be in York project.
- The Government is telling us that the LSD boundary can change and other areas can take this area if that is what is wanted.
 - They are telling us it can stay in Douglas
- If it can change, why do you want to keep it?
 - Tax base
 - Could also be a liability
 - Workers may live in your community, increases the tax base as well
 - Road infrastructure/upgrades
 - Sisson Project is potentially good and bad for both area.
- Why is this about a map from St. Mary's?
 - St. Mary's LSD is also working towards a RC and much like Keswick Ridge, they started with the LSD and Local Government came back with a larger map, which includes this area along with Stanley, Taymouth and the Nashwaak Valley area down through Pepper Creek, it basically follows the Nashwaak Watershed.

- The St. Mary's project has approx.. 13,000 in population and over 400 Million in tax base.
 - We are defending our three LSD with our proposal.
- What if someone in the Stanley area decides that they want this area and disputes this map that you have, is this a done deal?
 - Nothing is written in stone
 - Take this summer and decide what is best for your community
 - Our plan is to submit a letter to Local Government for a feasibility study in the fall
- What do you want us to do for the next steps, do you want a letter with signatures from this area saying what they would want?
 - Government needs at least 25 names for the process to be started to be removed from an LSD.
- Can we get another meeting soon with the other map from St. Mary's LSD? To be honest, St. Mary's sounds interesting as well and I would like to make an informed choice
 - No matter what is chosen, it won't change where your children go to school or play sports
- I know that but my grandchildren are all out the St. Mary's way so I do stuff there so that makes it appealing.
 - You are speaking of communities of interest as your guide
- Yes, exactly
- It seems we are the last to know what is going on and you and Government have already been working on this
 - This is the third information session in the LSD of Douglas
- You stated that you began last fall
 - The York Committee only became to be in March of this year
- In fairness, we had no idea of what this meeting would be about this evening.
 - Communication has been lacking and can be expensive if we rely on Canada Post.
- Social Media is a good outlet
 - We now have a website that came about from our first info session in Douglas, our meetings will be posted on there.
 - Tell your friends and neighbors, they in turn can tell their friends and neighbors and so on, and we will use Social Media as well as the emails that you provided us with this evening.
 - More education and media will spread the word
- It would also be beneficial to see other maps from around us. It seems that there is a invisible line at Hamptown Corner, for me, my community of interest would be Stanley, that is what I see. If these lines are movable, what are our neighbors thinking and so on. So for me, I am trying to figure where we fit.
 - Areas will not change, they will still be Cardigan, Tay, etc no matter what RC you are with.
- What is carved in stone is that they want to do away with the many LSD's
 - Not too many areas in the Province where two RC concepts are going in at the same time that covers the a portion of the same area
 - We are actually looking three possible areas for RC's , there is room for three RC's, St. Mary's, York, and one that would include Millvile, Nackawic, etc.
- If the Royal Road area wanted to go with St. Mary's, can that happen?

- The area would have to go as a whole, meaning that an area in the middle would need to agree as well, Government would not entertain islands left.
 - When Hanwell happened, Government decided that smaller areas like that couldn't happen again, for the Province, nothing was gained, it is a small area.
- Estey's Bridge will at some point need to make a decision as to where they would like to be
 - And for me, it doesn't matter, it's still Estey's Bridge
- It doesn't matter where we go, in the end a little spot like Curriesburg is inconsequential in the bigger picture

Conclusion of Meeting

- We would like to have another meeting as soon as possible to answer more questions we have and to have the map from St. Mary's present.
- Need to get the word out by word of mouth, Social Media, Flyers up, etc.
- The next meeting will be on Aug 9th at 7PM, same location at the North Cardigan Church.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Wendy Brewer

Secretary

LSD of Douglas