

REPORT ON:
RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING FLIP CHARTS
June 28/06

"ASSETS"

CASINO RAMA "ECONOMIC"

SUSTAINABILITY

- Government deal after 2011
- smoking bylaw passed
- deal with Penn National (company that manages Casino Rama)
- if Casino stays then developers are ready to put in theme park
- economic value – right now nothing; if deals made - could be huge

THREATS

- need a deal between Mnjikaning & government this fall or next for long term licence
- need a deal between Mnjikaning & other First Nations
- impact on Ramara – we have no control
- Casino has cost us money (\$600 each house) re: roads, traffic, accidents & emergency services
- difficulty in getting meetings with Mnjikaning – no plans can be made

**RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING
"ASSETS"
June 28/06**

LAKES SIMCOE "ENVIRONMENT"

SUSTAINABILITY

- Yes, with the right management & lots of time

THREATS

- pesticides and fertilizer
- overuse of boats – gas/oil
- leaching of salt/sand
- zebra mussels
- weeds overgrown because of fertilizer
- fish threatened because of weeds

HOW WILL THEY OVERCOME THREATS?

- have local politicians with vision (past their term) to implement policy & work with all levels of government
- work with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority
- make sure issues like this are on school's curriculum
- public education – awareness groups
- build partnerships with all lake communities

**RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING
"ASSETS"
June 28/06**

RAMARA CENTRE "SOCIAL"

SUSTAINABILITY

- keeping the interest in the ongoing programs & sustaining the activities e.g. summer camps; soccer; yoga; square dancing; cubs; brownies; seniors' programs; youth dances; Our Ramara Festival; rentals etc
- keeping the interest of the community residents
- to make it sustainable we need volunteers not only those working but new volunteers
- you must treat your volunteers well to sustain them also

THREATS

If user fees are equalized with Orillia

- if user fees are equalized with Orillia

**RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING
"ASSETS"
June 28/06**

**RAMARA CENTRE "BUILT"
COMMUNITY CENTRES**

SUSTAINABILITY

- sharing resources (skate park)
- trail system

THREATS

- declining neighborhoods
- lack of volunteers
- changing council
- funding
- government - standards compliance bylaws
- transportation

**RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING
"ASSETS"
June 28/06**

POLICE/ AMBULANCE/FIRE "SERVICE"

SUSTAINABILITY

- due to adequate funding & law abiding citizens
- threats of population will resolve with increase tax base

June 28/06

Surprises

- that the Casino did get mentioned re: economic
- that the farms were noticed
- didn't mention snow & garbage services
- First Nation hardly mentioned
- volunteers not mentioned
- very little about private sector services
- differences in perspectives
- Fish fence is most unique
- the volunteer effort here today
- different ages & length of time in township etc; yet consistency of value of township
- that Mnjikaning didn't get more reference
- need to keep teens in the community

What does it mean that we are surprised?

- take some things for granted e.g. volunteers; snow & garbage; Casino; 1st Nation
- provide opportunities
- call to action
- difficult to narrow to three because some were missed
- private sector activity not necessarily in Ramara
- no hub – community fractionalized
- we are a "community of communities"

Why did we choose these assets?

- chose what they are involved with
- related to age
- most visual
- prompts from visitors
- why people want to live/stay here
- strong sense of community
- pleasure & relaxation
- based on where you get work/make living
- satisfaction of being involved

RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING FLIP CHARTS
July 5/06

"ASSETS"

CASINO RAMA "ECONOMIC"

SUSTAINABILITY

- due to location eg. Tourist donation
- due to seasonal & permanent residents
- due to advertising – successful campaign
- by offering more entertainment ventures
- close proximity to large urban centres (ethnicity)

THREATS

- due to ongoing disputes over dollar allotment
- due to jealousy from other bands for their popularity
- due to governmental reasons eg. Non-smoking; commitment to stopping gambling addiction
- due to economics: one recession & it's all over
- due to population wages eg. # of people on assistance

How will it overcome those threats?

- offer/build more family entertainment
- provide \$ to community to upgrade services/facilities
- more communication is needed eg. No more power struggles
- develop partnerships

RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING "ASSETS"
July 5/06

LAKES & WATERWAYS "ENVIRONMENT"

SUSTAINABILITY

- Provincial laws re: pesticides
- Clean Water Act
- Source Water Protection Act
- active volunteers
- Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority
- SSEA
- active MP & MPP
- education
- Fish Fence Circle
- Trent Severn
- Inter Governmental Action Plan (County of Simcoe)
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention
- children & concern for environment

THREATS

- growth & development
- pesticides
- overuse (risk of inviting tourists)
- too big of boats
- zebra mussels
- cormorants
- shoreline erosion (natural)
- no co-ordination of governing bodies

RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING "ASSETS"
July 5/06

VOLUNTEERS "SOCIAL"

SUSTAINABILITY

- recruiting – personally ask
- Volunteer Fairs
- Faith Fairs
- Information Orillia; 211 services
- Our Ramara Database
- locals & new people
- recognition
- give them responsibility
- give them something to do
- give them something they want to do
- let volunteers do what is assigned to them
- do a "mini" strategic plan with volunteers
- think outside the box
- ask how to do things "differently"

THREATS

- near burn-out (volunteers take on too much & spread themselves thin)
- younger volunteers not stay with it (shorter commitment)
- more commuting for bigger paying jobs
- more urbanization – less feeling of community as areas get more developed
- people not involved in own community
- different mentality – stay isolated

RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING "ASSETS"
July 5/06

LIBRARY / COMMUNITY CENTRES "SERVICE"

SUSTAINABILITY

- people / community groups
- funding (annual & capital)
- awareness
- partnerships
- transportation
- promotion
- volunteers
- Friends of the Library
- Ramara library quilting club

THREATS

- lack of volunteers (criminal checks)
- lack of use (numbers)
- lack of community support & municipal support
- lack of required funding
- change in provincial/municipal priorities
- lack of transportation

HOW WILL THEY OVERCOME THREATS?

- educate community
- fundraising
- develop more partnerships

RURAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING "ASSETS"

July 5/06

MNJIKANING FISH WEIRS "BUILT"

THREATS

- increased boat traffic on Trent Severn
- fishermen (including Perch Festival)
- ignorance – non-awareness of site
- ego-centricity re: weirs & whether they should be there or not
- policing & enforcement of damage a problem (actually MNR job)
- minimal legal consequences (not criminal, only provincial offence)
- seven groups involved when making decisions on the site:
 - Federal – Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries
 - Federal – Parks Canada
 - Ramara Township
 - City of Orillia
 - County of Simcoe
 - MNR – provincial body oversees fish & game
 - Rama Mnjikaning First Nation (has historic relationship; not legal)

SUSTAINABILITY

- Parks Canada was doing regular monitoring of site (unsure if it continues)
- Bridge widening – Parks Canada removes 200 stakes with no consequence & protection of the stakes is now Mnjikaning Fish Fence Circle members
- Provincial offence protection only
- Mnjikaning Fish Fence has members from Mnjikaning First Nations & Government

HOW WILL THEY OVERCOME THREATS?

- involve the politicians & get their help
- don't have complete consistent & co-operation of Mnjikaning First Nation politicians or community
- poor physical access to site
- need interpretive centre on sit
- how to "shake awake" community leaders to be part of solution

NOTES to July 5/06

CASINO

3 people

- taken as a given

LAKES & RIVERS

8 people

- important asset
- cannot live without water

VOLUNTEERS

3 people

- many organizations & associations exist only through volunteerism

LIBRARY

4 people

- provides a community hub

WEIRS

4 people

- one of a kind
- historic sites being lost
- preservation

July 5, 2006

Surprises

- quantity & quality of what we have
- Ganaraska trail not mentioned
- quarries not mentioned
- assets of Mnjikaning mentioned a lot
- relationship developing
- not too much mentioned on agriculture
- nothing about Ramara Trails
- differences in perspectives
- Fish fence is most unique
- the volunteer effort here today
- different ages & length of time in township etc yet consistency of value of township
- that Mnjikaning didn't get more reference

What does it mean that we are surprised?

- thrilled by diversity
- need to increase the awareness of things less mentioned
- some assets eg. Agricultural under estimate contribution or taken for granted
- identified things that will help community grow vs. what helped us develop eg. Quarries, lumber

- have more clarity & bigger picture for future
- closing the loop with education & promotion eg. Farming, services, fish fence etc

Why did we choose these assets?

- familiarity
- obvious
- we're involved in them
- personal
- employed by
- separates us (uniqueness)
- conscious choice
- great potential

**INFORMATION FUNFEST COMMUNITY MEETING
JUNE 3/06**

What do you value most in our community?

- recreation amenities
- volunteerism
- how beautiful it is
- friendliness
- caring for each other
- cooperation between areas of the community
- Library
- preserving the environment