

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

for the

TOWN OF BOW ISLAND

FOR THE PERIOD OF
2010 TO 2015

Adopted by Town of Bow Island Council on 8 March 2010
Resolution Number 2010-03-02

Introduction

In May 2005, the New Deal for Cities and Communities (NDCC) between Canada and Alberta was signed to transfer federal gas tax funding to Alberta municipalities. Subsequently, each Alberta municipality was invited to join this program and signed an agreement with the Province of Alberta outlining the requirements and benefits under the program.

The NDCC provides financial assistance to municipalities to support the sustainability of capital municipal infrastructure. Through this investment municipalities have the opportunity to maintain or enhance economic, social and cultural opportunities and well being, while protecting and improving the quality of the environment.

Funding under this program supports the development of public roads, transit systems, water and wastewater systems, solid waste management, community energy systems, and community capacity building.

Included in the list of eligible projects are design and engineering services, vehicle purchase, construction and rehabilitation. In addition, the program may include barrier-free transportation initiatives to improve accessibility for seniors and persons with disabilities.

As part of the agreement, municipalities are required to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) by March 31, 2010. This long-range plan has four dimensions – environmental, cultural, social and economic. It is to be developed through consultation with the community and its purpose is to provide direction to their Multi-Year Capital Infrastructure Plan.

This plan provides a summary of what our vision for the Town of Bow Island is in the future, how we will achieve this vision and how we will ensure its sustainability.

Special Notation

Please note that the Town of Bow Island ICSP is a conceptual plan only. All items included are dependent on the determination of funding sources, which includes the availability of grants, levies, development contributions, local financial participation and taxation. Elected Councils may change and priorities can be altered.

Current Situation

Located in south-eastern Alberta, and centred between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, the Town of Bow Island contains 606.9 hectares (1499 acres) of urban development. Major land uses include large areas of residential, industrial, transportation and utilities, parks, institutional and commercial land uses. Approximately 1/3 of the Town is vacant land awaiting development.

According to the Municipal Census taken in 2006, the population of Bow Island was 1868. Since that time, there have been 31 additional dwellings constructed and the Town is experiencing near a zero vacancy rate. Therefore, the current population is estimated to be between 1898 and 2034.

In 2006, the labour force over 15 numbered 950. In comparison to Alberta as a whole at that time, Bow Island had a high rate of employment in agriculture, wholesale trade, health and Social Services. Employment was comparatively low in manufacturing, finance and real estate, and business services. Since then Bow Island has added a number of manufacturing businesses and the economy is somewhat more robust.

The County of Forty Mile No. 8 surrounds the Town of Bow Island. The total population in the County is approximately 3,414. There are 771 farms scattered throughout the County with the majority of the rural population living in the northern, irrigated areas which surround the Town. The majority of residents living in the County are employed in the agricultural industry.

There are a few areas of concern which Council would like to address, falling into the four broad categories of economics and the economy, the environment, society and culture. The main areas include development of a new residential and industrial subdivision, improvements to the Town storm drainage system, upgrades to the water distribution and sewage collection systems, enhancing volunteer firefighter capabilities, and assessing the recreational needs of new residents.

Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

BOW ISLAND

CLEAN

+BEAUTIFUL

+SAFE

+VIBRANT

+ DYNAMIC

=

HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

Mission Statement

Our mission is to maintain a high quality of life
utilizing the strengths of our people and our
agricultural advantage.

Four Dimensions to be integrated within the Plan

Task 1: Economics and the Economy - The system of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. Emphasis is placed on the efficient use of infrastructure and resources.

Goal 1: Completion of a 47 lot residential subdivision and development of a new mobile home subdivision

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island
- ii) **How** Land development funds
- iii) **Why** A major wind development project will commence construction in 2012 employing up to 350 construction and 100 permanent workers.
- iv) **Time frame** 2010 - 2012
- v) **Cost** \$1,883,000 for the residential subdivision; cost of the mobile home subdivision to be determined
- vi) **Plan to Sustain** Dependent upon land development funds

Goal 2: Development of a new industrial subdivision

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island
- ii) **How** Land development funds
- iii) **Why** The existing industrial subdivision is nearing maximum capacity and there will be additional demands for industrial land resulting from increased population growth and potential new development associated with nearby Wind Energy developments scheduled to start in 2012
- iv) **Time frame** 2012 -2025
- v) **Cost** \$3,209,000
- vi) **Plan to Sustain** self sustainable from land development funds

Goal 3: Development of a new residential subdivision

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island
- ii) **How** Government Grants and Land Development Funds
- iii) **Why** The existing residential subdivision is nearing maximum capacity and there will be additional demands for residential land resulting from increased population growth within the next 10 years. Prior to development there is a need to do preliminary engineering studies and install required trunk sewer and water lines.
- iv) **Time Frame** 2015 – 2020
- v) **Cost** To be determined
- vi) **Plan to Sustain** Self sustainable from Land Development Funds

Task 2: Environment - Deals with the surroundings or conditions in which a person lives or operates within, and includes how the world is affected by human activity.

Goal 1: Upgrades to the water distribution and sewage collection system

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island
- ii) **How** Provincial Grant Funding
- iii) **Why** Required to renew existing sewer and water systems
- iv) **Time frame** 2010-2015
- v) **Cost**

Year	Water	Sewer
2010	769,000	652,000
2011	390,000	452,000
2012	323,000	563,400
2013	559,000	652,000
2014	290,000	642,000
2015	764,000	
Total	\$3,095,000	\$2,961,000

- vi) **Plan to Sustain** Dependent upon provincial grant programs

Goal 2: Development of a storm drainage system for the Westview subdivision

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island
- ii) **How** Provincial Grant Funding and land development funds
- iii) **Why** New subdivisions are required to have a storm drainage system
- iv) **Time frame** 2010
- v) **Cost** Included in the cost of the Westview subdivision
- vi) **Plan to Sustain** Required for future land development

Goal 3: Development of a Plan for the replacement of the Existing Landfill Site

- i) **Who** North Forty Mile Regional Waste Management Services Commission
- ii) **How** Provincial Grant funding and tipping fees
- iii) **Why** The existing landfill site used by the town and surrounding area is located in the SE 23-11-11-W4 and has a remaining life expectancy of only 12 years. It will take several years to investigate the feasibility of developing a new site.
- iv) **Time frame** 2015 – 2020
- v) **Cost** To be determined
- vi) **Plan to Sustain** Required for future population growth

Goal 4: Purchase of updated equipment for the Town as shown in the following list:

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island
- ii) **How** Fundraising and Capital reserves
- iii) **Why** Existing equipment is outdated.
- iv) **Time frame** 2015-2020
- v) **Cost** - See Table below:

vi) **Plan to Sustain** Dependent upon need and availability of

Year	Item	Cost
As required	Backhoe	\$70,000.00
As required	Grader (used)	\$60,000.00
As required	Garbage Truck	\$230,000.00
As required	Fire truck(used)	\$100,000.00

Task 3: Social - Deals with items relating to communities and societies, and how their organizations design activities/services for people to meet and live together in communities.

Goal 1: Development of housing strategy for the Town of Bow Island

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island, Forty Mile Foundation
- ii) **How** Provincial Grants
- iii) **Why** Long waiting list at the existing low income house project, seniors apartments full; aging population, new influx of people; large industrial project on the horizon.
- iv) **Time Frame** 2010 – 2012
- v) **Cost** \$20,000 - \$30,000

Goal 2: Repairs and updates to the existing community hall

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island
- ii) **How** Provincial Grants, capital borrowing
- iii) **Why** The existing community hall is in need of repairs but there is not sufficient demand to justify construction of a new facility
- iv) **Time Frame** 2010 – 2012
- v) **Cost** To be determined

Task 4: Cultural - Deals with the customs, institutions and achievements of a particular people or group within an area. This may include the appreciation for arts, sports, senior housing or other collective activities.

Goal 1: Assessment of the recreational needs of the Town of Bow Island

- i) **Who** Town of Bow Island Recreation Board, FCSS
- ii) **How** Town staff and or consultants
- iii) **Why** Existing sports programs are declining; need to engage existing youth in new non-competitive sport or recreational activities.
- iv) **Time frame 2011 - 2012**
- v) **Cost** \$0 - 10,000
- vi) **Plan to Sustain** Dependent upon response to the study and demand for services.

Conclusion

Historically, the system of civic decision making has operated within a short-term time frame. Town Council and other governance boards in Bow Island operate with budgets that span a short time period (usually a year). Sustainability planning requires a shift to planning to a 10 – 25 year period of time. Shifting from short to long term thinking will require commitment and on-going communication between the residents, Council and staff of the Town of Bow Island.