



Ward 5 – As We Heard it Report

Introduction

At the City Council meeting of December 14, 2022, Councillor Clarke Kelly brought forward a motion directing the City of Ottawa to host a Rural Summit during the current Term of Council (2022-2026). The Rural Summit 2024's objective is to recommend improvements to the City of Ottawa services for residents and communities of rural Ottawa. These recommendations will be based on the feedback received from the various public consultation efforts taking place throughout the Rural Summit 2024 timeline.

The rural communities in the city of Ottawa are Ward 1 Orléans East-Cumberland, Ward 5 West Carleton-March, Ward 19 Orléans South-Navan, Ward 20 Osgoode, and Ward 21 Rideau-Jock.

In-person workshops have taken place in each of the rural wards in the hopes of gaining as much feedback as possible. Throughout these workshops, residents were given the opportunity to express their questions, comments, concerns, and ideas with City Councillors, City staff, and workshop attendees.

This “As We Heard It” report highlights the table themes and feedback captured from the Ward 5 workshop that took place on June 1, 2024.

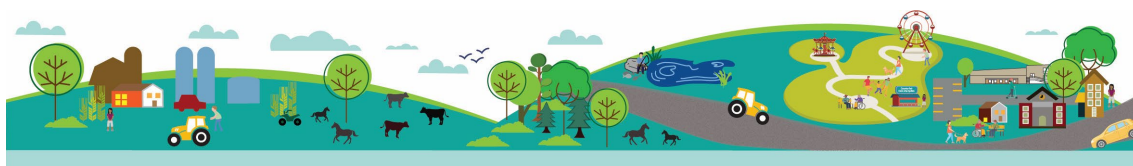
Workshop Format

The Ward 5 workshop consisted of a morning session that took place from 9 AM to 12:30 PM and an afternoon session that took place from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Both sessions took place at the West Carleton Community Complex.

Attendees were encouraged to register at the Welcome Desk for attendance tracking purposes and to receive future project updates. There were approximately 115 attendees total.

A brief presentation took place at the beginning of each session which included opening remarks from Councillor Clarke Kelly as well as background information and workshop directions from City staff.

Following presentations, the sessions moved into roundtable discussions. Both sessions had seven tables with predetermined themes as well as one open-ended table to allow for discussions surrounding topics that did not fit into the outlined themes. Roundtable discussions took approximately two hours. To give everyone the opportunity



to participate at the various discussions, staff provided four different rounds lasting between 20-25 minutes at each table, with a 30-minute break occurring halfway through. Attendees were directed to begin with the table of their choice.

At each table, City staff were present to answer questions, engage with the attendees, take notes, and act as moderators. Staff's main roles were to listen, record feedback and ensure everyone had the opportunity to share their input and to promote respectful conversation. After about 20 minutes, it was announced that round one had finished, and it was time to move tables for round two. Attendees moved to the next table of their choice, or remained at their current table, and the process began again. After approximately two hours, roundtable discussions were wrapped up.

Each session ended with a City staff member from each table presenting some of the most popular comments shared at their table, as well as some closing comments from the Councillor and the next steps in the Rural Summit 2024 process from City staff. In addition, Mayor Sutcliffe provided closing remarks following the afternoon session and showcased his support for the Rural Summit 2024.

Table Themes

Table themes were selected based on the Rural Summit 2024 survey results. In preparation for each ward's workshop, the completed survey results were filtered to only show the responses received from respondents of the corresponding ward. From those results, the most popularly stated items and issues were grouped to create the table themes.

The table themes for the Ward 5 workshop were the following:

1. Agriculture
2. Environment
3. Community Services
4. Development and Zoning
5. Transportation
6. Health and Safety
7. Consultation and Communication
8. Other

Public Feedback

Feedback received at the workshop has been grouped into themes and is provided below. The information provided is an inclusive list of comments received verbally and in writing from residents throughout the workshop. Throughout the report, feedback has been documented as it was heard from residents and represents a range of views.

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Roads and Traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Maintenance in Ward is poor, every road is bad including Carp Road, Bayview Dr, Barlow Ct, Old Maple Lane, Vances Side Rd. • Request for a preventative maintenance program, inspection program to observe and address issues without relying on user reports. Requests for the maintenance team to have greater input on funding allocation. • Stop signs are over-used at intersections, request a review of intersections in the ward to see where yield signs, or roundabouts may be appropriate. • Lack of signage that tells you what road you are currently on - specific example: Carp and Kinburn. • Lack of compliance for traffic that should be stopping at stop signs on side road leading to accident near misses. Request enhanced signage and flashing lights to improve compliance. • At Dunrobin Road - Elevated number of lost control accidents with vehicles going into ditch, request safety/collision analysis to be conducted, Request lighting to aid in visibility of peds, cyclists, horseback riders. • Old Ship Road - issues with drivers joyriding, drifting. • Road noise from drivers is excessive with squealing tires and loud/lack of mufflers which frighten people. Request a designated area/track for sport drivers and enforcement. • Intersections have vegetation causing sightline issues including at, McHugo and Kedey and Dunrobin Rd and Crown Point Rd. • Request to keep Vances Side Road unpaved to prevent attracting traffic. • Carp Road is very busy and has become a heavy truck route - request review to change truck routing. • When calcium is placed on road, blows dust into neighboring homes, reduce calcium dust travel. • Currently there is only one road access to Constance Bay. Will City set up a second road access? • Resident said that they cannot see traffic on March Road when they are stopped at the stop line on Huntmar Rd (i.e., driver sightline concern). They have already contacted 3-1-1 but no action was taken. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more signs of slow-moving vehicles. • In winter, snow piles obstruct driver sightlines. In spring/summer, vegetation obstructs sightlines. • OPS often present at the intersection to catch speeders. The resident is reluctant to advance past the stop bar because OPS is present. • High speed on rural roads (posted speed 80km/h, operating speed 90-100km/h) is unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians without designate active transportation facilities. • The City needs to make sure the roads are safe for cars and cyclists, more bike paths if you want to encourage people to cycle more. • Historically, large tanker trucks have been used to haul manure. Each tanker can carry about 10 thousand gallons each. • There are several concerns with this tanker hauling method including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety concerns about thousands of massive heavy vehicles travelling on the road network each year (e.g., near-miss incident between a passenger vehicle and manure tanker truck that could have been a head-on collision, near Ramsayville Rd & Piperville Rd). ○ Resident complaints about mud deposited along roadway by the tanker tires. ○ Resident complaints about odor ○ Wear-and-tear of City roads due to heavy loads |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Ditching, Drainage And Septic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using native species for pollinator, etc. also in rail corridor. Ex: County of Lanark. Not just pollinators, but all biodiversity. • Ditch maintenance in ward is insufficient. • Stormwater rate review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural properties taxes for services they don't receive. ○ Lack of accountability. ○ Need for public education. ○ Where can we get information? The city needs to do a better job reaching out to residents. ○ How will this be implemented in rural area? ○ No confidence in the consultation pro forma. ○ Being taxed, but the ditch maintenance is infrequent and ineffective. • Stormwater rate reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural lands provide a service. An ecosystem service. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic system - rural lots seem planned *by septic*. There's a heavier expectation on business than rural |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Solid Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's more to be done. • More and better public education and outreach especially diversion. • Value of plastics and recyclables will go up. • Incineration is the wrong approach. |

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Parks and Forestry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkable parks have been brought up to CO, local parks are needed in each village. • Make sure the Parks and Rec. Master Plan is respected in rural areas. • Constance Bay forest fire (Torbolton Forest) – Councillor set up a strategy to handle forest fires. • Does a similar plan exist for the Carp Ridge? For farmland? • City needs a global strategy to address more frequent and more dangerous forest fires. • Rural areas currently rely exclusively on volunteer firefighters. |

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Public Transit and Mobility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation needs – isolation is a major factor for all age groups, underserved area, no local bus to access the services they need. • Access to services, transportation (limited). • Park and Rides transportation - How are we getting to downtown events? Is our car the only option? • ParaTranspo is very slow (3 hour wait times noted) and has high barriers to entry with many forms and bureaucracy. Cannot be used by many residents as they don't qualify. • Request Transit on Demand pilot be expanded to their ward. • Ride-app services don't service the area (won't accept the rides), request consideration of a subsidy to incentivize. • Taxi pricing is very high (100+ dollars). • Request Park and Rides to be placed along the converted corridor to allow for regional travel. • Request of a review of a potential car share program in the Ward. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer patients receive efficient access through volunteer drivers, request review into expanding this program to all medical visits. • Request a review of micro mobility options - senior living homes have implemented e-bike services to great effectiveness. • Need public bathrooms along transportation routes, near transit stops and cycling routes. |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Police Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City needs to be more proactive to mitigate safety issues. • Kinburn and John Shaw Rd. – hill with very little visibility on a road with traffic coming in both directions. There is a 50 km/h sign, but most people are speeding through and wouldn't have time to react if someone was pulling out of their laneway. More patrolling in the area could help. Extend the 30 km/h speed limit should be extended to John Shaw Road or a speed camera at the top of the hill are possible solutions. • Increase in dangerous driving and misuse of the roads (not stopping for school buses, unsafe passing of farm vehicles, etc.). Constance Bay, Dunrobin Rd., is especially dangerous. People are not adhering to the speed limits so more traffic calming must be integrated like speed cameras, speed display boards, pavement markings, and patrolling. • Galetta Rd. As you enter the town, area is bad for speeding. • Woodkilton Rd. - ATVs, farm equipment, lots of children, horses, dog walkers, regular traffic – such a variety of transportation is certainly a safety issue. • More public education on who to give traffic complaints to. • Speed camera or a speed bump is needed on Dunrobin, people are flying by going 120 km/h. • Torwood Dr. between Thomas A. Dolan Parkway & Vance Side Rd. - Speeding and stunt driving is very common – seeing active patrolling would be helpful. Unsafe passing, excessive noise, no muffler. Sound travels in the country. Residents have been unofficially directed to bring their noisy project cars to the rural roads and this is unfair to the residents who live there. Traffic calming measure installation is needed on Torwood Dr. Design issues – road markings and lines should be re-evaluated. No passing on this road. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic survey to determine traffic calming measures requirements isn't fair in rural areas as there isn't the same amount of traffic. • Diamond View (people do not stop on this side, they drive right through the stop sign) and Donald B Munro. Upper Dwyer Hill (people also do not stop) and Kinburn Side Rd. • Carp Fair organizers relationship with police has diminished and needs to be re-established via seat meeting. Police play a very important role at the Fair to ensure safety as security has limitations on their capabilities. • Frequent speeding on Carp Rd. Also, people are going very fast on construction roads and shaking the homes as they pass. Kids, dogs, families live along this road and the speeding is very concerning. Drivers have no concern for those coming out of their driveways or parked on the shoulders. The road is freshly paved which is nice but is attracting a crowd wanting to speed. • Drivers frequently speed through Carp Village despite the community safety zone (higher fines). • Sidewalks are limited, requiring pedestrians to walk on the road. • What can be done in terms of traffic calming? • Posted 60km/h does not align with the rural road environment (low traffic volumes, wider lanes, etc.). |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| First Responders And Emergency Preparedness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response times in the rural area are significantly higher. Short staff is common across the department, and it seems that rural areas get less services than urban areas – there is no response guarantee depending on numbers like there is in the urban areas. The resources need to be split urban vs. rural for better availability. • Only volunteer firefighters in certain areas, coverage isn't expansive enough. Full time positions at the volunteer stations could be a potential solution. • Fire Routing concerns at Constance Bay, only one road in and out available, risk during forest fires. • Arnprior Hospital is closer, and they end up servicing Ward 5 residents, can we get more services from rather than City paramedics? More paramedics needed between Carleton Place and the City of Ottawa. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unclear where emergency services will take residents. • Increase resident awareness regarding location of public health care services for the ward, rates of pay, etc. • With climate change, natural emergencies will become more regular and therefore emergency preparedness is a big concern. What is the route, how will we communicate – all these aspects. • What is the route, how will we communicate – all these aspects should be discussed and understood by the community. High level of understanding of how to respond to community emergencies. • A disaster preparedness group was organized after the tornado event. • Is there a disaster response plan for the Ward? Is there a designated meeting place? • What can the City do to raise awareness among residents about the emergency preparedness plan? |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Programming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkable parks - brought it up to CO, local parks are needed in each village. • Policies that apply to the urban core might not apply to, or be reasonable, in the rural areas. • Access to Community supports and services – specific to mental health, all demographics, Western Ottawa Community Resources centre. • Youth programming – cooking, small programs have been extremely successful. • Partnerships with schools. • Childcare – clients on lists for over 2 years. • Rural youth engagement – programs and recreation, travel and access concerns, opportunities within each village. • Programs in schools – meeting the youth where they are. • Activity and social groups – more access. • Accessibility issues. • Access to recreation opportunities – Tourbolten Forest paths – purchase some of that land and incorporate it into the conversation area. • Increased amenities. • Making services more accessible. We need local services. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted access to beachfronts – longstanding issue from the 60s access to private shorelines, public beach concerns – Courts is not helping – with the City’s legal team. • City could take actions to provide clarity with access – City should step in and provide clarity – Constance Bay • Airbnb’s impact on the local community. • Seniors – supports for seniors – access to supports, recreation opportunities, IE coffee chats etc. food assistance, homecare (PSWs don’t come out here), transportation for seniors, OC Transpo services (underutilized – how to leverage existing assets) • Barriers in communication – residents don’t know what services are offered in area – increased demands on those services. • Abuse – supports for access to programs and seniors and youth. • Ottawa Carleton Wildlife Centre representation – offers programs etc. • Medical – Connecting people to services, whole array of programs and services. • Increase in demand for services across the region – youth and adult programs – more complex needs, aging at home. • Adult programming in rural communities – organized for adults, might be community led. • Rural Youth Mental Health Collective - connecting people with basic mental health skills to assist in the community – November 2nd event. • Liability issues, low risk organization, this is an impediment, too many rules getting in the way of programs, access etc. • Access to programming and space for all ages – community building role. • Inequity with access for services across the rural area in contrast to the urban core. • Funding for community groups – rules/funding grandfathered in, not equal in rural areas, groups are required to self fund – not just a West Carleton issues – across all rural areas, lack of a voice. • Flexibility in service delivery – time, location, financial supports. • Community groups like Western Ottawa Community Resource Center help but need additional funding. • Issues getting support workers from urban areas to them. • Respecting of volunteer’s efforts and impacts to community. • City thinks they are in control of everything – its ‘our way’. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureaucracy in the city gets in the way of community groups programming/access etc. • Engagement with the City – make it simple and clear and accessible, continuity in process. • Change in Councillor – change in process etc. access. • Western Ottawa Community Resources Centre – city funded. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Essential services for people who are unable to help themselves. ○ Access to essential services/access into the area for those who are providing services. ○ Communication of existing services. ○ Transportation issues to services. • Seniors are aging in the community – limited availability, private and public. They need access to basic services along with that residence as well as transportation access. • Senior/youth access to services – underserved. Residents need: day programs, children play groups (toy lending library), equitable access – come out to see the residents. • Disconnect in communications about what is available for services. • Outreach to existing groups to leverage the connections to get the word out. • Mental health supports in rural areas. • Need more volunteers to help. • Access to information – where/who to discuss with easier navigation. • Underserved rural area for those who are vulnerable. • City doesn't seem to care – priorities for other areas of the city. • Existing lack of infrastructure impacts those who are vulnerable. • Investment in youth clubs that promote art, sports etc. • 'Play Fair' program – access – more investment in rural areas – tailored for rural areas. • Gaps in programming for youth – access to the programs. • Library – limited hours, limited access not able to host programs at the locations. • Siloed information – of any type of information from the city is difficult to find. • Community associations not being recognized by the City – gaps in information. • Gap in youth programming for mental health. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services in the rural area. • Engagement with the city. |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Client Service Centers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having city staff come to the community to answer questions and provide updates. Too often, staff doesn't realize the difference between urban and rural. Maybe having a mobile service center setting up once a month. • 311/Service Centre is too far (Kanata) we need to find the information online. • The City needs rural communicator. Some staff that are specialist in rural issues. • 311 - Living near city boundaries sometimes residents are getting the 311 from Quebec. Not connected with subject matter expert so the answers take week to reach residents. • Do we need more staff for 311? |

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Recreational Services and Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation space availability and cost – local group discount for community events. • Increased Services for disabled children – limited spaces available – on several waitlists. • Recreation specific for seniors i.e., Senior swims. • Diversity of recreation, recreation opportunities. • Facilitating recreation programs in close communities (i.e., Carleton Place swimming). • Audit should be required for availability of services for inclusive program in the City. • Audit – recreation services – who uses them? Out of areas increase use - this reduces access for West Carleton residents. • Leveraging existing private facilities for City programming to increase access. • Community Gardens – Dunrobin – commercial lot – City intends to sell, but community has invested time into the space (Christmas Tree planting etc.) enhance the entrance to the village. Is the property already sold? Private money and efforts have been invested into the area. |

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for new development to be denser, to protect farmland. • The City needs to do a better job to send information to residents on new development. • The bylaws are designed for urban Ottawa and are not appropriate for rural. • Proposed battery plant: Approval process, resident input. The liability rests where? • Residential development proposed near Carp Fairgrounds (147 Langstaff). This would endanger the future of the fairground and conflict with new residents. • Concern with Staff having undue influence on decisions. • We need to preserve the village character and right now we are not on the right track. • Lower density development. • Don't consume farmland for development. • We need rural focused staff and appropriate policies for the rural area. • Dense village development adds demand for urban services and changes the rural character. • Alternatives for affordable housing in rural area. • Committee of adjustment doesn't have rural context. • Food brokerage needed for the rural area. • Rural Affairs office advocacy within city bureaucracy. This needs to be strengthened. • Revisit Tree bylaw, to prevent clear cutting. (Sensitive Tree Bylaw). • Development limits to preserve rural character. • Compensation to property owners to maintain environmentally sensitive land (non-residential/commercial). • Public education/consultation before decision made. • EP3 zoning should need permits for clear cutting trees. • We need a feedback mechanism for rural. • Lot size constraints in Constance Bay (Coach house). • Vacant unit tax - Attestation is unnecessary. This should be incorporated into the tax bill. • Loss of farmland and natural land to development. • City ownership + maintenance for redevelopment of commercial space (Dunrobin). • Shoreline (Constance Bay): Bylaw enforcement (On-site), public access and lack of maintenance of public shoreline. • Secondary Plans are not dated. • Mayor needs to advocate on behalf of the community for provincial proposals. |

- Agri-tourism to augment farm incomes (small farm viability).
- Rules for facilities not appropriate to rural.
- Municipal support resolution (BESS) required but non-rural council may not support rural perspective.
- The time for severance is too long - expiry date.
- We need consultation on changes to zoning.
- Inconsistent application of zoning policy.
- Expense for rezoning applications.
- Infrastructure services for Carp Village (water quality poor and insufficient).
- Lack of public transit limits hiring staff.
- Promises of support for growth not fulfilled.
- Dunrobin secondary plan needed.
- Vacancy tax should apply to commercial.
- In-person staff meeting with residents. This would help build the relationship.
- We need technical assistance with planning applications.
- Inconsistent standards on water quality (severance).
- Inconsistent policies on zoning (Rural/urban not fair).
- Upfront guidance on the severance process. (Cost incurred unnecessary).
- Standards for water quality are out of date given technology available.
- Register on title any water quality concerns so the new owners are aware of limitations.
- Adjacent property owners affected by planning application should be notified.
- Must take into consideration off-site impacts on neighborhood properties.
- Require site visits for planning applications (severance). This would avoid errors.
- Community design plan are not influencing applications. Contradictory.
- City initiated Zoning By-law Amendment to prohibit a dwelling on the retained land of surplus farm dwelling, rather than applicant initiated.
- Zero fees for rezoning required as a condition of a surplus farm dwelling severance.
- Rural Internet: Bell Fibe not restoring ROW after installation.
- Zoning Bylaw review: we must do a better job in consulting with the rural communities and OFA especially on renewables.
- Engagement: ARAC needs more authority, and the engagement needs to occur before discussions.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engagement needs to be a 2-way street and a process toward consensus. • Rural wells: we need to do better planning to prevent issues for landowners. + ditches and payment in rural areas. • Zoning bylaw should consider alternate technology (sceptics that would allow smaller lots) + adjust bylaw accordingly. |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Active Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request conversion of unused rail corridors in the ward to multi-use pathways for people/active transportation. • Connect converted rail corridor running through Fitzroy to the Moody Station. • Cycling. • Generally, a lack of safe places in the ward to cycle. • Cyclists riding side by side on roads present an issue for drivers. • Roads with tight corners make cyclist visibility an issue. Problematic roads include Donald B. Munro Dr, Thomas Dolan Pkwy, Diamondview Rd, Woodkilton Road, Kinburn Side Rd, Carp Rd. • Request an expansion of the cycle network to add paved shoulders to separate cars and cyclists. • Request paved shoulder between Carp and Kanata to facilitate active transportation. • There is a lack of space / facilities for active transportation users on rural roads. • Resident said that they feel unsafe cycling from the intersection of Vances Side Rd & Woodkilton to town or Maclarens Landing. They feel safer travelling along Vances Side Rd, but they feel unsafe cycling on Woodkilton Rd. • Parents often walk along Woodkilton Rd with strollers. There are no designated pedestrian facilities. • Groups of cyclists often ride side-by-side – which is unsafe – on Thomas A. Dolan Pkwy. Coming over the hill there are poor visibility and safety concerns – drivers are concerned about striking a cyclist. |

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation for ecosystems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restriction on land uses should be compensated for the services that wetland and forest provide. ○ CLTIP not sufficient. ○ Example from the EV. for cows. • Wetland conservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More turtle signage. They are many mortality hotspots. ○ Maybe an alternative to signs would be pavement markers or flashing lights. • Wildlife protections on roads. We need appropriate measures and funding. • Conservation designations on private properties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Private land management not always best practices. ○ They should be restrictions on uses management. • Water protection and conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stormwater management review around permeable - based assessment should apply in rural area. ○ How can we apply this in rural area? Incentivize? ○ Environmental issue should have more of an impact especially in the rural area. • Protection agricultural land is important. • Protection of bees, beekeeping: Pesticides used by the city and private company. • Mosquitos control. • Flooding of the Carp River. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This has an impact on upstream development in Kanata. ○ Inadequate management of stormwater. ○ Impacts on farmland. • Protection of farmland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loss of farmland to renewables. ○ Use of Rural area to meet it's *green* goals: e.g., wind turbine and windfarm (goal of 700 wind turbine). ○ This should not interfere with residents' life. ○ The municipality should regulate more strongly. ○ Impacts of BESS on groundwater. ○ Contribution of farmland to environment. E.g., tree farm. • We need to protect Carp Ridge - important for natural ecosystem. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City environment plan - we need to make sure rural has a seat at the table. • Make sure rural is managed differently than urban/suburban. • Clarification on who pays for what with stormwater and how urban and rural differ. |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregates - impacts on water: PTTW and where does it discharge. • Protection of drinking wells. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cumulative water takings. ○ Impacts of development on wells: quarries blasting, siltation and development. ○ Village of Carp municipal well - how will it affect other well. • Well water: Impact on development and diversion of recharge to stormwater management systems. • Water table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep it safe and how do we protect it? ○ There aren't any protections other than source water zones. ○ Monitor a solution potentially. ○ Identify risk analysis at the table. |

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Renewable Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for increased incentives for installations, especially larger installations. • Role for the city. • Benefit to the city. • Costs are too high. • Renewable energy: supportive of rural land for renewable. Should be landowners' choice. • Green buildings - residential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No incentive for new build. ○ Building standards should require accommodation of renewable energy. ○ Red tape and obstacles to feeding into the grid with hydro one. • Renewable energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supportive of renewable energy. ○ Not just a rural issue but a city-wide issue. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finding space is challenging and complex. ○ Can't defer decisions and actions locally. ○ Require public education and discussion. ○ We are not prepared for natural disaster and extreme events. ○ BESS has their place. ○ Counterpoint: environmental concerns. ○ Used of city-owned land for BESS or renewable? ○ City purchase land? Self-funding own system. ○ Could this be a city projects? We need more leadership by the city. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BESS concerns - It's a dates technology and we need public consultation. |
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| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Rural Affairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Look at other villages for best practice. What are other municipalities doing about amalgamation especially in rural communities. ● Avoiding getting policies/procedure designed for urban residents. ● Lack of consultation with rural residents. ● Farm/rural tourism needs development in Ottawa. |

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
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| Ottawa.ca | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to city document. The city needs to use plain language. ● Seeing action and making sure we establish timeline. ● City priority and priority setting. ● Rural needs a bigger voice to represent needs/issues. ● Pre-existing communities/organization - Can the city play a role in facilitating? ● Using AI to get information from the website to answer question. Can we bring AI to make it easier to navigate through Ottawa.ca. ● We need rural leadership to help provide information. ● Annual/bi-annual engagement with staff/partner organization (example 4-H). ● We need to make surveys more youth friendly. ● The feeling residents get when we engage with them is that the decision is already made. ● Where does it say this is done or this is happening in your community? |

- How does the city reach rural residents? Are we using the same tactics as urban residents?
- Make the website simpler and easy to see city projects and timelines.
- More information on city employee and who's taking care of what.
- Hybrid work - how do phone call get triaged to people working from home.
- Zoom/Teams - Lot of advantages but lack the ability to have 2-way conversations.
- Hybrid/mixed methods of participating in engagements.
- Sometime the City doesn't provide the right environment. They listen and engage too late. The decision is already made. Councillor also have a part of the blame.
- We need to go beyond the executive summary.
- Solid waste did a great job with Q&A. Answers are public. Resident can see them.
- Are the documents/plans machine readable? Linkable indexes.
- We need to keep the message simple.
- We need to improve Ottawa.ca website. It's not easy to find information on there. It's not easy friendly.
- The City needs to bring back the city employee org. chart. Why can Toronto have it and not Ottawa.
- There's no continuity on Engage Ottawa (survey, wording, map, Q&A). Every engagement is different from department to department. We should create an engagement department where all the engagement would be centralized. Consultation would be consistent.
- If we only rely on Engage Ottawa, we are missing rural residents who are not as engage online.
- We are missing a lot of information from the city.
- More in-person consultation especially for issues that affect rural villages.
- Sometime the City is making decisions without consultation. This should never happen.

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
|----------------|--|
| Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Councillors voting on rural issues but don't live here. We need governance and ARAC to make decision on rural matters. • The need for a louder voice. It can be hard to be heard when the councillors are spread so thin. • Increase rural affairs office. |

| Theme | Feedback Provided |
|--------------------|---|
| Agriculture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of farmland. Scare of what happen in Wilmot township - expropriation of farmland for parks. • Is farmland a priority for the city. Buy as farmland and sell as industrial. • Farmers need fertilizers/chemicals, but the government restrict them. This brings lower food production. Nutrient act - Wetland restriction. • Classes of farmland. Agriculture land is scarce and very expensive. Especially if you must borrow. • Land speculation - foreign investment. • We need pasture lands too. • Farm succession planning - it is no longer lucrative to have a dairy farm. • 4H - disappearing kids in dairy. Went from 50 to 3. • Farming in Ottawa is changing. Not a lot of farm product you can make a living at. • Off farm jobs + diversification. • City regulations for new uses of farmland. Bank street rules for low use businesses. No flexibility for rural. Airbnb shut down. • Foreign versus local, student sharing of workforce. • Vacant unit tax and derelict buildings/houses. • Severing off house when you buy a farm can be a nightmare. • The road conditions are really poor. • We had better services before amalgamation (roads and plowing). • Communication - we need one rural point person for each rural ward (4 or 5 wards). • Sunshine farms - financing farm purchases (remnant of Walton Group). • Old Huntley Orchard - issues with getting farm #, grants and getting set up. |

- Grant paper works takes too long. Rural office should help farmers fill out provincial and federal grants.
- Rural office need provide guidance and help especially for safety issue like fencing to keep cows in.
- Rural Affairs Office needs to focus on many different rural issues.
- Drainage act - Municipal drains – process is fairly easy, but fees can be an issue for non-farmers.
- Stormwater fees - used to be roads.
- Stormwater is the wrong place to set fees for road culvert. Impermeable tax unfair.
- Don't develop on good farmland.
- Should the farmer be able to profit by selling their farmland? When it's gone it's gone.
- Clash with new residents especially urban resident who move to rural and don't understand the rural reality.
- We need a fully stocked rural office.
- Impacts of farming on neighbors. Understanding how herbicides works.
- Compensation/incentives for environmental benefits.
- Bees - No mow in May
- How can we make it attractive to farmers to not cash crop? There's no incentive to not cash crop.
- Food security.
- Dairy farming is diminishing. It's a 24/7 jobs with diminishing returns.
- Fertilizer crops cost 3x what chemical does.
- Farming is essential and we need to protect it.
- Farm gate versus cash cropping.
- All levels of government are missing the boat. They are not encouraging young people into farming. City - COOP - Farms and youth.
- Community gardens - what about edible forest (gardens) - raspberries, nut trees. Sharing foods. This might be a good idea. Who could lead or volunteer.
- Unused city property could be used for community gardens. We assume because we are rural, we don't need community gardens.
- Canada can be food secure if we choose to be. Right now, we import a lot of our food. Apple - Lamb. Right now, out of country lamb is cheaper than West Carleton lamb.

- Beekeepers - partner in food production - climate change, pesticides, mites, spraying lawns for mosquitos.
- Loss of farmland - 300 acres per day. We need to do something to protect farmland.
- City can educate what are the good for spraying ditches and eliminate noxious weeds. Spray in the evening or when there's no wind.
- Cut versus spray - cost issue. Private contractor vs city staff (insurance is covered by the contractor).
- One size fits all, weed control doesn't work. Lanark uses multi-pronged approach.
- Bug population is down, and bird population is down.
- Grants: The city has no grants or programs for farmers. Provincial you need to show profit first and then you can apply for a grant.
- How can we attract young people? Connect with youth. Mentorship programs?
- The agriculture community is huge, and we need a bigger voice.
- A farm is a business and needs to be viewed that way.
- Farmers must move large volumes of manure from their farms annually (mostly in the fall). For example, a large farm operation can generate 20 million gallons of manure.
- Manure drag lines are an alternative method of moving manure. It involves boring under roadways and installing pipelines to move the manure between farms.
- The City recently allowed manure drag lines. The farmer typically pays for installation, but it requires approval and coordination with the City. The farmer needs to enter into an official agreement with the City. The agreement requires that farmers obtain insurance due to liability concerns and pay easement charges (\$2-3k per year). This process can be daunting for small farms.
- Can the City be more accommodating to the implementation of manure lines?
- The City needs to do a better job to promote and let resident know what services/programs are available.

Next Steps

“As We Heard It” reports for each of the ward workshops will be shared on the [Engage Ottawa project page](#) in chronological order.

City staff will be attending community events in each of the rural wards throughout the spring and summer to continue engaging with residents and promoting the Rural Summit 2024.

Residents are encouraged to continue to follow the **project website** for more information.

To provide any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the Rural Summit 2024, please contact this project’s email address ruralsummit@ottawa.ca.

Conclusion

Thank you to all who participated and provided feedback, ideas, and concerns in this workshop and throughout the engagement process. The Rural Summit team is grateful for the community’s commitment to helping improve and strengthen our rural communities.

For more information on rural initiatives in our city please visit **Ottawa.ca**.