



A Rural Community in Eastern Kings County

Brief Background

Over the past year, a local volunteer group, assisted by provincial staff, has studied the possibility of the local service districts (LSD) of Cardwell, Hammond, Studholm, Sussex and Waterford becoming a Rural Community. A variety of factors were reviewed, and findings were mailed to area residents in July 2013. Currently, information sharing efforts continue across the 5 LSDs to inform residents on what a Rural Community would mean for their region.

This document provides a final look at the results of the study. In October, residents qualified to vote from the affected LSDs will be invited to choose whether they support or oppose the establishment of the LSDs as a Rural Community.

You are encouraged to review this information as you consider the best choice for your community.

Study Highlights

Establishing a Rural Community would...

- ♦ allow residents to elect a local council to represent the community;
- ♦ enable council to manage local community services on behalf of residents, including managing the budget and setting local tax rates. Currently, these tasks are carried out by provincial government staff;
- ♦ require regular council meetings be held and be open to the public;
- ♦ keep community decision-making local—focusing on issues of local importance for residents, property owners and businesses.
- ♦ create the 12th largest community (in terms of population and tax base) in the Province, which would provide the power to negotiate with federal and provincial governments and other communities, to obtain improved services for the area;
- ♦ reduce garbage collection costs for area residents. Currently the cost of garbage collection and disposal is equalized (shared) among the 14 LSDs in Regional Service Commission 8. A Rural Community will have the power to negotiate its own garbage collection contract.

Anticipated garbage collection savings would cover the new community administration costs (e.g. council, staff and building costs, etc.) and still result in a modest reduction in taxes.

The Choice is Yours!

Does This Proposal Affect Your Community?

The five LSDs affected include the local communities of Anagance, Apohaqui, Berwick, Carsonville, Dutch Valley, Fennell, Hammond, Head of Millstream, Lower Cove, Lower Millstream, Markhamville, McGregor Brook, Millbrook, Mt. Pisgah, New Line, Newtown, Pearsonville, Penobsquis, Picadilly, Plumweseep, Poodiac, Roachville, Smith Creek, South Branch, Springdale, Urney, Wards Creek, and Waterford.

A Few Rural Community Basics

A Rural Community (RC) is similar to a municipality. It is designed to serve rural areas by allowing them to assume the delivery of certain services. For example, if established, your RC would take on planning, emergency measures, dog control, garbage collection and recreation services. However, the province would continue to provide fire protection and road maintenance, and to manage policing services. The rural community could take responsibility, when it chooses, for services now provided by the provincial government.

Key Points of Interest...

If Eastern Kings County residents vote to establish a Rural Community, it will:

- ♦ be known as Kingsvale;
- ♦ be made up of 8 voting wards;
- ♦ have a mayor, and 8 councillors—one elected from each ward, to serve the interests of the community;
- ♦ retain a full-time staff member, an administrator, to serve council and the community;
- ♦ keep all local community names, mailing addresses and 911 services.

Message from the Local Round Table Chair

“During the past year the Round Table has studied the option of becoming a Rural Community. It is clear to Round Table members that the benefits are substantial. Now is the time for our communities to take the decision making power away from the Province and make our decisions locally, for the benefit of all residents. Meetings will be held in your LSD in October, please attend, get informed and support taking control of local services by voting on October 28th.”—Nelson Ball

Your Community - Your Choice

A vote will be held on October 28, 2013 to determine whether the 5 affected LSDs in your region will become a Rural Community. The date, time and place of regular and advance polls will be mailed to you by [Elections New Brunswick](#). All residents, who are qualified to vote, will be asked to answer the following question:

“Are you in favour of the Local Service Districts of the parish of Cardwell, the parish of Hammond, the parish of Studholm, the parish of Sussex and the parish of Waterford becoming a rural community?”

Support of local residents will be considered sufficient if the majority (50% + 1) of people who voted are in favour of the establishment of a rural community.

For Additional Information

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