



# strategic plan

**the corporation of the township of white river**  
**2017-2021**

**Preamble .....**

*Problem Solution Resolution Partners is not a formalized group by traditional standards.*

*They represent many years of experience liaising with the public and all levels of government, both politically and with bureaucracy. This experience extends to writing proposals, researching and resolving issues, working with municipalities, communities and individual, as well as launching appeals on decisions with positive results.*

*Past experience gives them the ability to analyze issues within a community and work jointly with municipal council, community groups, the public and business sectors in realizing viable solutions.*

*The structure of PSRP allows for a great deal of latitude and flexibility in preparing this Strategic Plan. Included are plans of action for the priorities identified that would normally be a part of an implementation plan and require a further document.*

*The hope is that the extra steps taken will help expedite economic development and assist in securing the future of White River.*

***A Plan For the Community, From the Community***

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## Message from the Community Development Corporation

On behalf of our Community Development Corporation, I am pleased to present the Strategic Plan to the Mayor and Council for acceptance.

We have had the opportunity to take the lead in this plans development.

The members of this committee are pleased to continue their efforts for securing our future with the assistance of the members of the public and our business community. We would very much like to thank the community for the input we have had in preparing this document. The percentage of the public who took the time to participate, clearly shows the interest we all have in securing the future of White River and area.

We believe that with what we have heard back from you, this strategic plan truly represents the majority of the people that make this great community home, now and in the years to come.

Thanks to all who have helped us help you.

Yours truly,



Tom Bagdon, Chair CDC

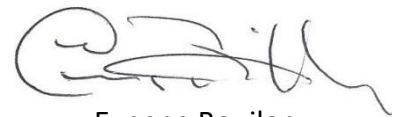
*In the past, vision and foresight  
brought back our mill. Planning,  
vision and foresight will lead us to a  
positive future.*



Greg Roussy



Rodney Swarek



Eugene Bouilon



Deb Duplassie



Jeanne Morgan



Velma Desmoulin



Mia Sokoloski



Louise Seguin



Gideon Tigere

## Message from the Mayor

I am pleased to accept the final draft of our Strategic Plan.

As Mayor, I would like to thank all those involved in its development.

From Council, to our Community Development Corporation, and all those in the public and business sectors who have indeed made this a working document for our future.

I, of course, would also like to thank the administration and staff of the municipality for their assistance.

I look forward to now achieving the goals identified in the plan. We will develop our future together. The Strategic Plan will be our direction for the coming years.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angelo Bazzoni".

Angelo Bazzoni, Mayor

*I am excited in my position of mayor  
to work with you for all of us in our  
community – White River.*

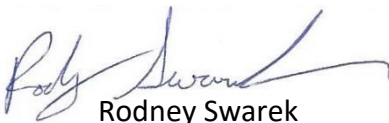
## Message from Council

We are pleased to accept this Strategic Plan as the direction for the municipality of White River for years to come.

As this document was put together with the input of the public, our business sector, Council and the Community Development Corporation, we feel it truly represents the wishes of our community for a bright future.

Our goal now is to implement the recommendations, where possible from a Municipal level, and work with businesses and individuals who have the desire and will to work toward the other goals.

Sincerely,

  
Rodney Swarek  
Louise Seguin  
Raymond St. Louis  
Ted Greenwood

*The Council of White River is looking for a  
bright tomorrow by planning for it today.*



## History of White River

The Northeastern Ontario community of White River came about because of its hearty climate, beautiful landscape and abundant resources, however, the most important factor is location.

White River began as a Canadian Pacific Railway work camp in 1885.

With the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway in 1960, White River ceased to be an exclusive railway town. The highway brought new industries and businesses particularly relating to the tourism sector. A new mode of transportation was established in the form of White River Airways.

Slowly the railway became less prominent. Abitibi Price established a lumber mill in the 1970's which was purchased in 1984 by Domtar Forest Products. In July 2007, Domtar Forest Products indefinitely shut down the White River operations. After Domtar's closure and the downturn in the wood industry as a whole in Northern Ontario, the community made a decision to take whatever steps necessary to re-open the mill in White River. The Council of White River along with the Community Development Corporation worked diligently on the project. The formation of White River Forest Products came to be with a private investor along with the local community and Pic Mobert First Nation forming the core and today, the mill is up and operating with approximately 200 employees.

With other developments in the mining industry in the area, the community is facing new challenges in the shortage of housing as well as a shortage in labor, particularly in the service industry. We are also seeing the opportunity to greatly expand on supplying needed material and services to the industrial sector, which is now starting to thrive.

*We have come a long way with a much longer way to go*



## Creating our Future – While Respectful of our Past

### ***White River is a Community of Opportunity***

The Township of White River is a progressive and vibrant community located midway between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie in the heartland of Northeastern Ontario.

Set amongst a stunning landscape of lush boreal forest, and abundant fresh water lakes and rivers, White River boasts rugged beauty and a hearty climate.

Perhaps best known as the birthplace of "Winnie the Pooh", White River holds an annual festival commemorating the bear cub who became the inspiration of author A.A. Milne

*White River residents know who we are and where we come from. Our vision of the future is vibrant and bold and we are willing to work hard to achieve all that we can be*



## **Mission**

The Mayor and Council of White River are committed to working closely and jointly with the Community Development Corporation and the ratepayers of our community to accomplish the goals and priorities of our Strategic Plan.



## The Role of White River Town Council

### Implementation of the Strategic Plan Priorities

Municipal Council plays one of the most significant roles in the implementation of furthering any or all priorities established by the research done in the Strategic Plan.

The single, most important element is what the community is capable of doing. That being from a financial position, as well as a legal position, within the framework of the Ontario Municipal Act, under which all Municipalities must operate.

Thus the importance of the Community Development Corporation. Although funded through the Municipality, the CDC has a certain leeway in the development of economic development initiatives. An example being that a CDC can invest in projects where, under the Municipal Act, council cannot.

It is the role of Mayor and Council to ensure the tax dollars they are responsible for are used for the benefit of the community as a whole.

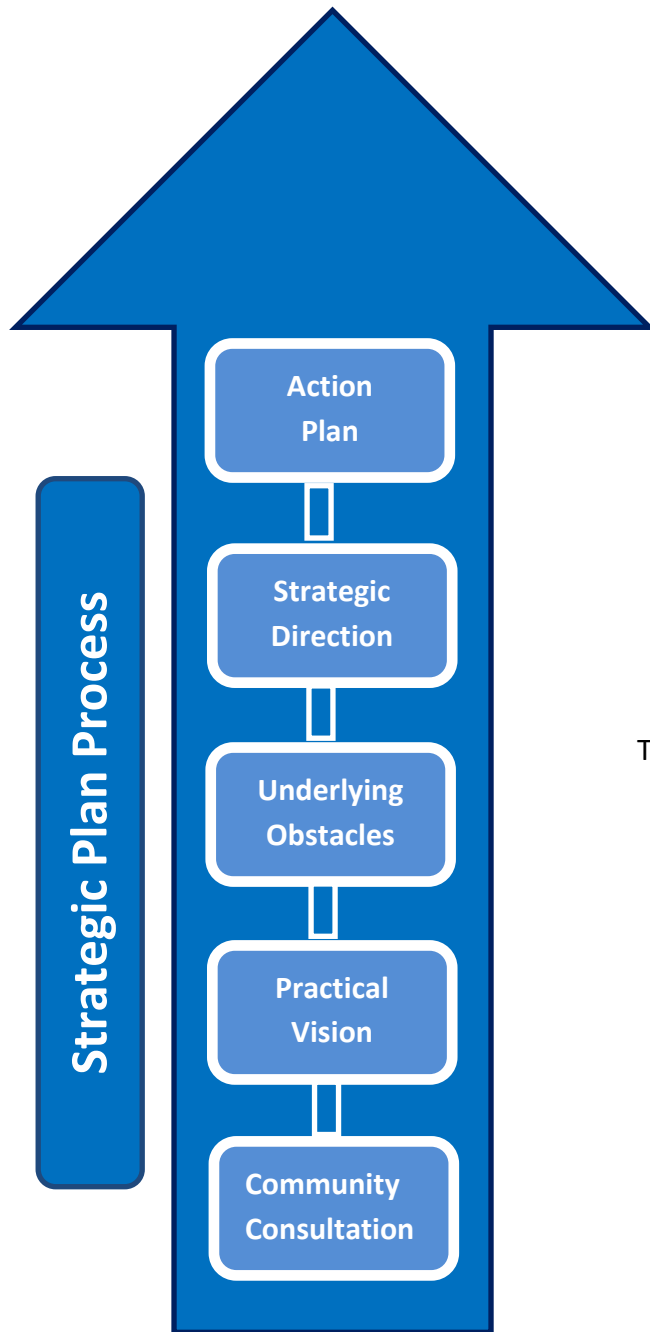
The Municipality is accountable for direct funding of any specific project and for submitting applications for funding through senior levels of government. They can do this on behalf of the CDC but are ultimately responsible for any funding approvals.

Mayor and Council is committed to working very closely with the Community Development Corporation and the focus groups that may be formed to deal with specific priorities identified.



*Developing and overseeing implementation of a strategic plan is the most important thing a municipal council can accomplish over its term*

## Strategic Plan Analogy



Strategic planning is the process by which a municipality develops a shared vision of the community's future and decides upon the major steps to be taken to move in that direction.

The strategic plan is also a vital tool for the community to have as it is of crucial importance when making funding applications to senior levels of government.

It shows the level of commitment the municipality has when it is taking the time, effort and cost, to plan the future in a thoughtful organized fashion.

This Strategic Plan,

- examines where the municipality is now, where the community wants to be, and how to get there
- involves the community in the visioning of a preferred future
- steers the municipality in a focused direction for future success
- allows proactive thinking beyond current activities and traditions
- deals with change positively by responding to it effectively
- sets priorities for action that are reflective of all aspects of your municipality

*Joint efforts and cooperation promote success*

## Community Consultation Survey Results

An integral part of a good strategic plan is obtaining input from the community. This was achieved by the development of a survey for the public as well as one slightly different for businesses. The survey questions were developed in a general manner attempting to get a clear message as to the level of community interest in the future of White River as well as specifics on individual issues.

There was significant discussion on the length of the survey and the questions to be included. The end result was that it did what was needed. Over a six week period there were 162 surveys collected representing over 20% of the population. Not all questions were answered on some surveys. The numbers below signify the answers gathered.

How long have you been a resident of White River?			
20+ years	10 – 19 years	5 – 9 years	Under 5 years
84	32	5	15

Age Group?		
50+	30 - 49	0 - 29
65	33	35

Wish to stay in White River?	
Permanent home	Working Career
102	25

Would you use a long term care facility if available?		
Yes	No	Possibly
72	8	56

The response from the public was impressive and there was great discussion at the public meetings and with individuals as well as business owners prior to and after the public meetings.

While this strategic plan deals with the three highest priorities as decided by the community, it does not mean that the other ideas raised should not be explored further. The survey had space provided for additional comments. One example was suggested that there is a need to replace the fire hall. While it did not make the top priority list, it is something that the Municipality may wish to pursue. The Economic Development Officer can explore funding agencies and applications to assist.

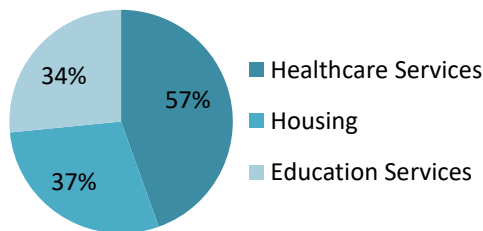
Also, to note, is the majority of respondents fell into the over 50 age bracket. The question as to using a long term care facility if available garnered a huge response in favor of a facility. This is certainly another avenue that should be studied by the Municipality and the Economic Development Officer.

## The Priorities

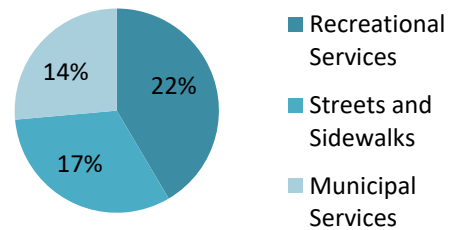
Participants were asked to review the following items and identify them in order of their priorities, 1 being highest and then in order as they see them:

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Streets / sidewalks    | <input type="checkbox"/> Events (Winnie the Pooh Days) | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services Clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Services                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Services   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handicap Accessibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Education Services            | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Services     |  |

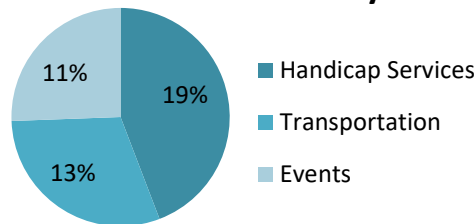
**Public Priority 1 - 3**



**Public Priority 4 - 6**



**Public Priority 7 - 9**



The remaining two questions on the survey were food services in the community and the environment. There was very little response or comment on these two items.

Perhaps the reason the environment ranked so low is simply because people are very much aware of the rules and regulations regarding environmental issues and the controls are mainly existing.

A few comments were made on food services. Some felt the need for more restaurants and others that the grocery store should carry a wider selection and expand store hours.

There were a few comments on the condition of the dump site and a couple on recycling.



## IMPLEMENTATION

*The Community Development Corporation has the opportunity to make an impact in moving forward exploring and implementing the priorities identified in the strategic plan.*

*The CDC, Mayor and Council made application and were granted funding and secured two interns to aid in community development.*

*A funding application was also made for a full time Economic Development Officer, (EDO), for White River. At the time of writing this plan it certainly appears that approval for this position will be granted.*

*What this means to the community is a position that can work full time on economic development projects relieving the workload from volunteers and municipal staff.*

*Therefore, the lead for implementation will be the EDO. This will make the difference in being able to move the plan forward.*

*It also displays the long term thinking and work that has gone in to the overall commitment in securing a positive future for White River.*

***Congratulations and admiration for such a committed group are in order!***





The number one priority identified by the public and businesses is the issue of health care services in White River.

The clinic as it exists provides quality services on a limited basis.

The lack of a full time physician is a concern to all as well as the need to travel almost 100km to have blood work done.

The municipality is currently working on a resolution to some of these issues.

There have been efforts to establish a working relationship for physician services with both the hospital in Wawa as well as the hospital in Marathon. To date there has been no solution found that these hospitals can participate in.

With the results of the survey and the importance to the community, it would indicate the way to proceed may be the implementation of a medical recruitment program.

A strong focus group made up of public and private parties needs to be formed, with a financial commitment from the municipality and hopefully private sector, to actually start the process of improving health services.

It is unrealistic to expect municipal staff to have the time or expertise to accomplish this goal.

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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- Securing a Municipal financial contribution in a budgetary form for a number of years.
- Seeking commitment from private sector partners, both financially and personally to assist in running the proposal. In particular when dealing with physician recruitment.
- Establish a strong focus group to carry out the mandate, as a single goal, lead by the EDO.
- Explore in-depth, secondary to physician recruitment, all avenues needed in the area from a medical perspective, i.e. mental health services.

*\*As with all suggestions, this comes with a significant cost which the existing Municipal budget would have difficulty meeting.*



## THE EFFECT OF HEALTH CARE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Improvements in healthcare have far reaching implications.

A family deciding that a working career could be found in White River will look at what is available for the health and wellbeing of their family.

Basic services exist now as identified in the SWOT analysis. The fact that there is an active move to improve and expand service is positive.

The importance of having a full time physician, which is a goal at this point, is not as critical as having emergency services and primary care in close proximity. In a lot of cases this could be the deciding factor for a lot of families.

If the area has an increase in population the argument for increased services becomes easier to make.

The existing medical services include a nurse practitioner, dental service available, foot care services and an ambulance and emergency service. The basic needs exist to this point.

There is a need to expand services to include blood work etc. with the long term goal of secure funding for the clinic and the ultimate goal of a full time physician.

There also seems to be a need to educate residents on what services are currently available. On some of the surveys returned, it was identified as needing local dental service. This service is available presently. Another was foot care. This was offered with minimal usage. This indicates that there may be services that people locally are not aware of.

It may be beneficial for a publicity campaign to let people know what is offered locally where there appears to be an assumption that travel to another location is necessary. If services are not used it is difficult to show they are needed.

The EDO and a health care focus group should continue with the present efforts of municipal administration. They should assume the responsibility of further forward movement and explore physician recruitment.

# SWOT ANALYSIS - Health Care

## Strengths

- Existing medical clinic
- Existing Ambulance service
- Existing dental service
- Existing foot care services

## Weaknesses

- No permanent physician
- No access for blood work
- Travel cost for primary care
- No access to mental health services
- Diabetic specialty services unavailable

## Opportunities

- Complete work on establishing blood work locally
- Work with Algoma Public Health to establish clinical services locally
- Determine cost and benefits from physician recruitment plan

## Threats

- With loss of doctor could also lose funding for locums
- Trying to overreach at the expense of securing services already available



Priority number two identified by the public and business sector is the lack of housing/accommodation in White River.

There are a couple of different issues that need to be addressed in depth.

First involves action by the Municipality in completing the process regarding tax sales of vacant or abandoned buildings/homes.

This process is dictated by Provincial Government regulations. This, in effect, restricts the ability of the municipality from taking immediate steps.

The Municipality has started this process.

The next major step to be done would be the action of demolition or at the minimum making the lots available for sale and private replacement.

Once the process has been completed and derelict buildings can be removed it opens some prime locations for commercial and residential lots. New structures could then be erected and sold.

There is also vacant, properly zoned lots that with some information made clear from the municipality, may encourage prospective developers to invest.

\*The CDC requested the identification of lots and houses for sale in the community. We were informed this has been tasked to one of the interns.

However for an example, there are presently seven building lots available behind the new subdivision with street access to be developed to them.

The above is a good example of how a focus group, with assistance of the intern and EDO, should and could function.



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### ***HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS***

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- Contact the Public Health Inspector, Wawa, to have buildings inspected for the possibility of them being health hazards
- Have the Fire Department inspect them as possible fire hazards
- Have building inspected by the Building Inspector as possible safety hazards
- Once buildings needing to be removed are identified explore funding opportunities to assist in offsetting costs.
- Start exploring the possibility of a long term care facility and additional retirement home facilities.

A large, light blue number "1" is positioned vertically on the left side of the page, serving as a section marker.

## THE EFFECT OF HOUSING ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The importance of making housing a priority target is crucial. There are jobs available in White River and the area is in need of a larger workforce immediately.

The housing market being low in White River means increasing pressure on markets in the nearby neighbouring communities.

The movement forward to change existing availability will not only benefit the labour force but have impacts on the other priorities identified. New families to White River would have a positive impact on the present vacant service sector jobs. Secondary incomes for spouses/partners and young family members would be realized.

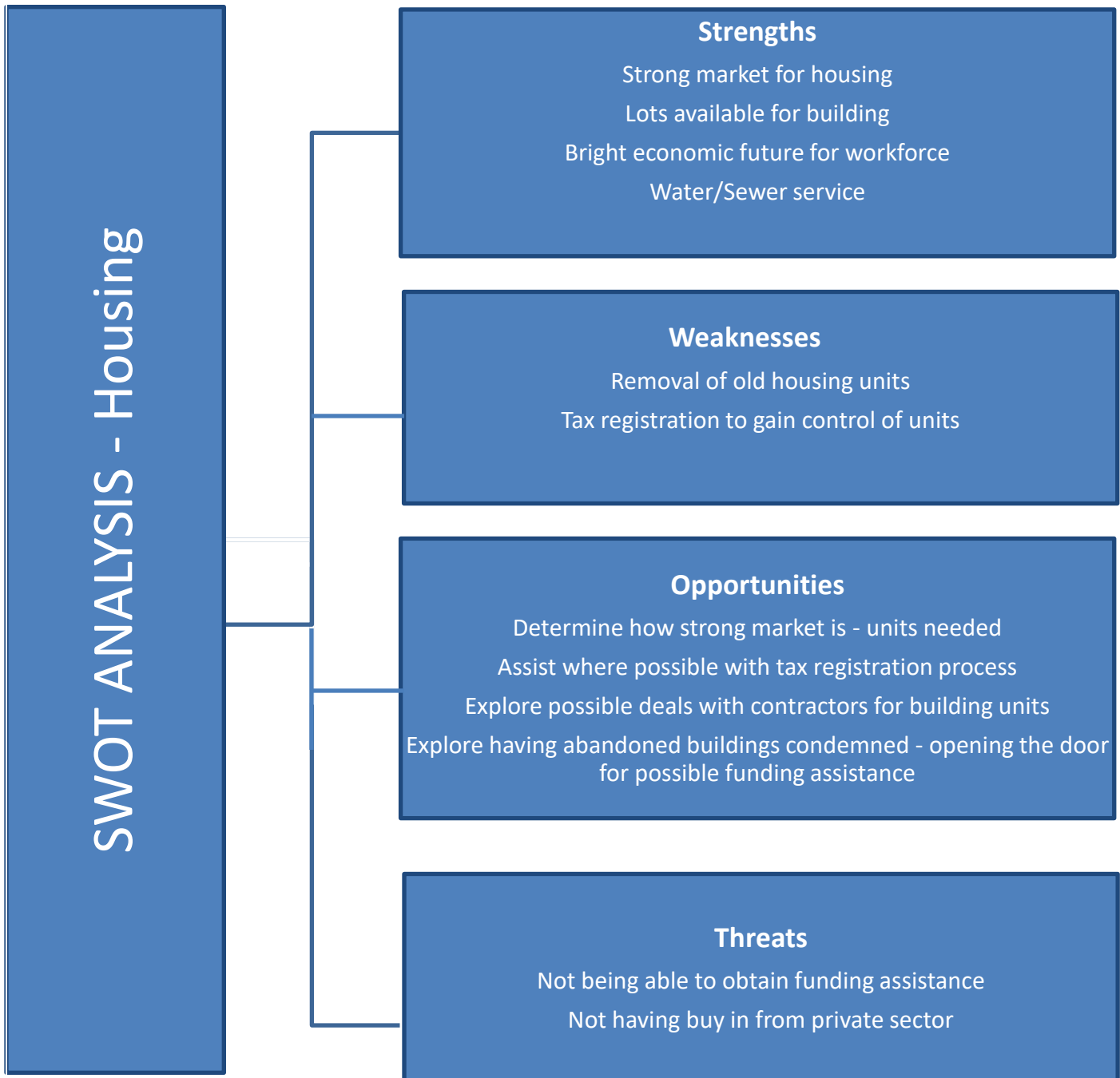
Additional families in the area increase the ability for positive movement on health care, education, recreation and basically all other areas in the Strategic Plan.

From a financial perspective new housing not only means more income for the municipality but would certainly bolster the income in other small businesses in the community.

It would also have a very positive impact on vacant service sector jobs that are now existing with families moving in and these could easily work as secondary incomes for spouses/partners and young family members.

Should the housing market show an improvement it would almost certainly make financial institutions look more favourably in making affordable mortgages and lending available.

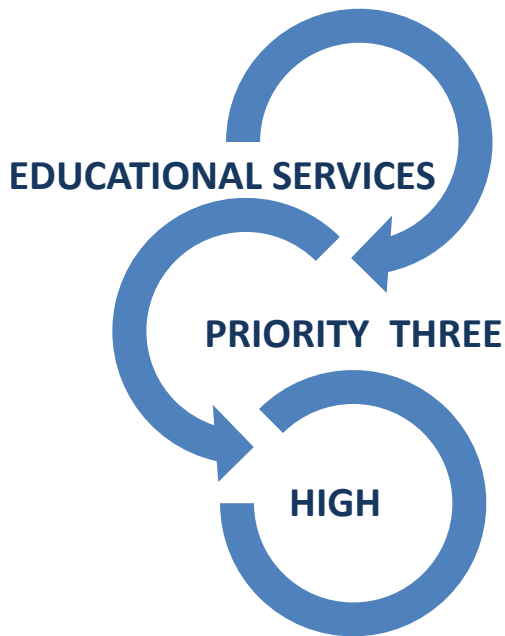
While this priority is not the answer to all issues the community has identified, it clearly has the impact to start the other priorities to cascade into resolutions.



\*It was brought forward at one of the public sessions that there was an issue of banks not willing to be open with lending for mortgages and business expansions. There is no concrete evidence to support this. It is possibly the concern that White River, with the previous closure of the mill, was viewed as a depressed area. If in fact that was the case, then the actions of the community, development of new mining activities and the mill reopening certainly changed that scenario.

Now with all the activity happening, the regular support from financial institutions should be available to those meeting the criteria.





There is going to be a challenge in making any significant changes in educational services especially at the secondary school level.

Secondary school students are currently bussed to Wawa.

The issue has been raised to have a facility built in White River. Concerns have also been heard about the importance of social interaction which is presented with the larger size of the Wawa facility.

The number of secondary school student affected in White River is manageable enough to have direct contact with them and clearly identify their wishes.

Further look at the existing facilities and open dialogue with the Board of Education on the possibility of long distance learning between Wawa and White River. If the venture is successful it could also extend to adult education distance training.

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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- Establish a strong focus group which includes at least one youth representative to carry out the mandate, as a single goal, lead by the EDO
- Attempt to entice the local school trustee to act as a resource to the focus group
- Research existing schools/communities in similar situations and what they offer
- Include a member in the focus group that has an understanding of the workings of the educational system and its functions.

## THE EFFECT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The priorities of housing and health care were a little clearer on how to approach improvements and the results those improvements may have.

Educational services are controlled by a local board of education following and interpreting the education act. This makes it more difficult to effect change.

Certainly the best way to increase, expand and improve education in White River is to increase the need by helping raise the level of registered students. This will be accomplished by increasing the number of families coming to the White River School catchment area.

Again there are the basics existing with the elementary school. It gives the building block to improve existing service and at the same time the starting point with the attraction of a larger family population base. The chance to expand services will come naturally with even a slight increase in the number of students or that would at least be the goal.

While trying to explore the possible improvements in Education services one of the keys is to work closely with the elected trustee from the Board of Education as much as possible. Any changes to be made will certainly involve a champion needed at the board level.

The established focus group must always keep in mind that any changes requested may well be competing for limited dollars that are sent to the boards. This certainly does not preclude success but can make it more difficult to accomplish.

Thus the theory to have at least one member of the focus group knowledgeable on the workings of the educational system.

# SWOT ANALYSIS - Educational Services

## Strengths

Existing elementary school  
Transportation existing for secondary school students

## Weaknesses

School program and funding handled by school board  
No direct way for municipalities to implement changes

## Opportunities

Open dialogue with the school board  
Examine the possibility of distance learning, getting students off the hwy  
Explore additional educational initiatives such as adult education, training programs, mentoring programs

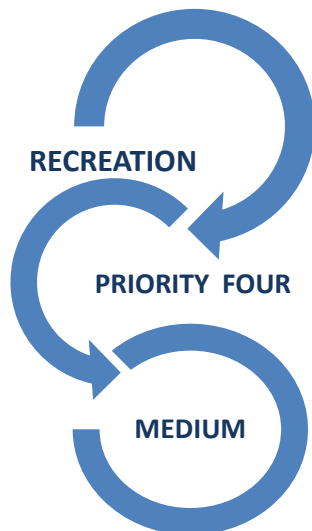
## Threats

Loss of funding for bus transportation  
Possibility of elementary students needing to be bussed due to lack of enrollment

## Community Priorities – Four to Six

These are the next three priorities as identified by the community. The initial emphasis of course was on the first three priorities which were laid out with some direction and recommendations.

The balance of the priorities will be touched on but not detailed. They do deserve some concentrated effort put into them and they also hold goals that may be achievable during the same timeframe as the first three priorities.



Recreational Services was not only identified as priority four but there were a significant number of comments made on what the community would like to see done to improve recreation activities. These included;

- A Splash Pad
- Upgrading the walking/fitness trails
- An outdoor running pad
- Snow machine races
- Basketball Court
- T-Ball/Soccer for the kids
- Seniors activities
- Travel for swimming/poker nights/bingo

The idea of using the existing park space in the community is a distinct possibility for some of these and other ideas to be pursued.



The fifth priority was streets and sidewalks. To make improvements on this priority a process would have to be followed by Municipal Council.

The procedure for this would involve an engineering study to make the community eligible for funding assistance from the Province.

Should the Municipality decide this is a priority they would like to carry out, funding applications could be pursued with input from the Community Development Corporation and Economic Development Officer.



The sixth priority was identified as Municipal Services. Comments ranged from positive to negative as they always do with Municipal Government.

The majority of issues are basically the same as most other Municipalities. This normally comes from a lack of understanding of what Council can do within the strict guidelines of Ontario's Municipal Act.

The majority of taxes raised by a Municipal Government cannot be used as council sees fit. Each Township is mandated to pay Education taxes, payments to District Social Services Boards and levy from Algoma Public Health as well as Police Services.

\*Possibly, the avenue for better communicating of the actions of Council is educating the public on the many limitations Council's face.

## Community Priorities – Seven to Nine



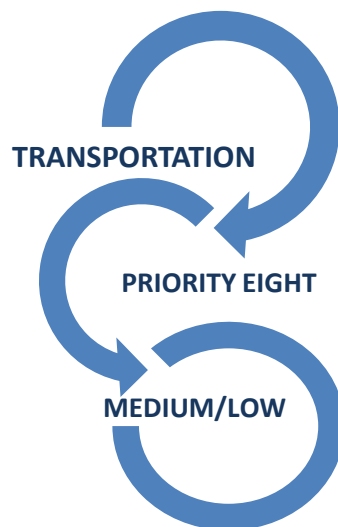
Handicap Services were seventh on the list of priorities.

Currently, municipalities are being mandated by the Province on the issue of handicap accessibility.

All municipalities must have their public buildings handicap accessible. It is not a matter of choice as to it being done, the issue is how soon it can be accomplished.

It would be recommended that the municipality start by establishing a list of what is needed with the assistance of an accessibility committee, which would include at least one disabled person.

Costs can range from building ramps to installing power doors. Projects could start, one at a time, as funding becomes available.



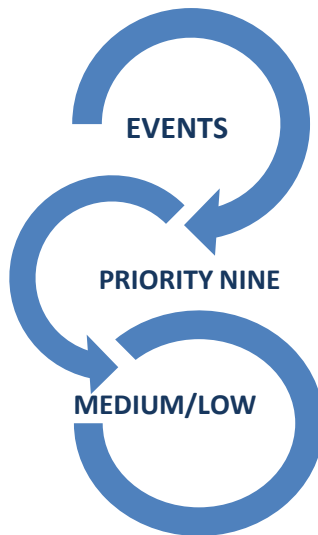
Transportation was priority eight on the list. The biggest concern raised was the problem of getting transportation to neighboring communities for non-emergency medical needs. The most expressed concerns were for blood work and doctor appointments.

While there is a van that is in place to assist presently, it appears availability and the cost factor are a deterrent to some.

It is hoped the issue of blood work will be resolved with the clinic being able to return to taking blood samples locally for lab work.

Comments were also given on the bus service that is an important link for many to travel. This is an issue that warrants discussion with surrounding communities to explore if a solution can be found jointly.





Events were designated as the ninth priority. While the main event in the community is the popular Winnie the Pooh Festival, other suggestions ranged from a water sports day, possible ball tournaments, more curling events and events aimed at children and youth.

Although there are many good ideas to expand events, the case unfortunately is there seems to be a lack of a volunteer base to handle them.

Recommendation would be to hold a volunteer recruitment drive to try and attract new people into taking active roles.

The Economic Development resources could do local marketing on the need for volunteers and develop a needs list then promote an evening to try and entice new people into supporting the community as a volunteer.

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## LABOUR FORCE

During the process of information gathering for this Strategic Plan there was no discussion on the labour force issue that is facing White River's business community currently.

It was identified that the housing shortage issue being addressed would attract more people to the community and help address the labour force issue.

There is also the matter of having a work force available in neighboring Pic Mobert; although, there is a transportation issue to move that workforce that needs to be resolved. This is currently being worked on.

Senior levels of government had programs available at one time to assist with moving immigrants. The availability of these programs appear to be no longer accessible. Other funding opportunities should continue to be followed up by the EDO.

There is also an on-going labour force study presently being done by the Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation (AWIC). The opportunity to be involved with them should be pursued as another avenue of resource and information.

# FOCUS GROUPS

Each of the top three priorities should have dedicated focus groups formed. The Focus Groups would be sub-committees under the Community Development Corporation.

Committed Focus Groups are vital in moving an issue forward.

Focus Groups typically are comprised of five to ten people. They should be small enough to allow everyone the opportunity to share insights, and yet large enough to provide group interaction and diversity of experience.

The selected group should be refined to residents that are in the correct demographic, vested in the topic, and have some knowledge on the issue.

Specific resource people should be included as they can share needed information. These could include:

- A medical professional on the Health Care Priority group
- A developer on the Housing Priority group
- Youth and an educator or school trustee on the Education Priority group
- Funding partners

A call for volunteers should be put out. An excellent example for a resource is retired professionals.

Each focus group should have a Chair or Moderator. This is an important component to keep the entire group on task and ensure the group is engaged in the proceedings.

The group meetings should be recorded. Having a designated minute taker recording the proceedings allows the group to stay informed as things progress. The minutes should be shared with the CDC/ EDO and be public documents.

The same can be done with the other priorities identified, although it has been identified that achieving the top three priorities will pave the way for the others.

## COMMUNICATION

One item that has not been addressed is communication locally and to the surrounding area as to what's happening in White River.

It may well be worth looking at starting a bi-monthly newsletter to be made available in the community. It could include highlights from council meetings, meetings of focus groups or committees, events in the community such as bingos, dart tournaments, curling information, information from the library even a list of new book arrivals. This would not be difficult to do, it was just not done simply from a lack of personnel with the time to do it.

With the interns in place it may be a great time to see if it would be popular in the community.

The cost would be minimal to start with a single photo copied sheet folded and distributed to pick up locations throughout the community.

It would also be a way for business to put out information on things from their perspective. Even if a business would like to place an advertisement in it, this would be acceptable. It could certainly be used for groups to try and recruit volunteers with the ability of explaining what the group or organization goals are.

This could be easily monitored as to its success to determine if it needed, if it is valuable or needs to be expanded into something that is available more than bi-monthly.

It may be something that could be offered to a student with an interest in writing, journalism or even marketing.

It would benefit all to have correct information in the community as opposed to speculation and hearsay.

The community would be receiving its own timely news and events happening locally.

## Concluding Statement from PSRP

We would like to say it has been a pleasure and a great learning experience for us to be able to present you with this plan.

We have faith in the community that seems to be, in a significant way, committed to joint efforts to solidify the growth and prosperity of White River and the surrounding area.

One of our major considerations used during the process was the inclusion of as much community involvement as possible. Through public meetings, paper and electronic surveys, the community responded with a high level of participation and input.

Statistics Canada 2011 results indicate the population of White River at 625. With the increase seen since the census in the population, this number appears to be more in the neighborhood of 750. For the purpose of percentage of involvement, the latter number was used garnering a 20.3% response to the surveys. As survey results generally go, this number is an amazing return per capita.

During this process, the majority of the public comments showed a theme of the potential for a positive future, not only in the community of White River, but in this area of Northern Ontario as a whole.

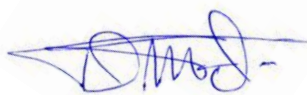
The findings are reflected in the Strategic Plan.

This is very positive looking for the future of White River and it is evident the strength of the area is in the commitment of the people who live here.

We would like to address the importance of continued working relationships with neighboring communities. It is clear that on a municipal level there is on-going relationships with Pic Mobert, Wawa, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge and Marathon.

We recommend that monthly meetings between the EDO's of surrounding communities be established much the same as the existing meetings of regional Mayors now.

Cooperation is often the most effective way for a path to success.



Tom Farquhar, PSRP



Sherrie Perron, PSRP

*We thank you all for assisting us with this positive, progressive plan and for allowing us to feel like part of a great community*

## Map of White River



*strategic plan* the corporation of the township of White River 2017-2021

*2016 Problem Solution Resolution Partners*