

Summary: IDEAS Forum: BICS
(October 22, 2009)

The following is a verbatim record of the notes prepared by 10 tables of participants at the IDEAS Forum. Approximately 90 participants attended (some came late and did not register). The IDEAS Forum was hosted by the OCP Update Steering Committee.

The agenda was based upon seeking feedback from volunteer groups and community members who attended the meeting. Volunteer groups were asked to provide written submissions (five page maximum). Twenty-two groups responded. Two additional volunteer groups attended the meeting but did not provide written submissions. They were invited to participate and share their ideas.

Structure of event:

- Volunteer groups were limited to a maximum of 2 speakers each. Each volunteer speaker was assigned to a table, but no group had two speakers at the same table (10 tables in all). Approximately, four volunteers from different groups were assigned to each table. Non-volunteers or groups with more than two attendees were scattered randomly amongst the 10 tables. There was an average of 8 to 10 volunteers per table.
- Each table had an appointed facilitator (Steering Committee member or member of Council).
- Each table appointed a recorder/reporter.

Event agenda:

- 1. Participants that represented a group took five minutes each to discuss the key aspects of their submission. Time was provided for clarification of points made. Recorder summarized points.
- 2. All participants were asked to address the following:
 - (a) Discuss the IDEAS discussed in (1) above and have the group identify what they believe are key IDEAS for Bowen's future well-being. The recorder kept a list of the points and indicated why important.
 - (b) Reporters from each table reported findings to all participants.
 - (c) Each participant was asked to address this question: What IDEAS could/should be implemented to ensure Bowen maintains/establishes a high quality of life for its citizens? Each participant was given four green dots and one red dot. Each participant was asked to place one green dot beside one idea generated by a table other than the participant's own table. Only one green dot could be used for one idea (total of four ideas to be 'dotted'). Participants were asked to place their red dot next to an idea that they felt was a very bad idea (the evening facilitator asked that the red dots be used sparingly and only for ideas with which a person disagreed strongly).
- The evening facilitator briefly discussed the results.

Results:

The following is a verbatim summary of (c) above. Feedback is recorded in order of the number of green dots or green dots less red dots placed next to an idea.

- The OCP must keep alive the vision of Bowen as an 'earthy green oasis' even at final build-out to provide a refuge and escape for wildlife and humans and maintain rural character (20 green dots).
- Define the criteria used to assess the carrying capacity (social, ecological) of island. Why?: as a planning tool; disciplines our thinking (12 green dots)
- Municipality implement an economic development plan (11 green dots)
- Need more multi-use trails and connectivity that are suitable for horses, hikers, bikers etc. to prevent development from fragmenting Bowen's trailways (10 green dots)
- Preserve and utilize existing land with agricultural potential using sustainable agricultural practices (10 green dots)
- Foster promote local economy (10 green dots)
- Density: increase should be in Snug Cove first (11 green dots, 1 red dot)
- Nurturing an inclusive community (intergenerational activities) (9 green dots)
- Youth centre (needs of on-island youth, funding issue, night-time transportation) (9 green dots)
- Simplify and clarify the OCP: Why? To remove contradictions; so document is more readable for public (8 green dots)
- Co-housing to address affordability, diversity and community connection (smaller footprint) (8 green dots)
- Need to re-examine our concept of density (7 green dots)
- Encourage diverse housing types – preserve community diversity (7 green dots)
- Need for affordable housing to foster social diversity (6 green dots)
- There is strong support for a multi-use facility (arts + community centre) (6 green dots and 1 red dot)

- Densification, cluster housing, encouragement of live/work potential near agricultural lands, woofers, development cost charges (with sustainable trade-offs) (5 green dots)
- Encourage cluster housing because: e.g. preservation of open space, create diverse and healthy neighbourhoods, environmentally better (5 green dots)
- Recognize heritage value in planning (4 green dots)
- Restorative approach to land use (reference Holland Barrs reports incorporate into OCP) (4 green dots)
- Community self-sufficiency and resiliency with respect to food production (4 green dots)
- Identify existing OCP statements that prohibit implementation of recognized community objectives . . . such as: No net density increase: Why/ reassess (4 green dots)
- Diversity of housing options (4 green dots)
- Keep dark sky – no street lights (4 dots)
- Define a vision for the long term (20-30 yrs out) future of the island and work back (3 green dots)
- Transportation: trail and road use (3 green dots)
- Improvement/creative solutions for public transit (3 green dots)
- Develop new way of counting density (3 green dots)
- Land use patterns that protect what we have (3 green dots)
- Need tools to encourage affordable housing forms (3 green dots)
- Affordable housing: possible solution is clustering+density+amenity+co-housing+multi-family (3 green dots)
- Endorse Bowen as an earthy green oasis (why: to maintain and improve our quality of life) (3 green dots)
- Need tourism to be supported with a local economic development plan to create a sustainable community with on-island employment (3 green dots and 1 red dot)
- Distinguish between needs/wants; focus on needs (3 green dots and 1 red dot)

- If an OCP review speaks to the next 5-7 years what will we do and not do or put on hold. Enough with endless big ideas (2 green dots)
- Community hall theatre needed (2 green dots)
- Collaborative, inclusive form of government (2 green dots)
- Youth centre: bridge generation gap (2 green dots)
- Right to farm (2 green dots)
- Increase protected lands and greenway concept; management of sensitive + enviro significant land/education related to land conserv + enviro issues (2 green dots)
- Soil/waste management improvements (e.g., compost re-use) (2 green dots)
- Challenging notions of a growing business economy as a solution (2 green dots and 1 red dot)
- Increase food production and agricultural capacity (1 green dot)
- Better communication between volunteer community groups (1 green dot)
- Identify existing OCP statements that prohibit implementation of recognized community objectives . . . such as: maintain rural character where? (1 green dot)
- Identify existing OCP statements that prohibit implementation of recognized community objectives . . . such as: discouraged multi-family why? (1 green dot)
- Better define affordable housing (i.e. BCHA reports) why: to help it happen (1 green dot)
- Activate and implement the Snug Cove Plan (1 green dot)
- Health care unique requirements re: emerg services, aging population, availability of health professionals, helicopter site (1 green dot)
- Establishment of heritage commission (more formal input) (1 green dot)
- Need clarity re: population + density (1 green dot)
- Affordability – What are the various needs and how do we satisfy that/ (1 green dot)
- Community Centre – an effective place for seniors, can it be built/ (1 green dot)

- Zero waste living (1 green dot)
- Pilot projects (1 green dot)
- Need to deal with growing gymnastics facility needs in a manner that seeks partnerships with others because our indoor recreation facilities are insufficient (1 green dot and 1 red dot)
- Protect ‘grandfathering’ of zoning + uses assigned to a given property. When property changes hands zoning must be protected (1 green dot and 1 red dot)
- Diversity of housing should be recognized (no dots)
- Arts/Rec space: feasibility done, missing leadership (no dots)
- Expand AG-designated lands; do inventory all land and say ‘these are potential croplands) (no dots)
- Adapt zoning to areas with AG/capacity (no dots)
- Community gardens and ‘pocket gardens’ as capacity building solutions, esp important as we densify cove, reduces barriers landownership, \$oil, fences (no dots)
- Seek balance between agriculture + ecologically sensitive lands + greenways/wildlife corridors (no dots)
- Reduce redundancies in OCP (no dots)
- Cross reference capability graphics/maps (no dots)
- Please allow for active transportation (roads do not allow cycling) (no dots)
- All new development must include ped+cycling+equestr trails design development for people not cars (no dots)
- Access to affordable land and housing (no dots)
- Establish cultural and economic plan (no dots)
- Problem is not positions (everyone agrees) but with priorities vis a vis a piece of land – what is the mechanism? (no dots)
- Researching heritage pre-develop (no dots)

- Inventory listing of heritage (no dots)
- Remind muni that cultural plan and its recommendations should be implemented (cultural plan is part of OCP) (no dots)
- Residential accessory buildings on large lots (no dots)
- Community gardens (no dots)
- Lack of volunteers (no dots)
- Need community facility for performance and assembly (urgent 18 years of studies, support it!) (no dots)
- We need community recreation facility (no dots)
- Youth Centre: access of youth to transportation, better on-island youth facilities and services, inter generational activities, encourage youth involvement, include youth in volunteer groups, youth centre in community centre,
- Is volunteerism dying on Bowen (no dots)
- Tourism: if each visitor spends \$54 what can we do to increase that amount (no dots)
- Ability of future populations to pay for anticipate services and facilities (no dots)
- Conflict between population increase, density, rural character, location and sustainability (no dots)
- True Green Charter (no dots)
- Discussion of density, population cap what is it? (no dots)
- OCP designations that encourage recreation, culture and education (no dots)
- Community water taxi feasible? (1 red dot)
- Still strong feeling of community though it is slipping (1 red dot)
- Population maximum (1 green dot and 5 red dots)
- Encourage nodal more complete neighbourhoods (2 green dots and 4 red dots)
- Plan for secondary commercial node on w. side of island, will it increase traffic (two red dots)

- Create tree bylaw (3 red dots)
- Compensation for individuals detrimentally affected by zoning (3 red dots)
- Identify existing OCP statements that prohibit implementation of recognized community objectives . . . such as: population cap Why? Reassess (14 red dots)