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Parry Sound Unveils Key Goals at the Waterfront Master Plan Open House

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PARRY SOUND, ON - **MHBC Planning** shared key findings and goals during the first **Waterfront Master Plan Open House** held on **Wednesday, March 19th** at the Charles W. Stockey Centre. This session provided an opportunity to inform residents of the feedback received through the kick-off meeting and public surveys conducted in 2024, engage with the draft Waterfront Master Plan, and provide further reflections for consideration.

Five Key Goals Identified

Following extensive community consultation, **five key goals** have emerged to guide the future development of Parry Sound's Waterfront Master Plan:

1. **Creating a waterfront that prioritizes public space and public access**
2. **Preserving and enhancing the natural identity of the waterfront**
3. **Expanding connections between the waterfront and key destinations** – strengthening links between the waterfront and downtown
4. **Utilizing a balanced approach to economic development**
5. **Encouraging waterfront activation through events and recreational activities**

A Strong Sense of Community Engagement

The open house was well-attended, with participants actively engaging in discussions and a lively Q&A following the presentation.

“We were pleased with the turn out,” said Mayor Jamie McGarvey. “The quality of comments received show how important the waterfront and this project is to our community.”

Key themes reiterated from previous feedback included maintaining and respecting historical and First Nations' presence, improving access to public spaces with enhanced safety features, preserving the town's identity while enabling growth, and increasing activities for all ages.

“A wonderful mix of demographics brought forward a good diversity of opinions and input that was fantastic,” said Jamie Robinson, MCBC Partner – Planner. “There was a real appreciation for the town in undertaking this exercise and a strong willingness to see some of these ideas implemented.”



“There was a sense of real anticipation in the room,” said Andrea Sinclair, MCBC Partner – Planning and Urban Design. “People wanted to know what the next steps are—how we move from concept to reality, whether there’s a budget to make it happen, and where we start. There’s a lot of interest in seeing something tangible take shape along the waterfront, and with all the feedback received, we’re confident this vision can become a reality.”

Next Steps: Moving from Concept to Action

With community feedback now incorporated, the project team will:

- Update the draft Waterfront Master Plan based on public input.
- Develop implementation policies to be included in the Town’s Official Plan.
- Present to the public at a second open house before finalizing the document
- Present the updated plan to **Town Council and the public** for review and approval.

Learn More

For more details on the **Waterfront Master Plan** and to stay informed on upcoming developments, visit www.parrysound.ca.

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