

# St. Ann's Bay Development Association

## 2008 Community Survey

Questions for St. Ann's Bay Residents

### Summary of Responses

<http://sabda.grouppenterprise.com/>

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How long have you lived in the community (if you are a seasonal resident, use calendar years)?

Less than 1 year (4)     1–5 years (3)     6–10 years (1)     11–20 years (1)     More than 20 years (6)

Please note that these responses are not in order of priority, nor do they cover everything mentioned, but are an attempt to summarize major concerns brought forth.

**1. How can we improve or supplement the emergency services we have now?**

On-going training (CPR, First Aid, other) for fire fighters and First Responders

Complete insurance coverage, including liability and disability

Stronger recruitment for Fire Department and First Responders

Equipment (fire truck, toboggan for winter use, marine rescue, and other equipment)

Improved communications, better coverage for the Fire Department

Increased knowledge of community and winter difficulties by all community members

Cell phone coverage needed in all areas

Preparation for natural disasters (Fire Hall is in flood plain, need another place and a plan)

Police patrol vehicle in SABDA area

Ambulances parked in different areas (rather than just in their depots)

**2. What changes do you think are needed to improve existing education programs?**

Courses in the community (small engine problem solving, chain saw maintenance, GPS)

More CAP Site access year-round

More home-schooling options, including programs for home schooling.

More life skills and apprenticeship for trades offered in public schools.

**3. There have been a number of courses and workshops offered in the community. Which of these have you attended or are you attending now? What would you like for future courses?**

Respondents have attended First Aid, CPR, Food Handlers' Course, Tae Kwon Do, Moccasin Making, Yoga, Grief Support Group, Accounting on the Computer (at Gaelic College), Healthy Backs, lectures on depression, Alzheimer's support, prescription drugs.

Respondents would like: classes on mental and physical health, how to deal with rising costs on a fixed budget, pilates, woodlot management, step dancing, courses on rural self-reliance, as well as hands-on women-only or co-ed courses on carpentry, car care, chainsaw operation, appliance repairs, elder care.

**4. What do you and your family find most enjoyable as recreation?**

Respondents liked to do a lot of things. Fine weather activities included beach-walking, gardening, picking berries, reading, walking. Then there was dancing, socializing, hiking, snowshoeing, swimming, sailing, golf, cribbage, music (concerts, ceilidhs), writing, Church and Health Centre events, Celtic Colours, travelling exhibits, Bookmobile, book group, Men's Club events, alpine skiing, cycling, motorcycling, classic car/motorcycle restoration, eating out (pub style), coffee shop conversation, scale modelling, and collecting (books, antiques, eclectic items), kayaking, beach time, friends, wilderness awareness, plant identification, camping, sight-seeing.

**5. What social services are needed in the community?**

Home care (and a comprehensive lecture on what's available and how to access it for all ages needing home care)

Transportation (some kind of public transportation or ride sharing network, possibly via Internet)

Emergency mental health intake service (for crisis, alcohol, drug emergency) closer than Sydney

Housing (seniors' accommodations)

Meet and Greet for new residents to introduce them to community (Welcome-Wagon style)

Roster of people willing/able to do casual work in community (lawn care, house cleaning) possibly by Internet

Small local dispensary for emergency medical supplies and drugs (run by a nurse practitioner or paramedic)

Food bank

**6. What possibilities do you see for the growth of commercial services and retail enterprise?**

Diversified accommodation for travellers

Maintenance and other local services (oil change depot, car wash)

Home-based work on Internet

General store/café for North River and/or at the Barrachois

Need to support our alternative economy (work exchange, bartering)

Local transportation service (van to airport)

Pool of summer labour guaranteed by the Department of Labour to be drawn on as fee-for-service

Bike rental place

Parking places and "shopping shuttles" for people (including tourists) to stop, take a walk, get picked up and driven to various shops

Cottage industry (wine, cheese, furniture, chocolate-making, etc.)

Farmers' Market

Develop a training program for new immigrants, and sell it to the government

**7. How can we get more value out of our fishery, woodlots, and land?**

Maintain control of public access to waterfront and avoid total privatization of waterfront

Develop a suitable access path to the North River

Shop or restaurant around local wharf to sell fresh seafood

Implement proper land-use restrictions

Create a local log-sorting yard, so woodlot owners can sell small amounts of high-value timber

Courses in book-keeping for small businesses operating in fishery and forestry

Avoid clear-cutting, practice proper selective woodlot management

Community gardens

**8. What input and control do you have over allocation and use of natural resources?**

Personal control over energy we use for heating, lighting, transportation

Need to minimize our “footprint”

Concerns expressed about subsurface mineral rights

Need to be aware of government policies and how they affect us

Control over our woodlot, watershed, night sky

**9. What problems do you see with existing infrastructure? What can be done to fix them?**

Public transportation is non-existent

Loss of Department of Highways depot in Baddeck

Highway is a disgrace (needs total reconstruction, widening, bike lanes, paved shoulders)

Pressure the Province to fix the Trail

Cell service and high speed Internet needed in all areas

More public wharves needed (such as former government wharves at St. Ann’s, Goose Cove, Murray Road)

Too many community halls for the population, makes it hard to maintain them, need one comprehensive complex

New ferry should be free, as it’s part of the road system

Ferry should be replaced by a bridge

**10. What do you do at home on a non-cash basis to contribute to your household?**

Respondents do everything: grow and freeze vegetables, bake, cut firewood, maintain and improve the house and property, repair appliances, pick berries and apples, cook, clean, entertain, fish, hunt, heat with wood, and more.

**11. Do you see yourself or your family living in this community ten years from now?**

Most respondents said “yes”, some said “definitely” or “absolutely”. There were worries about aging here and about children having to leave, and some said, “with luck, yes.” One said, “I hope not”, and another said “no.”

**Finally, do you have any new concerns you wish to address?**

Isolation (tax breaks for isolation needed given distance from services)

Limit amount of property non-Canadians can purchase on the waterfront

Concern about increasing assessments and real estate prices

Need for land-use regulations (protect natural resources and access to coastal areas, while respecting private property)

Maintain and expand public trails

Non-residents should be paying high municipal taxes

Need to be vocal about the reciprocity of rural and urban concerns

Rural communities need to actively support each other when issues come up (strip mining example)

Concerned about Bill C 51 and its ramifications for access to natural remedies

Revamp services for seniors, and establish priorities for the spending of limited resources

Speed up the new ferry

Celebrate history and heritage of the area (Gaelic heritage, tours of Wreck Cove power plant, geology interpretation centre, fisheries museum, etc.)

Boat tours, a marina, more wharf space and moorings