



Youth Engagement Strategy FINAL REPORT

Prepared for the
Municipality of South Huron

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Executive Summary

The Municipality received a grant from the Rural Ontario Institute to develop a youth engagement strategy. Input was sought from the community using social media, one-on-one stakeholder meetings and an online public survey open to anyone to participate.

Overall, participants reported a lack of entertainment and recreation opportunities in the Municipality. Many expressed they go to other centres (e.g., London, Goderich) to get their needs met. Participants felt that if some sort of entertainment was opened up in South Huron, it would not only cater to the needs of South Huron residents, but would also attract residents outside of South Huron into our community. Survey data show that many respondents also feel there is a disconnect between residents and the “decision makers.”

Most people live in South Huron because their family and friends are here. Another top reason is the small town lifestyle. This area offers a slower pace, less traffic and there is always a familiar face at every corner. However, some expressed the desire to leave South Huron. Affordable housing and public transportation were identified as missing in South Huron. Youth expressed the desire to have more of a voice in community decisions. Many survey participants cited the need for a youth council.

Based on the community input received during this project, eight strategic items are recommended to make South Huron more youth friendly.

About The Project

In the spring of 2019 the Municipality of South Huron received a grant from the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) to create a youth engagement strategy. South Huron was one of 10 successful applicants to receive the grant. Using the ROI grant, a Youth Engagement Strategist was hired to research and write a strategy that:

- 1) Identifies gaps to make our community more youth friendly to attract and retain youth in South Huron
- 2) Builds civic engagement among youth to ensure they feel their voice is being heard
- 3) Highlights young people working in the municipal sector to get more youth interested in working in the municipal sector.

In 2014 the Municipality was designated by Parks and Recreation Ontario as a "Youth Friendly Community." However, the Municipality has had no formal youth engagement strategy in place until now. Youth in this project are defined as people between the ages of 15 to 29 years old and an estimated 1,555 youth live in South Huron according to the 2016 [Statistics Canada](#) survey.

The project was named "Thrive South Huron" as we wanted to market the municipality as a place where youth feel they can thrive. The long-term goal is to satisfy youth needs right here, so they do not feel the need to go into "the city" to get their needs met.

Community Engagement Methods and Results

Staff consulted several community groups and individual youth to gather input for this strategy. Communication methods used to engage the community included social media, radio ads/news stories, posters distributed around town, word of mouth, direct email to community groups including the Avon Maitland District School Board, which distributed a notice in their electronic newsletter.

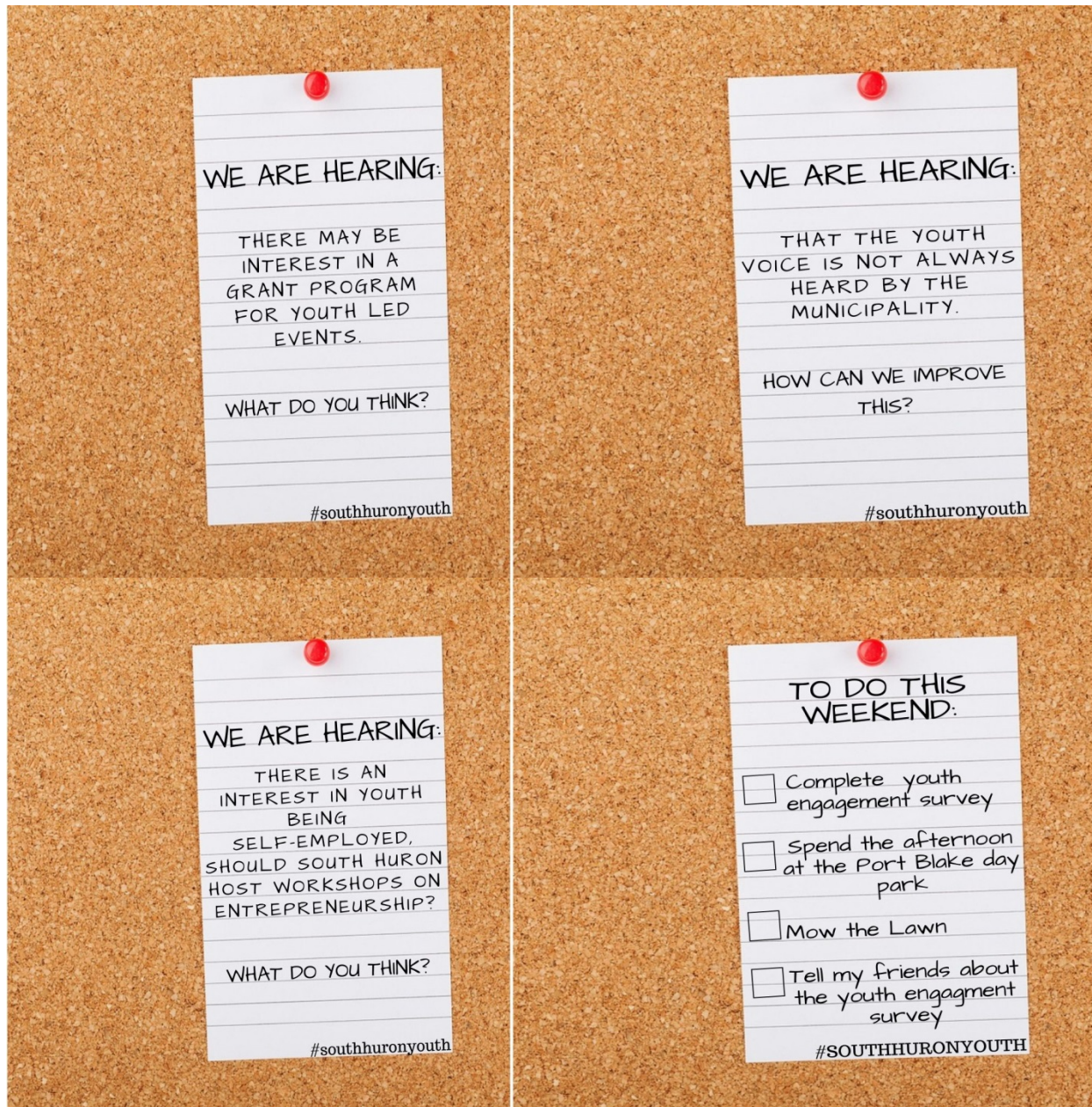
Social Media

Staff felt it was important to launch a South Huron Instagram account as part of this project because Instagram is a popular social media platform among youth. On Instagram and Facebook staff were able to use graphics to highlight some of the feedback received in the survey to see how other youth feel about the topic.

Topics included:

- Grants for youth led events
- Workshops on entrepreneurship
- That the youth voice is not always heard by the Municipality

Examples of social media posts:



Staff were able to generate some conversations using this method. However, comments were not anonymous which may have deterred people from stating their opinion. As of August 22nd, the Municipal Instagram account has 338 followers.

Face-to-Face Meetings

Participation in the project was open and over 20 community groups were invited to provide input during meetings, by phone or email. These meetings collected information on gaps in the community where local youth were not getting their needs met and helped to spread the word about the project.

The following organizations contributed their input on this strategy:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Exeter BIA
- South Huron Optimists
- Eco Exeter
- Community Foundations Grand Bend
- Cultural Collective
- Rural Response for Healthy Children
- Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre

The main youth gaps revealed during face-to-face meetings were:

- Attainable housing (rentals)
- Job opportunities (especially for beginners)
- Activities geared towards older youth
- Lack of professional networking opportunities
- Lack of recreation opportunities (e.g., movie theatre, bowling alley, mall)
- Lack of restaurants (i.e., not 'fast food')
- Need for a Youth council

Public Survey Results

On June 7th, 2019 staff launched a public survey¹ online using the municipal website SouthHuron.ca. Paper copies were also available at the South Huron Rec Centre and Municipal Office. While the survey focused on collecting the youth perspective, it was open to everyone.

To market the survey, advertisements were purchased using Facebook and the local radio station (90.5 MyFM) to reach a wider audience. In total, the survey was open for 5 weeks and 51 people participated. Staff were pleased with the quality and quantity of feedback from the public.

¹ Anyone could choose to participate in this open public survey. As the information was not collected by random sampling the results cannot be viewed as representing the feelings of the entire community. The survey results can only be viewed as representing the feelings of the survey participants.

The survey results are summarized here, however, the comprehensive results can be found in Appendix III.

Overall, survey respondents reported a lack of entertainment and recreation opportunities in the Municipality. Many stated that they go to other centres (e.g., London, Goderich) to get their needs met. Respondents felt that if some sort of entertainment was opened up in South Huron, it would not only cater to the needs of South Huron residents, but would also attract residents outside of South Huron into our community. Survey data show that many respondents also feel there is a disconnect between residents and the “decision makers.”

Most people live in South Huron because their family and friends are here. Another top reason is the small town lifestyle. This area offers a slower pace, less traffic and there is always a familiar face at every corner. However, some expressed the desire to leave South Huron. Affordable housing and public transportation were identified as missing in South Huron.

Youth expressed the desire to have more of a voice in community decisions. Many survey participants cited the need for a youth council.

Information about the survey participants

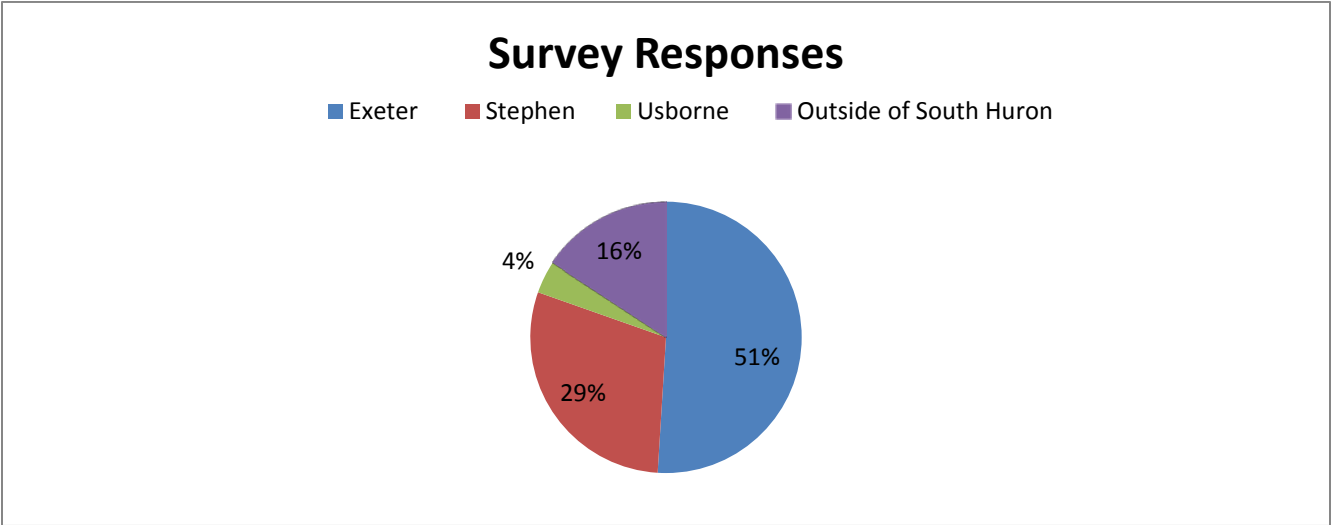


Figure 1. Those that responded from outside of South Huron had some sort of connection to the area.

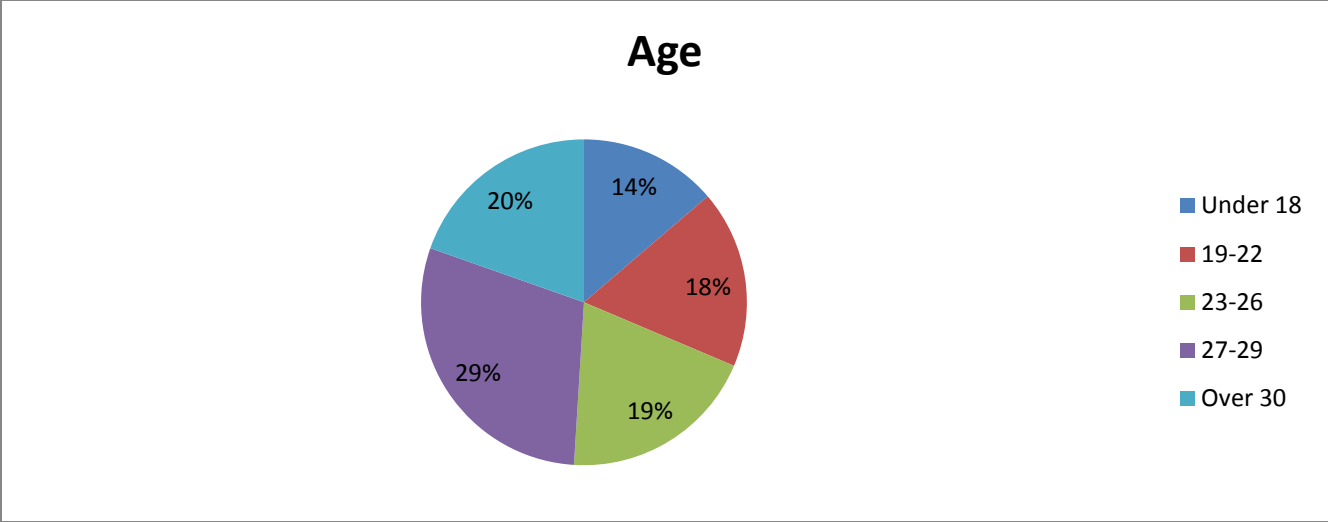


Figure 2. Those that responded that were over the age of 30 had the same answers as those in the youth category.

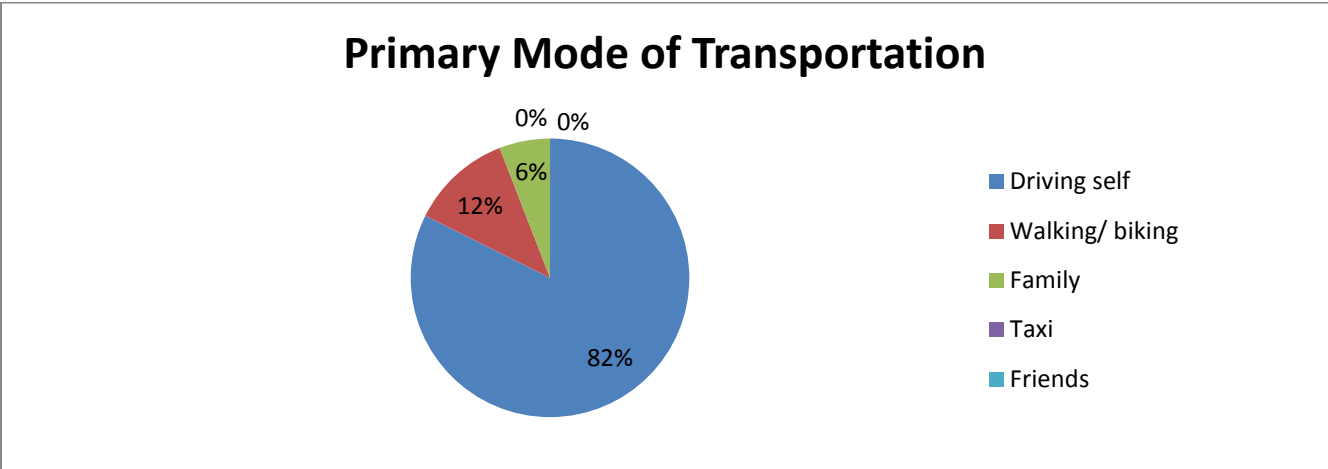


Figure 3.

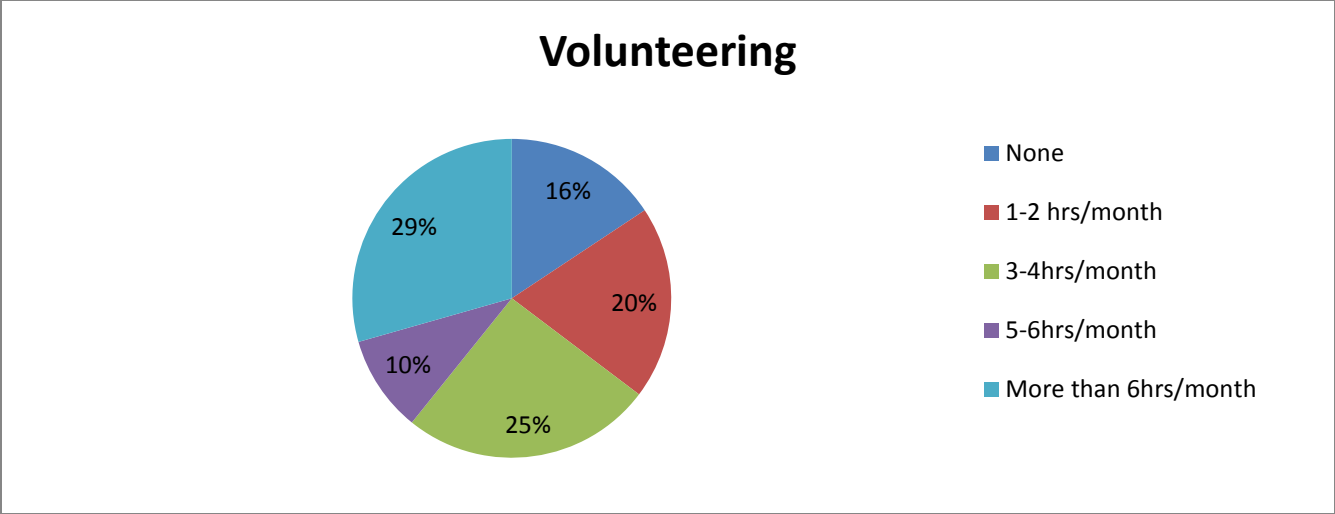


Figure 4.

What makes you want to live in South Huron?

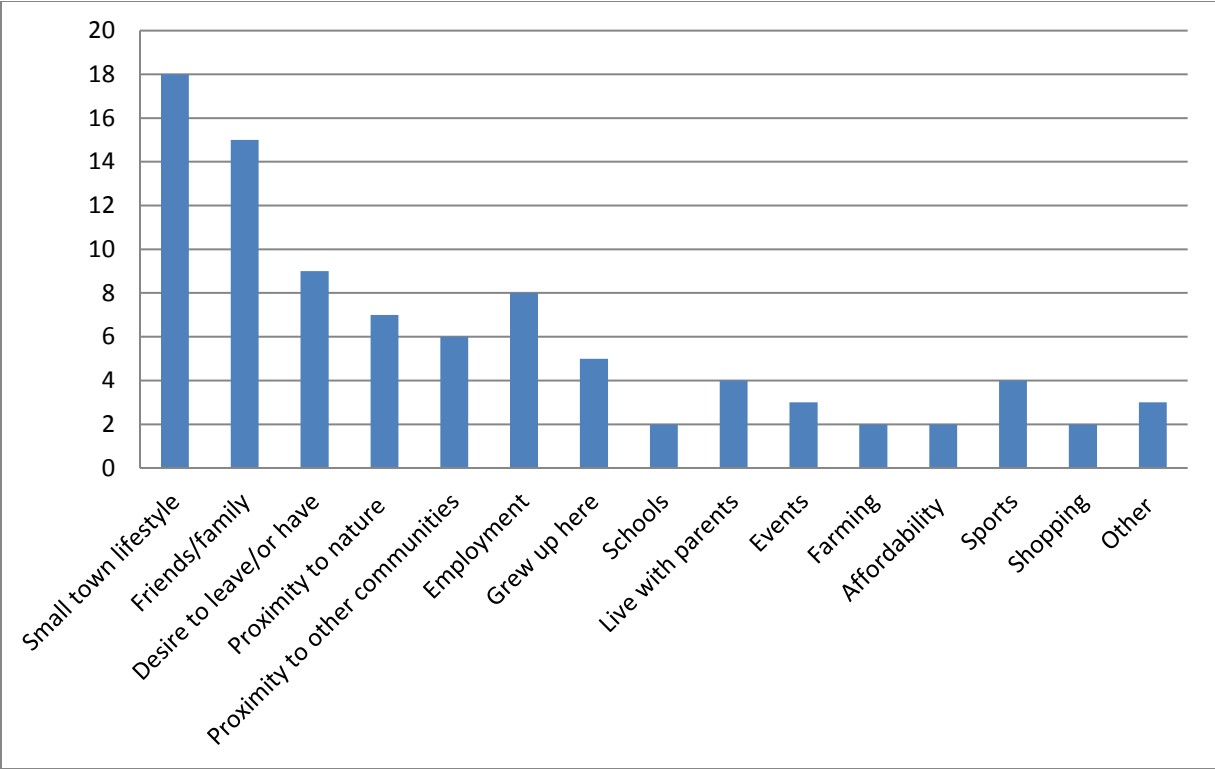


Figure 5.

Most respondents had more than one reason as to why they live in South Huron. For the majority of the respondents, South Huron is an attractive place for them to live because of the small town lifestyle. Respondents expressed they love how

everyone knows each other and there is always a smiling, familiar face when they are out in the community. Family and friends was also a strong reason as to why they live in South Huron.

Some respondents also expressed a desire to leave South Huron. Work, the cost of moving and family are keeping them in the municipality.

What's missing in South Huron and how would you fill the gap(s)?

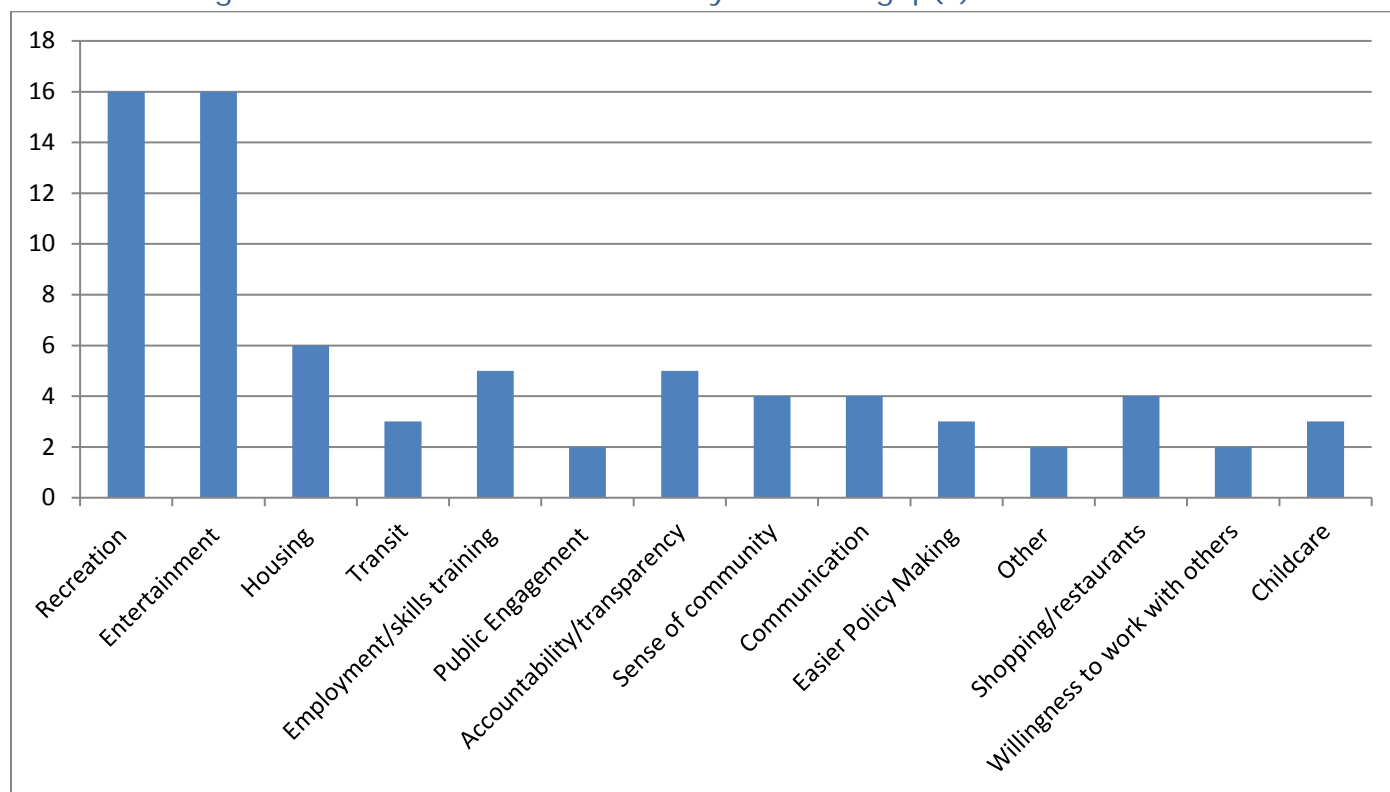


Figure 6.

Almost half of the respondents cited recreation and entertainment opportunities are missing in South Huron. Some respondents said they travel to London for both.

Respondents expressed (in other answers as well) they would like to see a YMCA in South Huron.

Entertainment wise, people would like some sort of activities. Suggestions included: arts, culture, a functional youth center, escape rooms, ax throwing, arcades, theaters, board game cafes, culturally diverse businesses/ restaurants, public workspaces that double as businesses, updated library spaces and services and a good social bar.

Some respondents expressed that they would like to see greater transparency and accountability from Council.

What does South Huron need to attract or retain young people to live here?

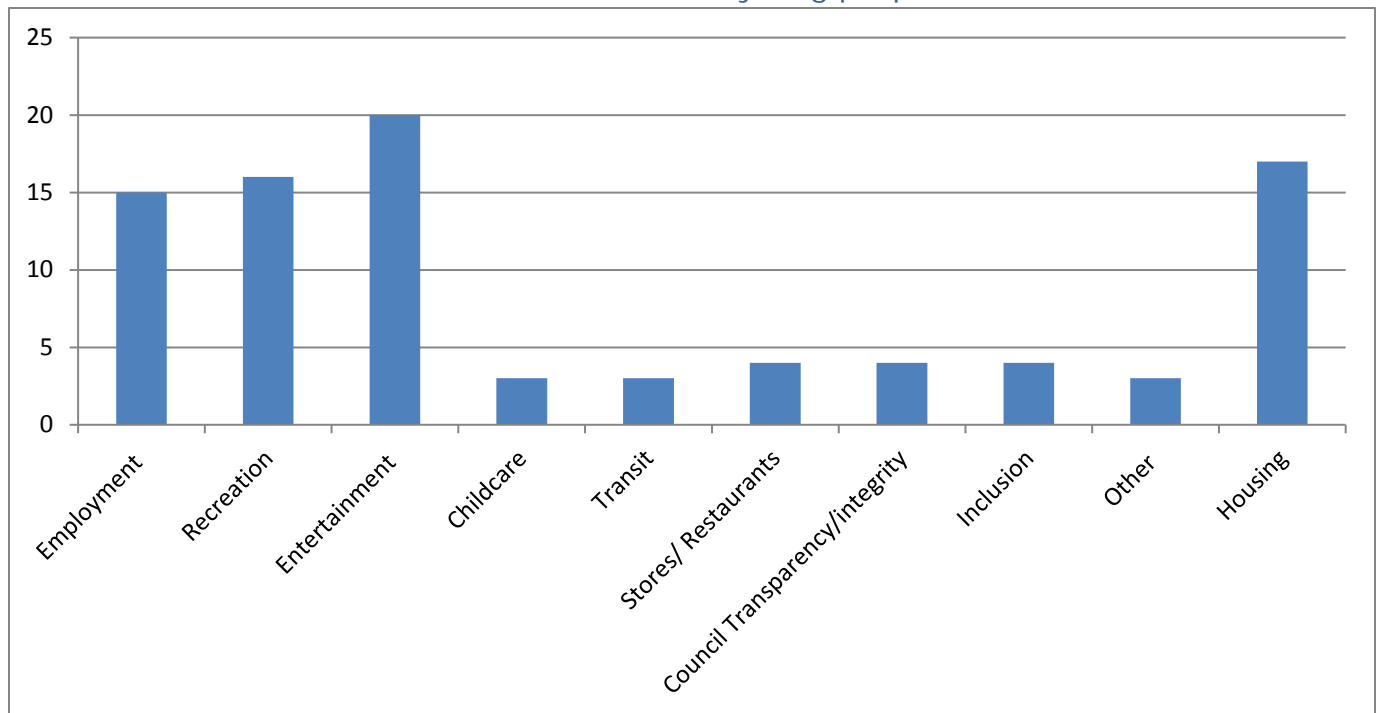


Figure 7.

Entertainment topped the list of things South Huron needs to attract or retain young people. Respondents said they would like to see something for youth to do. Suggestions included: a youth centre, arcade, bowling alley, and movie theatre.

Some expressed they would like to see something that does not involve alcohol or religion. One respondent said they would like to see more cooking and paint classes in the community along with trivia nights. The respondent also said they would like to see more activities for people in their 20s living in South Huron.

The need for affordable housing was mentioned in answers to this question. Employment was also expressed as something South Huron needs to attract/retain. One respondent would like to see some sort of incentive given to those that return to South Huron after post-secondary.

What do you propose to ensure that the youth perspective is represented in municipal decisions?

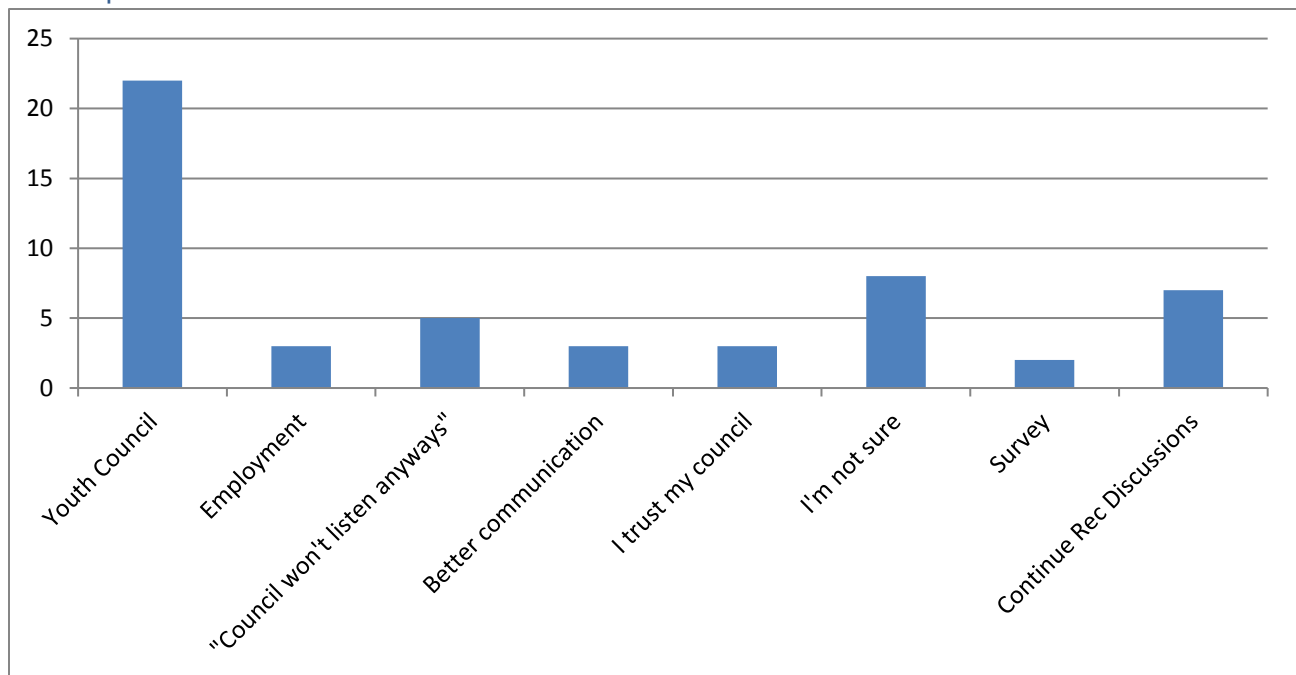


Figure 8.

Almost half of the respondents said they would like to see a youth council or some sort of youth representation in municipal decisions.

Comments included:

- "Elect a youth representative for the area who sits in on municipal meetings and gives input on decisions."
- "Have youth involved in the process of getting these programs up and running. Listen to them. If you want them to stick around, they should get some input."
- "Asking them to join the discussion so they don't feel so out of place and if they are over stepping boundaries."
- "Allow room for interested youth to create a council group that can be involved in decision making alongside or in conjunction with town Council and the Mayor."

A few respondents also expressed concern that "council won't listen anyways." Many respondents would like to see the discussion surrounding recreation planning to continue.

What about South Huron makes you want to invite friends or family to visit?

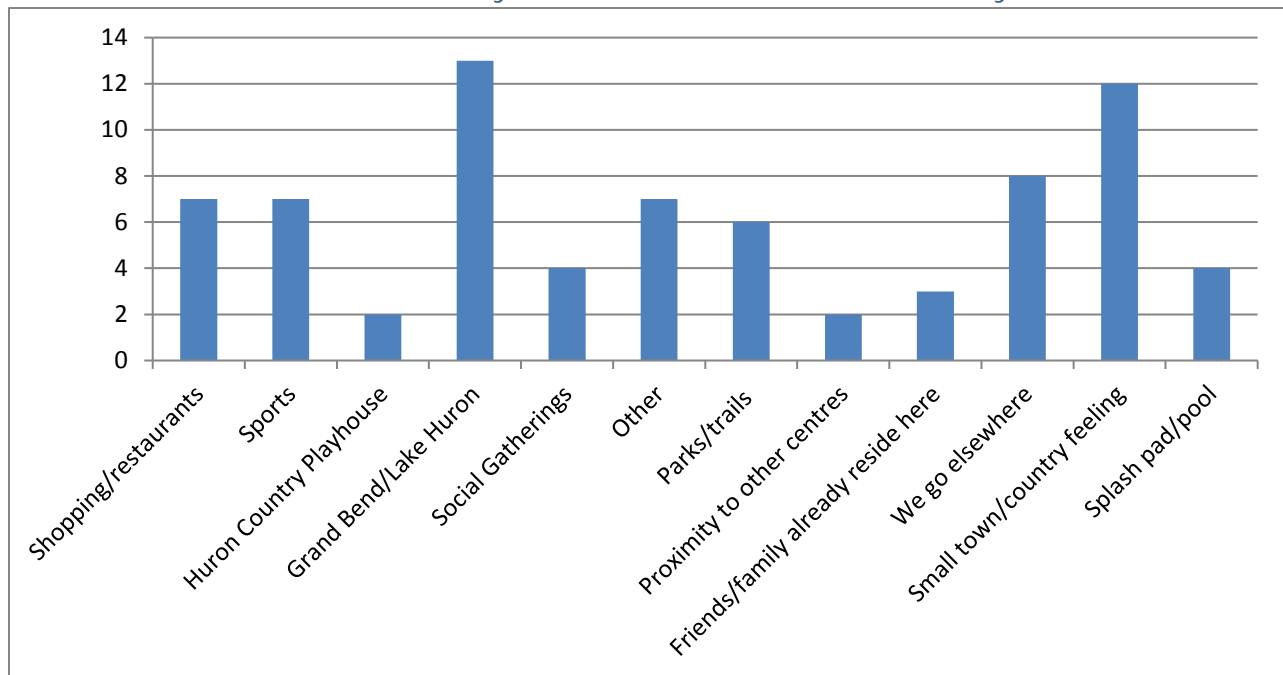


Figure 9.

Grand Bend/Lake Huron topped the list as to why residents invite friends and family to the municipality. Another top answer is the small town/country feeling that is in South Huron. Comments included:

- "It's very homey- people will help you if you need it."
- "Everyone is so friendly and small town."
- "The small town feeling. This is such a close knit community."

However, some respondents say they go elsewhere:

- "Why would anyone want to visit Exeter or Dashwood other than a family meal. Now the Grand Bend beach is worth seeing."
- "Cause it's my home town, I show them grand bend rather than Exeter."
- "I don't much, maybe to come for lunch before the beach, but we tend to go to places in the city to visit as there is more to do."
- "None....I travel outside for social events, and that is the message from council... "
- "Not much...go outside South Huron to Rock The Park, in London, Sun Fest in Goderich"
- "I don't. We spend time in Lambton County and London for activities."
- "Nothing. When we have guests we stay home or head out of county. Lambton county or into London."

- “Small amounts of traffic having beach and the city relatively close by as well as the bowling alley and bike park in Zurich even though that’s not part of South Huron.”

Do you agree/disagree the following are barriers to inclusion in South Huron?

Barriers to inclusion	Agree	Disagree
Public Transit	58%	31%
High Speed Internet	35%	41%
Housing	56%	19%
Awareness of services or resources available	56%	21%
Personal development opportunities	50%	23%
Training opportunities (professional development, post-secondary etc.)	50%	23%
Recreational opportunities	80%	13%

*Percentages do not add up to 100% because some respondents felt neutral on the topic. For the full list of barriers cited please see Appendix III.

What career opportunities do you see in South Huron?

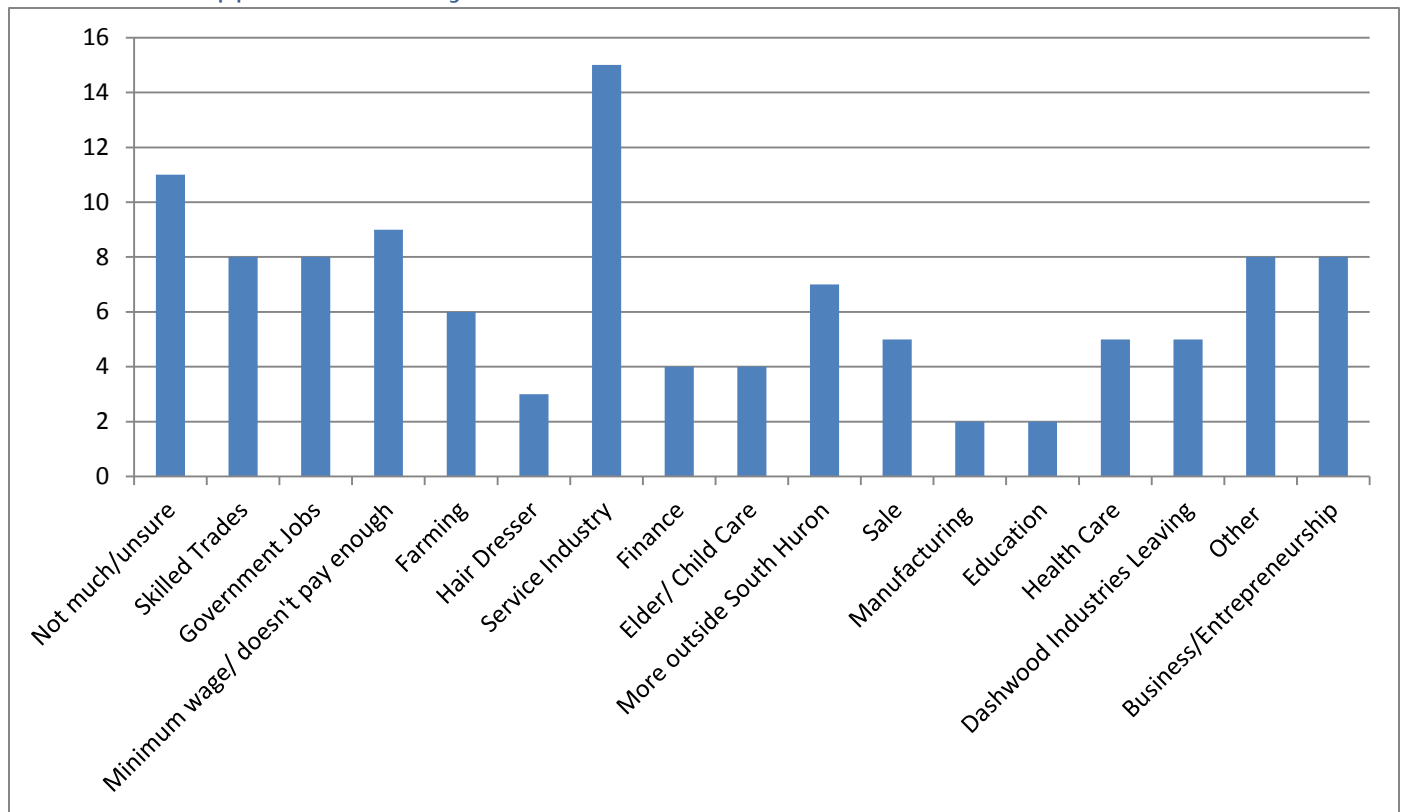


Figure 10.

Service industry includes retail and fast food. 'Other' includes;

- "Lifeguard."
- "Librarian."
- "...The word of a casino moving here would be a good step."
- "Factory."
- "Politics."
- "Social work."
- "Health and wellness."
- "Research and development in Cannabis."

What kind of job are you training for/ interested in?

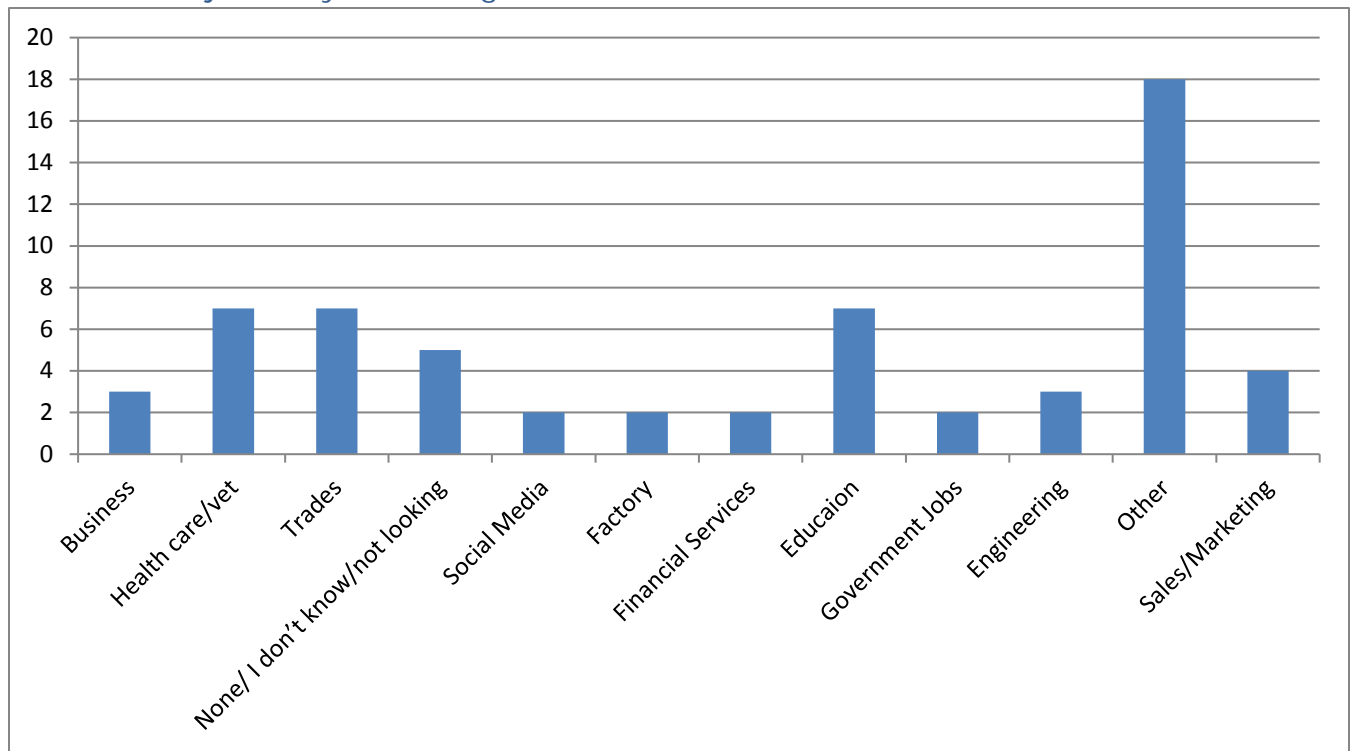


Figure 11.

'Other' includes:

- "Service industry (retail, food)"
- "Computer, website design."
- "Cultural."
- "Craft beer."
- "Social work specifically working with children and/or mental health."
- "English."
- "Environmental Sciences."
- "Sports and Recreation."
- "Politics."
- "Pastoral Ministry."
- "Hotel receptionist."
- "Travel."
- "Librarian."
- "I am a Hypnotist and proud at home parent."
- "Policing /Public Sector."
- "Economic development, community development, etc."
- "Editing, publishing, writing, politics, history related positions."
- "Community outreach."

What kind of community involvement opportunities do you seek?

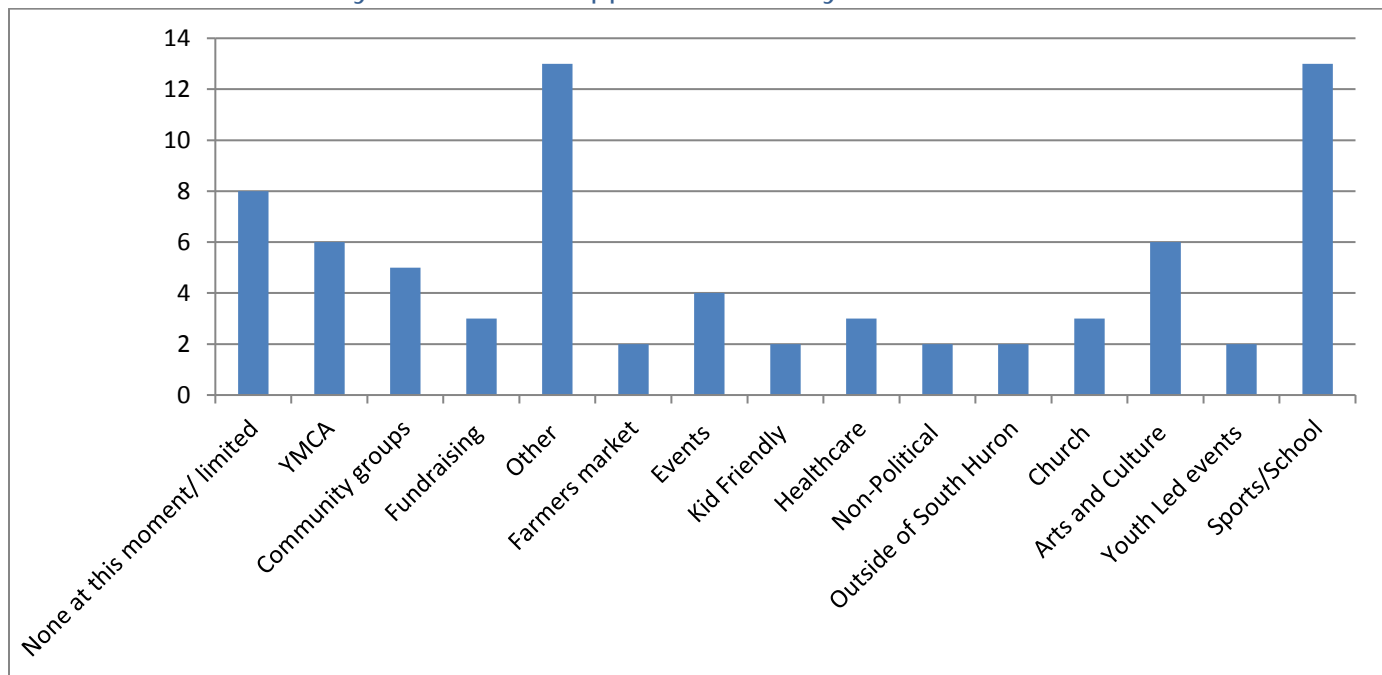


Figure 12.

'Other' includes:

- "Politics."
- "Library."
- "Careers."
- "I volunteer a lot in Kirkton."
- "Sports hall of fame."
- "United way."
- "Community garden."
- "Somewhere I make a difference."
- "Those in need."
- "Cleaning up trails."
- "Something that doesn't involve church or alcohol."
- "Any."
- "Outreach opportunities."

Recommendations

Based on the information collected from the community during this project, staff recommend the following focus areas to achieve the objectives of this strategy.

Objective 1: Identify gaps to make our community more youth friendly to attract and retain youth in South Huron

Strategic Item 1: Attract Entertainment

The Municipality looks to attract some sort of entertainment activity to give youth a place to socialize. This could include a bowling alley, movie theatre, arcade or a youth centre.

Strategic Item 2: Enhance Recreation

The Municipality continues the recreation planning discussion. Participants would like to see more options with affordable rates and progress on enhancing recreation opportunities in South Huron.

Strategic Item 3: Youth Volunteer Recognition

The Municipality creates some sort of recognition for those individuals that put time into the betterment of our community. This could take the form of a youth volunteer-of-the-year award.

Objective 2: Build civic engagement among youth to ensure they feel their voice is being heard

Strategic Item 4: Youth Council

The Municipality enacts a youth council to provide input on community projects. The youth council would also help further youth engagement and host events in the community.

Strategic Item 5: Carry on Youth Engagement

The Municipality commits to ongoing engagement with the community on youth friendly initiatives.

Strategic Item 6: Public Engagement

More opportunities for public engagement in the community. This could include more open houses, coffee & chats with the Mayor etc.

Strategic Item 7: Communications

The Municipality communicates more with the public and has a bigger presence on social media. Communicating more with the public will also help the transparency issue identified by some project participants. This could include promoting the dates of council meetings and streaming Council meetings.

Objective 3: Highlight young people working in the municipal sector to get more youth interested in working in the municipal sector.

Strategic Item 8: Employment Campaign

The Municipality works with the BIA and Chamber to conduct a campaign highlighting the range of jobs in the region.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The community consultation process used in this project has provided valuable information for the Municipality that will guide actions on making South Huron more youth friendly.

Staff will seek out opportunities that advance the strategic items recommended above. Action plans will be created and resourced through internal budgetary planning, external grant funding opportunities and through collaboration with community stakeholder groups.

Appendix I - Review of other Youth Strategies

Town of Aurora

They are a platinum Youth Friendly Community that focuses on the ages of 13 to 19 years old. They have a Youth Engagement Committee that engages with the youth, encourages active participation at the Youth Centre, explores potential sponsorship opportunities, and assists in developing programs, services, and special events for youth. Those that sit on the committee earn volunteer hours and meet bi-weekly.

London Youth Advisory Council

The LYAC has 15 members, representing each of the 14 wards of London, with a 15th representing Western students, specifically. During their one year term, youth councillors have weekly conversations on a variety of issues including carding, education and transit.

Youth councillors also attend community events, holding focus groups, meet with local community leaders and facilitating community development projects.

London North Centre Youth Council

The London North Centre Youth Council reports to MP Peter Fragiskatos. They focus on climate change, innovation, Canada's role in the world, mental health and policies to further improve the lives of Canadian women.

Town of Hanover

In 2016, The Town of Hanover took on a project where they had a youth sit at their council. The youth could NOT vote, but was encouraged to provide input on decisions. The position was also supposed to share information from a youth perspective. Grade 10+. Hanover is also taking on a youth engagement intern this summer.

Hanover is also home to Launch Pad Youth Activity & Technology Centre. Their mission is to provide youth 12-18 years of age in Grey & Bruce counties, with important life/career skills complementing both formal academic institutions and their learning sources.

Their vision is that Launch Pad enhances the region's capacity to succeed, cultivating healthy and vibrant communities that are economically competitive through the attention and retention of our youth. They have a commercial kitchen, welding space and woodshop. They also teach classes on photography, exploring technology and music

Fusion Youth Centre – Ingersoll

Similar to LaunchPad, The Fusion Youth Centre focuses on those ages 10 to 18. They have some sort of programming everyday but Sunday. Programs include; music, technology, leadership, art, sports, fitness, recreation, leisure and culinary. They also have a skatepark, a recording studio, a tv studio, a gym, a cafeteria, and video games.

Town of Goderich

Until this year Goderich had a Youth Council that is now merged with another community group and is not an official committee of council. Their tasks included promotion of Youth Council and events and recruitment of new volunteers for the Youth Council

Engage Goderich

Engage Goderich (formerly Engage Huron) is a network of young professionals, living and working in Goderich and are looking to network in a social setting, strengthening and creating new business relationships. They host events including, a beer tour, volleyball tournament and comedy night.

Perth County

Perth County runs a campaign called "Prosper in Perth" where they highlight young professionals living in their county. Perth County also has a youth council in Perth East and West Perth.

Grey County

Grey County hosts young professional mixers. The event travels around Grey County stopping at a different venue every event. Usually are "at capacity." Focus on those that are 20 to 40 years old.

Appendix II - Media Outreach Results

Media played a big role in this project. While some of our target audience may not listen to the radio or read the paper, there is a good chance their parents or grandparents do. In addition to the following articles, we also ran ads on 90.5 MYFM for two weeks.

Staff submission. (July 4, 2019). "South Huron youth survey closes soon". 90.5 myFM. <https://www.exetertoday.ca/2019/07/04/south-huron-youth-survey-closes-soon/>

Staff submission. (2019, June 10). "South Huron engaging in conversations with youth". Exeter Lakeshore Times Advance. <https://www.lakeshoreadvance.com/news/local-news/south-huron-engaging-in-conversations-with-youth>

Montgomery, B. (2019, March 22). "South Huron looks to young people for strategy". Blackburn News. <https://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/midwestern-ontario-news/2019/03/24/south-huron-looks-young-people-strategy/>

Montgomery, B. (2019, July 8). "South Huron surveying youth to build engagement". Blackburn News <https://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/2019/07/08/south-huron-surveying-youth-build-engagement/>

Jackson, P. (2019, July 6). "New Strategy To Engage Youth In South Huron". Country 104.9/Bayshore Broadcasting. http://www.country1049.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=110617

Nixon, S. (2019, July 8). "South Huron surveying local youth as part of four-month project". Exeter Lakeshore Times Advance. <https://www.lakeshoreadvance.com/news/local-news/south-huron-surveying-local-youth-as-part-of-four-month-project>

Miller, S. (2019, July 9). "Rural Ontario pushing to keep youth engaged". CTV London. https://london.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1725959&fbclid=IwAR17yoncHmG50_nADQ3ZRfaXHLhdpRTeaBqjue3Wcz9Pwpizd_Uf3DQzdIA

Jackson, P. (2019, July 28). "Work Continues On South Huron Youth Engagement Strategy". Country 104.9/Bayshore Broadcasting. http://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=111088

Appendix III – Comprehensive Survey Results

What makes you want to live in South Huron?

- Lifestyle
- Living with parents till finished school.
- Grew up here
- Can't afford to move
- Family business and family support
- Parents
- Family, location to lake, close to big city but still a small town feeling
- Unsure that I do
- Close to family... grew up in the farming community
- We farm here
- The affordable cost of living compared to large cities. Easy access by foot and bike to shopping, amenities and trails. Community-run events
- Affordability, proximity to the outdoors (i.e. Lake Huron, Provincial Parks, Local high quality trails, Generally large backyard spaces for many homes), safety, a sense of community, a "slow paced" lifestyle
- Family, business, friends, community, sports, proximity to other
- The lake
- The number of different sports and things for all ages in the community to explore
- It's a great place and I know lots of people
- The fact that there are so many different communities to explore and that there are towns so I can what I need but I also can live in a rural area.
- Love that I was able to raise my children in a small town.
- Nothing makes me want to live in South Huron, I live here because I am not old enough to live by myself yet.
- I was raised here and I like the country.
- This is where my parents live and I still live with them.
- Employment, family, schools
- Parks & Trails, Proximity to Work, Shopping
- Established in work and family ties
- Not sure
- I grew up here, family is here.
- It is a nice and kind place to live in
- Friends
- Forced to until can get job and house closer to London
- Family
- Live with parents

- Considering moving... nothing here... have to travel outside 4 times at least a week
- The small town sense of community. Lots of amenities for young couples with growing families. Close to London, Goderich and Stratford without being too close.
- Where I grew up
- Family, the pool, friends, school, community theatre
- Close to the beach
- I don't want to live here, it is just my wife's job that keeps us here
- Absolutely nothing. I have a decent paying job that makes it challenging to leave, but nothing makes me want to stay.
- I love the small community. I came from Montreal.
- Currently work in South Huron. Family lives and works in South Huron. Grew up in the area.
- It is a quiet and relatively safe place to raise a family and small town living makes you feel more welcomed and part of the community.
- I love the small community and how close everyone is. When you're out and about there is always a familiar face!
- small town living
- I've always loved small communities - how everyone knows everyone. It's a great opportunity to feel connected to a bigger group of people, which I feel can get lost in urban areas. I currently work in Exeter but had to live outside South Huron because there is no housing available here for my age, with little to no rentals in my price range or size. Exeter is a nice community because it has a lot of amenities, for being a small town, and is relatively well placed to nearby cities and towns.
- I didn't. I left.
- Parents live there, neighbours are very close to each other making my neighbourhood welcoming and safe.
- My family
- Better access to recreation
- My family
- Access to the beach. Things to do. Events. Family friendly
- Small town atmosphere, local businesses, no big city traffic, proximity to London, Stratford, Grand Bend

What does South Huron need to attract or retain young people to live here?

- Jobs, night life
- Need to listen and learn from other municipalities, especially those with YMCA. Need to be as good as other municipalities with amenities to raise family...like recreation beyond hockey...
- Better programs in better facilities. More affordable gym.
- More choice of affordable restaurants, nothing to do after 7pm
- Needs a council that will work with and support all ages, and not the pet projects of staff and council and loud friends of politicians. Need to know tax dollars are being spent using evidence based decisions so that projects are done based on long term ...because we are the ones you think are going to pay for the pet projects, so that we can't spend on what we, the younger ones would like. Need people who have young families to be on committees so that they can help council.
- All season rec centre
- More to do. A youth centre? Arcade? Bowling alley? Indoor pool? YMCA?
- Jobs with a future, the probability to buy a decent house, things to do after work besides drink and far better rec facilities than are here
- Jobs. Social activities. Childcare
- Accommodation; nice, safe apartment. Not the dumps that are available now. Don't want my child/young adult living there. Entertainment
- Employment opportunities. More rental accommodation (especially lower cost and higher density) (most people in their 20s aren't interested in lawn maintenance and feel that even in lower cost areas outside of London purchasing property is not financially feasible).
- In order for young people to see South Huron as a lasting and viable place to live there must be job prosperity, and a breadth of industries for young people to see and choose from for career futures. Young people must be able to come together with friends and peers in many diverse spaces. Young people need access to high quality technology, future skills training, paid internships that partner with local businesses. Young people need business starting or entrepreneurial grants, they need to be seen and appreciated as vibrant and meaningfully contributing members of the community by both their older neighbours and by the municipal government. Young people need cool and relevant places to spend time and spend money. These are just a few broad ideas.
- Housing, attractable jobs, incentive to return from being away at post-secondary school.
- Full time jobs

- I think I'm 30 years once everyone is more accepting of races and gender equality and sexual orientation. More younger people will stay there
- More attractions for teens- arcade maybe
- Public transportation and more places for youth to hang out. I also believe that South Huron needs more jobs in more fields as there are many different things you can go to school for now and this way it would allow people to stay close to home and not move away after school
- Jobs, recreation programming, housing
- Better places to eat (sit down restaurants) and stores for younger people.
- Cheaper housing and more entertainment venues (pool, bowling, etc.) in Exeter and Grand bend.
- They need a place for youth to hangout as there's no facility
- Need programs for young and older. Take kids to London for sports and dance lessons not available in Exeter. when we can afford a house in London or Ilderton or Lucan we plan to move
- An updated community hub. Affordable housing. A council who listens and responds to youth interests
- Council and municipal staff that listen to the public, and consider where young are looking for...affordable not supportive housing, youth need the breaks unaffordable, family recreational programs,, not the pickelball players. Someone needs to communicate with all of South Huron and beyond with honesty about why South Huron is a preferred place to live, vs Grand Bend or Lucan. Need to cater to youth as much as retired pensioners. Great need for improved access to year round recreation...times are changing and 2 outdoor pools which are expensive to operate for 6-8 weeks do not equal an indoor pool for families which is way more affordable if council and staff want to make it work. Same with year round ice.
- YMCA
- More community support, recreational activities for young people. Affordable housing, some form of public transportation.
- That there is lots of things you can do
- More stores
- "Need a council and Municipal employees that treat everyone like they actually have something to contribute. Need Community to understand they need to invest in what youth want, not just vanity projects of council and staff...like Port. Blake and the over-budgeted outdoor pool, both of which were not the highest priority of community or council. Need to listen to the people, in a community plan... maybe like this, or the seniors plan that they are redoing, or Rec plan that they are doing. Need to regain the trust, and act with integrity that when they...council, say they are going to do something that they actually do it..example..funding feasibility for Rec centre. Signed contract for 30k , then one month later cancelled it,, not only

is this irresponsible spending, it also says they can make a motion one month and cancel it the next. Need to demonstrate they are communicating honestly, and that we are not just fed what they want us to hear

- Cheaper group exercise classes, new construction that is affordable
- Need to be an all-inclusive community, that takes "care of the least of my brothers"□, and respects everyone and their thoughts. Need to do more than hear... need to listen and act like we are heard. Need to look at what Goderich is doing on decision for their arena.. they didn't slam down the work of one group, but have had the staff prepare non biased reports, and had public input Need to think bigger than South Huron.. need to attract to Huron
- Council that will support a YMCA which are the experts at building strong communities and supporting youth. .lots of opportunities regardless of age, finances, mobility, Have to support. Comm it's groups...not run them. Affordable housing is in small hamlets outside Exeter...so Huron Park and Dashwood, Crediton, so work with landowner of Huron Park. Landlords in Exeter buying up land and those that cannot afford the down payment of a house have to rent, if they work at minimum wage
- Something for youth to do where they don't need to drive. Having a bowling alley or movie theatre, pool hall etc
- More options for shopping. Giant tiger, clothing store, more jobs
- Pool, film club, community theatre
- Have more office jobs or well-paying professional jobs available
- Something for them to do to get away from the drug and alcohol problem. Something as simple as having a safe place for them to go and hang out with friends that does not involve a church or sports related. Something that could inspire them to be creative, a place that could showcase local teen bands, art, and so on. The Lions Youth Centre is not for the youths unless they are in scouting, the rest of the time that building caters to the elderly like everything else in Exeter.
- A more positive attitude, less bigotry, more diversity, secular and non-sport related activities to encourage healthy living instead of drugs and alcohol use.
- Reasonable housing. Cheaper daycare. More jobs.
- Job opportunities. Housing. Attractions / activities for younger audiences. Amenities for younger audiences.
- We have the jobs available all ready, but affordable housing, in clean drug free (relatively) apartments or townhouses is non-existent.
- Stop building subdivision we are not London.
- needs more affordable things to do bowling, pool hall more engaging in rec center more outdoor activities

- Good jobs and affordable housing. There has to be an opportunity for young people to grow - it's easy to feel like urban areas will provide you with more chances to advance in certain career paths because there are larger companies that will provide more opportunity. Additionally, without affordable housing, you won't have anyone living here. There's no way that a person starting out, potentially with student loans, will have the ability to live in the community if they cannot find a place to stay within an appropriate budget. Saying ""they could get a mortgage for \$400k, but in reality, their income only supports a home purchase of \$200k"" is just a terrible way to approach housing (and this is something I've heard real estate agents in the area say before). It promotes debt and living outside your means - which will not make a viable community in the future. A nice-to-have/need (lower than the other areas) is to have activities for people to participate in.
- A regular public transit system connecting different towns, including Exeter, Grand Bend, Goderich, and London. Better jobs for young people outside of the trades, retail, and food service.
- More meaningful job opportunities that do not involve retail. In high school and throughout university I was fortunate enough to work for the municipality which provided a Monday-Friday schedule with full time hours at a reasonable wage with rich and meaningful tasks. Other than trades positions (construction, and co-op placement positions) the remainder of students and young people find minimum wage shift positions in the stores of Exeter.
- Affordable housing.
- More inclusive and interesting leisure and recreation stuff maybe
- Affordable housing
- Jobs. Child care. Family activities. Events
- More activities to do. Recreation sports teams and/or leagues (especially for women 18-25 ish) cooking classes, fitness classes (there are limited time slots /classes at south Huron fitness), having occasional paint nights or sign making events, more trivia nights (I think it's great that the cultural collective started doing some of these). Just more activities/ larger variety aimed towards twenty somethings people living in Huron county

What's missing in South Huron and how would you fill the gap(s)?

- Gathering place such as a gymnasium for sports, arts
- Partner with YMCA... students I attend school with have YMCA they belong to in their home town...so their family membership is good while at school too, making recreation affordable. They brag about the services they have
- Community Centre with programs for the young & old.
- Youth ideas
- Obviously the Rec centre hub is a gap the council does not want to support in Exeter. Not good enough to say we can travel for lifestyle.. we do that with our children in hockey and can tell you other communities come together to support a community lifestyle, starting with working together as a community project, instead of supporting privatization of Rec centre, and letting Grand Bend have a community Hub.
- What
- By offering more for the youth to do so they don't have to go to London to find fun.
- The rec project that was turned down should come back, affordable houses or condos should be built, and we need places for 20 to 30 year olds to meet, dance or just hang.
- Intramural sports leagues. Flexible affordable childcare. Ability to sever surplus farm houses so rural families can stay close to home farms
- What is a lifestyle gap?
- A public transit connection from cities such as Stratford, London and Kitchener would provide more mobility for young people. Currently for any friends visiting I have to drive to a transit hub in one of these towns and back to pick them up myself as there is no other way to get to Exeter since the coach buses stopped running through town.
- Lifestyle gaps I feel that exist for young people in South Huron are:
Employment -Young people need to be exposed to the breadth of job opportunities in the area at a young age. This should include elementary and high school education programming that later extends into paid internships. South Huron could benefit from a campaign that is targeted to youth that showcases the opportunities in the area. Skills Training -Youth all over the country are increasingly in need of cutting edge, innovative skills training. We see this from not only our federal government and the money this government is investing in youth but also national and local corporations investing in skills training for youth. If the people executing this Youth Engagement Strategy are not up-to-date on what is happening in the national climate through timely and culturally relevant research you will end up with a Youth Engagement Strategy that is poorly informed, out-dated and

ineffective. It will be imperative to have an informed expert on this project. Simply because South Huron is rural does not exclude rural youth from needing these skills to thrive. I would love to see an investment in youth skills training. Sense of Meaning and Belonging in Community-a sense of belonging is the key factor in influencing adolescents in most decisions they make. Peers, family, role models, other important figures/influencers are adolescents' biggest factor in decision making. When influential adults in the community talk about, write about, and act as though youth are lazy, problematic, ""snowflakes"" etc. we see no impact that drive youth toward feeling like they belong in a community. There is excellent research that says youth who feel they belong in a space are more likely to try new things, take risks, and identify with those spaces. This is something that should be critically considered in this project.

- More of an online community presence where sports and events can be posted so people can join groups and activities. There is a disconnect right now for people moving to town from a city that has registration for sports online, and it takes a while for them to integrate into the town because they need to meet the right people to get connected.
- What?
- Maybe
- Activities for all ages to do.. especially teens
- Public transportation. I would have more cab companies and lower the costs of them. Also more places that are directed towards youth, I would fill this gap by creating a spot and activities that are geared towards youth
- Recreation programs for older kids, and non-dance/sports kids and teens such as clubs or drop in house league sports. Summer programs for kids older than camp age, such as ball hockey league, or clubs
- Another sit down restaurant
- Entertainment Venues.
- As said above a hangout location for teens as well as a YMCA
- Affordable youth and family programming, like the YMCA....we meet with family in London on Sundays and spend time at the YMCA...Family pass is \$23 for the day. Some do work out. We all go swimming, kids play basketball, indoor playground, play table tennis. Thanks for the survey, but our family has completed many times, and I don't think our voice is being heard...council dragged out last term on moving forward with upgrades to arena, instead spent windmill on outdoor pool and expensive washrooms. Did you consult the public? Do a cost analysis vs Kirkton pool, or Municipality needs financial plan to stop spending money on things that don't really matter...like the outdoor pool...have yet to see the benefits of municipality hiring staff for recreation vs contracting it out. Council needs a plan, and need to hire a consultant that is not just someone hired to provide the

answers they want to hear.. then need someone who understands the results, that can present it to council so they understand it, and not just let the staff or council give just enough information to let council make another emotional decision, or to prove themselves right...what is missing is a sense of community...too many still back pre amalgamation where every community needed a hall, their own lions club, own optimist.

- An updated community hub. Affordable housing
- What is missing is a desire to be one municipality as a community working together, to support communities in South Huron and neighbouring communities. Missing is a lack of accountability and transparency as demonstrated in the report regarding the Exeter outdoor pool project. I don't expect that the youth are aware of the Exeter Development committee, or its terms of reference that staff and council chose not to follow, yet spend money quietly on bump out, even though over 400 people signed to not have it installed. Fill the gap by posting the minutes of those meetings and start streaming council meetings which would require all council meetings to be streamed...Community members were on the Exeter development committee, were under 30, yet their voice is not heard...dominated by staff and Exeter council members. There was an Exeter pool committee that should have reported to council...also if council is going to have 1.7 million dollar project, it should have gone to tender or RFP,, No sure if council is aware of the purchasing bylaw, but they should be, and someone should be accountable for being over budget, especially when they did not follow the policy...this is a big gap and costs just continue to rise. No public input anymore, no town hall meetings...need to start this up. No public input in this strategic plan.
- Community spirit, of one community. Two way communication
- Affordable housing is desperately needed. As is some form of public transportation.
- The thing that is missing in south Huron is more inside pool so people can swim In
- Stores
- Financial audits and expertise, with business sense, and someone who can read and help staff, council and community understand what consultant reports say. Financial or budgets based on what some councillors, Mayor and staff want, without public engagement. Missing is the willingness to work with others in Huron, so that resources are available closer to home...Council looked at YMCA plan for just residents of South Huron and said there was no market., and chose not to look any further into catchment for support.. However when it came time to design the beach access for the outdoor pool, the idea came from someone who resides in Bluewater. .. Missing is willingness to talk to YMCA and those who have been successful, like Goderich in expanding into Huron. County. Missing is cost benefit analysis for

YMCA using Goderich model, where they actually put money away for capital rather than running our facility into ground, like they did with outdoor pool, and then have debt for us to pay back, this is example of poor financial thinking, not to blame council because I don't think they understood the costs or over budget,, but it is a missing piece. More financial thoughts...council had the Bluewater resident Help cut the ribbon because he came up with the idea to have beach access.. Wow.... and then those that use outdoor pool pay\$3, but if people want to have access to indoor pool in September, then they are told they can outside of South Huron to private facility for \$7... expensive for SH residents, who support the Exeter pool by council taking., and draining Exeter Development Fund Missing was the recognition of Exeter Development Hydro Fund, for guessing 400,000 while recognizing optimists who contributed 10,000..We would do better if we were regional, making regional decisions in Huron vs each little community thinking they need own facility or Rec board

- Approve more building projects
- A willingness to let the community lead community projects... again look at Goderich and how much they pay for YMCA which includes a year round pool and ice pad... ask where their membership comes from.. Know it is broader than town of Goderich.. Includes areas like Ben Miller, and Bayfield. Communication is missing... all one way...again look at Goderich.. it streams meetings. Missing public engagement and recap of what happens at meetings, In the news article it is said that the council "wants to make sure youth feel engaged and have a say in the direction our community takes" I'm sure in your research, that you have read the articles regarding the indoor and outdoor pool... council missed the boat when it dismissed the community hub steering committee, as that action does not Aline with the words that council wants to engage youth.... will have to fill that gap by giving that project back to the community, as was the intention,, and include youth on the committee... need to build a community where we all work together as one community, not youth vs seniors strategies, and rural vs town., or health vs education.. Municipality has to walk the talk. Council has already said they are going in a different direction, new vision, and looking at private public partnership for the arena.. that pretty well sums it up.. Families will not be able to afford private Rec centre and pool that will charge twice what YMCA does so the rich kids will play hockey, and we will bring retired people to South Huron.
- Lack of the old feeling of helping the weakest.. as you build them up, you build a stronger community. Certain group here who believe they are always right, and they won't listen to any others point of view. Lack of transparency in decision making...I have lost interest in trying to help, as I don't fit into the rich and famous category, or the old boys club. Missing is the report of

how much less it would cost if YMCA ran the Rec centre....like Goderich , and a plan to put money aside for fix ups. Missing is the need to bring community together with social functions, and. Leadership that supports recreation more than little projects .like those we are shamed into supporting...

- Please see above.
- YMCA perhaps. Places to rent. Daycare that's affordable
- I don't know
- Well-paying jobs
- Arts, casual recreation, culture, a functional youth center, positive programs that do not involve religious ideology and vicious competition. Not to mention the lack of mentoring programs.
- Art and culture. Secular activities for youth. Industry.
- Daycare.
- Activities. People are willing to drive to London for example for daily activities (ie. escape rooms, ax throwing, arcades, theaters, etc).
- Affordable housing for Individuals and families starting out or without enough income to buy. House prices are insane in this town.
- We are missing a store to get essential needs at an affordable cost for those whom can't drive to London to get daily needs... Ie. Giant tiger for things like underwear and socks. Something affordable for people.
- see above answer
- Affordable housing - promote a healthy mix of housing alternatives. Rentals, condos, apartments, townhomes, starter homes, and medium to large size homes. It shows that people have the opportunity to GROW. Other things missing would be events for younger folks to participate in (events that don't necessarily revolve around drinking). One challenge in small communities is volunteer burnout - we need to stop assuming the 50 active volunteers in the community can provide everything to everyone. In reality, a number of our community volunteers are NOT in the ""youth"" category - so how can they promote or bring events together that will entice youth, if they don't know what the youth want? I think we need to encourage younger people to start their own programs and events. Empower them to create the environment they want to see - not just wait for others to produce something for them to do.
- Youth organizations that engage people in high school in community activities, especially those in grades 11 and 12, without requiring community service. Organizations need to offer spaces and activities for high school age youth that is not religiously affiliated or service oriented. Kids just need a place to hang out and talk to each other.
- Places to socialize for ages 13-30. Our recreation centre caters to elderly during the day for pickle ball and wellness programs. Our Main Street is full of shops that close at 5pm.I', not sure how I would fill the gaps but if there

were a way to attract businesses that cater to younger people into Exeter such as board game cafes, culturally diverse businesses/ restaurants, public workspaces that double as businesses (cafes are often an example of this), updated library spaces and services (Cambridge Idea Exchange and Kitchener Public Library are great examples)."

- Make the process of building easier...try to attract business and jobs
- better social media presence about stuff going on
- We need a good social bar.
- Hotels / accommodations. Not a lot of family activities. The more festivals and markets the better, various kinds
- See Above. As well, there is limited clothing shopping options for younger individuals in Exeter. Many of the stores are aimed at an older population (with the exception of designers and Weurth's) I don't think there is any clothing stores in Exeter I would shop at so I always go directly to London and do all my shopping there to make it worth the drive. If there were more options in Exeter I might do more of my shopping there to support locally and save the time/gas or going to London as often."

What career opportunities do you see in South Huron?

- We have very few for university educated young people, so they go to London
- Not much...Dashwood industries moving to Near London with 140 jobs ...forcing people in South Huron to work at North Lander. Need for fewer teachers with announcements from provincial govt, many opportunities for service/ PSW/restaurants like McDonald's not high paying, and weekend and nights. Skilled trades needed. Best paying jobs are for municipality. Need to travel outside of municipality for most jobs
- I am not sure.
- None for me
- Present opportunities are for low paying jobs, which is ok if the price of living here is lower too, or we don't have to spend time and gas money to get what we need and want. We are falling behind in opportunities, while places like Goderich, Stratford, and Strathroy are gaining...i.e. Dashwood Industries, Research and development in Cannabis...seems to have slipped through municipalities fingers. Think government jobs are highly paid, including municipality
- Business?
- Trades. Farming.
- None at this time
- Municipal jobs

- There are good jobs but they don't pay enough. Sure difficult to live on \$18 an hour; have an apartment, a car to drive into London for entertainment. Nope, can't do this. So just live and work in London; it is more affordable
- In my field the only options would be at the municipal or other levels of government based in S. Huron. Commuting to London, Stratford or Goderich to work in consulting would be the alternative.
- As mentioned above I would like to build a comprehensive youth skills and work program for South Huron wherein students are exposed to industry in new and exciting ways that later build up to paid internship opportunities. I would like to see South Huron expose the many jobs that happen in farming work, elder and child care, finance, health and wellness, entrepreneurship, and sales that occur in our local community.
- Plenty of food service business, social work, day care, management of businesses.
- none
- Agriculture. Hairdressers. And real estate. And car sales men
- Lots of trades
- I could see there being potential for need of councillors but there would have to be jobs created for there to be a career opportunities
- I would like to see more opportunity for our youth to come back and share their skills, Not sure what specific opportunities that is but we need the jobs to keep our youth here or bring them back.
- Great opportunities as a teenager in school, not so great as a (young) adult looking for work to pay for school or out of school.
- Lots of trades and/or farm hand.
- N/A
- well not Dashwood Industries I guess...there are lots of opportunities within 45 km for everyone...people are ok with that distance for a commute, but we want arena closer when taking kids to sports
- The Municipality of South Huron is a significant employer within the community and can offer future career opportunities for youth. We need to treat our younger staff with respect and offer them the support they need to be successful in their roles along with a fair wage that is reflective of their important contribution to South Huron's community programs.
- Not restricted to South Huron.... There are not a lot of careers opportunities in Lucan, but a lot of people who grew up and work in Exeter live in Lucan...Why so? Not everyone who worked at Dashwood Industries lived in South Huron...There are more job opportunities within 30 minutes of South Huron that can be filled by people living in South Huron. Seems to be lots of good paying jobs with municipality, and continue to grow, so if I was looking for a job would go there. Compare rec staff wages to YMCA
- Service jobs...low pay

- A lot of minimum wage jobs, not a lot of jobs that pay a living wage.
- All kinds
- I don't know
- Limited career jobs, but lots of employment in service, which is good for retired people to augment income, or for students while going to school. Look at employment opportunities in Exeter...low paying, which is ok if housing matched that.. Those with low incomes can't afford the down payments, so will rent from those who invest in housing to rent. How many physicians live in South Huron....how many government people, like teachers nurses, Municipal a staff live in South Huron?
- Plenty in South Huron or nearby London
- Again think beyond South Huron...and then all kinds of opportunities. We are too small to meet everyone's employment needs. It is important for me to work at what I want, for now, maybe I'll switch sometime,, go back to school, but important to have the right job, and I can live anywhere
- Minimum wage jobs that will. It allow children to buy homes
- There are many out there. Nursing, accounting, banking, travelling, retail, teaching. There are quite a few options for a small town.
- Not a whole lot
- Lifeguard, librarian
- Not many. Though the word of a casino moving here would be a good step.
- Hospital. That is it.
- None. Unless you are a hairdresser, accountant or fast-food worker there is next to nothing.
- Daycare
- Majority is farming, construction; manual labour is what can be physically seen. Shops also offer career opportunities.
- All factories and stores are hiring in Exeter and the surrounding area already, there are lots of opportunities here.
- Not many if industrial places keep moving like Dashwood industries.
- not many if I were to get more educated I would have to move for my work
- Limited ones, personally. I see a number of opportunities available for general labourer jobs, retail, etc. but I find it difficult to find a career for a company that will provide mentorship and guidance in the areas I'm looking to get into. There are a lot of opportunities available for those interested in agriculture, manufacturing, or small-business.
- Trades, retail, food service. Please expand youth job opportunities. Not everyone likes to suffer working at Tim Hortons.
- Retail, insurance, hairdressing, administration assistant, real estate, dentistry, doctor.
- Lol fast food
- Not sure

- Education, municipality, small business, sales
- Manufacturing. Utilities. Government. Retail. Restaurants"
- Potential to open a small business in south Huron or surrounding area or working for a small company

What kind of job are you training for/ interested in?

- Business degree
- Health care, Skilled like electrician
- Medical professional
- Sales
- Quite content being in skilled. Labour , which we will always need., an supports my family lifestyle
- Nursing
- None
- Full time so that I can qualify to at least buy a car and in time buy a house. Employers only seem interested in hiring part time and that doesn't get me far. I went to university so factory work isn't interesting. Maybe marketing, promotion, sales, social media.
- Engineering
- Computer, website design,
- Government Services / Engineering
- I personally am a program coordinator for a national STEM and innovation non-profit organization called Actua. I am an AMDSB supply teacher. I have my own small consulting business where I have consulted on program design and implementation, organizational leadership, website design and social media .I am also a Masters of Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership student at Western University. I am training for jobs that mobilize education to improve the lives of youth - with a particular focus on girls, trans* and non-binary youth. Job areas I consider for my future include; community management, partnership and fundraising, program and curriculum design, public speaking, educational advocacy, girls empowerment, leadership, events planning etc.
- Business
- cultural
- Craft beer
- History
- Social work specifically working with children and/or mental health
- I have children in post-secondary for English and History, Environmental Sciences and Sports and Recreation
- I am currently employed at a fast food restaurant but hope to go into politics.
- Pastoral Ministry

- Interested in hotel receptionist
- Skilled trades. Something that provides family time ok with making less income, if expenses could be kept down. Such as taxes, transportation
- Municipal Government
- None
- Need to have a skill...post-secondary education
- Financial services
- EA
- I don't know
- Skilled trades
- Accounting
- Just work... not interested in civic leadership
- Not looking for a job
- Travel.
- Administration
- Librarian
- Marketing, analytics, managerial
- I am a Hypnotist and proud at home parent of two children.
- I work on healthcare.
- Small Medical community
- policing / public sector
- I work in a management role in a local factory.
- Veterinary medicine, farming and animals
- engineering
- Economic development, community development, marketing, etc.
- Editing, publishing, writing, politics, history related positions.
- Teaching, community outreach
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Water / wastewater. Trades. Utilities
- Health care field

What about South Huron makes you want to invite friends or family to visit?

- It was shops downtown, but this year my mom says the downtown looks sad with removal of flowers, weed filled flower bed ne t to town hall...not something to want to show off
- Nothing really...golf cheap...not much for families to do. Will come for hockey tournaments and games. Parents friends go to playhouse...not interested in casino

- I like taking them down to the splash pad in the summer.
- Grand Bend in the summer, nothing on the winter
- We invite people to come watch our kids play hockey, or to our home for a barbecue...might walk on trail
- Comfortable living
- Clean. Friendly. Great schools. Resources.
- I grew up here so everyone is already here
- Close to the lake. Farming
- Why would anyone want to visit Exeter or Dashwood other than a family meal. Now the Grand Bend beach is worth seeing
- Proximity to Lake Huron. Hiking and biking trails that connect right to the centre of town Local restaurants"
- I would currently invite a friend to Huron County to spend time outside, be a bit more active (walks, biking on the trail) etc. I think that even now in my mid-twenties there is a strong and lasting drinking culture in South Huron that is a hard reputation to shake. This can be a fun and relaxed part about Huron County but it would be exciting to have something else to suggest to friends as a reason for having fun growing up in Huron County. There is always an increased need for support of the arts. There is much arts and culture event programming going on but seemingly little connection with these events to the municipality. If there is a relationship between the municipality and the arts and culture programming going on, that partnership is unclear and poorly advertised to the public.
- The sense of community that the town embraces, the proximity to other centres, the level of sports at all ages and the liveliness during the summer.
- The lake
- Cause it's my home town, I show them grand bend rather than Exeter
- It's very homey- people will help you if you need it.
- Grand bend
- I don't much, maybe to come for lunch before the beach, but we tend to go to places in the city to visit as there is more to do.
- The Kirkton Pool.
- The country side and the Lake.
- Everyone is so friendly and small town
- Sports...like hockey. my house for family barbecues etc
- Parks and Trails. Local restaurants and shopping. Small town feel"
- None....I travel outside for social events, and that is the message from council.
- Well it's not the community outdoor pool. People visit for family reasons...sit around back yard
- Nice parks, proximity to the beach.
- To do all kind of things and you will not be bored

- Friendly
- Family visits.... hockey games with nephew on regular SH team
- The beach
- On our way to somewhere else...family comes for sports, but also outside of South Huron but still drivable. Did not usually invite friends for social activities
- Not much. Go outside South Huron to Rock The Park (in London) Sun Fest (in Goderich). Hockey attracts family
- The small town feeling. This is such a close knit community. Most of my friends and family already reside in or around the area. A huge bonus is that it's nice being able to choose a restaurant that you don't have to drive half an hour for.
- My family lives here
- The pool
- Calm area, lots of room, close to beach. We need more public trails though to explore.
- I don't. We spend time in Lambton County and London for activities.
- Nothing. When we have guests we stay home or head out of county. Lambton county or into London.
- Small community. Great restaurants
- Small town living. Rural area. Less noise than the city and less light pollution. Rules are more relaxed than cities.
- The casual and friendly atmosphere.
- Same close community
- small amounts of traffic having beach and the city relatively close by as well as the bowling alley and bike park in Zurich even though that's not part of South Huron
- Beautiful spaces - there are some great trails in the area and a fantastic playhouse. Close by to the beaches, which make it an ideal location in the summertime.
- Grand Bend beach is a nice place when not overrun with tourists. Exeter Rodeo is a good time to visit.
- My home and neighbourhood environment. We are always having BBQs and get together which is fun and often surprises my friends from larger cities because they often don't know their neighbours. The splash pad is also another great opportunity for my friends to bring their kids to when visiting.
- Beautiful
- Very beautiful towns and good shopping
- White squirrels
- Beach
- Close proximity to grand bend, no traffic, get out of the city

What kind of community involvement opportunities do you seek?

- None at this moment
- Volunteer ...at YMCA. Lifeguard and fitness coach full or part time
- Community groups are nice to be part of. Lions, lioness, Optimist etc
- Run for Council
- Volunteer for kids sports, and school activities. I would be involved in YMCA youth programs, and volunteer to fundraise for new Rec centre community hub that includes pool for costs, 2.5 million, and gymnasium for all ages, and fitness (for me) as well as arena
- PSW
- Sports for my child
- I need to see if I'm staying before I get involved. If I stay I'd be interested in coaching soccer or baseball.
- Sports. Library
- Love the farmer's market entertainment but then again, I am older
- The opportunity to assist with youth-led events that showcases food, music, arts and culture based in South Huron. There is so much local talent with so few opportunities for them to showcase it.
- I would love to talk about any community involvement opportunities further. I have a long history of volunteering in Huron County with youth, leadership, service work and the arts; additionally I would be interested in discussing consulting opportunities.
- There are plenty of involvement opportunities with lions clubs.
- activities
- Sports
- Community theatre and church
- Careers
- Over the years, I have been involved with the Optimists, but now I do mainly charity work. I would love to be able to participate in more local older adult active programs
- I volunteer a lot in Kirkton.
- Volunteering at church.
- None
- Family rec centre with year round ice for me and family to play hockey and swim and the YMCA so my kids can hang out there vs the streets. a centre like Goderich where we are going for kids birthday party
- Service Clubs
- "There are all kinds of community involvement and I think we underestimate the grunt work that many of the youth do, especially coach. But they should be rewarded which they are by the organizations, such as minor hockey. Same

with Sports hall of fame....why does council and staff have to run it...let the community be involved. And give them the financial support and say good bye. Don't do as you did with the rec committee, and dismiss their ideas and fundraising opportunities. I'm not sure how many of those members on council advisory committees will be signing up to be involved. Having been a volunteer for many organizations that children and parents were in, I would like to be involved in United Way and YMCA, to move forward youth and senior programs. Present rec centre built with upper govt funds and community board, not council interference.

- Sports orientated.. in Exeter
- Community garden
- None
- Sports
- "Involved more outside of South Huron, but try to stay in Huron County, so YMCA in Goderich, but can also use in Clinton and London. Hockey for son with Huron Perth Lakers. Daughter will be steered towards London for hockey as well. Would be interested in fundraising for new arena, and indoor pool. Next question barriers to inclusion is the "old boys" attitude that no one's opinion counts except theirs...really clear when
- Volunteering, rec women's sports
- Non-political. Want to belong to something that will make a difference, and make others happy. Not comfortable in being reviewed by council to sit on any committee. Will be involved in sports groups, not necessarily in South Huron. Will volunteer at sports complex where I go to school for free membership
- YMCA volunteer in London 2 hours week, as we moved from there, but going back as too far to travel, and grandchildren older now. Collect for Cancer society. Involved in Church
- Usually fundraisers for the school/healthcare initiatives/those in need.
- Kid friendly
- Community theatre
- Cleaning up trails.
- Something to do with the arts and culture.
- Something that doesn't involve church or alcohol.
- Not now
- Any.
- Limited
- None
- volunteer at local bike park
- Volunteering opportunities, cool and interesting events to attend on weekends, etc.
- Volunteer and community service regarding cultural engagement.

- I often attend large events such as Canada day and fireman's breakfasts, as well as reunion type events for people who travel back to Exeter for such as large buck and does and Good Friday. I seek outreach opportunities. For example, when I worked for the municipality, I had the opportunity to focus on fundraising in order to decrease costs per child, increasing access to day trips the playground program provided.
- Right now I'm working to pay off school debt
- Festivals and community outreach to help those in need
- N/a
- Festivals. Swimming lessons. Markets. Activities for children aged 2-6
- Currently Volunteering at Exeter villa, in future potentially with big brothers big sisters

What do you propose to ensure that the youth perspective is represented in municipal decisions?

- Youth must step up and tell community what they want from the municipality.....Cultural collective does not represent youth.....just a bunch of nerds as they say. Many do not live in South Huron but In London
- Need to be listened to at open meetings...understand the municipality had a committee shut down by council because it proposed investigation of fundraising for indoor pool., fitness, gym meeting rooms...all what community has been asking for past 10 years...if council shuts down own committees, what chance is it that they are going to listen to us. I'm not interested in fighting with council...will speak with my feet...won't be coming back to SH after school
- Not really sure at all
- Youth should be asked to submit a youth yearly budget to Council, and Council should commit to implementing at least one of the requests
- To ensure youth perspective is represented, you would need to start with ensuring anyone's perspective is represented...Shutting down the community hub committee demonstrates this, yet you have a Kirkton Hall committee and a Dashwood Hall Committee? Everyone should be treated equal...did you ask anyone their perspective on funding feasibility study and the consequences and cost of cancelling? Understand there is a Rec plan in the works...so how is the perspective of anyone on municipality being represented, except through the opinions of staff and council...need to have open houses and scientific research, like we paid consultants to do...but did council listen to the consultant...or speak to him? If not listening to consultants, then how confident can we be that youth perspective will be of

value except as a token? Rally group wanting Rec centre done, and indoor pool were referred to as “yuppies” by “senior leaders” so what has changed?

- I’m not sure
- Focus groups. Mentorship programs.
- I don’t think the people who make municipal decisions listen to anyone anyway. Probably nothing will happen with this survey except they can say they did it. #sorrynotsorry
- Talk to youth in high school, ideally grade 10, about job opportunities in the county and the educational paths required to get into those careers
- Aaron Neeb is already there; he will ensure this
- Multiple agencies at the Municipal, Provincial and Federal level have provided funding to survey the opinions of youth in South Huron/Huron County. This is the 3rd time I have been contacted through the network that I volunteer with. Meanwhile when youth-led organizations approach public sector and local business for funding for events/operations little financial support is available. It is frustrating to participate and invest time in these studies and exercises when there is no funding for these youth and arts initiatives available following the engagement.
- Youth Council-I have experience in creating and facilitating youth advisory groups-Hire local youth, giving paid and supportive work experience is what propels youth to be able to get better job, make better wages and live comfortably in South Huron
- Having the kids in schools attend informational sessions about the work the community does to build its image and try to retain its youth.
- youth surveys
- .
- Maybe a youth council similar to the town council but to plan events.
- Ensure that they know a place where they can make comments and know when council meetings are
- More invites for youth input in policy that effects the future of our community
- Asking them to join the discussion so they don't feel so out of place and if they are over stepping boundaries.
- To have a young person under 30 included in those making decisions and/or for them to have children in their youth.
- N/A
- This is an excellent start in a survey , but don't know how scientific or valid it is, and if everyone is given chance or random we have to have access to Facebook or Instagram to complete this survey...Why? Just heard optimists tried to get council to fix tennis courts by donating \$5000,, when the cost was 100,000..Is that what the youth wanted, or was that a way to get pickleball courts ? Who would have put them up to that when we know rec centre is in need of repair or replacement? What was the number one priority

of community,, so why the outdoor pool and Port Blake? Stream council meetings so we can see how council works, and can watch when we have time. Need people with education on strategic planning to be involved in the plan,, and consultant, not staff if you want youth involvement, and not just the view of a few handpicked people .When you have an open house, do not allow the staff and council to lead or take the notes or be in the room, as we do not feel comfortable, and notes get written with subjective words like large crowd vs 100 people council has done many surveys in past, but the interpretation is left up to council to interpret..ie leisure plan survey was not presented to council by staff or consultant. When you send a letter to council all you get is a thank you. Need to stop telling my parents that we are getting a hotel with a pool...and private public partnership for the rec centre (that is going to cost us a fortune in membership fees../you will drive us away) I totally understand 17% of the municipal budget is for recreation, and a part of municipal staff, but we cannot afford their wages. Simple. We cannot afford all the halls we have...how many does Goderich have? Somebody needs to do the Math, and it doesn't look like staff can or want to. Need to invite YMCA to an open meeting to talk about it, and stream the meeting, and let some of us work with them...on the YMCA board"

- Youth Council. Council keeping connected with the area schools and youth groups.
- Need to demonstrate that everyone's perspective is given the opportunity to not only be heard, but to be listened too. The youth that are interested in making a difference, may not be interested in ugly politics. There is a difference between perspectives and facts... but education with facts is what is needed, and at a grade 12 level...Maybe some of the municipal decisions need not be municipal, but rather community projects with municipal support. So let the YMCA be formed with youth and community members, and work towards that as most cost effective, as they are the ones that will be supporting it...they are not going to support a pool in the hotel for \$7 per person...they can drive to London Y and it is cheaper Formulating strategic plan...this week.. Where is the youth perspective, as this survey open till July10? Saw council picture with Eco Exeter... has that made a difference with council, or just a photo op.. understand direction is to look at expanding landfill, so wonder if council interested in youths perspective to reduce what goes into landfill vs expanding it
- Not sure if anyone's perspective is represented in municipal decisions.. need more open meetings to discuss budget, recreation plan., no community committees, and council and staff need to respond to queries. Most of South Huron's decisions for roads,, water sewer, Fire , police are black and white and need to follow the standards.. so not a lot of input needed by young or old. Recreation should be community decision in general, with municipality

providing financial support to the experts, same as how roads are done, or grass cutting, paving etc... Need better communication, more transparent,, like the results of this study are expected to be. Sure hope you get lots of feedback.

- Encouraging young people to come to town hall meetings, have a social media presence for meetings as that's where most young people get their information.
- None
- Idk
- Let the community be involved in community events etc, and municipality do what is their essential government service is, Pickleball users have strongest voice, support and best deal in town, while hockey struggles to stay affordable. One recreational board for South Huron who invites YMCA back. Include Goderich as example of how it is done to have year round ice, and pool, and youth camps supported by YMCA and community. Need to know costs for Rec staff, energy efficiencies etc to give YMCA fair chance vs private partnerships that control user pricing and are just investing to make money,, not to recruit and retain youth. Need to start listening everyone's perspective, and not just cherry pick the perspective of a chosen few...again the example is the Exeter outdoor pool...even the seniors in Grand Bend said don't spend money on outdoor pool until look at indoor pool...they did not support Exeter pool either. Need to change the culture so that everyone's perspective is heard, and backed up with evidence and unbiased financial analysis
- Difficult as many youth move away for post-secondary, continue to encourage youth involvement in council
- Youth needs to be a part of, not separate from municipal decision making don't treat us different...treat us as one...and treat everyone as equals. Need to feel like anyone's perspective will be represented equally...however have already heard that council does not think we need to have indoor pool in Exeter, that there will be one with the new hotel...they have already decided that the outdoor pool for 6 weeks is all we need. If council really wants to engage youth, then they are going to have to reopen the Rec centre idea, and give the YMCA a fair try.. it is not good enough that council will not allow YMCA because Grand Bend turned it down, or that councillors visited Goderich YMCA and reported back to council that there were only 3 people there...How are people engaged in Rec master plan and in this strategy building ... is it these one off meetings where one can pick and choose what is presented to council
- Don't think it is a good idea to separate youth from other decision makers, Municipality needs to let go of culture...give to County Area too small, and municipality will feed them the info they want them to hear, so they make

the decisions the municipality wants...like the outdoor pool in Exeter when we already have one in Kirkton. Our community is so strongly supporting Jessica's house, by older influential people that there is not interest in supporting what the youth wants. Watched how the bump out got put through, as well as Port Blake and Outdoor pool, and general public suggestions are not followed...heard. Lady who opposed the bump out be told by a councillor that she could help cut the ribbon...who needs that kind of comment? Youth perspective will be just some talk but no action...saw that with outdoor pool...council says BB gave them the idea, but councillor and committee had already pushed through beach access and over budget, and then easy to just take without asking money from the Exeter hydro fund....they have the power to do that, so why would they ask, or listen to anyone that does not support their pet community projects. Very little for anyone to provide direction for, at lower level municipality, as police, fire, roads are regulated. Very few decisions or direction to make... Perhaps that is why municipality does not want to stream meetings, or give recreational hub to community group to advise.. if they are. Or willing to give to community at large, I Doubt the youth will be able to change or influence council on recreational decisions, or that they are willing to give up power and control"

- Elect a representative from the local schools to gather input. They don't necessarily have to attend meetings etc, but having a youth voice would be a great addition to ensure that what the youth want is being heard.
- Invite them
- I don't know
- Maybe a better social media platform (Instagram). That is what a lot of towns or companies are relying on for us to follow easy and put opinion or be notified of any events or news!
- Form a non-partisan youth committee, with elected seats.
- Have youth involved in the process of getting these programs up and running. Listen to them. If you want them to stick around, they should get some input.
- Get younger people to run for office. Aaron Neeb was a good start
- Offer youth survey, exactly like you are doing here.
- Unsure at this time.
- Not sure happens everywhere
- start letting more younger people that may not be as well established have more of say in how money is allocated
- Have a forum where youth can discuss ideas of what they would like to see in the community. I don't know if that means it's a committee of council or a more informal group that meets periodically to discuss ideas freely. I think the municipality needs to decide who they are building the community for. Genuinely determine if you want to create Exeter as a retirement community

or as somewhere that will attract younger folks. Let's face it: our retail businesses all cater towards older individuals, our housing is favouring them, and our events also favour older generations. Having a healthy mix of ages in a community is imperative - it adds vibrancy, new ideas, and volunteers. But I think if you want to engage youth in the community, you have to make a conscious effort to do so.

- Allow room for interested youth to create a council group that can be involved in decision making alongside or in conjunction with town council and the mayor.
- Create (if not already done) a youth council, also partnering with South Huron student council for feedback prior to implementation of decisions would be helpful.
- Trust my council
- Elect a youth representative for the area who sits in on municipal meetings and gives input on decisions
- Have more youth in council
- Get youth in council. Have voting polls for youth for new or upcoming changes and plans
- Having a youth representative at council meetings and having a committee that actually goes through and reads all these surveys and looks at what issues were most commonly brought up and tries to put a plan in place to address them. If south Huron youth feel their ideas and voice is being taken seriously and can cause change it might make them more interested becoming involved in municipal decisions going forward.

Do you have any other feedback that you would like to share?

- What does youth want?? Speak Up!
- Are you looking for something to support shutting down idea of YMCA? Won't get that from me
- Cultural collective do not represent the youth of South Huron, the real youth do not want to play dungeons and dragons with these guys. Public transportation here will encourage people to shop in London
- Was not impressed seeing public school children walking in front of a fire truck as if pulling it, had to be in gear...while the adults were on the side...doesn't give me a lot of confidence in "teamwork" or safety officers of municipality. I have heard the municipality is trying to attract a hotel, so that Exeter would have an indoor pool, and a private public partnership for a Rec centre...think you should share that with the public that you want to work

with. Don't think it demonstrates perspective of youth being involved....Council already has a new vision, so is this feedback an attempt to support the new vision, or are they going to share the vision, so we can actually give our perspective?

- I'm not sure
- No
- A lot of business owners are old, over 65. Difficult for youth to work side by side with this age group. Incentive for youth to become self-employed business owner.
- I think that instead of expending resources further studying what youth in the community want the municipality could promote a small competitive grant program for youth-led programs that could see similar success as the Win this Space competition in Huron East.
- No
- I would like to see my tax dollars doing more for the youth and seniors from a recreation and program perspective!
- Exeter needs another sit down restaurant not more gas stations and fast food places.
- Communication needs to have more objective information, and less opinions. Ask council to start saving for needed updates to recreation, so we are not left with junk and no money then let next council build what we want to pay for vs travelling. WE cannot afford to keep spending in South Huron for programs that no one uses...need to hire auditor to look at where savings and efficiencies are, so they can be non-biased...decisions based on criteria, and let council decide about trees or who gets their road paved. Have to do much more than listen and say thank you... need to take what we say seriously,, because when I go out of my community for a YMCA, we also make new friends, and shop and eat there too"
- Well need better communication with council, so start streaming...Please stop the committee of whole meetings...fell very uncomfortable being there. Hope we don't see too many more reports like the one on the outdoor pool presented last week...I really wonder the strategy for holding off presenting the info and for suggesting it be taken from Exeter Development Committee...once again...instead of going to Exeter sewer overruns ..You can operate like a business for asset management, or can act like politicians with only have the information brought forward.
- Filling this out because of note on Facebook...says "You are getting feedback from this survey that the voice of youth is not being heard, and how to improve it...Prompted me to complete this...Why is their voice not being heard...answer because no one wants to listen and hear anyone else's opinion if it does not match their opinion, or vision for the future. In the past the rally group did a survey supporting indoor pool...Rec plan said if you

want indoor pool, then do feasibility study and involve YMCA...last council did...youth from swim team wrote letter of support for indoor pool, and councillor emailed the person. Under 16 and when they did not respond went to youths home to discuss why there should not be an indoor pool...present mayor who does not support indoor pool, attended the focus group for swimming groups, and it was the only focus group he attended... makes people uncomfortable to speak up...So Rally team was said to be unscientific, so when scientific one was done at random calls with age group to 65 for. Market study, which showed interest, and membership, the council shut down the index of an indoor pool, and used that to shut down a 7.5 commitment for Rec centre hub... they said the community can't afford the 2.5 M on capital, yet have just spent 1.9 on outdoor pool, with mortgage for 5 years, so can' do much. Hired consultant for fundraising feasibility...cost 30k and a month later cancelled them...Have public meetings, in but they don't listen at them either.. In plans they will take a sentence or half a sentence and twist it to fit their strategy. Did strategic plan without public input this week?? Why does the staff and council have to be in control of recreation...why can't they take half of their 1.9 M budget and let YMCA manage, just like Goderich? Understand outdoor pool over budget, because there was not a tender...so maybe they need a purchasing and fundraising policy? Thought government had to follow them? If they aren't going to follow the policies then who confident would you be thinking they are going to listen and act? Until we see staff and council listening to anyone who is not of their mindset, I don't think youth will be listened to either

- None
- Nope
- Hope you are successful in getting the point across, and that all of the comments are considered, otherwise this is just another example of how snippets of information are communicated to support what council and staff want to have happen anyway. Jessica's house needs to raise \$580,000 annually for operations... how does that effect fundraising for recreation and youth groups in South Huron?
- Need more confidence that if someone takes the time to complete a survey, that all the info is presented, and not just pieces of it to fit "the strategy" . We need more unbiased reports .again Goderich has done several studies and reports on memorial arena and continues to survey the public... South Huron just decided to shut down capital funding proposals and not seeking government funding... ore interested in polling the pickleball players
- Being a strategist it must be quite a challenge to know the strategic plan has been worked on, and now looking for a strategy to engage pubic... or youth. Most of council information sharing, and decision making done at committee of Whole meeting, and presented at council meeting before any engagement

takes place. Also pick and chose who they are going to interview...understand this strategy is going to go to some youth groups for input...seems odd rather than public meeting, or random survey. Too much red tape and intimidation for people to actually voice their opinion, and when you do send letter to council all you receive back is a thank you from the clerk. Nothing ever happened with the age friendly plan, so don't be disappointed when you try to bring these ideas to council and staff...they already have their vision, and projects , and have spent any resources like turbine money and debt for Rec that leaves them unable to do anything but let the. Rec centre and arenas fall apart, like has happened at Centralia...and the Centralia ball diamonds...the squeaky wheel gets the grease...I completed this survey because it sounded like you were needing more input, by the news article... Thanks for trying to have a strategy for community engagement, and changing culture to be inclusive

- South Huron is an amazing community that I am proud to call home. Keep getting everyone involved and encouraging people to get involved.
- The new pool is great
- You need to align more with youth if you want to retain talent. A solid Instagram account with news, events, etc would go a long way and shouldn't incur any cost to you. Another thing is to open or invest in new trails in the area for us to get outside and explore. Thanks!
- It would be nice to see some activities for those under the age of 4, and some for those over the age of 12. Promote inclusiveness and diversity within the youth in order to break the Exeter stigma of being a "clique" town and not welcoming to outsiders.
- We are not all a bunch of redneck hillybilly, beer guzzling, hockey loving bumpkin Hicks. We are encouraging our children to leave this area when they can and experience what the rest of the world has to offer, because there is precious little here. Until the pillar dedicated to the "first white settlers"" comes down and the turn of the century mentality is gone I don't see very much hope for change. That's a reality.
- No
- It is hard to get young people to stay with no affordable housing and nothing for them to do. A movie theater or bowling alley would help solve that along with increased access to affordable shopping opportunities in town.

End.

