

June 2013

Intergenerational Family Policy

Potton Township

## **Actions for the entire population**

### **Community Spirit Campaign in Potton**

#### **Observation**

Consultations for the Family Policy revealed that there is a need to develop a Neighbourhood Network among citizens.

#### **Actions :**

Develop an awareness campaign supporting the concept of Good neighbourly relations

Encourage initiatives to promote community spirit: good deeds, quotes.

### **Come and play outside in Potton!**

#### **Observations :**

Citizens of Potton are very proud of their landscapes and would like to fully benefit from their surroundings. The Municipality would like to encourage a lifestyle of "Healthy Habits"

#### **Actions:**

The Municipality will introduce new activities for families and seniors (outdoors activities, sports, cultural events) and improve existing infrastructures in municipal parks (Park André Gagnon, Place Manson).

## **Axis : Seniors**

### **Supporting Active Aging**

#### **Observations**

During the consultations of PF-MADA in the fall 2012, the community of Potton identified many needs for seniors: local transportation, home delivery, carpooling, local networking.

## **Objectif/Goal**

There are many services in place for seniors in Pottton, however some of these services are either not being used or not widely known by the population. The Municipality of Pottton will improve the promotion of these services (media, bulletins, community organizations). For example, it is prepared to cooperate with the Transport des Alentours on initiatives to better promote their service in Pottton. Additionally, the Municipality will continue to promote the collective carpooling service that is offered by the Transport des Alentours.

## **Actions**

The Municipality, in collaboration with local organizations, will plan and host an annual Seniors Day to promote local networking and provide information on various programs and services offered for and by seniors in Pottton (Services and social programs offered by the CAB-Missisquoi Nord and local associations) and the Memphremagog MRC (Corporation de développement communautaire, Transport des Alentours, la Coopérative aide à domicile, etc.).

## **Goal**

Many people consulted said that seniors of Pottton have much to offer to the community. The goal is to make use of their life experience.

## **Actions**

Seniors Day could be an ideal moment to share their life experience with other community members and create a resource bank of their expertise.

# **Axis : Housing**

## **Living in Pottton**

### **Observations**

The citizens of Pottton identified that rental apartments are in poor condition and are expensive.

Some families face difficulties purchasing property (ex: houses and large farmland are priced too high for the average, double income family).

### **Goal**

Attracting new families and retaining those families who currently live in Pottton.

## **Actions**

**Launch a housing COOP in the village of Mansonville. (A housing coop is a collective project whose members lease apartments at a lower price).**

**Study the development of different means to offer affordable housing to families and seniors (monetary incentive for the first time house owner, subsidy for renovations, residential development, access to land, tax discount, etc.)**

## **Axis : Daycare**

**Children. The Future of our Community**

### **Observations**

**The Municipality of the Township of Pottton is aware of the importance of attracting and retaining families to this area. Young families and their children are at the forefront of ensuring the vitality of the community.**

**To date, the town has been very involved with daycare (0-5) and afterschool services (5-12). The following actions have been taken by the Municipality to develop daycare services:**

**- 2009: A meeting with the Ministère de la famille to request a CPE installation (Centre de la petite enfance). The request was denied as the government currently is not building installations for less than 50 places.**

**- 2010-2012: The Municipality financially supported the Halte-répit (les Petits Pieds de Pottton).**

**- 2012: Request made to the Coordinating Office of CPE in Magog for government funded places: Allocation of 18 places in home-based daycare at \$7/day subsidized).**

**Despite efforts made, families in Pottton still face challenges including the lack of places available and the overall stability of services that are in place.**

**For example, in 2012 several attempts were made to recruit human resources to open home-based daycares: 2 daycares opened, and soon after closed, 12 children no longer had daycare places.**

**Understanding the urgency of the situation, citizens, in collaboration with the Municipality, created in 2012 the Cooperative de solidarité Les petits Ziboux whose goal is to offer a stable, long-term solution to childcare.**

**(A coop is an organization, composed of members whose mission is to respond to the immediate needs of its members, and that could, with citizen support, respond to the needs of the community).**

## Goal

Support the development of the COOP de solidarité Les petits Ziboux in an effort to stabilize daycare services in Potton.

## Actions

The Municipality and members of council agree to provide a diversified support (i.e human resource, financial aid, recourse material, support in political action etc.) to the COOP de solidarité Les petits Ziboux if required. For example, support the COOP in its mission to obtain the necessary permit to open up to a 24 places installation that will respond to the needs of the community.

Promote community involvement with the COOP Les petits Ziboux to ensure its continued existence.

## Axis:Schools

Schools, the heart of the vitality of a community

Registrations in the elementary schools in Potton

|                   | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 12-13 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Elementary school | 24        | 19        | 14        | 19        | 19    |
| École le Baluchon | 66        | 67        | 67        | 74        | 76    |

## Median Age in 2011

PottonMRC Memphrémagog      Province du Québec

55,7years      48,8 years      41,9 years

## Observations

The Municipality of the Township of Potton is preoccupied with the schools current enrolment. Due to a decline in population, less families and an aging community, current demographics are having an effect on the schools; multi-level grades, the absence of before and after-school services for children, access to specialized programs etc.

## Goal

As attracting and retaining young families to the area is a municipal priority, the town is ready to respond to the needs of the schools.

## **Actions**

**Once invited by the two separate school boards, the Municipality is ready to assist with initiatives and support the Governing Board that will better respond to the needs of families.**