

# Rural Active Living Assessment Sturgeon Falls, Municipality of West Nipissing

# NORTH BAY PARRY SOUND DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

April 2014





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#### 1.0 OVERVIEW

Sturgeon Falls is one of a number of communities that make up the Municipality of West Nipissing within the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit coverage area that is being assessed using a Rural Active Living Assessment (RALA) Tool. The RALA Tools were developed through the Maine Rural Health Research Centre of the University of Southern Maine. They were introduced to help rural communities (population of 10,000 or less) assess their physical environment and amenities, town characteristics, and community programs and policies. The tools enable communities to identify areas of improvement to better support active living amongst residents.

By completing the RALA scoring tools, communities in the United States have:

- Identified areas where their community may be weaker in physical activity opportunities.
- Sparked conversations about their communities to identify improvements requiring longer term planning or funding.
- Prioritized actions that were feasible for their community to address.
- Identified program and policy actions that will make their communities more activity-friendly.

This report documents the results of the RALA audit. The findings present a detailed assessment of the community's existing infrastructure, transportation, and recreational facilities and structures that enable physical activity, active transportation, and active living. The report also identifies a series of preliminary recommendations for Sturgeon Falls to consider what will make it a more "active community". The results captured in this report should provide a launch point for further discussion and action, as the details captured in the audit can provide a baseline for the municipality to develop implementation plans to address active transportation, active living, parks and recreation planning, and program delivery.

The Municipality of West Nipissing may use the findings of the RALA audit to make improvements to Sturgeon Falls by:

- Informing future capital budget expenditures around the provision of transportation infrastructure, community facilities, and recreation programs.
- Maximizing the use of community facilities.
- Improving signage and local tourism opportunities.
- Identifying enhancements to beautify areas within the community.
- Improving pedestrian and cycling connectivity to facilitate safe and comfortable travel.
- Facilitating partnership development between the municipality, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, and other community partners to increase physical activity opportunities.

#### 2.0 PURPOSE OF THE RALA

The RALA Tools have been designed to help collect data on physical environment features and amenities, community characteristics, community programs, and policies that could potentially influence levels of physical activity among residents. The tools allow municipalities such as the Municipality of Sturgeon Falls to assess the "friendliness" of their community for walking, biking, and playing that is inclusive of children, youth, adults, the elderly, and people with disabilities. For example, the RALA Tools provide a structure for looking at the community as a whole. They also include a detailed tool to evaluate specific "segments" of the community and assess the key characteristics of those segments. Finally, they provide a structure for assessing the programs and policies that may make the environment less activity friendly.

The RALA Tools include scoring tools that were developed by a committee made up of leaders in the physical activity, childhood obesity, community planning, and built environment fields in the United States. This tool is primarily intended for use in rural communities with a population less than 10,000. The items on the RALA tools were weighted and scored and subsequently assigned points/scores for the scoring tools. These scores can be used to compare Sturgeon Falls with other communities. Additionally, scores can also be used to assess Sturgeon Falls before an intervention or change in the community and then again afterwards for comparison purposes.

The RALA tools that were originally developed in the United States have been modified by Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) to better fit the Canadian context. The original RALA tools included a buffer of upwards of 25 km² to capture rural communities that are spread over a large geographic area. Adjustments were made to areas of investigation and scoring tools based on radial distances that better reflect the size and geographic dispersion of the communities within the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit coverage. Sturgeon Falls for instance, covers a land area of just over 5.8 km². Radial distances were then modified to reflect a range of acceptable walking catchments, including 400 m (representing a five minute walking distance for most people), 800 m (representing a 10 minute walking distance, and which is a distance radius for neighbourhood parks established by the National Recreation Association). As a result, the RALA scoring tools and assigned points/scores were also revised to reflect the adjustments to radial distances.

#### 3.0 COMPONENTS OF THE RALA

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 a RALA audit was undertaken for Sturgeon Falls. The audit was performed by Dillon. The audit included a community wide assessment as well as two detailed street segment analysis of:

- 1. King Street (Sturgeon Falls' main road corridor); and
- 2. Sturgeon Falls' residential areas.

A Program and Policy Assessment was also undertaken as part of the RALA, through the assistance of the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. These three assessment instruments are designed to be used together and provide a tool to conduct a comprehensive active living audit of the community. The RALA included scoring tools to further help municipalities identify areas for improvement or change in their community. The scoring tools can also inform infrastructure and operational spending and create a dialogue among community members, leaders, and residents to make their communities more activity friendly. Each of the assessment tools are further described in the following sub-sections.

### 3.1 The Community-Wide Assessment

The broad-scale, Community-Wide Assessment will look at characteristics of Sturgeon Falls as a whole.

The community-wide assessment includes questions about specific community characteristics and about a number of recreational amenities that may not be within the community boundaries, but are nevertheless accessible to local residents. Rural community location patterns typically fall into one of the following categories, with shared amenities more common in the first two types:

- integrated (where one community seems contiguous with the next)
- intermediate (some development between communities, typically less than 25 kilometres between community centres)
- remote (where large undeveloped areas separate one community from the next)

Understanding a rural community's location pattern may be useful when trying to understand what resources (physical amenities, programs, and commerce) community residents have access to within and beyond their community.

#### Settlement Pattern

"Walkability" and connectivity will be determined to a great extent not only by the density of population and intersections, but by the overall pattern in which streets were laid out as the community was originally settled. Most rural communities fall into one of the following patterns:

• dispersed - There may be a community centre, but most of the population is spread

out and may live several kilometres from the community centre. Such communities can be identified by low population density and will usually have few roads and few intersections.

- elongated This pattern is best exemplified by very small communities with only
  one major road passing through and most non-residential development along that
  road. Intersecting roads may lead to residential areas or schools, but are often not
  connected to each other, except by returning to the main thoroughfare.
- clustered This pattern often results from sub-divisions. A grid pattern or cul-desac pattern residential neighbourhood may be quite distant from the community centre, with only one thoroughfare connecting the neighbourhood to the community centre. Occasionally, a cluster will be commercial, rather than residential, as when a box-store (such as Walmart) locates on the edge of a community, and other retail businesses, restaurants, etc develop around the box-store.
- compact In areas where sprawl has been restricted, either by natural features or by land-use restrictions, both residential and commercial development is likely to have greater density. Grid patterns are more common in such communities. Connectivity is likely to be good, due to greater intersection density. Such communities are inherently more "walkable."

These settlement types may be clarified or refined by considering the pattern of highway, thoroughfare, and residential roads in a community beginning with radial vs. grid pattern, with possible combinations such as a radial pattern with neighbourhoods clustered along arteries having limited local grid patterns.

### **Physical Features**

There are several natural and some man-made physical features that may create unique barriers in rural communities when trying to choose segments to audit. Physical features can include:

- Topography (especially in combination with road pattern)
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Limited access highways or active railroad tracks

Having a general understanding of the location patterns, settlement patterns, and physical features will aid in the selection of important factors that may aid or act as a barrier to physical activity in Sturgeon Falls.

### 3.2 The Program and Policy Assessment

The Program and Policy Assessment assesses whether programs and policies are in place to support physical activity. It includes a range of questions that address municipal infrastructure, municipal resources to support recreation planning, physical activity programming, and equity and access to programs. The assessment also includes questions aimed at public and catholic schools operating within the district that would support physical activity initiatives for students and walkability programs.

In rural communities, programs and policies play a strong role to further support physical activity among youth, seniors, and people with disabilities. Programming is especially critical in extending the usability of existing recreational activities. Questions contained in the Program and Policy Assessment were completed with the assistance of the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit and through feedback from the Municipality of West Nipissing.

### 3.3 The Street Segment Assessment

The more detailed Street Segment Assessment will involve identifying specific physical attributes of each segment of the community to further assess Sturgeon Falls' activity-friendliness.

The detailed Street Segment Analysis evaluates proximity, condition and accessibility of various community amenities based on the following criteria. Many of the questions in the assessment tools make reference to the community centre or "community central point." This is a reference point that best represents what the municipality or residents would most likely consider to be the centre of the community. The detailed Street Segment Analysis evaluates the condition and accessibility of various community amenities based on the following criteria.

Condition was evaluated based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Fair/Poor The amenity is not well maintained and is in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration.
- Good/Excellent The amenity is well maintained and is in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration.

Access was evaluated based on the following evaluation criteria:

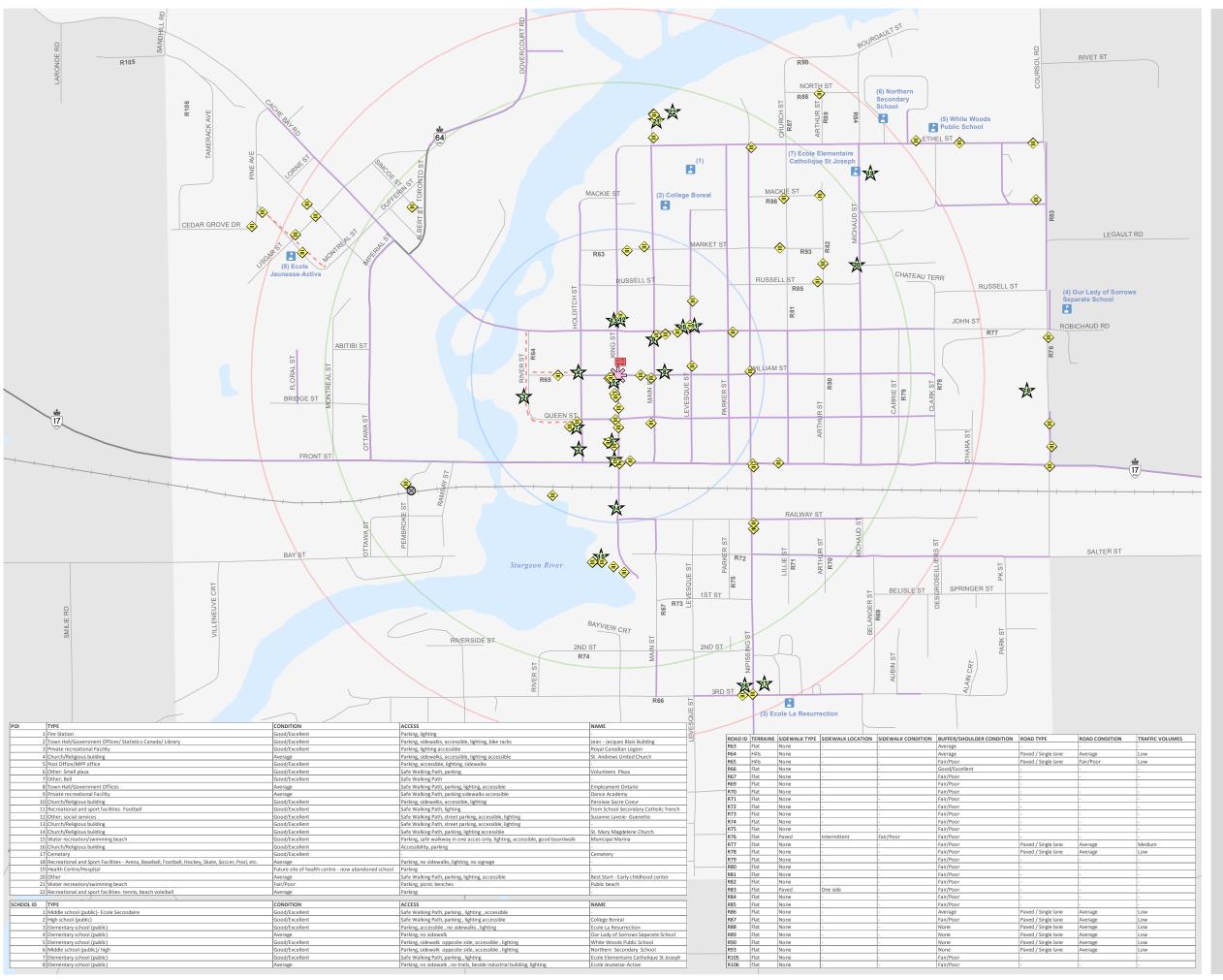
- Clearly marked signs for amenity There is clear and legible signage posted specifically to direct visitors to the amenity.
- Sidewalks, trails, etc. leading to amenity There are sidewalks, trails, etc. that lead to the amenity and connect visitors to safe walking routes to and from the amenity. The amenity is easily accessed by the young, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- Designated parking for amenity There are parking spaces (paved, dirt, gravel, or other) designated for the amenity.

# 4.0 Results of the Community Wide Assessment

### 4.1 Mapping

The RALA assessment was undertaken using the latest mobile GIS (geographic information system) technology to bring precise mapping and locational awareness to the study. This includes equipping the survey team with a tablet-PC running ArcPad software, a mobile field mapping and data collection system, paired with a GPS-enabled high-resolution camera. The ArcPad software allows the team to map the precise coordinates of environmental features, whether as a point, line or polygon, and then add details or characteristics about each feature. To streamline data collection, a custom interface was developed with unique GPS buttons to capture points of interest versus road/sidewalk features, with simple question and answer drop-down menus.

The survey data and GPS photos were imported into desktop GIS software for Quality Assurance/Quality Control checks and adjusted if necessary. Photos taken with the GPS cameras were joined to each surveyed feature by matching common GPS coordinates. All points of interest and road/sidewalk features were then plotted onto a series of maps and symbolized by their scoring characteristics.



# NORTH BAY PARRY SOUND DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

**RURAL ACTIVE LIVING ASSESSMENT** 

#### STURGEON FALLS

MAP 1



0 50 100 200 m

1:10,000



MAP DRAWING INFORMATION: DATA PROVIDED BY MNR

STUDY AREA

MAP CREATED BY: PFM
MAP CHECKED BY: SL
MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

FILE LOCATION:
G:\GIS\126117 - North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit\GIS data\MXD\
Sturgeon Falls.MXD



PROJECT: 126117

STATUS: FINAL
DATE: 10/08/13

### Community Population

The 2011 Census conducted by Statistics Canada identifies a population of 6,672 in Sturgeon Falls.

### **Total Community Area**

Sturgeon Falls covers a land area of 5.84 square kilometres.

### Community Population Density:

The 2011 Census conducted by Statistics Canada identifies a population density of 1,143.3 per square kilometre.

### General Community Topography

Sturgeon Falls' topography is generally flat throughout with gently rolling hills in its urban area.

### Presence of "Community Centre Point"

The community focal point in Sturgeon Falls is located along King Street in the heart of the community. Numerous shopping facilities, government services and points of interest are located on King Street or immediately adjacent to it.



This area of town is a focal point for most daily necessities for residents of Sturgeon Falls.

#### General Community Street Pattern

The road network in the Sturgeon Falls urban area has an obvious and distinguishable grid pattern, providing a structure that supports active transportation. Grid patterns support walkability by providing direct and easy travel between locations. The municipality is accessible via Highway 17 which runs through the town and connects Sturgeon Falls to its neighbouring municipalities.

#### **Location of Public Schools**

There are 8 public schools located in Sturgeon Falls including; five elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school. All of the public schools are located outside of the 400 m radius (10 minute walking distance) of the community centre point. Locations of schools are shown on map.

## **4.2** Recreational Facilities

Recreational amenities in Sturgeon Falls were assessed based on distance, condition, and accessibility.

A monity	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access	
Amenity	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)	
Hiking or Walking Trails	Yes – within 1km of centre	Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity	
	$\square$ Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity	
	$\boxtimes$ Yes – 5-15km from centre	Average		
	☐Yes – beyond 15km from centre	$\square$ Good		
	☐No – community does not have this amenity	☐Very Good		
Comments:				
<ul> <li>The Theodore Fourier</li> </ul>	ezos wetland trails are located adjacent to the Sturged	on River House Museu	m. It is a 3.2 kilometres long trail that	
accommodates hiking	accommodates hiking and snowshoeing.			
<ul> <li>Signs are visible alor</li> </ul>	• Signs are visible along the Highway directing visitors to the trail.			
• Connections to the trail are poor, as it is located a fair distance away from the highway, neighboring residences and the town core.				
<ul> <li>Trails are well define</li> </ul>	Trails are well defined and marked with designated entry point.			
• "Trail Under Construction" signs posted to advise hikers of potential delays or obstacles				

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre (check one)	Condition (check one)	Access (check all that apply)		
Biking Path(s)	No − community does not have this amenity				
Comments:					
There are no identified or designated cycling routes or paths in Sturgeon Falls.					

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre (check one)	Condition (check one)	Access (check all that apply)	
Public Park(s)	<ul> <li>Yes – within 1km of centre</li> <li>Yes – 1-5km from centre</li> <li>Yes – 5-15km from centre</li> <li>Yes – beyond 15km from centre</li> <li>No – community does not have this amenity</li> </ul>	☐Very Poor ☐Poor ☑Average ☐Good ☐Very Good	☐ Clearly marked signs for amenity ☐ Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity ☐ Designated parking for amenity	
Parks in Sturgeon Falls includes Jacques Cartier Park, Sturgeon Falls Look Out, Richelieu Park, the South Side Park, Jannen Street Park, Soccer Field Park, Exhibition Grounds, and Springer Community Centre Park.				

•	The West Nipissing Skateboard Park is located in the parking lot of the Sturgeon Falls Recreation Centre.	It is an unsupervised park that
	is open between May 1 and November 1.	

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre (check one)	Condition (check one)	Access (check all that apply)
Baseball Diamonds	Yes – within 1km of centre	☐Very Poor ☑Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
	Yes – 5-15km from centre Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Average	Designated parking for amenity
	No – community does not have this amenity	Very Good	

- Multiple baseball diamonds are located as part of a recreation campus adjacent to the recreational complex, approximately 1.2 kilometres from the town's centre point.
- Two of the baseball diamonds need improvement. One is overgrown and the backstop is lifting out of the ground, while another is being used to store soccer goal posts. The presence of soccer goal posts on the baseball diamond suggests the facility is used as a multi-use park during the season as is common practice throughout the province.
- A third diamond is in average condition and complete with lights and player benches. The field size is suitable for peewee (13 years of age) and below for hardball activities as well as all ages of softball. The field is not equipped with a pitching mound which restricts the diamond to younger ages of hardball.
- There are lights on the baseball diamond making it suitable for night games during the summer months.

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre (check one)	Condition (check one)	Access (check all that apply)
Public Social Gathering Places (the public wharf, community halls, churches, indoor and outdoor public spaces, etc.)	<ul> <li>Yes – within 1km of centre</li> <li>Yes – 1-5km from centre</li> <li>Yes – 5-15km from centre</li> <li>Yes – beyond 15km from centre</li> <li>No – community does not have this amenity</li> </ul>	□Very Poor     □Poor     □Average     □Good     □Very Good	☐ Clearly marked signs for amenity ☐ Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity ☐ Designated parking for amenity

- Community centres in Sturgeon Falls include the Marcel Noel Community Hall and the West Nipissing Hall of Fame Hall.
- Numerous gathering spaces exist in close proximity to King Street including: St. Andrews Church, the Royal Canadian Legion, St. Mary Magdelene Church, government buildings, and shopping plazas.
- All public spaces appear to be well-maintained facilities and host a range of recreation and social options for residents of all ages.

A monity	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access
Amenity	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)
Swimming Beach	⊠Yes – within 1 km of centre	Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity
	$\square$ Yes – 1-5km from centre	⊠Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
	$\square$ Yes – 5-15km from centre	Average	
	Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Good	
	□No – community does not have this amenity	☐Very Good	
Comments:			
<ul> <li>The swimming beach</li> </ul>	has a small water entry point for recreation bathers.		
• Swimming dock does not extend into the water and is overgrown with shoreline vegetation.			
<ul> <li>Sturgeon Falls' swimming beach is not accessible by sidewalks or pedestrian connections.</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Presence of algae near the beach area decreases overall aesthetic appeal of the facility.</li> </ul>			
• Signage identifies swimming risks including no life guards and high bacteria levels in the water.			

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access
	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)
Public Use Swimming	⊠Yes – within 1 km of centre	Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity
Pool	☐Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
	☐Yes – 5-15km from centre	⊠Average	Designated parking for amenity
	☐Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Good	
	No − community does not have this amenity	☐Very Good	

#### Comments:

• Sturgeon Falls has an indoor public use swimming pool. The pool is located within a recreation campus complex, adjacent to the baseball diamonds and arena. The West Nipissing Pool & Fitness Centre, is an impressive recreation complex that includes a swimming pool, fitness rooms, and weight room. While the centre is located in Sturgeon Falls, it also draws upon visitors from the neighbouring communities of Verner and Cache Bay.

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access
Amenity	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)
River watersport	∑Yes – within 1 km of centre	Very Poor	☐Clearly marked signs for amenity
access	☐Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
	☐Yes – 5-15km from centre	Average	
	Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Good	
	No − community does not have this amenity	⊠Very Good	

- Marina and boat launch.
- The Marina is accessible via a sidewalk.
- Signs are posted directing visitors to the marina, encouraging residents and visitors to walk or cycle to the facility.
- Facility is in excellent condition with numerous pedestrian amenities including benches, waste bins, railings and signage.
- Signs are posted to restrict specific recreational activities (fishing and swimming) thereby increasing overall safety for all facility users.

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre (check one)	Condition (check one)	Access (check all that apply)
Skate Park	Yes – within 1 km of centre	Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity
	$\bigvee$ Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
	☐Yes – 5-15km from centre	Average	Designated parking for amenity
	Yes – beyond 15km from centre	$\boxtimes$ Good	
	□No – community does not have this amenity	☐Very Good	
Comments:			

- A skate park is located in Sturgeon Falls' recreational campus approximately 1.2 kilometres from the town centre.
- The park is enclosed with temporary fencing.
- There are no benches or sit down areas within the skate park and no tree cover or shade facilities exist.

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access	
Amenity	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)	
Ice Rink	Yes – within 1 km of centre	☐Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity	
	$\boxtimes$ Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity	
	$\square$ Yes – 5-15km from centre	⊠Average	□ Designated parking for amenity	
	Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Good		
	☐No – community does not have this amenity	☐Very Good		
Comments:				
• The Sturgeon Falls	offers public skating, senior and tot skating, and sh	inny hockey. The	indoor ice rink located approximately 1.2	
kilometres from the town centre.				
<ul> <li>The rink is served by</li> </ul>	a large parking lot.			

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access
Amenity	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)
Community Recreational	Yes – within 1 km of centre	☐Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity
Centre (e.g. town	∑Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
recreational facility)	$\square$ Yes – 5-15km from centre	⊠Average	Designated parking for amenity
	☐Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Good	
	☐No – community does not have this amenity	☐Very Good	

- The main community recreational facility (Exhibition Ground) is located approximately 1.2 kilometres from the town centre point and is home to an arena, baseball diamonds, football field, skate park, soccer pitch and indoor swimming pool and fitness centre.
- Numerous organized sports programs operate out of the recreational facility including non-profit programs, school sport programs and municipality run programs.
- Soccer and football fields at the Exhibition Ground includes 1 legal size soccer and football field, 1 small junior soccer area at Richelieu Park and 2 legal size soccer fields at Riverfront Street.
- There are no pedestrian friendly access points coming into the facility and no cycling end-of-trip amenities located at the various venues (sports fields, arena etc.).
- A satellite community recreational facility is found on Main Street approximately 800 metres from the town centre point and boasts tennis courts and beach volleyball facilities. Tennis courts are a standard size and have lines marked for adult games.

snowmobiling.

Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access
Amemty	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)
Private Fitness Facility	∑Yes – within 1km of centre	Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity
	$\square$ Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
	$\square$ Yes – 5-15 km from centre	⊠Average	Designated parking for amenity
	Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Good	
	No − community does not have this amenity	Very Good	
Comments:			
A private Dance Stud	dio is located within 1 kilometre of the town centre.		
Amenity	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access
•	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)
Playground(s)	∑Yes – within 1km of centre	Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity
	Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
	Yes – 5-15km from centre	Average	Designated parking for amenity
	Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Good	
	No – community does not have this amenity	Very Good	
Comments:			
<ul> <li>There are 3 playgrou</li> </ul>	ands in Sturgeon Falls, located at Richelieu Park, Janes	n Street Park and Sou	th Side Park. A splash pad is also located
at South Side Park.	Playgrounds are also located on elementary schools gr	rounds.	
<b>A :</b> 4	Distance from the Community Centre	Condition	Access
Amenity	(check one)	(check one)	(check all that apply)
Snowmobile Trails	Yes – within 1 km of centre	Very Poor	Clearly marked signs for amenity
	Yes – 1-5km from centre	Poor	Sidewalks & trails leading to amenity
	$\overline{\square}$ Yes – 5-15km from centre	Average	Designated parking for amenity
	Yes – beyond 15km from centre	Good	,
	$\square$ No – community does not have this amenity	Very Good	

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No snowmobile trails are located within Sturgeon Falls. At this point, there is no information whether public roads are being used for

## 4.3 RALA Community Wide Assessment (CWA) Scoring Tool

The scoring tool below calculates a specific score of the presence and the distance of all recreational facilities and spaces from the community centre point. These scores can be used to compare Sturgeon Falls to other rural communities or to compare Sturgeon Falls to itself over time.

Yes (6 Points) To (0 Points)	+ 6 points
Yes (6 Points) To (0 Points)	+ 6 points
lo (0 Points)	+ 4 points = 16 Points School Location
Tes Io	(0 Points) (6 Points) (0 Points) (4 Points)

Trails	Assigned Points		My Points
There is a <u>Hiking or Walking</u> Trail	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre point	(8 points) (5 points)	
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	+ 2 points
There is a Bicycle Path	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre	(8 points) (5 points)	
	point Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	+ 0 points
There is some Other Type of Trail*  * "Other" can include a different type of trail used for physical	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre point	(8 points) (5 points)	
activity, or an additional hiking/walking/biking trail	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	+ 0 points
			 =2 Points TRAILS
Parks And Playground	Assigned Points		My Points
Public Park	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point	(8 points)	
	Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre point	(5 points)	
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	+ 0 points
Public Playground	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point	(8 points)	

(If playground is within park, assign	Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre	(5 points)	
points to both)	point	(2 : )	
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point	(2 points)	
	No	(0 points)	+ 0 points
School Playground	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point	(8 points)	
	Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre point	(5 points)	+ 5 points
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point	(2 points)	
	No	(0 points)	
Other**	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point	(8 points)	
**Other can include a different type of park or playground, or an	Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre point	(5 points)	+ 5 points
additional public/school park or	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point	(2 points)	
playground	No	(0 points)	
			= 10 Points Parks

Water Activities	Assigned Points		My Points
Public Use Swimming Pool	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre	(8 points) (5 points)	+ 5 points
	yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	
Swimming Beach	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre	(8 points) (5 points)	+ 5 points
	point Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	
River, Lake, Pond, etc. with	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point	(8 points)	. 5 mainta
Canoe/Boat/Water-sport Access	Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre point	(5 points)	+ 5 points
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	
Other***	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point	(8 points)	
*** "Other" can include a different type of water	Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre point	(5 points)	
activity amenity, or another public use	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	
swimming pool, beach or river access venue			= 15 Points Water Activities

Public Recreation Facilities	Assigned Points		My Points
Community Recreation Centre (community-owned	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community	(8 points)	+ 2 points
or private like the YMCA)	centre point	(5 points)	
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point	(2 points)	
	No	(0 points)	
Playing Field or Courts	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community	(8 points)	+ 8 points
	centre point	(5 points)	
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point	(2 points)	
	No	(0 points)	
Skateboard Park	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community	(8 points)	+ 2 points
	centre point	(5 points)	
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point	(2 points)	
	No	(0 points)	
Ice Skating Rink			
	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community	(8 points)	+ 2 points
	centre point	(5 points)	
	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point	(2 points)	
	No	(0 points)	
			= 14 Public Recreation Facilities
Private Fitness Facility	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point	(8 points)	
(e.g. Curves)	Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community centre point	(5 points)	

	Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	+ 0 points
Other***  ***"Other" can include a	Yes, within 400 m of community centre point Yes, beyond 400 m and within 1 kilometre of community	(8 points) (5 points)	+ 8 points
different type of recreational facility (e.g., yoga/dance studio, sledding hill, etc), or another recreational facility if more than one	centre point Yes, beyond 1 kilometre of community centre point No	(2 points) (0 points)	= 8 Private Recreation Facilities
that is already listed		Overall Total	65 points

# 5.0 RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM AND POLICY ASSESSMENT

Programs and Policies	Check One	Comments
Does the community have a	Yes	As the community considers and builds
policy that requires bikeways	⊠No	new infrastructure projects, there is no
or pedestrian walkways in	☐Don't Know	community requirement or guideline for
new public infrastructure	N/A	incorporating lanes and/or walkways for
projects?		bikes and pedestrians.
Does the community have a	⊠Yes	When there is snowfall or ice in the
program/policy in place to	□No	community, sidewalks are promptly
ensure regular clearing of	☐Don't Know	cleared to create safe, passable
snow and ice from	□N/A	sidewalks for residents to walk to school
sidewalks?		or work
Does the community have a	⊠Yes	
public recreation department	□No	
that offers physical activity	☐Don't Know	
programming?		
If yes, do they offer		
<ul><li>Programs for youth?</li></ul>	⊠Yes	Yes - for seniors only (discounted rates)
• Ages served: 4+	□No	
_	Don't Know	No - there are no financial
<ul><li>Programs for adults?</li></ul>	⊠Yes	supports/sliding scale for any other ages
• Ages served: 18+	□No	
	Don't Know	
<ul> <li>Programs for older</li> </ul>	∑Yes	
adults?	<u>□</u> No	
• Ages served: 65+	☐Don't Know	
<ul> <li>Are physical activity</li> </ul>	⊠Yes	
resources/facilities	⊠No	
available for local	☐Don't Know	
resident use outside		
of formal		
programming?		
<ul> <li>Does the community</li> </ul>	Yes	
services department	No	
responsible for the	Don't Know	
programming provide		
a sliding-scale fee for		
lower income		
residents?		
Does the town have a private	∑Yes	
organization (such as the	No	
YMCA or a religious	☐Don't Know	
organization) that offers		
physical activity		
programming?		

Programs and Policies	Check One	Comments
If yes, do they offer		
<ul> <li>Physical activity programming for local youth?</li> <li>Ages served: All</li> </ul>	⊠Yes □No □Don't Know	The community has a private organization offering physical activity programming for youth.  All physical activity programming is
<ul> <li>Physical activity programming for local adults?</li> <li>Ages served: Yes</li> </ul>	⊠Yes □No □Don't Know	free.
Are there     membership     requirements to     participate in these     programs?	⊠Yes □No □Don't Know	
<ul> <li>Are physical activity resources/facilities available for local resident use outside of programming?</li> </ul>	☐Yes ☑No ☐Don't Know	
<ul> <li>Does the organization provide scholarships or offer a sliding fee scale for lower income residents?</li> </ul>	⊠Yes □No □Don't Know	
Does the town offer any local public transportation options, such as public busses or vans?		The community has either free or fee- based public transportation regularly available
Are there any long-distance public transportation options available in your town, such as a train or Greyhound Bus?	<ul><li></li></ul>	There are long-distance public transportation options available in the community (buses).

## 5.1 RALA Program & Policy Assessment (PPA) Scoring Tool

The scoring tool below calculates a specific score to assess municipal and school policies and programs to support physical activity. These scores can be used to compare Sturgeon Falls to other rural communities or to compare Sturgeon Falls to itself over time.

Domain/Items	(If It Sn	d Points ows In Your munity)	My Community Points
Community Policies			
Community has policy requiring bikeways/pedestrian walkways in new public	Yes	(7 points)	
infrastructure projects.	No	(0 points)	+ 0 points
Community regularly clears snow from sidewalks so that residents can walk/bike to work or school.	Yes No	(3 points) (0 points)	+ 3 points
			= 3 Points Community Policies

Community Programs	<b>Assigned Points</b>		My Community's Points
Community has a public recreation department.	Yes	(10 points)	+ 10 points
	No	(0 points)	
Community has a private recreation organization (e.g. YMCA).	Yes	(4 points)	+ 4 points
	No	(0 points)	
Either <b>public</b> or <b>private department/organization</b> (or both) offers	Yes	(4 points)	+ 4 points
physical activity programming for youth.	No	(0 points)	
Either <b>public</b> or <b>private department/organization</b> (or both) allows	Yes	(4 points)	+ 4 points
resources/facilities to be available for local resident use outside of programming.	No	(0 points)	
Either <b>public</b> or <b>private department/organization</b> (or both)	Yes	(4 points)	+ 4 points
provides scholarships/sliding fee scale for lower income residents.	No	(0 points)	
	Yes	(4 points)	+ 4 points
There is organized transportation options (either public or private) that help children get to/participate in physical activity opportunities.	No	(0 points)	= 30 Points Community Programs
School Policies	Assigned Policie	es	My Points
Schools in the community allow public access to their recreation	Yes	(15 points)	+ 15 points
facilities after school hours.	No	(0 points)	
Public schools offer a late-bus option for children that stay after	Yes	(15 points)	+ 15 points
school for sponsored activities.	No	(0 points)	· 22 points
			=30 points School Policies

School Programs	<b>Assigned Points</b>		My Points
There are "Walk to School" programs or other programs that encourage children to walk or bike to school.	Yes No	(15 points) (0 points)	+ 0 points
Schools are participants in other activities (excluding "Walk to School" programs) that are included in the National "Safe Routes to School" program.	Yes No	(5 points) (0 points)	+ 0 points
Schools offer other sponsored physical activity initiatives for students (do not include gym/physical education classes).	Yes No	(10 points) (0 points)	+ 10 points + 0 points
			+ 0 points
			+ 10 points
			=¬10 points School Programs  GRAND TOTAL= 73 Points

#### 6.0 RESULTS OF THE STREET SEGMENT ASSESSMENT TOOL

Two street segment analyses were completed for Sturgeon Falls, including one for King Steet, and another for all the residential land uses within the urban area. King Street runs north south through the municipality and includes a range of community uses and amenities. The street functions as a primary corridor into Sturgeon Falls and provides direct access to Highway 17 which runs through the south end of the town.

A Primary Central Zone was created using a 400 metres radius around the community centre point. This radius represents a suitable and commonly accepted walking distance. The Secondary and Tertiary radius encircles the community centre point at 800 metres and 1 kilometre, respectively, to capture additional community features and land uses. The secondary radius also encircles the urban area while the tertiary radius encircles the vast majority of the Town.

Please note that there is not a scoring tool for the Street Segment Assessment. Expert Advisors as well as communities that have used the RALA agreed that a scoring tool for the segments would be extremely complicated and cumbersome, and would probably not add extra value to completing the Street Segment Assessment tool itself. Other detailed segment assessments in the literature also do not incorporate a scoring system. However, it is believed that scoring the Community-wide and Program and Policy Assessments can help communities propose and assess changes that will make their communities more activity-friendly.

### **SEGMENT DESCRIPTION – King Street**

Boundaries:	
Primary Streets:  • King Street	
Land Use:  Residential Commercial Industrial Public/Civic	☐Community Park/Open Space ☐Mixed Use (all/more than 1 of the above) ☐Other: ☐Other:
Terrain:  Flat Hills Valley Forest/Agricultural/Undeveloped	☐ River/Creek/Ocean ☐ Winding Roads ☐ Other: ☐ Other:
Segment Zone Type:  Main Street Thoroughfare Neighbourhood Commercial	☐ Industrial ☐ School Zone ☐ Community Park/Open Space ☐ Other:

# WALKABILITY - King Street

	Types (check all that apply)	Condition (check one for each type) 1 – poor 2 – average 3 – good		
Sidewalks Length:	<ul><li>☑Both sides of street</li><li>☑One side of street</li><li>☑Intermittent</li><li>☑Footpath only</li></ul>	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		
Buffers & Shoulders Width:	None Sidewalk Buffer Defined Shoulder None N/A	$ \begin{array}{c cccc} \hline                                 $		
Cross-walks, Pedestrian & Cycling Signage	<ul> <li>☑ Crosswalks</li> <li>☐ Crossing Signals</li> <li>☐ Pedestrian/Cycling Signs</li> <li>☐ Children at Play Signs</li> <li>☐ School Zone</li> <li>☐ None</li> <li>☐ N/A</li> </ul>	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		
Street Amenities		$ \begin{array}{c cccc}                                 $		
Other Safety Features	<ul> <li>☐ Traffic Lights</li> <li>☐ Stop Signs</li> <li>☐ School Flashing Lights</li> <li>☐ Speed Bumps</li> <li>☐ Public Lighting</li> <li>☐ Curb cut for wheelchair access</li> </ul>	$ \begin{array}{c cccc}                                 $		
		$ \begin{array}{ccccc}                                 $		
Road/Traffic Characteristics	☐ Road Type: ☐ Paved / Multi-lane ☐ Paved / Single lane ☐ Unpaved roads ☐ Road Condition: ☐ Poor ☐ Average ☐ Good	☐ Posted Speed Limit: ☐ km/hr ☐ None posted ☐ Traffic Volume: ☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low		

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Barriers	☐ Highway ☐ Train Tracks ☐ Private Property ☐ Industrial Zone ☐ Natural Features ☐ Other ☐ None		$ \begin{array}{c}                                     $	□3 □3 □3 □3 □3 □3 □3
Connectivity: Do sidewalks, bikepaths or other segment to other parts of the coroad?  Yes  No	er trails link and connect this emmunity or another segment or	Condition 1	on of Con	nectors: S3

# LAND USE

	Types (check all that apply)	Condition (check one for each type) 1 – poor 2 – average 3 – good		
Residential  Density:  Dense settlement	Housing Type:  Single family detached  Multi-family dwelling  Mobile homes  Other:  None	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		
Public / Civic		$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		
Commercial	□ Restaurant / Café     □ Bar     □ Food Market     □ Theatre     □ Gas station     □ Convenience Store     □ Small Retail     □ Big Box Retail     □ Fitness Centre     □ Private Medical Office     □ Private Other Office     □ Hotel     □ Other:    □ None	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		
Schools	Elementary  Middle High Private Other:	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		

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Industrial / Agricultural  Light Industrial  Heavy Industrial  Farmland Area  Other:  None  Industrial  Industrial		None		$\square 2$	<u>3</u>
	Industrial / Agricultural	Heavy Industrial Farmland Area Other:	1   1   1   1   1	□2 □2 □2 □2 □2	□3 □3 □3 □3 □3

### Comments:

- The primary land use along King Street is commercial.
- Numerous shops and community places are scattered throughout the length of street making King Street the community focal point.

# 6.1 Subjective Assessment & Overview

# SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT

Walkability – how	strongly do you ag	ree with the following	ng statement?			
"This segment is walkable."						
Strongly	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Strongly Agree		
Disagree						
Comments:						
commercial	shops, post office,	churches and social	services.	focal points including		
urban enviro	onment as seen with	• •	nt features, decor	made to enhance the rative street lights and		
<ul> <li>Different pa</li> </ul>	-	itilized at intersection		n drivers, making the		
<ul> <li>Few comme</li> </ul>	rcial buildings prov	vide bike racks to pro	omote active tran	sportation.		
<ul> <li>Store fronts</li> </ul>	actively utilize side	ewalk areas to displa	ay merchandise,	produce and products		
	•	encourage shoppers	•			
<ul> <li>Street parking is available along King Street.</li> <li>While King Street is walkable, there are a few mid-block crossings along the corridor. There is also an absence of signalized crosswalks at intersections when pavement treatment is provided. It is uncertain whether these intersections are pedestrian crossings as signage and lighting is not provided.</li> </ul>						
<b>Aesthetics</b> – how st	rongly do you agre	e with the following	statement?			
"This segment is aesthetically pleasing?"						
Strongly	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Strongly Agree		
Disagree						
Comments:						
<ul> <li>King Street is an aesthetically pleasing street segment. Streetscaping enhances the environment and provides a sense of community pride for pedestrians.</li> <li>Installation of more end-of-trip amenities (bike racks) and pedestrian benches could</li> </ul>						
	ct pedestrians to the	•	, 1			

# **6.2** Street segment Assessment Tool

# **SEGMENT DESCRIPTION – Residential Uses**

Boundaries:	
<ul> <li>North: Ethel Street</li> </ul>	
• South: Front Street	
Primary Streets:	
<ul> <li>Parker Street</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Clark Street</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Nipissing Street</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Queen Street</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Church Street</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>William Street</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Arthur Street</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cache Bay Road</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Michaud Street</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Russell Street</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Carrie Street</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Market Street</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Nipissing St</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mackie Street</li> </ul>
Land Use:  Residential Commercial Industrial Public/Civic	☐ Community Park/Open Space ☐ Mixed Use (all/more than 1 of the above) ☐ Other: ☐ Other:
Terrain:	
∏Flat	River/Creek/Ocean
Hills	Winding Roads
Valley	Other:
Forest/Agricultural/Undeveloped	Other:
Segment Zone Type:	
Community Centre/Main Street	■ Industrial
Thoroughfare	School Zone
Neighbourhood	Community Park/Open Space
Commercial	Other: Residential

# WALKABILITY – Residential Areas

	Types (check all that apply)	Condition (check one for each type) 1 – poor 2 – average 3 – good		
Sidewalks	☐ Both sides of street ☐ One side of street ☐ Intermittent ☐ Footpath only ☐ None	$ \begin{array}{c cccc}                                 $		
Buffers & Shoulders	Sidewalk Buffer     □ Defined Shoulder     □ None     □ N/A	$ \begin{array}{c cccc}                                 $		
Crosswalks, Pedestrian & Cycling Signage	☐ Crosswalks ☐ Crossing Signals ☐ Pedestrian/Cycling Signs ☐ Children at Play Signs ☐ None ☐ N/A	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		
Street Amenities		$ \begin{array}{cccc}                                  $		
Other Safety Features	☐ Traffic Lights ☐ Stop Signs ☐ School Flashing Lights ☐ Speed Bumps ☐ Public Lighting ☐ Curb cut for wheelchair access	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		
		$ \begin{array}{c cccc}                                 $		
Road/Traffic Characteristics	☐ Road Type: ☐ Paved / Multi-lane ☐ Paved / Single lane ☐ Unpaved roads ☐ Road Condition: ☐ Poor ☐ Average	☐ Posted Speed Limit: ☐ km/hr ☐ None posted ☐ Traffic Volume: ☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low		

	Good			
Barriers	☐ Highway ☐ Train Tracks ☐ Private Property ☐ Industrial Zone ☐ Natural Features ☐ Other: ☐ None	□1 □1 □1 □1 □1 □1	□2 □2 □2 □2 □2 □2 □2	☐3 ☐3 ☐3 ☐3 ☐3 ☐3 ☐3
Connectivity:		Conditio	n of Coni	nectors:
Do sidewalks, bikepaths or othe segment to other parts of the co	er trails link and connect this mmunity or another segment or		$\boxtimes 2$	<u></u> 3
road? ⊠Yes □No				

# **LAND USE – Residential Areas**

	Types (check all that apply)	Condition (check one for each type) 1 – poor 2 – average	
		3 – good	
Residential	Housing Type:		
Density:  Dense Settlement	Single family detached     Multi-family dwelling     Mobile homes     Other:     Other:     None	$ \begin{array}{ccccc}                                 $	
Public / Civic		$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	
Commercial	□ Restaurant / Café     □ Bar     □ Food Market     □ Theatre     □ Gas station     □ Convenience Store     □ Small Retail     □ Big Box Retail     □ Fitness Centre     □ Private Medical Office     □ Private Other Office     □ Hotel     □ Other:    □ None	$ \begin{array}{c ccccc}                                $	
Schools	⊠Elementary ⊠Middle ⊠High	$ \begin{array}{cccc}                                  $	

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Final

	□ Private           □ Other:           □ Other:           □ None	□1 □1 □1 □1	□2 □2 □2 □2	□3 □3 □3 □3
Industrial / Agricultural	☐ Light Industrial ☐ Heavy Industrial ☐ Farmland Area ☐ Other: ☐ None		□2 □2 □2 □2 □2	□3 □3 □3 □3 □3

# Comments:

- The majority of Sturgeon Falls is comprised of single family detached homes
- Commercial environments within residential areas are dominated by small retail shops and specialized outlets. However, these are mostly located along the streets located near the centre of the community.

# 6.3 Subjective Assessment & Overview

# ${\bf SUBJECTIVE\ ASSESSMENT-Residential\ Neighbourhood}$

Please answer the following questions last (once the rest of the assessment tool has been							
completed).							
Walkability – how strongly do you agree with the following statement?							
((TT): 4: 11 1 1 2)							
"This segment is wa		NI . C	<b>A</b>	G. 1 A			
Strongly	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Strongly Agree			
Dis <u>ag</u> ree							
Comments:							
<ul> <li>Road and sidewalk conditions are generally average in the residential areas. Sidewalks are discontinued on some of the residential streets, as they flip from one side of the road to the other depending on the block.</li> <li>Some streets leading to schools, recreational facilities, and other community facilities have no sidewalks, which may pose a safety concern for pedestrians and cyclists.</li> <li>Aesthetics – how strongly do you agree with the following statement?</li> </ul>							
"This segment is aesthetically pleasing?"							
Strongly	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Strongly Agree			
Disagree	C		C				
Comments:							
• Sturgeon Falls' residential areas are very pleasant, most of the houses are in good							
conditions and have well-kept landscaped areas.							

### 7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STURGEON FALLS

The following highlights Dillon's specific observations and where possible, recommendations for Sturgeon Falls to consider. All photographs were taken by Dillon on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

# **King Street (Community focal point of Sturgeon Falls)**







King Street is a pedestrian friendly corridor and overall an excellent example of a community focal point. As the main corridor through Sturgeon Falls, the street could further benefit from additional signage notifying motorists of high pedestrian activity in the area.

#### **Recommendation:**

While pavement markings are provided at some intersections, signage could be installed to provide clarity regarding crosswalk locations.

Investments in active transportation could also further enhance this important community corridor.

## **Recommendation:**

Providing more end of trip amenities at store fronts and other main locations would encourage active transportation to the community centre.

#### **Recommendation:**

Consideration should be given to reducing the amount of on-street parking on King Street to provide a safer environment for cyclists wishing to share the road. Consider promoting side street parking, making store fronts more visible to tourists.

#### **Recreation and Trails**







The Sturgeon Falls community recreation campus located on Main Street and features a multi-court tennis facility.

The facility is equipped with lights for

The facility is equipped with lights for night games and is in overall good condition.

# **Recommendation:**

Consideration should be given installing additional court lines and providing flexible net configurations to create options for use of the facility by vounger participants. The newly announced national "Little Aces" tennis program requires a tiered court size for younger participants of the game. To better accommodate children and youth, the facility could be enhanced to provide program options for younger youth.

The swimming area located at the north end of Main Street at Sturgeon River is in overall poor condition. Signage deters swimming activities and poor water quality reduces the aesthetic appeal to the local community.

### **Recommendation:**

Consideration should be given to making the beach environment more aesthetically appealing (planting trees, benches, etc.). End of trip amenities should be installed to encourage cycling to the facility. A delineated swimming area should be cordoned off to prevent boaters from interacting with swimmers. Efforts to enhance the water quality should be considered, making the environment appealing to perceptive users.

#### **Recommendation:**

Additionally, the site could be utilized as a passive recreational space in addition to





swimming. The dock should be repaired to support other recreational opportunities in the Sturgeon River.

Sturgeon Falls' baseball diamonds are in poor condition and require repair.

#### **Recommendation:**

Back stops and infield surfaces on two of the facilities should be repaired to ensure a safe playing surface for both hardball and softball. Benches should be constructed at two of the facilities currently where none exist.

All three of the current facilities are set-up for softball of all ages and hardball for ages 13 and under.

#### **Recommendation:**

If the community recreation programming supports it, consideration should be given to purchasing a mobile pitching mound to expand the age groups the field can accommodate for hardball activities.

#### **Recommendation:**

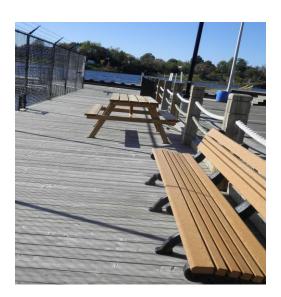
Consideration should be given to adding signage along Front Street directing residents and out of town tourists to the site from Highway 17. Bike racks and pathways from surrounding residential areas leading to the facility should be considered to promote alternative modes of transportation to the fields.

# **Recommendation:**

If the community recreation program supports it, closure of one baseball diamond could allow for the creation of two permanent soccer pitches.

Creation of permanent facilities creates opportunity for unorganized community play to occur in addition to structured organized leagues thereby increasing community participation in sport activities.





The local indoor pool and fitness centre is in excellent condition and provides a wide range of recreation opportunities for residents.

## **Recommendation:**

Signage should be added on Front Street, John Street and Clark Street to direct visitors to the facility. Additionally, end of trip amenities should be provided (bike racks) to support active transportation options for users of the facility.

The community dock and boat launch located on the south end of King Street is in excellent condition and equipped with numerous tourist and pedestrian friendly amenities, including a hand rail along the pedestrian sidewalk. A lot of prohibitory signage is currently in place restricting activities around the docks.

### **Recommendation:**

Signage should be added which directs potential anglers or swimmers to alternative recreation locations.

# **Residential Neighbourhoods**





Numerous local, residential, streets within Sturgeon Falls are not equipped with sidewalks or adequate road shoulders to support pedestrian and cycling friendly environments.

#### **Recommendation:**

Consideration should be given to providing enhanced signage in these areas to slow traffic and watch for pedestrians.

In addition, sidewalks are not continuous along some residential streets, changing from one side of the street to the other from block to block.

#### **Recommendation:**

Consider improving the sidewalks connectivity and enhance the active transportation network, as feasible.

In future road reconstruction projects, consider support the inclusion of sidewalks or wide road shoulders in residential neighbourhoods to support active transportation.

### **Recommendation:**

Consider develop policies for the location of sidewalks. Sidewalks should be installed along streets that connect to community features such as schools, parks, churches and sport areas.







There are five elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 1 high school located in Sturgeon Falls. All of the schools are located on residential roadways. Numerous schools are on roads which do not provide pedestrian or cyclist amenities such as sidewalks, road shoulders or end of trip amenities such as bike racks.

### **Recommendation:**

Consider providing sidewalks along streets leading to schools to improve safety and encourage the use of active transportation.

Signage is present to slow traffic in community safety zones and to watch for pedestrians at crosswalks.

#### **Recommendation:**

Consideration should be given to enhancing crosswalks at school locations with pavement markings. End of trip amenities should be installed at schools to encourage cycling to school.

Many community gathering places throughout Sturgeon Falls are in excellent condition. Accessibility to these community focal points however can be difficult.

## **Recommendation:**

Consideration should be given to making community spaces such as church, shopping centres and grocery stores accessible to all members of the community. End of trip amenities should be provided to encourage alternative transportation methods to get to destinations.



The rail line located south of Front Street represents a barrier and community divider. The majority of the community destinations are located north of the rail line.

## **Recommendation:**

Consider improving connectivity and safety across the rail line crossings in order to facilitate pedestrians and cyclist movements between the two areas of Sturgeon Falls.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

Sturgeon Falls is a well established community that offers a range of services, uses, amenities and spaces for all residents and tourists of all ages. The community boasts the diverse range of recreation The urban structure of options. commuity promotes walkability and encourages active living. The general terrain of Sturgeon Falls is flat with gently rolling hills making the entire town easily accessible for all ages groups to walk or cycle to any destination. Traffic volumes are high on primary routes through the town including King Street, Front Street, John



Street, and Cache Bay Road but sidewalks help to mitigate pedestrian/traffic conflicts. The community could greatly benefit from additional signage to direct residents and tourists to community recreation facilities. Also, the addition of pavement markings and pedestrian amenities near schools would promote physical activity for youth travelling to school.

Opportunities to support active living should focus on enhancing existing physical infrastructure, improving road safety, maintaining the upkeep of public places and private places and revitalizing community destinations. In order to make it easier for people to get around, be active and engage in physical activity, Sturgeon Falls can focus on small scale, practical improvements.

Cycling infrastructure was not observed during the RALA audit. Sturgeon Bay is a beautiful and

scenic community that should be enjoyed by its residents and visitors. Cycling should be encouraged and facilitated within and outside the community. For convenience, end of trip facilities such as bike racks would ideally be located at community destinations, including the Library, Churches, recreation complexes and beaches. Shared roadway signage and additional pavement markings should be considered within the residential areas to promote cycling, especially along roadways with physical activity infrastructure present.



The results of the RALA provide an opportunity for Sturgeon Falls to develop an integrated plan to support active living, community connectivity and economic vitality. The results captured in this report should provide a launch point for further discussion and action, as the details captured in the audit can provide a baseline for the municipality to develop implementation plans to address active transportation, active living, parks and recreation planning, and program delivery.

# **Appendix A: Assessment Methodology**

### WALKABILITY

Sidewalks, crosswalks and other pedestrian and bike-friendly features have an impact on a community's walkability.

### Sidewalks

Choose one option that best describes the sidewalks in the segment: sidewalks are found on both sides of the street, one side of the street, intermittent (sidewalks exist along only parts of the roads), footpath only or none. Rate the overall condition of sidewalks using the following definitions:

• 1-Fair/Poor – The sidewalks are generally not well maintained in this segment and are in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration. Example:



• 2-Good/Excellent - The sidewalks are generally well maintained in this segment and are in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration. Example:



# Q12. Buffers and Shoulders

Check the appropriate boxes if most sidewalks in the segment have a sidewalk buffer strip separating them from the road and if the roads have a defined shoulder separating the traffic lanes from the edge of the road. If neither of these features exists, check "none." Rate the overall condition of sidewalks using the following definitions:

• 1-Fair/Poor – The sidewalk buffer or shoulder are generally not well maintained in this segment and are in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration. (e.g., is sand swept from the shoulders to allow for safer biking?). Example: Fair/Poor condition

Shoulder



Sidewalk Buffer

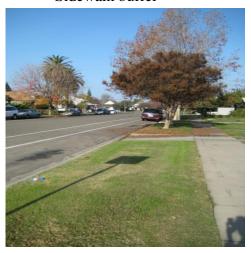


• 2-Good/Excellent - The sidewalk buffer or shoulder are generally well maintained in this segment and are in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration. Examples: Good/Excellent condition

Shoulder



Sidewalk buffer



Q13. Crosswalks and Signage

Check the appropriate boxes regarding whether the segment includes crosswalks, crossing signals ("walk" and "don't walk" lights), pedestrian signs, and children at play signs. If none of these features exist check "none." Rate the overall condition of these features using the following definitions:

- *1-Fair/Poor* The crosswalks, signals and pedestrian signs are generally not well maintained in this segment, are hidden, and/or are in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration (e.g., are the crosswalk lines brightly painted or otherwise made visible to drivers and pedestrians? Are crossing signals in working order? If you answer no to these questions, then the signs/signals are considered to be in poor or fair condition.) Examples: No photo available
- 2-Good/Excellent The crosswalks, signals and pedestrian signs are generally well maintained in this segment and are in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration. Examples: Good/Excellent condition





Pedestrian Sign



### Q14. Other Safety Features

Check off any other pedestrian friendly features available in the segment including traffic lights, stop signs, yellow school flashing lights, speed bumps and public lighting. If none of these features exist check "none." Use the comment box to note other features or places where you might recommend improving safety features.

## Q15. Road/Traffic Characteristics

Indicate all road types found in the segment including paved multi-lane roads (three or more lanes), paved single lane roads (one or two lanes) and unpaved roads.

Next indicate the road condition, either Poor/fair (roads are generally not well maintained in this segment. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration) or Good/excellent (roads are generally well maintained in this segment. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration).

Note the posted maximum speed limits found in the segment. Indicate whether there is no speed limit posted.

Indicate what level of traffic volume you witness in the segment:

- *High traffic volume:* There is a steady stream of significant traffic traveling through the segment
- *Medium traffic volume:* There is noticeable, but not constant traffic traveling through the segment
- Low traffic volume: There is little or no traffic traveling through the segment

#### O16. Barriers

Indicate any significant barriers to pedestrian and bike traffic in the segment, including a highway, train tracks, posted private property, industrial zone, natural features (e.g., a river, thick woods, steep terrain) or other obstacle. If no barrier or obstacle exists, check "none."

# Q17. Connectivity

Indicate whether non-vehicular routes such as sidewalks, bikepaths or trails connect this segment with other parts of community/attractions, including attractions such as schools, commercial districts and parks or with other segments or roads. If they are available in this segment, rate the overall condition of these connectors using the following definitions:

- 1-Fair/Poor The connectors are generally not well maintained in this segment and are in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration.
- 2-Good/Excellent The connectors are generally well maintained in this segment and are in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration.

## **LAND USE**

If there is any residential settlement in the segment, even if it is not the primary land use, please answer the following questions. If there are no homes in the segment, check "none."

# Q18. Residential

In the first column of question 14, please indicate how densely settled the segment is by checking one of the following options:

• *Densely settled* – Residences are located close to one another with little or no open space between each structure. It is possible to see several other structures from each residence. Example:



• *Moderately densely settled*- Residences are spaced out with moderate open space between each structure. It may be possible to see some other structures from each residence. Example:



• Not densely settled (dispersed) — Residences are located very far distances from one another with vast space between each structure. It is not possible to see other structures from each residence. Example:



In the second column, please note the housing types present (single family detached, multi-family/apartments, mobile homes, other types, none) and in the third column select the overall condition of the homes in the segment using the following definitions:

• 1-Fair/Poor – The homes are generally not well maintained in this segment and are in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration. Example:



• 2-Good/Excellent - The homes are generally well maintained in this segment and are in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration. Example:



Use the comment box to note other observations on residential patterns that may be relevant to activity-friendliness.

### Q19. Public/civic

Please check off all of the public or civic buildings/offices/facilities located in the segment including:

- Library
- Museum
- Community centre
- Post office
- Community offices
- Courthouse
- Police station
- Fire station
- Church/religious building
- Hospital/health centre
- Athletic fields/courts
- Playground
- Other (please specify)
- None

In the third column, please select the overall condition of each building/office/facility that is

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present in the segment using the following definitions:

- *1-Fair/Poor* The building/office/facility is generally not well maintained and is in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration.
- 2-Good/Excellent The building/office/facility is generally well maintained and is in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration.

#### O20. Commercial

Please check off all of the commercial buildings located in the segment including:

- Restaurant/café
- Bar
- Food market
- Theater
- Gas station
- Convenience store
- Small retail store
- Big box retail store
- Fitness centre
- Private medical office
- Private other office
- Office building
- Other (please specify)
- None

In the third column, please select the overall condition of each commercial building that is present in the segment using the following definitions:

- 1-Fair/Poor The commercial building is generally not well maintained and is in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration.
- 2-Good/Excellent The commercial building is generally well maintained and is in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration.

## O21. Schools

Please indicate whether there are any public, private or other schools located in the segment:

- *Elementary school (public)*
- *Middle school (public)*
- *High school (public)*
- Private school
- University or campus
- Other (please specify)
- None

In the third column, please select the overall condition of each school that is present in the segment using the following definitions:

- 1-Fair/Poor The school is generally not well maintained and is in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration.
- 2-Good/Excellent The school is generally well maintained and is in good or excellent

condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration.

# Q22. Industrial/agricultural

Please check off if any significant industrial or agricultural areas are present in the segment including:

• Light industrial area – small industrial buildings/facilities that cover a limited land area that do not include significant smokestacks or other industrial features (e.g. small salt/granite/sand pits, small trucking/construction business, small electrical power substation, etc.). Example – Sand pit:



• *Heavy industrial area* – large industrial buildings/facilities or complex that cover a large area of land and include smokestacks or other industrial features (e.g. large chemical or manufacturing plant, large trucking facility, large power plant, etc.). Example:



• Farmland area – any agricultural, livestock, or other farmland area. Example:

- *Other* (please specify)
- None



In the third column, please select the overall condition of each industrial/agricultural area that is present in the segment using the following definitions:

- 1-Fair/Poor The area is generally not well maintained and is in fair or poor condition. There is apparent neglect and/or deterioration.
- 2-Good/Excellent The area is generally well maintained and is in good or excellent condition. There is little or no apparent neglect and/or deterioration.

### Q23. Stop Time

Please indicate at what time you completed the Segment Assessment.

### Q24. Time to complete assessment

How long did it take you to complete the Segment Assessment?

## SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT

Questions 25 and 26 are to gather your overall subjective opinion regarding the walkability and aesthetic quality of the segment. These questions should be answered **last**, that is, after the rest of the Segment Assessment tool has been completed in its entirety for the segment. Please check off how strongly you agree with each of the following statements (choose only one answer for each question – Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree):

Q25. How strongly do you agree with the following statement?

"This segment is walkable."

### Q26. How strongly do you agree with the following statement?

"This segment is aesthetically pleasing."

For both subjective assessment questions, it may be of use to note any comments about the segment that you feel would be useful in the overall assessment of the segment.

**Final** 

# **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

Questions 27-29 are meant to capture current environmental conditions when you completed the Street Segment Assessment. These conditions may impact some of the objective and subjective observations on this assessment.

Q27. Season – please check off whether it is currently Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall

Q28. Current weather conditions – please indicate the temperature, whether it was sunny/clear, partly cloudy, overcast, raining, snowing or some other weather condition when you conducted the segment assessment.

Q29. Day of week – please indicate whether today is a weekday, weekend, or holiday.

\*This completes the Street Segment Assessment portion of the RALA Tools. Please proceed to the next page for guidance on filling out the Program and Policy Assessment.