



Municipality of La Vallee Strategic Action Plan 2023 -2027

Our Vision:

A Community where people matter and ideas grow.

Our Mission:

To enhance and promote La Vallee's quality of life for current and future generations.

Our Goals:

Develop and promote a safe and healthy rural community.

Transparent and Accountable Leadership

Manage resources responsibly

Operate in a fiscally responsible manner

Promote good relationships with First Nations and neighboring Municipalities.

Find and Develop innovative revenue sources

Decrease reliance on property tax revenue increases

Encourage residential and economic growth compatible with land use planning



Community Overview

Introduction

Community Input

Strategic Directions



Community Overview

The Municipality of La Vallee consists of 3 townships, Devlin, Burriss and Woodyatt, the latter being the smallest. 6 miles of river front on Rainy River, boundary waters between Canada and the United States and the Municipality runs northerly for 15 miles. There are 100 miles of maintained municipal roads, 2 secondary highways. Highway 602 is parallel to the river and runs through Woodyatt Township from Fort Frances to Emo. Highway 613 starts at the junction of 602 and runs northerly through the entire Municipality and terminates at Lake Despair. Lake Despair connects with a chain of many other lakes. The Township of La Vallee celebrated its Centennial in 2004.

This is a scenic recreational area as well as sitting amidst some of the best logging area and farmland in the district.

The 2021 Census of Population conducted by Statistics Canada, La Vallee had a population of 788 living in 319 of its 379 total private dwellings, a change of -16% from the 2016 population of 938. With a land area of 237.12 km² (91.55 sq. mi), the Municipality had a population density of 3.3/km² (8.6/sq mi) in 2021.

Introduction

On May 11, 2023, the community of La Vallee held a Public Strategic Planning Session at the Devlin Hall. 31 paper surveys and electronic questionnaires were received and 41 people attended. The attendees actively participated in the planning discussions and what they would like to see developed into the Strategic Directions for the community.



Potential Strategic Directions

Identified by community members.

- Roads and Ongoing Improvements
- Up Grade Community Hall
- Recreation
- Municipal Infrastructure
- Improved Municipal Services
- Municipal Government Efficiency
- Attracting New Residents
- Reliable Cell Phone Service
- Landfill, recycling
- Climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and severe weather preparedness

Action plan

Roads:

- Identify roads that would benefit from surface treatment as feasible
- Repair bridges as identified in bridge inspection report
- Increase application of gravel and calcium in problem areas
- Maintain equipment in good operating order
- Identify and remove dams/debris on La Vallee River which leads to flooding and road washouts.
- Consider severe weather incidents when updating roads culverts bridges and ditching.
- Consider climate change/severe weather when purchasing new or additional equipment (i.e.: sander for ice storms, ATV for wild fire, evacuation etc.)

Upgrade Community Hall

- Remove stage
- New Water Softener
- New Gas Generator
- New furnace
- Repair Walkways outside
- Replace ceiling
- Upgrade washrooms
- Upgrade floors
- Add electrical outlets
- Upgrade lighting



- Install air conditioning/heat assist
- Repaint walls
- Install new windows

Recreation

- Establish a mandate for Council Seniors' Committee
 - Seniors Committee will organize events, determine needs, locate available funding opportunities and acquire necessary quotes.
 - Administration will apply for grants once committee has completed planning.
- More community events
 - Pot luck dinners
 - Dances
 - Theatrical events
 - Fund raisers
- Prior notice of Community Events
 - Sign board
 - Regular Newsletters – Calendar style
- Committee for Youth
 - Advertise for volunteers for Youth Committee
 - Ask Senior Committee to consider activities to include youth
- Ball Park
 - Assess and upgrade ball park washrooms, canteen
 - Consider addition of new features
- Outdoor Rink
 - Assign volunteers to assess outdoor rink and building to determine needed improvements

NOTE: The Municipality Cannot apply for grants on property not owned by Municipality



Municipal Infrastructure

- Improved utilization of Landfill
- Columbarium's to extend life of Cemeteries
- River Access for fire department use, recreation
- Long term planning for maintenance and/or upgrade all municipal buildings including energy efficiency
- Long term planning for Bridge maintenance and replacement

Improved Municipal Services

- Recycling program
- Explore garbage and recycling pick-up
- Sewage Dewatering Trenches or Lagoon
- Improved Cell service
 - Work with providers to improve cell and internet service to the Municipality
- Natural Gas Expansion
 - Contact Enbridge with proposed expansion
- Explore senior housing
- Explore options to attract new business
- Maintain and improve Volunteer Fire Services
 - Work with Fire Chief and Volunteers to determine fire service needs
 - Provide necessary funding for training and equipment required

Municipal Government Efficiency

- Consider paying off Municipal Debt (Grader)
- Long-term planning
- Explore new funding opportunities including grants and revenue
- Use green technology to improve energy efficiency and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- Prepare for climate change and severe weather events
 - Evacuation Center (Municipal Hall)
 - Gas generators at the hall for long term power outages
 - Cooling system at the hall for extreme heat events

Attracting New Residents

- Senior living facilities
- Recreation for all ages
- Consider garbage pick-up and recycling
- Improved Roads
- Strive to maintain lower tax rate

Reliable Cell Phone Service

- Better internet
- Better Cell Phone Service: contact TBay Tel and Bell, contact Rainy River Future Development
- Broadband Infrastructure-research fibre optic services and cell phone tower grants.

Landfill, recycling

- Develop mandate and create a committee of council to explore recycling, pickup services and improvements at the Landfill

Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions

- Develop policies regarding Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Severe Weather Incidents
- Consider Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions in all Municipal decisions

