



## Restructuring of Local Service Districts

### Douglas – Keswick Ridge – Bright – Queensbury – Kingsclear

March, 2017

Dear Resident,

The York Rural Community (YRC) Project started in March, 2016. It is a partnership between the neighbouring Local Service Districts (LSDs) of Douglas, Keswick Ridge, Bright, Queensbury (community of Lower Queensbury) and Kingsclear. The Advisory Committees of these LSDs, along with interested residents, started the project because we want to see if the Rural Community model is a good option for our joint rural areas.

A Rural Community may be formed when LSDs and/or villages/towns join together to improve the planning and delivery of services. It is important to note that a Rural Community is not another layer of government but rather it replaces the existing model of Local Service Districts with something that is more responsive to its citizens' needs. A Rural Community can promote cost efficiencies and joint decision making.

The YRC Project steering committee meets every 3-4 weeks and sub-committees meet even more often. The Executive of the YRC steering committee meets weekly. We are following the steps that the Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG) has put in place to assist rural areas with considering and becoming a Rural Community. We will be reaching out to citizens of the project area to gather input on their opinions and advice. We encourage all project area residents to participate in this process as we discuss the option of forming a Rural Community together.

Sincerely,

David Coburn  
Chair - York Rural Community Project Steering Committee

#### Check Out the Sections of This Brochure:

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## 1. Who are the members of the YRC Project Steering Committee?

David Coburn, Chair, (Keswick Ridge LSD)

Debby Peck, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, (Kingsclear LSD)

David Duplessis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, (Douglas LSD)

Tom Beckley, Secretary, (Keswick Ridge LSD)

Don Floyd, Barb Allen, Jim Tranquilla (Queensbury LSD)

John-Michael McPhee, Barb Hoyt, Chris Duffie (Bright LSD)

Josh Lawrence, Callum Andrews, Andrew Lovell (Keswick Ridge LSD)

Roger Cyr, Geoff Alders (Kingsclear LSD)

Wendy Brewer, Danny Roy, David Woods (Douglas LSD)

Shawn Robichaud (DELG), Community Restructuring Analyst

## 2. What is the population and tax base of the YRC Project partnering LSDs?

Local Service District	2011 Census	2016 Assessment (\$)	2017 Assessment (\$)
Bright	1,542	96,677,200	100,470,050
Douglas	3,877	249,218,700	248,844,950
Keswick Ridge	1,526	158,918,550	156,554,950
Kingsclear	2,781	268,970,900	268,993,100
Queensbury (community of Lower Queensbury)	<u>445</u>	<u>30,470,090</u>	<u>30,917,950</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,171</b>	<b>804,255,440</b>	<b>805,781,000</b>

### Notes:

(1) Prorated 2016 Census figures from the Census Subdivision to the LSD not yet available at the time of the printing of this information.

(2) Queensbury is estimated at 35% of the total LSD population and assessment and is subject to change.

## 3. Where and when will the YRC Project public consultations take place?

### ROUND 1 – Registration at the door at 6:30 pm Meeting 7 – 9 pm

April 11 – Riverside Resort, 35 Mactaquac Road, French Village, NB

April 18 – Keswick Ridge Community Hall, 86 Route 616, Keswick Ridge, NB

April 25 – Green Hill Lake Camp, 40 Green Hill Lake Road, Bright, NB

May 2 – Keswick Valley Recreation Centre, 25 Route 617, Burtts Corner, NB

May 9 – Mactaquac Provincial Park Lodge, 1265 Route 105, Mactaquac, NB

### ROUND 2 – Both sessions 7-9 pm

July 11 – Open House at Riverside Resort, 35 Mactaquac Road, French Village, NB

July 12 – Open House at Keswick Valley Recreation Centre, 25 Route 617, Burtts Corner, NB

### ROUND 3 - Registration at the door at 6:30 pm Meeting 7 – 9 pm

TBA – Burtts Corner Lions Club, 42 Route 617, Burtts Corner, NB

TBA – Keswick Ridge Community Centre, 86 Route 616, Keswick Ridge, NB

August 11 – Riverside Resort, 35 Mactaquac Road, French Village, NB

TBA – Douglas Baptist Church, 1012 Route 105, Douglas, NB

TBA- Keswick Valley Recreation Centre, 25 Route 617, Burtts Corner, NB

\* TBA – To be announced on the website at a later date

## 4. Why should we think about becoming a Rural Community?

With a Rural Community model of local government in the area, we could:

- have local decision making by elected representatives from our area
- have a voice about upcoming developments in our area (Mactaquac Project, Sisson Mine Project)
- create an emergency plan for our area (to avoid a repeat of what we faced after Post Tropical Storm Arthur in 2015)
- pool our tax base, infrastructure, and services
- be able to apply to funding programs (federal and provincial) such as the provincial gas tax and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities green municipal fund
- make decisions about sharing existing resources and infrastructures with neighbouring municipalities
- have a seat on the Regional Service Commission 11 Board of Directors
- focus on the preservation of our way of life

## 5. What are the steps to form a Rural Community?

These are the steps that have been put in place by the DELG to assist interested unincorporated areas in considering and becoming a Rural Community (YRC Project status is indicated in brackets):

1. A **letter of interest** is sent to the Minister of DELG by interested residents, the Advisory Committee of a LSD, or a town or village council (Completed).

2. An **initial assessment is made** of the area's population, property tax base, shared interests, potential benefits and level of public interest in forming a viable Rural Community (Completed).

3. A **feasibility study** petition (signed by at least 25 residents from each partnering area) is sent to the Minister from the local steering committee (Completed).

4. A **feasibility study** is carried out by DELG staff, the steering committee and/or a consultant. A report of the study results is share with residents and submitted to the Minister (Underway). It is anticipated that the Preliminary Feasibility Study Report will be released on June 30, 2017 and the Final Feasibility Study Report on July 28, 2017.

**NOTE** If a community, after hearing the various presentations and viewing the information materials presented during the feasibility study, prefers to opt out of the project they may indicate this desire by petitioning the Minister at any point prior to the plebiscite.

5. The Minister reviews feasibility study report and decides whether or not to hold a **plebiscite** (Pending).

If there is plebiscite and if a Yes vote is the result and if the government approves, a **Rural Community** is formed and a Council is elected.

## 6. Contact Us

Visit us at any one of these forums:

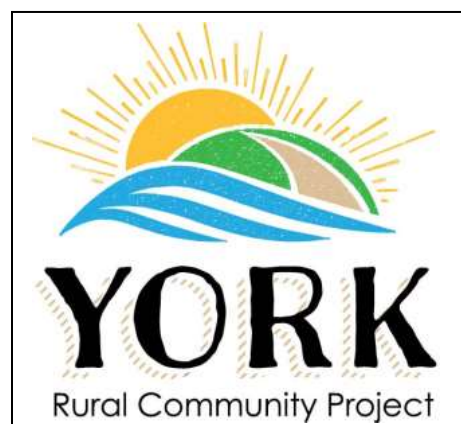
[yorkruralcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:yorkruralcommunity@gmail.com)

[www.yorkruralcommunity.ca](http://www.yorkruralcommunity.ca)

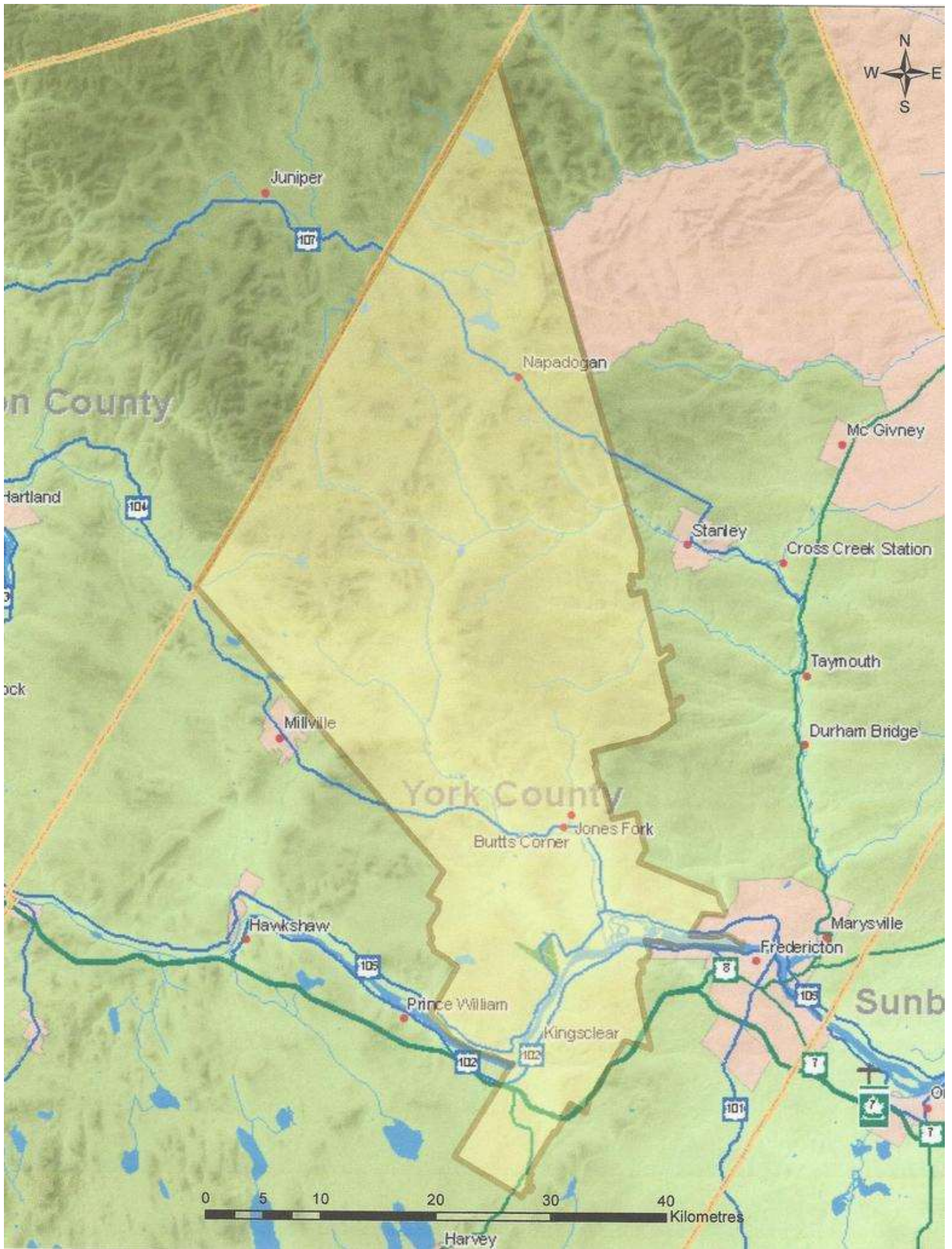
<http://yorkruralcommunity.blogspot.com>

Facebook: York Rural Community Project

Community Restructuring Branch of DELG at 453-3358







**The Proposed York Rural Community Project Area**