

New Rural Economy in Lot 16 Review of the 2001 Household Survey

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- The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

- Ray – General picture: Pressures affecting how we got here
- Peter – Focus on rural economy: implications for policy-makers and their programs
- Bill – Focus on implications for community members

Outline of Presentation

- ◆ The NRE Project
- ◆ The Household Survey 2001
- ◆ Lot 16 Results and Issues of Interest
- ◆ General Discussion
- ◆ What's Next?

Outline

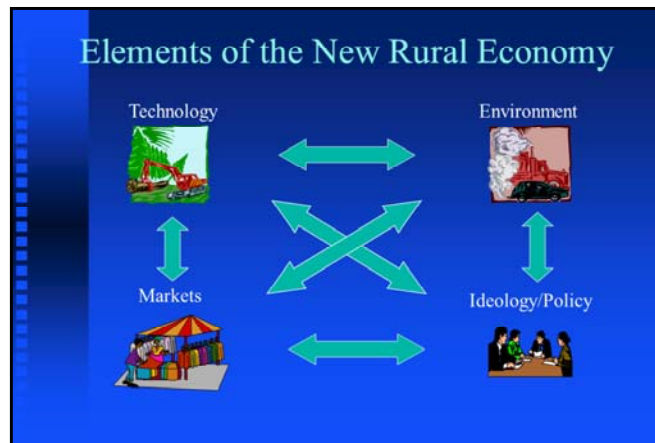
- Before getting to the action part: The New Rural Economy Project of CRRF
- What have we learned about community capacity?
- What can communities do?

What is the NRE Project?

- ◆ 5 year research and education program
- ◆ Collaborative project among communities, universities, and governments
- ◆ Mission:
 - ◆ gain an understanding of the context and systems of rural Canada
 - ◆ provide useful insights and options for communities
 - ◆ offer policy advice to governments

NRE Objectives

- NRE a project of CRRF
- Established in 1997 – 5-year project
 - Provide grounded, comparative, and comprehensive analysis of the new rural economy in Canada
 - Establish a collaborative research and education network that will build capacity to improve the quality of life for all rural Canadians
 - To develop insightful, documented recommendations for long run rural business performance, inclusive development, and public policy
 - To establish a long-term research and education infrastructure to serve the above objectives



•Pressures of the New Rural Economy

- The general pressures conditioning the rural economy in Canada are largely shared by those in urban centres and other parts of the world. They are strongly mediated by national and local conditions, however, making their consequences unique for different locations and for different types of people in those locations. It is in the interactions between these pressures and the local contexts that the complexity of rural Canada can best be understood. I have identified 4 interrelated aspects of the new rural economy to represent these pressures.

•Technology

- Technological innovations are a crucial ingredient in the dynamics of the new rural economy. Canada's traditional dependence on resource extraction has meant that the labour-shedding characteristics of extraction technology have radically changed the rural landscape. Our farms, forests, waterways, oceans, and minerals have felt the impact of those technologies and the reorganization of production that they bring. In the process, some rural communities have become more connected and more like their urban counterparts while others have disappeared.

•Markets

- The technology has not been developed or used in a social or political vacuum, however. The structure of economic markets has contributed to its growth in certain directions and not in others. Technology, for example, has been used to standardize production rather than diversify it, shed labour rather than socialize it, extract resources rather than sustain them, and increase economic inequality rather than reduce it.

- In Canada, our resource economies have been commodity based for the most part, and except for the automobile industry, we have largely depended on the shipment of raw materials for our wealth. The organization of those industries has been highly concentrated (Figure 1). In the modern, global economy, these tendencies have increased. At the same time, the ability of rural people to extract value from their commodities has diminished.

•Environmental Limitations

- Both technological development and market pressures have in turn placed the environment in jeopardy. We now have the ability to empty the oceans of fish, to remove the topsoil from the land, and strip the hills of their forests. Competition from around the globe and the high level of foreign ownership of our industries (Figure 2) has meant that we have acted on that ability in the interest of short-term gain rather than seek sustainable use of these resources.

- The limits to this strategy are now increasingly apparent, however. Environmental limitations have forced us to reconsider how we extract and use these resources and to reevaluate our treatment of common property.

Pressures Identified by the NRE

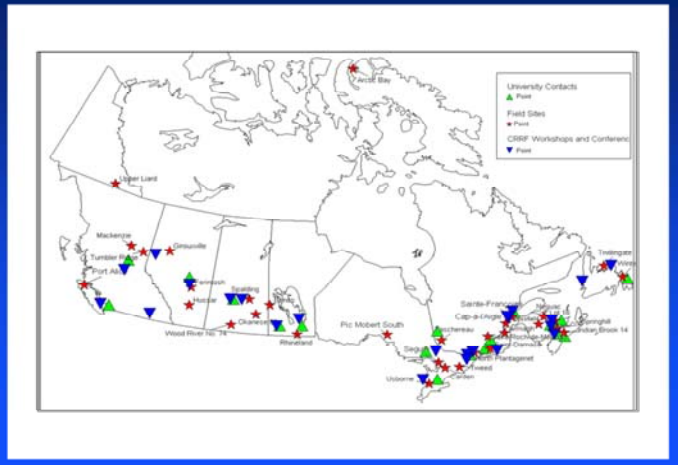
Rural Pressures

- Strong global competition
- Uncertainty and conflicts in trade policy
- Environmental challenges
- Depopulation
- Loss of non-market services
- Diminished capacity for self-organization

Urban Pressures

- Vulnerable food security
- Loss of biological and sociological diversity
- Loss of amenities

National Study Site and Partner Locations



- Researches associated with more than 20 universities and institutes
- 32 field sites chosen (5 dimensions of comparison)
- Program of workshops and conferences – over 13 years, about 25 locations
- International collaboration
 - 2 sites in Japan
 - Colleagues and centres in USA, UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Mexico
- Invitation to work with us

The Household Survey: Summer 2001

- ◆ Conducted interviews in 20 different types of communities across Canada
- ◆ 1,995 households were surveyed
- ◆ Closed questions pertaining to economic, social and infrastructure issues
- ◆ Statistical results now available for each site

Lot 16 Results and Issues of Interest

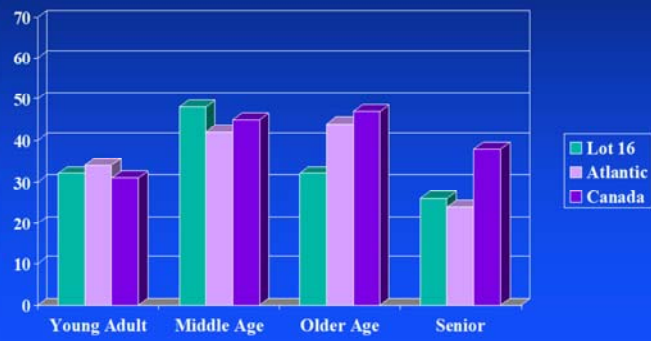


- Results based on responses of 80 households
- Major Topics of Interest
 - Community Action
 - Leadership
 - Volunteerism
 - Service Quality
 - Internet Use
 - Stress and Health
 - Attitude Towards Community

Community Action: Lot 16 Residents Show Interest in Local Issues

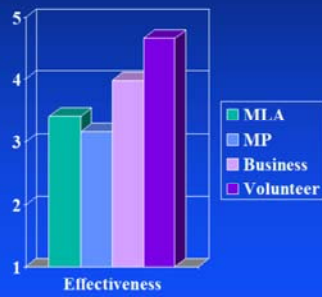
- 51% of women participated in or voiced opinions on community issues
- Most common involvement: Attending public meetings, signing petitions, donating funds to local community groups
- Young adults attend public meetings and tend to speak up

Community Action: Young Adults Highly Involved in Public Meetings

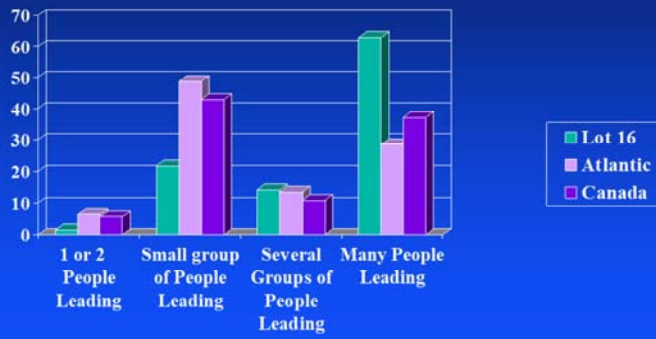


Leadership: Volunteer Groups Effective

- Volunteer and Business groups seen as most effective in supporting the community
- 63% of residents feel leadership is controlled by many people

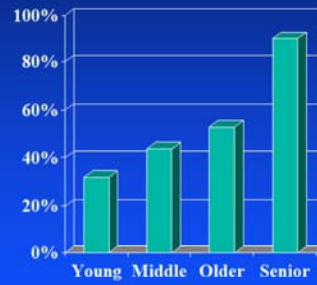


Leadership: Many People Involved

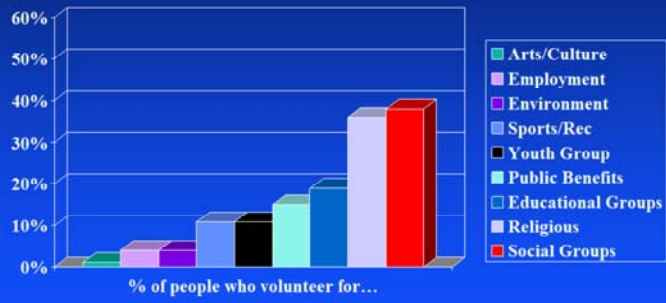


Volunteerism: Participation High in Lot 16

- 54% of residents volunteer in at least one organization or group
- Seniors have impressive volunteer rates
- High participation rates in social and religious organizations

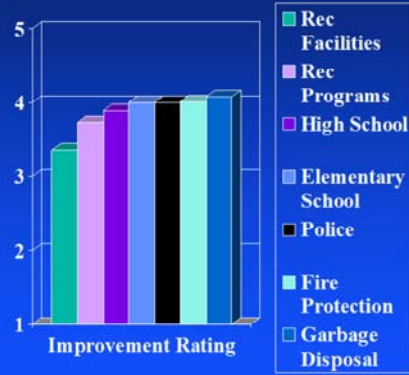


Volunteerism: Participation in Lot 16



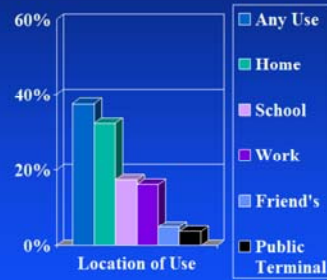
Services: Good Quality Ratings

- Elementary schools, police, fire protection, and garbage disposal highest quality
- Recreation facilities received the lowest rating
- Quality of services generally increased since 1996



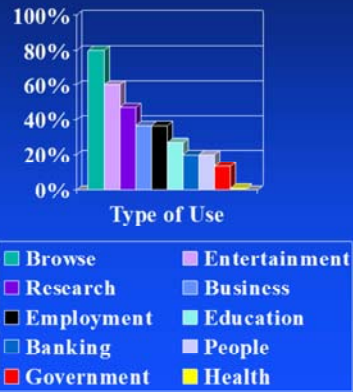
Internet: Lot 16 Residents Less Likely To be “Connected”

- 38% of residents use the Internet, lower than national average
- Most use at home
- Higher use if child in the home, and with higher incomes
- Internet improves access to information, but not economic situations or community relationships

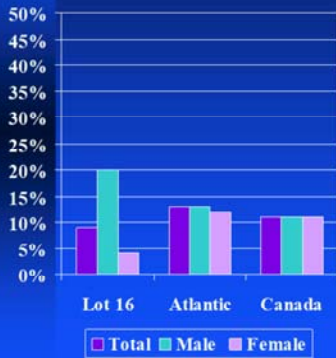


Internet: What's it for?

- Most use for browsing, research, entertainment
- Relatively few users for education, government and health care information
- Youth and middle aged residents more likely to use for business



Stress: Lot 16 Relatively Stress-free



- Overall stress rating of 9%, lower than National and Atlantic averages
- Lot 16 men tend to be more stressed than women
- Middle aged (35 to 64 years) tend to have the most stressful lives

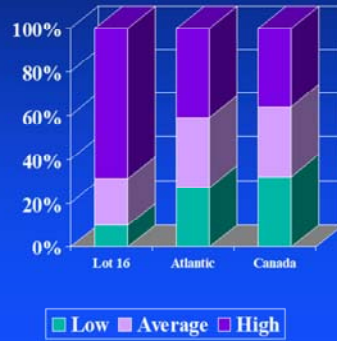
Stress: Related to Major Change



- 51% of households experienced a major change in past year
- Financial related changes most common
- Both positive and negative changes create added stress

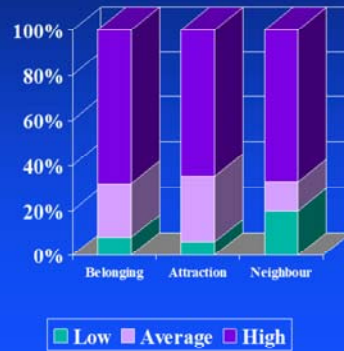
Attitudes: Social Cohesion High

- Lot 16 residents rated their social cohesion very high
- Young adults higher social attraction than national average



Attitudes: Strong Sense of Community

- Overall strong sense of attraction and belonging to community
- Challenges within and outside the community can contribute to social cohesion levels



General Discussion

- What questions do you have about the future of Lot 16?
- What else do you want to know about your community?
- Comments and suggestions
- Changes in Agriculture
- New Population Growth
- Provincial Park
- Economic Development
- Community Events
- Leadership
- Local Government
- What else?

What's Next?

- ◆ Conference
 - “Rural Matters: CRRF Rural University in Miramichi”
 - October 26-29, 2002
- ◆ Preparing 4 books plus articles on rural issues
- ◆ Funding for 2003-2006 research and community projects

The NRE Project: Building Capacity in Rural Canada

A Project of the Canadian Rural
Revitalization Foundation

www.crrf.ca
www.nre.concordia.ca



Finally:

- Make use of other groups and networks – like CRRF
- Cannot deal with these problems alone
 - Many of them are rooted in pressures over which communities have no control (cf. Peter, Ray)
 - The complexity of NRE requires continuous learning and information from a wide variety of sources
 - Capacity building is a social and long term process