



REPORT

# LOMBARDY COMMUNITY VISIONING PROJECT

2024/2025

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## **1. Executive Summary**

In 2024, Hawn Consulting was commissioned to design and implement a community consultation strategy for the Community of Lombardy. The aim was to gather community input to shape the Lombardy's future by balancing its historic charm with modern growth opportunities.

This Visioning process involved both a survey and two workshops (in-person and virtual) to collect resident feedback on key topics such as infrastructure, housing, economic development, and community engagement. Residents expressed a strong desire to enhance recreational spaces, attract local businesses, and improve walkability and infrastructure. This report summarizes the key findings and consultant's recommendations based on the collected data.

With the Visioning process focused on both short-term success as well as long-term Vision, the following breaks down the key findings from the process and areas of focus, as seen by the community, based on the number of times mentioned by residents including all surveys entries and workshop discussions.

#	Category	Priority	Summary of Category
1	Outdoor Recreation	32	Expansion of trail systems such as the Cataraqui trail, desire for more parks, picnic areas, outdoor fitness spaces, enhancing waterways, and completion of the pump track and pickleball courts.
2	Village Vitality	21	Desire for restaurants, cafes, bringing back small businesses, general store, hardware store, revitalization of commercial area.
3	Services	19	Requests for daycare, improved and reliable high-speed internet for remote work, health services like walk-in clinics, nurse practitioners, and veterinary services.
4	Infrastructure Improvements	17	Requests for better road maintenance and expansion, need for improved parking near trails and recreational facilities, infrastructure development to support commercial growth.
5	Walkability	16	Improved sidewalks around schools and community hubs, safer pedestrian crossings, lower speed limits, and improved paths connecting trails.
6	Tourism	15	Promoting Lombardy as a tourist destination, more events, better signage.
7	Housing	13	Support for affordable housing and senior retirement homes, concerns of new development impacting rural charm, and desire for small lots and more dense development to attract newcomers.
8	Indoor Recreation	10	Completion of indoor facilities such as Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex, multi-generational activities, adding fitness programs and gyms.
9	Environmental & Sustainability	9	Protecting natural assets like lakes, wetlands, and promoting sustainable tourism.
10	Transportation	7	Improved transportation options and connectivity for seniors and disabled individuals.
11	Crime & Safety	6	Concerns about speeding and traffic control, with overall general feelings of safety with some desire for increased policing.
12	Arts & Culture	4	Local facilities for cultural events, fairs, farmers markets, and arts.

## 2. Key Findings

As we completed the surveys and workshops, these main topics were key points of discussion throughout the process. These topics were repeated throughout, and emphasized by those who participated as areas they wanted to see strong focus on, both in the immediate and long term action planning:

### 1. Recreation and Outdoor Spaces

- Lombardy's natural beauty and outdoor spaces were emphasized by participants as key community assets. Residents highlighted the need to improve and expand facilities like the Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex, which has been in progress but not as a fully finished facility. There was also significant mention about expanding on these assets with items such as pickleball courts, trails, and multi-generational activities.

### 2. Community Spirit and Engagement

- The village is known for its welcoming community, and residents wish to preserve this spirit while fostering more events and better communication with local government to attract new residents and visitors to support their local businesses. Residents value the supportive, friendly nature of the community and want to foster more involvement through volunteer and youth engagement opportunities.

### 3. Infrastructure and Services

- Residents emphasized the need for infrastructure improvements, particularly in walkability, signage, and internet access. More essential services, such as healthcare and daycare, were also mentioned as a priority in order to assist with attracting new residents and tourists to the area.

### 4. Economic Growth and Housing

- A focus on responsible growth was clear, with residents calling for more local businesses and sustainable housing development that maintains affordability. This included a combination of different housing types (retirement, apartments, single family homes) and the need to partner with developers to improve housing and expand on the growing commercial sector beginning just outside of Smiths Falls. It was clear that many miss the reliable, local businesses that thrived in years past in the village area, and see that as needed to help bring the community to its full potential.

### 5. Tourism and Historical Preservation

- Residents see Lombardy's historical assets and natural beauty as significant opportunities for tourism, with a need for better promotion. Visitors come from all over to the variety of lakes and trails such as the Cataraqui, and there needs to be better strategic planning to maintain the condition of these resources, which would encourage more visitors.

### 3. The Process

The Visioning process for the Community of Lombardy followed a structured approach to ensure inclusivity and active participation from the community. The following components detail how input was gathered:

#### a. Visioning Steering Committee

##### **Purpose**

The Visioning Steering Committee was taken on by an existing committee, South Elmsley Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) to oversee and provide guidance during the implementation of the Visioning process for the Community of Lombardy in 2024, ensuring that it was inclusive and representative of the entire community.

##### **Background**

The Township of Rideau Lakes engaged Hawn Consulting to work under the mandate of the Economic Development Committee and in collaboration with the volunteer Community Enhancement Committee and Township. The goal was to develop and implement a consultation strategy that would ensure a community-driven outcome.

- Ensure an inclusive and holistic approach process throughout.
- Develop and implement a consultation strategy.
- Develop a draft community Vision based on the surveys, workshops, and community input collected incorporating best practices in community building, planning, and economic development.
- Release the draft of the Vision document for community feedback and itemize feedback and related considerations in separate documentation.
- Have one final Vision document to Council and the community along with a secondary document outlining all the community feedback received. The document also incorporates how the feedback from the community has been considered and incorporated.

##### **Structure**

- **Meetings:** Three in-person meetings were held between July and November 2024.
- **Roles:** The Steering Committee was responsible for reviewing and confirming desired outcomes, overseeing the timeline, reviewing surveys and workshops, and promoting input through their networks.

## **Role of the Steering Committee Members**

- Define Outcomes - review and confirm desired outcomes of Visioning process.
- Review Schedule - review timeline and logistics, clarify and agree on dates for workshop(s).
- Visioning Sessions - review draft agenda for Visioning workshops.
- Survey - review survey questions, process, and logistics.
- Review Communications and confirm messaging for the invitation process.
- Promote input through their networks.
- Make local connections to advance the concept to as many community channels as possible.

The South Elmsley Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) was ready to act as the Steering Committee for the Lombardy Visioning project.

## **The Steering Committee included representatives from:**

- Council Representative from the Township of Rideau Lakes
- South Elmsley Community Enhancement Committee representatives
- Lombardy Residents
- Economic Development and Cultural Heritage representatives
- Township staff

## **Steering Committee #1: July 11th (In-Person)**

- Create meeting agenda
- Confirm the set work plan process and timelines
- Set dates for the community input sessions
- Present survey questions and communication channels for launch

## **Steering Committee #2: September 19th (In-Person)**

- Review the community feedback and survey results
- Present preliminary findings
- Discuss the emerging themes
- Note any feedback and insights from the Steering Committee

## **Steering Committee #3: October 17th (In-Person)**

- Review feedback on draft report
- Go over consultant recommendations and suggestions
- Gather any insights or thoughts from Economic Development to incorporate into final report

## **b. The Methodology**

### **Why We Are Doing This**

The Visioning process aimed to engage permanent and seasonal residents of Lombardy to gather feedback that would contribute to a Community Improvement Plan for the whole community.

### **The Goal**

Produce a document that captures the Vision of Lombardy from a community perspective.

### **Objectives**

The objective was to gather focused input from a wide range of stakeholders, ensuring the creation of a Vision document that truly reflected the community's desires. In order to achieve our goal, we needed to ensure that we communicate the importance of this process effectively to the whole community, get as many partners involved, and create a strategic plan with the support of the steering committee to ensure we cover a variety of important topics and information.

### **Community Input Work Plan**

A detailed timeline was established to build momentum for the Visioning process and maximize resident engagement. This timeline included key phases from consultation strategy development to finalizing community feedback.

### **Project Timeline**

- **Phase 1 (July 2024)**
  - Consultant was hired, met with township staff, and held the first steering committee meeting to review the work plan, survey questions, and workshop timelines.
- **Phase 2 (July - August 2024)**
  - Surveys and a communications plan were launched to the public.
  - Mailers sent out to the ward, emails to all committee members and partners, social media was used to promote the launch.
  - Virtual Workshop Thursday August 15th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.
  - In-Person Workshop Saturday August 24th from 2:00pm - 4:00pm.
- **Phase 3 (September 2024)**
  - Workshops were held, survey responses were collected, and community engagement activities such as direct mailers were conducted.
  - Surveys were closed, and data analysis began.
  - Initial information gathering from surveys and workshops completed from the consultant.
  - Steering committee held to review the preliminary findings presented before September 25th.



- **Phase 4 (October 2024)**
  - Draft report submitted to committee and Economic Development.
  - Third steering committee meeting held to review consultant's recommendations and obtain input.
  - Review and feedback from Township Staff and Economic Development for any report revisions.
  - Consultant completes revisions and adjustments submitted no later than October 28th, 2024.
- **Phase 5 (November - December 2024)**
  - Approval of final report by Economic Development on November 4th, 2024
  - Council presented a final report and key recommendations by December 2nd, 2024.

### **c. Communications Plan**

#### **Why It Was Created**

In order to obtain as much relevant information from the community as possible, and gather insights from people of all backgrounds, we needed to reach out to the public in a variety of ways.

Our plan included:

- Key Goals
- Audience Breakdown
- Key Messaging
- Owned Channels (website, email, social media)
- Partnerships (local organizations, stakeholders)
- Direct Outreach (mailers, flyers, direct outreach)

#### **Communication Plan Goals**

- Boost Awareness
  - Reach out to as many people in the community to discuss the Visioning process and obtain their feedback (online and in-person).
- Community Connection
  - Establish lines of communication with key community stakeholders.
- Workshop Attendees
  - Have strong attendance numbers for all workshops for in-depth feedback.
- Completed Surveys
  - Obtain as many completed surveys as possible for improved research and data.

### What We Hoped For

Completed Surveys - 100  
Workshop Attendees - 30  
Website Traffic - 500

### What We Achieved

Completed Surveys - 67  
Workshop Attendees - 32  
Website Traffic - 724

## **Messaging**

Core messaging was established to ensure a cohesive, consistent approach from all stakeholders, creating alignment in our message throughout the process and all our channels.

These included:

- **Educational:** How people can be helpful and get involved.
- **Insightful:** What is the purpose of this Visioning process.
- **Process:** What is going on throughout the timeline, what's happening next, event dates.
- **Tone of Voice - Welcoming:** A transparent, professional, and empathetic tone that ensures an inclusive, honest, and inviting message.

## **Audience**

The consultant outlined three core audience segments to engage with in order to gain valuable qualitative and quantitative feedback on their Vision for the Community of Lombardy:

- Permanent Residents: Full-year residents of the Community and surrounding area.
- Seasonal Residents: The cottage-goers or residents who are in the area for a few weeks/months a year.
- Partners: The stakeholders that we can connect with, who will share and grow the reach of the Visioning communications plan (organizations, non-profits).

Multiple avenues were outlined in order to connect with the community, both virtual and in-person. The following breaks down the key interactions with the community:

- **Website Live with Online Surveys**
- **Direct Outreach to Key Stakeholders**
- **Direct Mailer Sent Out:** Mail drop of over 1,500 letters.
- **Flyers:** Extensive outreach efforts by members of the steering committee included distribution of survey cards at the Lombardy Fair, posters at key locations such as the Garden Market, the Smiths Falls Arena, the Rideau Lakes Public Libraries, the Super Mailboxes, Boat launches, campgrounds, golf courses, and Hawk's Nest Kitchen.
- **Social media:** Use of Township, committee, and community channels.
- **Virtual Workshop:** Thursday August 15th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.
- **In-Person Workshop:** Saturday August 24th from 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

## Website

### Why It Was Created

We incorporated the information about the Visioning project on the Rideau Lakes Township website to serve as the main hub for information on the Lombardy Visioning Project. It provided residents with details about the process, workshop dates, and a link to the online surveys.

### Links to Web Pages Used

- <https://www.rideaulakes.ca/town-hall/projects/projects/lombardy-village-vision>
- <https://www.rideaulakes.ca/live/public-information/news-notice/rideau-lakes-embarks-on-a-new-vision-for-the-community-of-lombardy>

**Main Rideau Lakes Site:** the Lombardy Village Vision web page had 391 visitors as of October 15th, 2024.

**News Page - Help Create the Future of Lombardy:** 333 visitors to the web page as of October 15th, 2024.

### Included on the Page

- **Summary of the Visioning Project:** Showed the intent for the full project and why it was being completed.
- **Surveys:** A link to the survey form and how to complete the survey.
- **Workshops:** Details on both the virtual and in-person workshops that were completed.
- **Submitting Feedback in Writing:** Details on how to submit insights by email, mail, or in-person.
- **Additional Information:** Details and links to past Visioning projects and the strategic plan.
- **Contact Information:** Details on how to reach township staff for more information.

### Social Media

Upon the launch of the communications plan, social media was leveraged to engage the community as much as possible. Incorporated in this was direct posting from the Rideau Lakes Township channels advising on the project, encouraging participation through survey completion, and promoting the upcoming workshops.

In addition to that, committee members and other key stakeholders shared the information of the Visioning project through their own feeds, directly to friends and family, and community pages.

Platforms: Facebook

Pages Used:

- [Township of Rideau Lakes Page](#) - 5,000 members
- [Lombardy Agricultural Society](#) - 4,200 members
- [Rideau Lakes Community Forum](#) - 10,000 members
- [Paula in Politics for Basterd and South Burgess](#) - 322 Members

*Note: Full posts available for viewing in the appendices*

### **Direct Outreach (Emails, Calls)**

Our steering committee focused on reaching out to their local contacts, neighbours, friends, and colleagues to advise on the Visioning project that was underway. They focused on encouraging survey completion and attendance of the workshops in addition to the other communication channels in place.

### **Direct Mail**

Residents within the Lombardy boundary received a direct mail letter that advised of the Visioning project, incorporating the survey questionnaire to complete, details about the upcoming workshops, and contact information if they had any questions.

1,500 letters were mailed to property owners within the settlement area of Lombardy.

*Note: A sample letter is listed in the appendices for your reference.*

### **Flyers**

The steering committee completed extensive outreach efforts distributing survey cards and posters at key locations. We leveraged organizations and partnerships to spread as much awareness of the Visioning project as possible. The following are the partnerships used:

- Lombardy Agricultural Society
  - Hundreds of business cards with details of the Vision project and a QR code leading to the website URL was included on it. This was available to all attendees of the Lombardy Fair directly where you could purchase tickets.
  - Use of space for the in-person workshop and communication through their social media channels to followers as well as to their board members.
- Rideau Lakes Public Library - Lombardy Branch
  - Flyers left on the premises for those who attend as well as information communicated to the librarians about the project so they can inform those interested. Library representatives also were involved in the workshops and completion of surveys.

- Campgrounds & Boat Launches
  - The steering committee reached out to the local campgrounds in the area to share information on the Visioning project with all seasonal residents.
- Hawk's Nest Kitchen
- Lombardy Golf Course
- Garden Market
- Smiths Falls Arena
- Super Mailboxes

#### **d. The Surveys**

##### **Summary**

Surveys were sent out to the Lombardy community with a full document outlining the completed responses in the appendices. We received 67 completed responses, providing insights into residents' views on the communities strengths and areas for improvement.

##### **What Questions Were Asked and Why**

Below are the approved questions that were incorporated into the survey. We used the same open-ended questions from previous Visioning projects in Rideau Lakes Township to ensure accuracy and consistency in our data sets.

##### **Survey Questions**

- What makes Lombardy a great place to live or visit?
- What existing strengths and assets can we build upon?
- What would you like to see in the community by the year 2030?
- How will we know when we achieve the Vision (indicators/developments)?

##### **Permanent vs. Seasonal Feedback**

While most responses came from permanent residents, seasonal residents also provided valuable input, particularly on tourism and preserving Lombardy's natural assets. Unfortunately, we did not reach a significant amount of seasonal residents through this process and further investigation and feedback from that group would be beneficial in future decision making.

## e. The Workshops

### Summary

Workshops were conducted both virtually and in person, allowing residents to discuss and provide input on key priorities for the community. The consultant walked through a presentation to attendees in order to outline the process and how they'll be involved.

### Workshop Structure

- **Introductions & Overview:** The consultant introduced the process, explaining the goals and the community's role.
- **Ground Rules:** Established to ensure a respectful and productive discussion.
- **Question Period:** Facilitators asked key questions, giving participants time to provide input. We provided 12-15 minutes per question for respondents to be involved.
- **Breakout Groups:** Attendees were divided into small groups to focus on specific areas of interest.
- **Group Presentations:** Each group presented their findings and priorities.
- **Wrap-Up & Next Steps:** The consultant summarized the findings and outlined the next steps.

### Questions Asked

- What makes Lombardy a great place to live or visit?
- What existing strengths and assets can we build upon?
- What would you like to see in the community by the year 2030?
- How will we know when we achieve the Vision (indicators/developments)?

### Workshop Feedback Summary

In addition to the same consistent questions as the surveys, we also ensured that groups were formed to dive into more focused discussions. As the virtual workshop had smaller numbers, we went around and asked all attendees to provide input on the questions.

- Each group discussed core areas of the Visioning process: infrastructure, environment, community spaces, and amenities.
- They discussed how to make the Community of Lombardy a more vibrant, healthy, and connected community.

The facilitator monitored the groups to help moderate the discussion and took notes of key points.

### **Key Findings: Community Priorities**

In addition to the conversations we applied a new way of collecting data that was used effectively in prior Visioning projects. Each respondent was given 6 chips and they could place them in the following boxes labelled with the titles below:

They could allocate the 6 chips to one each, 6 in one, or dispersed as they please.

From this workshop the priorities were:

1. Walkability (sidewalks, lighting, signs)
2. Village Vitality (more businesses, events, market)
3. Outdoor Recreation (enhance beach, trails, greenspace)
4. Indoor Recreation (pool, fitness)
5. Affordable Housing (all-age apartments)
6. Transportation (to get to medical appointments etc.)

Key priorities identified during the workshops included:

#### **Recreation (Outdoor/Indoor Fitness) – 73 votes**

- Residents of Rideau Lakes over 5 years: 12 votes
- Residents of Lombardy Area over 5 years: 49 votes
- Residents of Lombardy Area under 5 years: 12 vote

#### **Walkability (sidewalks, lights, signs) – 22 votes**

- Residents of Rideau Lakes over 5 years: 6 votes
- Residents of Lombardy Area over 5 years: 14 votes
- Residents of Lombardy Area under 5 years: 2 votes

#### **Services (i.e. Gas Station, Daycare, Health Clinic) – 14 Votes**

- Residents of Rideau Lakes over 5 years: 6 votes
- Residents of Lombardy Area over 5 years: 7 votes
- Residents of Lombardy Area under 5 years: 1 vote

#### **Other – 13 votes**

- Residents of Rideau Lakes over 5 years: 4 votes
- Residents of Lombardy Area over 5 years: 9 votes

### **Attainable Housing – 6 votes**

- Residents of Rideau Lakes over 5 years: 1 votes
- Residents of Lombardy Area over 5 years: 5 votes

### **Transportation – 0 votes**

*Note: Further breakdown of votes and workshop discussions in appendices.*

## **f. Consultant Observations**

### **Observations**

As someone who is a resident of Smiths Falls, Lombardy has always been the “*quiet neighbour*” that you drive through to reach the beautiful scenery, lakes etc., or use its popular assets such as the Lombardy Golf Course or Agricultural Society Centre. Now, after being able to meet and discuss with both long-time residents as well as newcomers to the area, I see there is much more to this community, its history, and its potential.

The residents had a strong focus on making sure what’s been promised is completed, and that their ideas, thoughts, and concerns of the community are heard to keep moving this community in the right direction. The Community of Lombardy is in need of some key decisions about their identity, paying homage to their past while trying to understand where they move to next. Recreation, outdoor facilities and areas, and the goals of having a better aligned strategic plan stood out as recurring areas of conversation the community would like to see when moving forward.

**The following are key findings from this Visioning process:**

### **Unfinished Projects**

- There is a clear demand for completing key projects such as the Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex, and other unfinished or promised projects in the community. For any of these projects, improving communication on the timelines, process, and decision rationale from the Township is of importance for all residents.

### **Balanced Growth & Lack of Identity**

- The community supports growth, but it must be balanced with the preservation of Lombardy’s small-town charm. Many would like to see a strong mix of new housing developments, bringing quality businesses back to the Village area, and expansion of the community, but do it in a way that empowers the qualities of the community rather than disregards them.



- Along with this need for growth and modernization of the community, it was clear that there was a lack of identity: for newcomers not understanding what fully makes up Lombardy and what it represents, as well as those who have been here for a long time still unclear as to what are the boundaries that makes up Lombardy.

### **Community Communication**

- Better communication between local government and residents is necessary to foster engagement for attracting new residents. This incorporates the existing assets and community events going on to be better communicated to residents, as well as a new strategic approach to attract like-minded people to visit, settle down, or invest in their community.

### **Future Visioning Projects: Seasonal & Younger Generations**

- Although additional efforts were made to capture feedback and insights from both seasonal residents and residents that are under the ages of 35, it was difficult to get insights and data from them. This was both due to the difficulty of connecting (seasonal being harder to identify and engage, younger generations lacking time with families, work) and using the proper channels to find them. A few participants were of a younger generation, but if Lombardy is truly focused on the future growth of the community, data and insights from those demographics are vital in the process.

## **g. Consultant Recommendations**

### **1. Recreation: Current Projects & Future Development**

- Complete the Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex project that has been underway for some time. Provide timeline updates and next steps to the community to ensure transparent communication about this exterior recreation site concept.
- Gather further feedback from younger demographic as to where they are currently going for sports and recreation, for themselves and their families, and where the community can support or incorporate more facilities. Specifically noting younger populations as the data received throughout these surveys and workshops was heavily attended by older generations, it is vital to gain a further understanding of what young families are looking for in the community's future.
- Develop or revisit any strategic plan for future indoor and outdoor spaces for multi-generational activities, leveraging any existing assets in the community.

### **2. Walkability and Infrastructure: Village Area & Outdoor Trails**

- Review the trails surrounding the community and determine key areas to intersect or connect main community areas, specifically the Catarauqui trail, and how the community can make that easier to access in multiple locations.
- Add digital signage in a main community area to showcase ongoing activities, events, and key information.

- Review and determine areas of improvement for signage throughout the boundaries of the community to ensure clarity as to what the boundaries of Lombardy are.
  - Review and determine best ways to enhance the village area, including street lighting, pathway lighting, sidewalks, boardwalks and walking areas, seasonal decor, speed controls for safety, additional parking areas along Cataraqui Trail and cleanliness. Make any improvements to this in order to help support the promotion of the community to new businesses and development.
- 3. Economic Growth & Business Support**
- Develop or re-evaluate existing strategic plans to attract quality small businesses, such as restaurants, retail, and services, to support the local economy and re-ignite the village area. This is vital both for the existing residents to have convenient places to go, but for future development which typically begins with commercial infrastructure before residential development comes in and sees an opportunity to develop.
  - Determine better resources and support plans for any businesses looking to invest in the community. Incorporate a welcoming package that outlines all the key statistics, data, and insights for someone who is looking for areas to expand their business. Include any resources and support that the community can offer to help make them feel comfortable with this investment and long-term decision.
- 4. Brand Identity Strategy & Tourism Promotion**
- Develop or re-evaluate any current brand identity documentation and marketing strategy to promote Lombardy's historical and natural assets. This can be a vital document that guides strategic decision making, and has a clear identity for the community moving forward.
  - Develop strategic campaigns specifically focused on the needs of the community with set goals and long-term planning. These goals can incorporate the attraction of businesses, new residents, developers, and tourists to showcase the beautiful community of Lombardy and surrounding areas.
  - Determine long-term budget that can be allocated to any promotional efforts such as capturing photography or video content, advertising, and strategic partnerships.
- 5. Communication Strategy**
- Implement or re-evaluate any existing strategic communication plan to keep residents informed about ongoing and upcoming projects.
  - Execute short-term support aspects that can assist immediately such as leveraging existing channels of communication already in place (community newsletter, township website, social media) and how to improve using these channels.
  - Expand on a long-term plan that ensures a consistent, cohesive, and strategic approach coinciding with the Tourism promotional plan that supports both the existing residents and attracting new ones.

## 4. Appendices

The appendices includes the full survey results and workshop voting outcomes. Additionally, supporting documents such as flyers, mailers, and the communications assets used during the Visioning process are provided.

1. Workshop Findings and Comments
2. Preliminary Findings Report
3. Survey Data
4. Social Post Samples
5. Flyer, Mailer, and Press Release Documents

## Workshop Findings and Comments

### Lombardy Village Vision

#### In-Person Input Session August 24, 2024

##### Notes:

1. What makes Lombardy a great place to live or visit?
  - clear spring fed lakes
  - visiting friends and family
  - **(mentioned 5 times)** less populated compared to other vacation areas/quiet
  - great people
  - **(mentioned 6 times)** along 15/central to Ottawa and Kingston
  - tourism
  - old cemetery is quite interesting/history
  - golf course and restaurant
  - **(mentioned 4 times)** school is excellent
  - **(mentioned 9 times)** library new branch
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** Access to water and boating
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** connect Cataraqui trail And library for cycling
  - courteous drivers, mindful of pedestrians with dogs
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** access to trails/to other villages
  - **(mentioned 3 times)** good location close to Smiths Falls and Perth
  - **(mentioned 4 times)** all of the lakes and access to the Rideau
  - trails and conservation areas
  - cat trail
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** good neighbors
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** golf course
  - outdoor lifestyle
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** friendly people, sense of community
  - rural nature and conservation lands
  - campgrounds
  - cemeteries
  - family histories
  - wonderful volunteers
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** playground on Otter Creek

- school
- affordable housing
- great place for waterfront retirement life
- great neighbors
- roads
- access to hospitals
- rural
- churches
- schools
- golf courses
- skiing
- ice fishing
- amenities close by
- access to healthcare
- International Airport nearby
- local businesses
- friendly
- village of Lombardy - history of the village
- **(mentioned 2 times)** Lombardy fair, fairgrounds used to be in the village
- park in Lombardy village (FYI - sign missing)
- race track Kart racing draws people
- agricultural community
- Lombardy is larger than the historic settlement!, recognize the community of Lombardy
- Location, location, location - much greater than the settlement area
- **(mentioned 3 times)** Ronald E Holman Municipal Complex
- Fairgrounds
- **(mentioned 2 times)** lots going on / events
- hard to imagine living anywhere else
- lots of lakes, access to the Rideau
- scenery
- high speeds on Old Kingston Rd.
- Township home to two long-standing agricultural fairs, 45-acre grounds in Lombardy, new building, one of the largest facilities in Rideau Lakes
- rural, quiet living
- recreation
- mix of agriculture and neighborhood subdivisions
- Lombardy community is larger, could be called the “Greater Lombardy Area/G.L.A.”
- sense of community and people

- here 41 years and wouldn't consider living anywhere else
- connection with people, families know each other
- rural public school
- pump track
- Ag society - traditional values
- shooting range access
- churches
- kind supportive community

## 2. What Existing Strengths and assets can we build on?

- heritage of the community
- family reunions
- part of old Ontario
- pump track built up
- carpool area
- better signage at carpool areas
- support fairgrounds as an asset
- **(mentioned 3 times)** development of a sports facility like Beckwith, have space along highway 15 to develop
- sense of community, build volunteer groups like Ag society, coffee at the Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex, more participation
- hockey culture
- Agricultural Society support
- Support school (JK to grade 8)
- **(mentioned 2 times)** complete development at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex recreation park and continue more development
- **(mentioned 2 times)** prominent sign at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex and Lombardy fairgrounds / the complex marks the entrance to Rideau Lakes as the first municipal office when coming from Smiths Falls
- volunteerism in Lombardy Area
- facility improvements, recreational complex like Beckwith or Oakfield rugby club
- build on the community facilities to attract Smiths Falls residents
- Cataraqui trail development to access pump track
- growth of Ron E. Holman complex – Continue for multi-generational people so all ages can go together
- invest in pickleball courts - growing sport, design complete
- outdoor rink in winter (used pickleball courts) for skating

- need signs to help people recognize what is in the Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex, centre for community, tourist information, kids and family recreation
- play structure at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex to attract pop up businesses, local food trucks or craft booths on weekends
- extend Lombardy fair activities year round
- can you races on Otter Creek, develop recreation along Creek
- signs need to show that Rideau Lakes starts before Portland, Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex looks like a garage/ open signs at municipal garage – garage is open? Why?
- invest in Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex – signs
- identity for Lombardy as a Community  
public Access to water is limited, improve access for paddlers
- spring fed lakes
- lifestyle in Lombardy
- Township should continue to support and lake associations
- real estate agents could be engaged to promote strengths of Lombardy
- cost of living better than larger urban centres
- vacant lots - room for development
- financials are concerning
- lowest tax rate in County
- South Elmsley or Lombardy? Maybe we should call it Lombardy?
- Create a community centre - Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex Is becoming a community centre. In Newboro, the Pickleball Court has led to social engagement In the community
- Picnic area / barbeque area / wooded by lake / to accommodate about 40 ppl with washroom facilities
- elevated walkway over wetland to Cataraqui Trail - building blocks
- finish work at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex
- Building on Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex, it is hard to find. It's an event centre. There is confusion among neighbours on what to call it. A sign is needed.
- Historical aspect of Lombardy, commemorate historic village buildings
- clean Beaver banks in Otter Creek
- events at community hall
- shade and picnic area at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex
- agriculture - support so it doesn't die out. Carry on agricultural community activities.

- welcoming bunch. Coffee group is great, less social isolation. Good life in Lombardy.
  - development and growth of housing with urban sprawl from Smiths falls. Build recreation to build community.
  - Cataraqui trail is a great asset, proud of trail. Well used and leads to facilities Smith falls like restaurants, connect with fairgrounds and community centre
  - support development at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex, need benches, playground, and library, pickleball and sign
  - Otter Creek - cleaned up and pruned for paddlers
  - signs - people don't know what's happening
  - keep youth activities
  - build soccer field - inexpensive to play. Largest sport for youth
  - Van Clief park - invest in play structures
  - invest in future - outdoor recreation
  - adults into fitness - walking track
  - Lombardy people don't know about Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex happening
3. What would you like to see in the community by 2030?
- Accessibility
  - designated dog walking trail
  - tennis courts
  - kids equipment to play
  - cleaned up streams and rivers
  - picnic areas and benches
  - school board basketball courts open to public
  - soccer field in Township somewhere
  - social media
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** signs at centre
  - Advertising and promotion for Lombardy activities and events
  - If move into community from city, greater use of library
  - quiet - keep it rural
  - continue expansion of Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex
  - Access to Cataraqui trail from centre and AG hall with good signage
  - community hub at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex
  - outdoor recreation
  - signs
  - investments made and implemented
  - keeping taxes low isn't always good, lack of investment



- communications, social media and seasonal residents
- fiber connectivity / Internet to elevate resident attraction efforts
- don't want to see change / not too built up
- development, decrease lot size from 2 acres. On Golf Club Rd., lots are less than 1/4 acre, promote affordable housing
- youth involvement
- businesses move in to boost economy, hardware store, dinner at restaurant
- observation - Seymour conversion of waterfront two full time residents, growing year-round population
- comment – retail
- healthcare in Lombardy / walk in clinic
- broaden tax base, track new business to area
- low density rural lots are attractive, keep large lots
- more hiking trails like mill pond, Cataraqui way trail is boring
- Engage people to be more active
- mailboxes post boards to share info
- situation - County Road – speeding - need speed reducing measures on old Kingston Rd.
- **(mentioned 4 times)** completing Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex as community centre - pickleball and skating within a year – sign
- **(mentioned 2 times)** Connection to Cataraqui Trail from Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex. Tap into grants like Trillium
- **(mentioned 3 times)** Otter Creek - clean up waterway for paddling from Van Clief park
- library doing movies outdoors in Lombardy and Elgin
- aging community, more retirement homes for senior residents
- clinic would be fantastic
- invest in trails to attract residents and increase tax base
- grocery store in village or restaurant
- sign on Hwy. 15 - permit in place - 2 signs for the price of 1?
- ice cream in village
- no more vape stores
- first municipal building that you come to from Smiths Falls
- Oktoberfest takes place on October 5<sup>th</sup> at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex businesses, housing, economic development
- **(mentioned 3 times)** reduce red tape to build and develop
- economic development - community profile video, picnic places guide - making headway
- progress at community centre

- barriers to improving properties, permits
  - dog park
  - **(mentioned 3 times)** farmers market
  - CIP program for larger area to include north Lombardy
  - stand up paddle board and paddle rentals
  - recreation facility - football program is revenue generator, cost sharing agreements with Smiths falls, facilities in Smith falls are maxed out, build indoor football, Monica you 22 acre park splash pads in development.
  - Township building combine with recreation centre
  - corn hole for seniors, Lawn bowling
  - nurse practitioner, dental hygienist, vet two to three days per week
  - cooperate, considerate and unified approach
4. How will we know when we achieve the vision (indicators/developments)?
- middle of the road approach to budget
  - feasibility studies for recreation centre
  - census data to measure growth
  - support to hear residents voice
  - move ahead, progress is needed. Stick with the plan and implement.
  - meet recommendations of vision, pick top five to begin.
  - **(mentioned 2 times)** when residents are heard and supported by members of Rideau Lakes council
  - digital sign is installed
  - largest and fastest growing ward, proximity to Smiths falls (higher taxes), encourage development and facilities for future residents
  - transportation like Lanark Transportation Association
  - constituents hear the priorities are budgeted, supporting grants offered, signs etc.
  - South Elmsley and Lombardy have one identity
  - clearly articulated vision document, promote what has been achieved, include feedback as appendix
  - collaborative council in best interest of South Elmsley, not as divisive
  - more people using Lombardy, increased hours at library
  - Wayne can canoe along the Creek
  - Broadband

# Workshop Findings - Votes

Each attendee had 5 votes to put into boxes that had labelled core topics as per below.

They could put in their votes to whatever boxes they think are most important (EG - they could put all 5 into one topic, or spread them out).

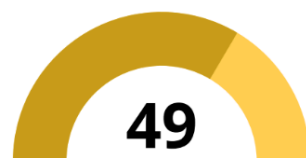
1. Recreation (Outdoor/Indoor Fitness) – 73 votes
2. Walkability (sidewalks, lights, signs) – 22 votes
3. Services (i.e. Gas Station, Daycare, Health Clinic) – 14 Votes
4. Other – 13 votes
5. Attainable Housing – 6 votes
6. Transportation – 0 votes

## Workshop Findings

Detailed results from in-person voting:

### Recreation (Outdoor/indoor fitness)

- TOTAL = 73 | RANKING 1st of 6 Categories



Residents of Lombardy Over 5 Years



Residents of Rideau Lakes over 5 Years



Residents of Lombardy Area Under 5 years

# Workshop Findings

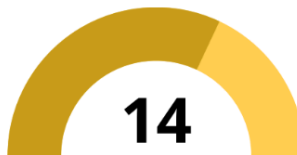
Detailed results from in-person voting:

## Walkability (sidewalks, lighting, signs)

- TOTAL = 22 | RANKING 2nd of 6 Categories



Residents of  
Lombardy Over 5  
Years



Residents of Rideau  
Lakes over 5 Years



Residents of Lombardy  
Area Under 5 years

# Workshop Findings

Detailed results from in-person voting:

**Services (i.e. Gas Station, Daycare, Health Clinic)**

- TOTAL = 14 | RANKING 3rd of 6 Categories



Residents of  
Lombardy Over 5  
Years



Residents of Rideau  
Lakes over 5 Years



Residents of Lombardy  
Area Under 5 years

# Workshop Findings

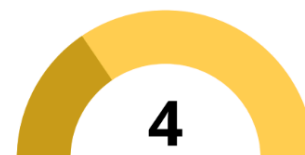
Detailed results from in-person voting:

**Other**

- TOTAL= 13 | RANKING 4th of 6 Categories



Residents of  
Lombardy Over 5  
Years



Residents of Rideau  
Lakes over 5 Years

# Workshop Findings

Detailed results from in-person voting:

## Attainable Housing

- TOTAL = 6 | RANKING 5th of 6 Categories



Residents of  
Lombardy Over 5  
Years



Residents of Rideau  
Lakes over 5 Years

# Workshop Findings

Transportation (to get to medical appointments etc.)

- TOTAL = 0 | RANKING 6th of 6 Categories

**No votes were provided for the transportation topic.**



## Survey Data

What makes Lombardy a great place to live or visit?	What existing strengths and assets can we build on?
The welcoming feeling the residents provide	The school is a great asset. Wonderful school!
Born and raised here I have lived in the heart of Lombardy 36 years It's home	Community, there are many families that have been here for generations. The community and friendships my family had built with those families have shown in times of need Stop fighting over things politicians think we need. We love being small and simple. You live in the country for a simple life Encourage community, Lombardy can come together in need
historic, public library, a sense of community, safety, water access, gold club, social activities, welcoming	add parking area for Cat Trail, finishing the project already started at Ron E. Holman Centre, need a digital sign at the Centre, better public access to water for people not living on a lake, continuing activities to build a community belongings,
The small park - church	Unfortunately without the restaurant and small antique store - it seems to be a place people drive thru-
Golf Course and restaurant Excellent School Library Branch Trails, Peaceful	Cat Trail connections to buildings Otter Creek cleaned up for boating signage at REHMC. No one knows where it is.
Rural Public School. access to car trails, pump track, low density, ag society (preservation of traditional values), shooting range, churches	pump track area, more trail signage, double down on Ag Society
Handy location just off the highway and close to several lakes, and town	Location, scenic parkette on creek
outdoor life (lakes, etc.), trails, friendly people, centrally located, good access to services (i.e. health care), recreation (golf, go karts, etc.)	more parks and recreation facilities needed. keep agri building strong, finish pump trail, pickleball courts, picnic area needed, soccer field
recreation	community centre: pickleball, seniors exercise activities, bbq / elevated walkway on wetland / pergola or gazebo
A beautiful rural area. Homes are on sufficiently large lots, not small stuffy lots that you typically find. Close proximity to lakes and trails. Easy to get into Ottawa, Kingston or Brockville for additional retail and entertainment.	Community centre with library is in a good location, it needs to be finished and properly signed. Sport amenities can be added, for example soccer field and outdoor rink. Picnic areas can be set up at the community centre as well as near the lake. Link Cataraqui trail to the community Center.
Quaint, quiet, clean and safe but also close to many amenities	Location on the lake and close tourist attractions
Rural setting, low density housing. Lots of lakes and waterways. Smaller town feeling_friendly.	Programs for seniors to enhance their physical, mental, health, social activities.
The greater Lombardy area (South Elmsley Ward) is very pleasant rural area with beautiful lakes (Otter Lake, Bass lake and Big Rideau and Lower Rideau.	Excellent Agricultural Society Fairgrounds, good elementary school, churches, local businesses including Golf course with restaurant. Newly refurbished roads to Rideau Ferry, Perth, Port Elmsley and Smihts Falls
Quiet and rural but also short driving distance to local towns	Natural beauty of Otter Creek The park



<p>The RE Holman centre, library, hall and pump track.</p>	<p>A vibrant and growing business and residential area</p>
<p>I didn't grow up there, but it has had a great history in the past. It had a hotel, a pub, four stores, a great butcher shop which I remember, and the only grader in the Township by Don Moodie! And today it has a park beside the Creek and some of the early residents retiring there. Now plus many other attractions like the Lombardy fair every year.</p>	<p>Build on getting the residents of Lombardy highly involved - even though some residents are retired and some of them are newcomers, because it is their community!! I've already told one resident to some reed or green caps and make "Lombardy Great Again!" and sell those caps (not Trumps!) to everybody &gt; it pays to advertise!!!!</p>
<p>Lakes, Rivers, Outdoor things</p>	<p>At Hwy 15 = a very busy hwy. maybe an information building about local businesses and directions and events</p>
<p>Quiet community</p>	<p>The existing space at the Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex</p>
<p>Define the boundaries of Lombardy??? Without that definition the survey is useless</p>	
<p>Quiet, friendly neighbours, great property size to tax ratio, nice touches with the plants and modern signage. Convenient location to larger towns. Well maintained for the most part.</p>	<p>Improve sidewalks- extend to golf course. Clear brush along existing sidewalks on a regular basis. Add a cross walk or light on Rideau Ferry Road/Cty Rd 1 and Hwy 15 for pedestrians safety, continue updates on Van Clief park. Goose relocation or deterrence or regular road maintenance to clean the major messes they leave. Lower speed limit to 30km/hr in village on Rideau Ferry Rd. Larger dead end signs on Blacksmith Road closer to corners. Embrace farmers by promoting their efforts. Have better communication on waste disposal including chemicals and dangerous goods.</p>
<p>Kind people. Small community makes people more friendly. Great location at the crossroads to four major communities. Fair grounds and parks close by. Clean. Personal touches i.e. planters, nice signs, etc. Feels safe. We chose this community based on the property we purchased but got so much more.</p>	<p>Side walks better maintained between church and Blacksmith rd. Love the new paint and maintenance in Van Cleif park. New mailboxes are great. Fair grounds updates are good. Planters and signs are welcoming.</p>
<p>Friendly people. Neighbours that watch out for people and take care of each other. People that care and take pride in their homes. (for the most part)</p>	<p>The Lombardy Agricultural Society and Fair Grounds is a great community hub with lots of activities going on all year round. They do a super job! I feel like the Municipal Building/Ron Holman/formerly OPP Building could be the same but it needs a bit more to pull people and families in. For example, our family uses the library. It is really well taken care of and meets the needs of our community. I love the new pump track and use it often but I feel like it could be and should be so much more. I see that the infrastructure was set up for lights but it stopped and has not been completed. Why? I feel like we desperately need a play structure for our families and cottage community. This area has started to hit the mark with the library and pump track but it needs more attention and development. This could be a great place for families to gather and grow! PLEASE reconsider this area as a priority!!!</p>

<p>Lakes especially Big Rideau lake for all types of water recreation, golf courses, hiking trails like rock dunder and Foley Mountain, restaurants and relatively safe place to live although taxes are too high for waterfront properties with little services and most have the added cost of maintaining private roads</p>	<p>We have hard-surfaced roads but we need designated shoulders for pedestrian walking/biking. My husband and I live on Otter Lake and use Otter Lake Road for walking and although hard-surfaced, it is dangerous for walking. It is narrow with blind corners and no definitive space for walking. We need what was done to the Golf Club road. It was widened and one side of the road has a wide hard-surfaced shoulder with a white line to define the walking/biking space. We are very unhappy with our road considering we pay very high taxes. We are active and live a healthy lifestyle. People who live similarly are a benefit to society rather than those who live a sedentary life.</p>
<p>Its proximity to the rest of Rideau Lakes, Perth, and Smiths Falls.</p>	<p>More time &amp; focus should be spent on the original village node at Hwy 15 &amp; Rideau Ferry Rd. The CIP (Community Improvement Plan) is specific to this refined area yet the majority of services and amenities associated with Lombardy are the new Fire Hall up at Otter Lake Rd, down near the fairgrounds at Kellys Rd, and the Municipal Complex &amp; Library 2km on the far side of Bay Rd toward Smiths Falls. Lombardy has, for all intents and purposes, become a 7km stretch of Hwy 15 and takes away from the rich history of the village proper. Other than a garage, the only other business in Lombardy is a vape shop (in the former restaurant). There's no reason to stop here unless you live here.</p>
<p>Friendly neighbours; rural/tranquil setting; Cataraqi Trail; Lombardy Agricultural Fair Grounds; Lombard Golf Course; no large developments.</p>	<p>Lombardy Agricultural Fair Grounds are under utilized; maybe there is potential to create a Township-wide true farmers' market there in the summer. It would have to be a serious farmers' market, like the market in Fredericton, NB (check it out!), with quantity and quality of products.</p>

<p><b>What would you like to see in the community by the year 2030?</b></p>
<p>More events for the locals at the fair grounds maybe a farmers market</p>
<p>Lombardy is blacksmith road and county road 1 to me -Encourage home owners to maintain there homes and grass - trim trees, grass along roads -maintain van cliff park more -maintain planters, add planters, I would be happy to help with sponsors -cross walk on county rd 1 -speeding, get speed cameras throughout area. 1 that can be moved. Revenue revenue -put side walls back in if nothing will be done with speeders - plant trees - wild flowers in ditches( walking path to Catholic Church great area to clean up and plant new trees and and wildflowers. Happy to help) Comer store/cafe would be amazing, but township doesn't own that building. There is no businesses for tourists to stop at. South elmsley township building Finish or come up with new plan, just a pump track looks unfinished Plant trees there, shade hut, flowers Walking paths, make wooden walkway to cat trail to encourage people to use it. Work with landowners and mto to have walking path from old concession on golf club to hall Dumping station for camper trailers Lets make it a great green space area Look at downtown smiths falls All the planters stand out we need that. You can miss that</p>
<p>completion of the unfinished recreation ground at Ron E. Holman Centre; increase tax-base by getting more businesses that will fit in the community; add hiking trails- very few in the community; more physical activity offerings as we are an aging community, it has to have a range of accessibility; health care rural based; reduce speed in residential areas</p>
<p>Something retail - maybe something more in flowers in Summer</p>
<p>People returning to the community Signage needed, especially at REHMC</p>

<p>Rec Facilities (i.e. Beckwith/Montague) - open up cost sharing revenue with Smiths Falls and other municipalities/sports tourism/football, soccer, cornhole, nurse practitioner on site 2-3 days a week, dental hygienist, vet, lawn bowling. Dog Park Farmers market Reduced speed along Hwy 15 in front of Holman Complex Push for businesses in Lombardy proper through CIP SUP rental in Lombardy access to creek</p>
<p>Restaurant maybe?</p>
<p>movement on recreation, etc. including Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex, possibly a soccer field, improved transportation options</p>
<p>fibre internet, improved transit options</p>
<p>Completion of the pickle ball court. Digital sign on hwy 15 at the Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex. Otter Creek set up as a destination for water activity. Sustainable growth in the area, maintaining the rural community atmosphere. More events at the Lombardy Fair grounds. Some additional small businesses.</p>
<p>More local vendors/markets Road repairs Underground/buried hydro More flowers</p>
<p>Programs as indicated in question 2.</p>
<p>Promote expanded housing development within village. Perhaps more beautification in the heart of the Hamlet of Lombardy especially near most travelled thru route on Route 1 to Rideau Ferry</p>
<p>- Homeowners taking more pride in the appearance of their properties. - A general store or cafe, rather than a vape shop</p>
<p>A way of connecting this disjointed community. Signage at the Holman Centre that can detail community information such as coming events and identify assets there. Trails that connect the residential area to the library and outdoor facilities, especially for young families. Pickleball.</p>
<p>1&gt; A farmers market 2&gt; A couple of stores 3&gt; Another butcher shop 4&gt; A baker shop 5&gt; Coffee shop, restaurant, for people passing through the community 6&gt; And some little homes built on any church property or any FREE land</p>
<p>when villages are economically healthier</p>
<p>The Ronald E Holman fully developed as planned with completed pump track lighting playground and pickleball court. People using that building as a hub.</p>
<p>New businesses, new sidewalks, a dog park, lower speed limits, better signage, roundabout at Rideau Ferry Rd and Hwy 15, walk score increased exponentially to promote fitness and cut down having to drive everywhere. Create a niche for Lombardy (i.e. small town with big hearts and farms)</p>
<p>New sidewalks from south Blacksmith Road to Lombardy public school or fair grounds. A small convenience store in the village. A dog park with in walking distance to the village. Possibly a roundabout at Rideau Ferry Rd and Hwy 15.</p>
<p>I would like to see a new play structure and further development for families at the Municipal Building on Hwy 15. Continued upkeep of roads and infrastructure.</p>
<p>Development of REH as a destination for South Elmsley/Lombardy as well as for the rest of the Township and a connection to the Cat trail from that location and potential for summer day camp run by the library/More Township support for the Lombardy Agricultural Society as it not only honours and promotes our agricultural roots but also organizes many events that attract both residents and visitors (fair/rodeo/barn dance, etc).</p>

- Bass Lake to be the cleanest lake in Ontario; - Pickleball courts; - Improved marketing and communication for services and gatherings; - A new name for Lombardy to better reflect the community we are. - Updated welcome wagon including how to get information for Lombardy (or whatever it will be called!); - More sense of community; - More functions and services and updated amenities such as indoor and outdoor pickleball courts (not just one, but some to grow as the community members fall in love with the sport); - More community gatherings; - Ability to use the Lombardy Agricultural Society buildings for community member-driven reasons; - The ability to join or create social/special interest groups - where there are fun social things planned/to do - social clubs, etc. - And importantly, we would need a place to hold these events (are the Lombardy Agricultural buildings available for community use? If so, we need to know about this). Members could join existing clubs or organize their own and there would be a place to advertise these and sign up - imagine book clubs, bridge clubs, cooking classes, kids things, photography groups, stargazing, kayaking and hiking clubs, and speaking engagements - it could be limitless depending on what the community members choose to do. - Improved "private road" care to include a more structured/solid surface versus dirt roads with potholes and leaving it to each road or road association to figure out. The township has an infrastructure for this that we should benefit from. The taxes we pay are high and yet we do not have great roads as they are "private". The reimbursement from the township does not adequately cover this and a solution is required versus leaving it to the citizens to deal with. - Need a methodology to determine how a private road can be transformed to a public road.

Lower the speed limit on Golf Club Road and demand that the OPP patrol it and set speed traps! It is a racetrack at times and I am nervous walking along it! Encourage councillors in the township to stop bickering and work together! Clean up the goose poop or get rid of the geese at the park in Lombardy. I took my grandchild there and we had to leave it was disgusting. Lombardy needs a daycare facility for working parents. Maybe this could be combined with Lombardy school.

Continued lake health and quality natural habitat for wildlife and fish, moratorium of government invasion attempts and encroachment of regulation onto private property and less non commercial restrictions and fees for private landowners to renovate their own residences.

Lower taxes

Year round, multi-family/household rental property - multi-use would be even better (combining small business or community gathering) Support for small (bachelor - 2 bedroom) year round rental units to be added to existing properties Transportation system for disabled & seniors (ex similar to or in corporation with Lanark Transportation) Craft, art, music, neighbourhood wisdom sharing etc show or café style events

More local business and recreational facilities that will encourage development and tourism. Active clubs and community engagement

Perhaps some small businesses, a restaurant or two. More like Delta? Highlighting the historical heritage, history and pre-history.

1st would be the completion of the South Elmsley/ Ronald B Holman complex, especially the pickle ball courts and by 2030 access to the CAT trail. The digital sign which was proposed for the RBH complex is a must as entrance to RL this sign should be used to promote all the many activities that take place everyday / week in this vast township.

an increased focus and awareness of sustainability

Increased business and recreational facilities.

Bike paths! Highway 15 and the Rideau Ferry road are dangerous for cyclists. Divided bike lanes would be safer and encourage active transport.

Coffee Shop, Tearoom, somekind of playing field for children and adults.

Pickle ball court, walking paths. Restaurant, corner store.

<p>Lombardy used to have a little restaurant and convenience store. It would be nice to have a couple of these businesses return for not only residents but also to attract tourists , travellers and many of the cottage summer residents who used to visit the area. Build on that history. Create the charm so when people pass through or choose to live there they see a uniqueness. Specialized street lighting enhancing the history, banners to announce the worlds fair. Revitalize the history. I truly think it would be a great spot for a farmers market siliar to the one in carp. There are so many local farmers vendors and cafeteria that could come together. It would draw not only local residents but people travelling the major linkages that connect the are as well as the many summer residents and cottages.</p>
<p>More use of the fairgrounds whether it be the baseball diamond, the track, etc. Also expand services and activities at the Ron Holman Centre (ex pickleball, farmers market, use the hall for recreation and programs (community meals, games nights, yoga, etc)</p>
<p>A store and gas again. Miss a Lombardy village store or a properly run skylark.</p>
<p>A restaurant, a park and ride would be handy for some. Definitely a set of lights or a roundabout. There is a very dangerous corner there going onto hwy 15. Possibly a sign explaining the historical significant of the village.</p>
<p>Small business</p>
<p>Better policing of speeding in the area, which is currently a problem. Removal of old commercial buildings that are not meeting good property standards. It would be nice to see a family restaurant return to this area. Maybe a farmer's market. Hardware store.</p>
<p>more family doctors</p>
<p>More businesses</p>
<p>See above. Also perhaps some commercial on Lombardy side of Rideau Ferry bridge.</p>
<p>A large recreational facility that would house soccer, basketball, a rink</p>
<p>People feeling like a community. Not going to SF for everything.</p>
<p>Partnerships strengthened not always building new. A lot of south elmsley is waterfront so we do not need a lot out in the hall area</p>
<p>Better schools</p>
<p>The South Elmsley area needs a central recreation and social centre. The Holman Centre is a beginning but needs more feature such as pickleball, outdoor seniors exercise equipment and greater use for social events. Other areas have parks but SE has only a mini park with a tot playground and a picnic bench, enough for the hamlet of Lombardy but not SE. There probably be an historic plaque in Lombardy recognizing the role it played in transportation before trains and cars came along.</p>
<p>Traffic light or traffic circle at the intersection of Hwy 15 and Rideau Ferry Rd. Perhaps more restaurant options. Or, create a food truck lot conveniently located somewhere Hwy 15 as a fresh food destination offering a variety of specialty food options prepared and served from state-of-the-art food trucks. Complete with sufficient parking, a picnic area, and restrooms. Open to food trucks that offer different cuisines such as Mexican, Thai, Seafood, Desserts, etc. Not your typical burger and fries food trucks.</p>
<p>This is a minor suggestion but it would be nice to see a placard in Lombardy Village stating its history and could include some of the heritage buildings in the area.</p>

More designated walking/biking hard-surfaced shoulders on roads for safety for everyone by widening the road and clearly marking a definitive white line and signage. As said in question #2, my husband and I live on Otter Lake and use Otter Lake Road for walking and it's dangerous because narrow and no hard-surfaced designated shoulder for pedestrians for walking/biking. The other thing I would like to share is we have too many private planes in the air from local airports. They are loud and annoying. Noise pollution. I remember when it was quiet and peaceful and now I hear planes constantly! Even at night sleeping. I also feel we should discourage all terrain vehicle usage and encourage physical activities for a healthy lifestyle for all. When we're healthy, we're happy, simple as that

Idea 1: I would encourage the Township to look into negotiating purchasing a portion of one or both of two (2) privately owned properties at either end of Blacksmith Rd. Property 1: 766 Hwy 15 (purchase a portion of the rear of the property, with new access established off of the cul-de-sac adjacent to Union Cemetery. Property 2: 149 Rideau Ferry Rd (purchase a portion of the south-west section of the property at Rideau Ferry Rd and up behind the church and try to find a way to establish access either from the cul-de-sac, Blessed Sacrament Church, and/or off of Rideau Ferry Rd.) If zoned appropriately, this could allow for new amenities and opportunities for small businesses that are currently lacking. It also helps to pull focus back to the village proper. I do not advocate for the creation of additional housing on these two lots, especially if it's in the form of a sub-division. The priority should be to facilitate more opportunities in the core of the village and then allow for additional housing to be developed around the village. If you do not do this you will forever lose out on the chance to reestablish a community feel that is comparable to Portland, Elgin, Newboro, etc. For context, see Rideau Lakes MapIt to view the property parcels referred to above. Idea 2: Don't waste your time with purchasing the old Skylark property. Someone else can deal with that. Why spend resources remediating and developing a property that's beyond the bounds of the Lombardy CIP? Focus your efforts and resources so you can achieve multiple goals. Idea 3: Another idea, which may be more ambitious than my first idea above, would be to look into establishing a trail and boardwalk along Otter Creek. The trail could start in Lombardy village and go all the way over to Otter Creek Rd with parking at either end (totaling around 3km). This could be a great passive recreational and natural resource on land that is already deemed not "developable" due to being largely wetlands as defined by the RVCA. There's potential to collaborate with RCVA and possibly other Land Trusts to create a new trail system that could be as popular as the Mill Pond with the vision of something like the Mer Bleu Bog Trail in Ottawa's east end (which is a very popular destination for families, naturalists, etc). The Township could also highlight the historical relevance of Otter Creek where a series of mills were once established. This trail could also be phased to start closest to Lombardy with plans to expand the trail further toward Otter Creek Rd as opportunities arise to do so.

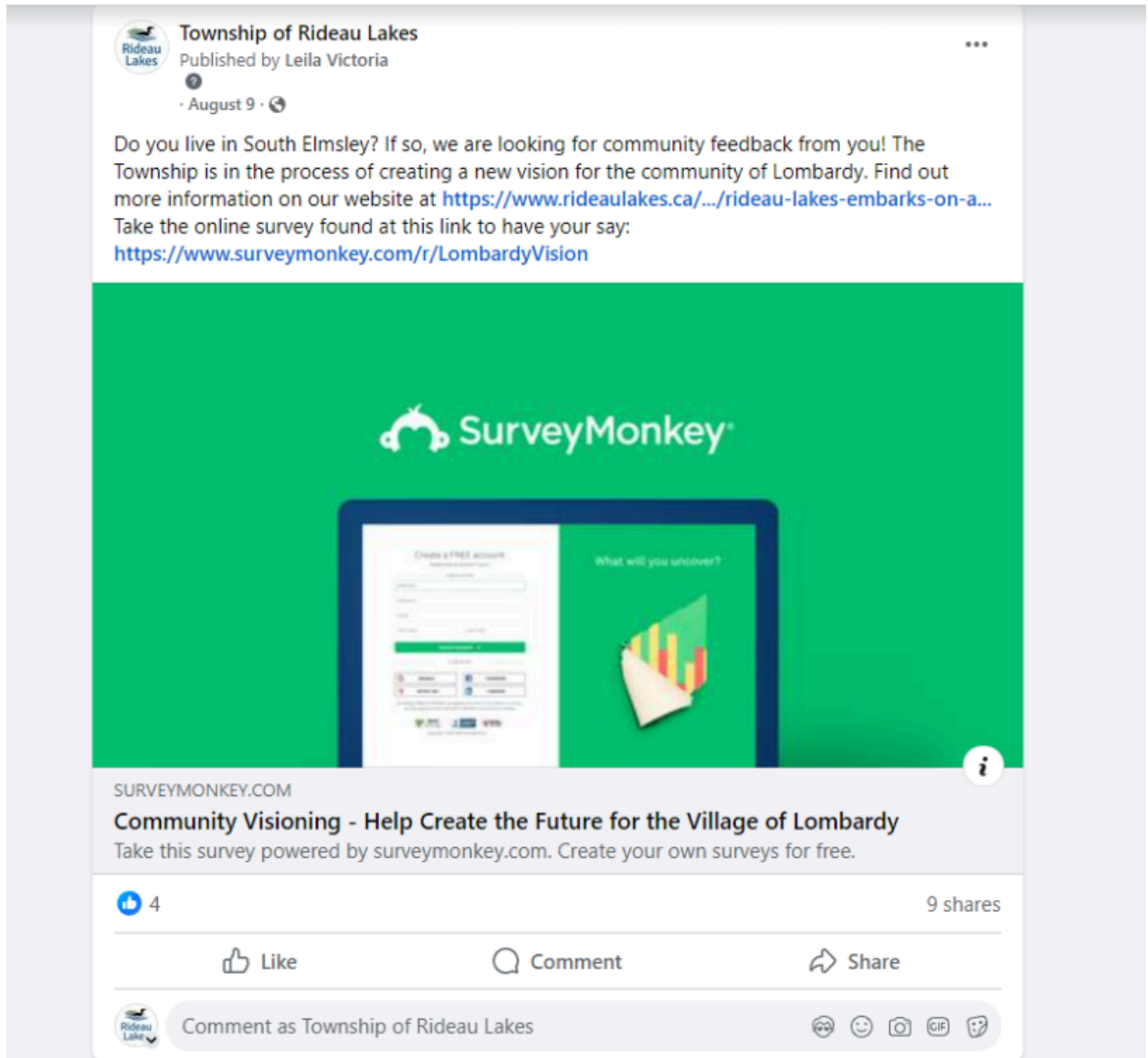
More reliable/faster internet connection. Better opportunities to allow work-from-home so people can live here and work in Ottawa, Kingston or Brockville. Creation of more hiking and biking trails. A paved bike path between Lombardy and Smiths Falls.

How will we know when we achieve the vision (indicators/developments)?
I don't know
We will see and be able to use the improvements. We are raising the next generation. I waited my childhood for play structure that came when I was an adult. I personally called for a pavement for the basketball net so my kids could bounce the ball. Let's stop half doing things and cleaning things up
feasibility study; completion of activity ground at Ron E. Holman; tax increase that will improve the township functioning instead of restricting the increase and not evolving. we are not in the 90's anymore.
When people say - isn't Lombardy cute
Census - increase in youth Viability/Feasibility Studies for larger projects
not sure
Council supportive of Lombardy. Functioning, maintained sign at Ron Holman Center. Modest population growth. Sports activities taking place at the community Center.
More tourists
Regular public progress reporting and completion monitoring and reporting
More attractive scenic drive on the short distance through the village. More Township promotion of the greater Lombardy area starting at Ron Holman centre on Hwy 15 to Otter Lake Road (Firehall)
- Less cluttered, overgrown, garbage filled yards when driving through - Vape shop gone and replaced with a general store or cafe
Residents will know what is available in their community and will identify as a community. Residents will have easy access to their services.
Just ask the residents who are living there! Lively communities are great, - (and live in my 3rd little one in Lanark and 2 in Leeds/Grenville Rideau Lakes District. Signed S.H. The Un-elected Mayor of Bacchus Island.
1> Lower commercial property taxes 60 years ago = c. 5 businesses maybe, now few to none 2> Maybe a twnp. council meeting live near village once in a while 3> Vicinity maybe 500-600 Residential = healthy /cottages + houses. commercial use maybe 10-15 whole area or maybe less 4> Maybe each village a flea market /farmer market maybe twice a year. Maybe coffee/tea/snacks sponsored by the twnp. a get-to-gether 5> Maybe local churches share service maybe twice a year in door or good weather outdoor.
Visible changes, new businesses in the area, well communicated changes in effect. Maintaining small town feel.
Physical evidence: sidewalks built, dog park established, new business development.
Attention and completion of the suggestions mentioned above. (Lights and play structure at the pump track) We need to pay attention to the young families and the things that will keep them here generation after generation. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and ideas.

<p>When the REH is fully developed with a connection to the Cat Trail, when trees, lighting, playground, tennis/pickleball/basketball court are built and pump track enhanced perhaps with water and bike repair stations available. And the Township financially supports LAS with community grants, etc. to assist and recognize all of the volunteer time and money invested by LAS to continue a well established and successful volunteer organization that is preserving a 150+ year tradition.</p>
<p>- Create a baseline engagement survey (much more comprehensive than this one) and re-do it annually or biannually at the latest to see progress; - The existence of both indoor and outside pickleball courts; - The start of community special interest groups, the number; - Since we are being asked about measures, the success of the groups would be tracked and results available to all community members; - A process to determine how to transform "private" roads into "public" roads; - A set schedule of when "private" roads (for those members who wish for it) would be transformed" and data to show that the planned transitions have taken place and the schedule of the others to take place is known. - Other measures would be obvious, such as a competition and a survey for a new name is launched... KPIs and measures would be figured out after the strategic decisions have been made.</p>
<p>When the above suggestions are implemented.</p>
<p>We know we succeeded    Zero big box stores and commercial multi unit (above 2 storeys) rise type residences. Demonstrably fair taxation for rate payers who have no road frontage and receive zero service from the municipality; improved garbage removal for ratepayers, incentivize small family owned business without licensing, allowing all farm gate sales, arts and crafts to boost local home based business and incomes. Lombardy will look similar in 2030, but with local farms having the ability to sell milk, butter, flour, corn, meats, chicken etc. and all products made and grown locally without any regulation from municipality, leaving all producers and customers with their own responsibility for safety and quality.</p>
<p>Taxes go down</p>
<p>On-going check ins &amp; feedback Goal-dependent progress Attendance, participation, response at events etc</p>
<p>Completed recreational facilities supported by clubs and community activities like pickleball clubs. Not having to go elsewhere for goods and services. Increase in tourism and name recognition of Lombardy</p>
<p>The presence of visitors, tourists</p>
<p>One I could read it on the digital sign lol. When people start looking at South Elmsley as part of RL and as a destination to go to Vs a bedroom community for SF.</p>
<p>metrics relating to GHG emissions, consumption patterns, habitat preservation, health of waterways etc.</p>
<p>Not sure.</p>
<p>We will see people biking to Portland and Smith Falls rather than driving.</p>
<p>If some of the things I have said happens. 3</p>
<p>Actual buildings.</p>

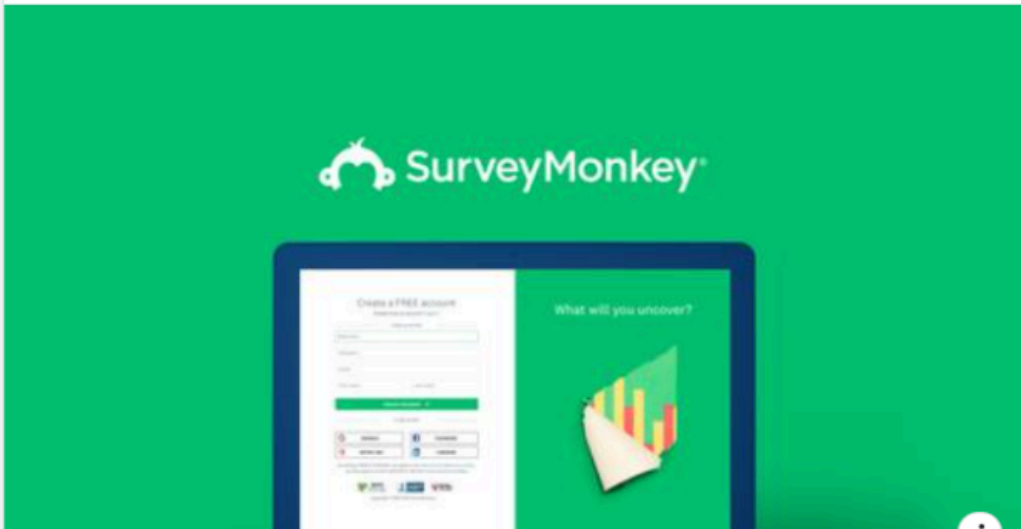


Social Media Post Samples - Township of Rideau Lakes



**Township of Rideau Lakes**  
Published by Leila Victoria  
· August 9 ·

Do you live in South Elmsley? If so, we are looking for community feedback from you! The Township is in the process of creating a new vision for the community of Lombardy. Find out more information on our website at <https://www.rideaulakes.ca/.../rideau-lakes-embarks-on-a-...> Take the online survey found at this link to have your say: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LombardyVision>



SURVEYMONKEY.COM

**Community Visioning - Help Create the Future for the Village of Lombardy**  
Take this survey powered by surveymonkey.com. Create your own surveys for free.

4 likes 9 shares

Like Comment Share

Comment as Township of Rideau Lakes



Township of Rideau Lakes

Published by Marie White

· August 21 ·

This Saturday! Let us know if you are coming to the Community Visioning Session for Lombardy. August 24 from 2pm to 4pm at the Lombardy Fair Hall. Registration is still open.



# Rideau Lakes

EVENTBRITE.CA

**Lombardy Village Visioning - In Person Community Conversation**

Saturday, August 24 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lombardy Agricultural Society - Fair Hall 6 Kell...

4

3 shares


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**Paula Banks**

Top contributor · May 23 · 

...

Fireworks, the Chantry offices and Lombardy visioning.

Municipal Services Committee Meeting – May 27, 2024

**Agenda Item #9.4.2**

Proposed Motion: Mayor Hoogenboom - Municipal Office

Moved By: Mayor Hoogenboom

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Be it resolved, that the Municipal Services Committee recommends to Council that

WHEREAS there is general agreement with Council that the Municipal Office requires improvement;

AND WHEREAS the staff report suggests that retrofitting the existing building is not cost effective;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that staff be directed to explore the pros and cons of locating a new facility on the existing property in Chantry or an alternate location in the

**Option 1: Repeat the existing by-law and update By-law 2019-18: a By-Law to prescribe the precautions and conditions under which fires may be set in Open Air to include "Fireworks and Flying lanterns are prohibited from use during a fire ban." (Recommended)**

This option would put the Township in line with Tay Valley and Drummond/North Emsley Townships. The recommended addition to the Burn By-law will reduce the risk of forest fires during dry conditions.

**Option 2: Continue with the existing by-law with no amendments. (Not Recommended)**

The existing by-law has issues with education and enforcement. Permits for public displays are not being obtained. Local businesses may be selling fireworks in their stores. A major communications plan would be required as well as visits to the local businesses to advise them not to carry/sell fireworks. Contact would need to be made with local Lake Associations (as an example) requiring them to obtain Public Fireworks Display permits to comply with the by-law.

**Option 3: Adopt the draft by-law as presented by Interim Fire Chief in Dec 2023. (Not Recommended)**

Further limitations on fireworks will be even more difficult to enforce. The Township would need to rely on neighbours to document infractions with their cameras.

Municipal Services Committee Meeting – May 27, 2024

**Agenda Item #9.4.1**

Proposed Motion: Councillor P. Banks - Municipal Office

Moved By: Councillor P. Banks

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Be it resolved that the Municipal Services Committee direct staff to release an RFP for design services with the main goal being that as much of the current office space as possible be utilized, while taking into consideration a design for expansion that is large enough to fit all employees now and in the foreseeable future, while creating a comfortable and creative place to work.

AND FURTHER that the successful designer establishes a needs and wants list from staff through an internal survey and/or the CAO that provides up to ten recommendations for their new work space and it be provided to and approved by Council as one of the first steps in this process.



**Paula Banks**

Admin · May 23 · 

Some of items up this week on TRL council, Monday May 27th

8.2 – Fireworks bylaw update

9.2 - Lombardy – Village Visioning

9.4 - What to do with the Chantry Offices. Two motions are put forward one from mayor Hoogenboom and one from councillor Paula Banks.

<https://pub-rideaulakes.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx...>



### Lombardy Agricultural Society

August 18 · 🌐

...

Rideau Lakes embarks on a new vision for the community of Lombardy

Published: Friday, 09 August 2024

The Township of Rideau Lakes welcomes community members to participate in conversations about the future for the Village of Lombardy.

In order to gather information about how residents and stakeholders want to see their community in the next ten to fifteen years, "Community Visioning" Sessions will be held, and people are encouraged to complete a survey.

Over the past 7 years, the Villages of Chaffeys Lock, Delta, Elgin, Newboro and Portland have undergone a Community Visioning process. These visioning documents directly informed the Township's Community Improvement Plan (CIP) that was re-developed last year to incorporate all six villages in Rideau Lakes: Chaffeys Lock, Delta, Elgin, Lombardy, Newboro and Portland.

Two input sessions, virtual and in-person, have been scheduled this month to allow everyone the opportunity to provide a positive contribution to the vision for Lombardy and determine what the community desires for the future. The survey is open for responses until August 31, 2024.

Residents, visitors, business owners and other interested parties are encouraged to participate.

A virtual input session will take place on Thursday, August 15, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and an in-person session will be held on Saturday, August 24th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Lombardy Agricultural Society Fair Hall. To register, contact Marie White at 1-800-928-2251 ext.288 or by email at [mwhite@rideaulakes.ca](mailto:mwhite@rideaulakes.ca)

Project outreach is performed under the guidance of the Rideau Lakes Visioning Steering Committee, comprised of community representatives including a member of Council and the active resident volunteers that serve on the South Elmsley Community Enhancement Committee. The role of the steering committee involves reviewing the timeline and logistics for visioning sessions, the survey, meeting agendas and communications, and to help spread the news about the program within the community.

The Township of Rideau Lakes has engaged Hawn Consulting to work within the mandate of the Economic Development Committee of Council and in concert with the volunteer Steering Committee to develop and implement the consultation strategy, facilitate stakeholder sessions in the community to gain input, advice, ideas and concerns and to develop a draft community vision based on the input received and best practices in community building, community planning and economic development. The draft vision document will be presented to the Committee and the final version will proceed to Council. Once approved, the Village Vision for Lombardy is expected to be published in December 2024.

Details are available on the township website: [www.rideaulakes.ca/LombardyVision](http://www.rideaulakes.ca/LombardyVision)

More in this category: « Leeds County OPP Detachment Board Recruiting Community Board Members

Rideau Lakes Township Logo



RIDEAULAKES.CA

Lombardy Village Vision





**Rideau Lakes**

Help Create the Future for  
the Village of Lombardy

# VILLAGE VISION

## Community Input Session

Saturday, August 24, 2024

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Lombardy Agricultural Society - Fair Hall  
6 Kellys Road, Lombardy, ON K0G 1L0



TO REGISTER, CONTACT:  
Marie White  
1-800-928-2250 ext. 288  
[mwhite@rideaulakes.com](mailto:mwhite@rideaulakes.com)

### Take the Survey

Online until August 31  
Copies at the South Elmsley Branch  
of the Rideau Lakes Public Library

[RideauLakes.ca/LombardyVision](https://RideauLakes.ca/LombardyVision)

Business Cards





### **Community Visioning - Help Create the Future for the Village of Lombardy**

The Township of Rideau Lakes is excited to welcome all community members to participate in conversations about the future for the Village of Lombardy.

In order to gather information about how residents and stakeholders want to see their community in the next ten to fifteen years, "Community Visioning" Sessions will be held, and people are encouraged to complete a short survey. This is an opportunity to provide a positive contribution to the vision for Lombardy, to determine what is desired and the specifics of how you get there will come later!

**Take the Survey:** [RideauLakes.ca/LombardyVision](https://RideauLakes.ca/LombardyVision)



Help us spread the word by talking to your neighbours and encourage them to complete the survey. This is about the future of your village. The survey is open until midnight on August 31, 2024.

### **Attend a virtual Community Conversation:**



You are invited to attend a Community Conversation (link will be provided)

**Thursday, August 15 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

To register, contact Marie White at [mwhite@rideaulakes.ca](mailto:mwhite@rideaulakes.ca)

### **Attend a Community Conversation in person:**



You are invited to attend a Community Conversation in person on:

**Saturday, August 24 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Lombardy Agricultural Society - Fair Hall**  
6 Kellys Road, Lombardy, ON K0G 1L0

To register, contact Marie White at [mwhite@rideaulakes.ca](mailto:mwhite@rideaulakes.ca) or visit [RideauLakes.ca/LombardyVision](https://RideauLakes.ca/LombardyVision) and register online.

### Submit your comments in Writing \*



If you would like an alternative way to participate, you can provide your input in writing. You may email, mail or drop-off your comments. Please answer the following questions:

- What makes Lombardy a great place to live or visit?
- What existing strengths and assets can we build on?
- What would you like to see in the community by the year 2030?
- How will we know when we achieve the vision (indicators/developments)?

#### \* Submit this questionnaire in one of the following ways:

1. Drop off to the South Elmsley Branch of the Rideau Lakes Public Library at 441 Hwy 15, Lombardy, ON K0G 1L0
2. Mail to Township of Rideau Lakes, 1439 County Road 8, Delta, ON K0E 1G0

Questions? Call Marie at 1-800-928-2250 ext. 288 or email [mwhite@rideaulakes.ca](mailto:mwhite@rideaulakes.ca)





## Rideau Lakes

1439 County Road 8, Delta, ON K0E 1G0  
T. 613.928.2251 | 1.800.928.2250 | F. 613.928.3097  
[rideaulakes.ca](http://rideaulakes.ca)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Rideau Lakes embarks on a new vision for the community of Lombardy**

Chantry, ON – August 9, 2024 - The Township of Rideau Lakes welcomes community members to participate in conversations about the future for the Village of Lombardy.

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Details are available on the township website: [www.rideaulakes.ca/LombardyVision](http://www.rideaulakes.ca/LombardyVision)

-END-

For more information, please contact:

Mayor Arie Hoogenboom  
Township of Rideau Lakes  
613-323-0901  
[mayor@rideaulakes.ca](mailto:mayor@rideaulakes.ca)

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Heritage Coordinator  
613-267-0819  
[mwhite@rideaulakes.ca](mailto:mwhite@rideaulakes.ca)