



**Community Identity Study**  
**Town of Windsor Nova Scotia**

Prepared by

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**August, 2002**

## Acknowledgements

The research team wishes to acknowledge the contributions of various individuals in completion of this project. From the town of Windsor, Janet Landry provided invaluable support on various levels including assistance with identification of participants, access to resource materials, and acquisition of meeting space. Acadia students Marie-Claude Du Cap, Hannah Feldberg, and Adam Barnett served as interviewers and research assistants. Dr. Chris Bowling of Western Washington University provided expertise in the photo elicitation data collection process. Acadia University provided financial assistance. The research team is very appreciative of the contribution of each for the support provided in completion of this initiative. In particular, the team would like to thank those residents who provided a considerable amount of their personal time to participate in at least two interviews and to travel throughout the community, sometimes in rather poor weather conditions, in order to take their photographs and meet our timelines. Further they were willing to share their personal stories relating to content of the photographs, with strangers, and we do so appreciate their openness in doing so. Finally to members of the town staff and Council, who through Acting Recreation Director Janet provided access to the town and its resources, we thank you and hope that you will find this information of use to you.

## **Background**

Windsor, Nova Scotia is a community located on the Avon River approximately 70 kilometres from downtown Halifax. Settled in 1685 by Acadian French, the town has enjoyed a long diverse history. Many of the present buildings were constructed after the great fire of 1897 that destroyed much of the original town. A long and colorful history has given this small community many unique features relating to history, sport, culture, and outdoor pursuits. Among these are the following: the oldest blockhouse of its kind in North America at Fort Edward, the birthplace of hockey, home of the world's largest pumpkins, the highest tides in the world, the longest continually running agricultural fair in Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada's largest painted murals, the birthplace Thomas Chandler Haliburton who was the father of North American humor, Kings-Edgehill which is the oldest independent school in the British Commonwealth, and the Internationally renowned Mermaid theatre company. The town boasts a broad range of recreational opportunities with Lake Piziquid to the north, Martock ski hill to the south, and the Avon golf course and the gateway to the Annapolis Valley directly to the west. The town serves as home to a myriad of groups including retirees who enjoy the historical aspects of the town, members of the education community, professionals who commute to work in the city, and those who work in the mill, mines, and agricultural industry. The commercial needs of the community have traditionally been serviced by independent shop owners but in the past few years larger chain stores have moved into the area. Plans to twin highway 101 to Halifax will make this an even more accessible community for those who work in the city but seek a more rural residential lifestyle. As such this small community with its very rich and diverse history appears to be lacking in a distinct identity. Over the past 316 years, the community has taken on various identities. For a rural community, Windsor possesses a myriad of educational, spiritual, physical, environmental, and social resources.

## **Purpose**

The focus of this study was to investigate what aspects residents associate with the identity of the community. Data were collected on perceived elements of community identity and aspects of the community that residents most value.

## **Methods**

Data for this study was gathered through a photo elicitation process. Participants were issued with disposable cameras and asked to take two sets of photographs. The first was photographs of those aspects that they associate with the overall identity of the community. The second was photographs of aspects of the community that are most important to them personally. A researcher met with each participant and conducted a brief interview and issued instructions for the photographic aspect of the data collection process. Participants were given two weeks to take the pictures and return the camera to the researcher. The process took place during winter and therefore the photos contain many winter scenes and venues. Participants were asked to try and think about all seasons of the year when taking the photographs including sites that might normally be used for winter activities such as the waterfront or tourist venues that are closed during winter. Within two weeks the

photographs were developed and the researchers conducted second interviews with the participants. As well as collecting descriptive interpretations about the photographs, data were collected about what makes Windsor a good place to live, perceptions of the challenges that the community currently faces, and what participants would you like to change about the community.

Three segments of the population were included in the study: adults over 50 who have resided in the community for at least 25 years, working adults under 50 who reside in and raising their families in the community, and high school aged youth. These group were selected to provide the perspective of people who share a long association with the town, its resources, and who can reflect on aspects of identity change and continuity; younger residents who are raising families in this community; and youth who reside here, not necessarily out of free choice, but rather through parental influence. Ten participants from each of these segments of the population were identified with the assistance of key informant.

## **Results**

An initiative such as this generates a great deal of data and analysis of the data is an ongoing process. The research team has prepared this report of preliminary findings which they felt would be of most interest to town officials. The first data presented here is a frequency count of the photo elicitation results. This will identify the content of photographs that relate to participants' sense of community identity and those aspects of the town to which participants' relate personally. The second set of data represents input on aspects of the town that participants' most enjoy, what they perceive to be significant challenges presently facing their community, and any changes that they feel would enhance the lifestyle for residents.

### **Photo Analysis**

Photo elicitation enabled research participants an opportunity to visually identify areas of significance from either a community identity or sacred place perspective. The results are noted in Tables 1 and 2. When reviewing these tables it is important to be cognizant of several issues. First, the research participants reviewed each photo and the research assistants labelled each photo in order to know specifically what a particular photo implied. Secondly, in numerous cases it is evident that research participants have identified with a specific place in both *community identity* and *sacred place* terms. For example, the Haliburton House is found in both tables. From a *community identity* perspective it is evident that this place holds historical significance. From a *sacred place* perspective, it appears that the significance is related to participating in activities in this area such as walking. This may be the case in other instances although we would caution generalizing all photos in this regard.

Table 1 reflects those aspects of the town that participants' consider best represent the overall identity of the town of Windsor. It is interesting to note that 64 different sites were identified by multiple respondents as relating to community identity with Haliburton House and the Exhibition area being captured most frequently. The hospital was identified by 17 participants perhaps indicating a sense of pride in that particular venue. Youth considered the community centre to play an important role in the community identity. A further 49 themes were identified by single participants. With over 110 themes appearing in the pictures of these few participants, it would appear as though there is a lack of consensus on what exactly constitutes the identity of the town of Windsor.

**TABLE 1**  
**COMMUNITY IDENTITY**

<b><i>Community Identity</i></b>	<b><i>Seniors (N=9)</i></b>	<b><i>Middle (N=10)</i></b>	<b><i>Youth (N=11)</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
Haliburton House	6	9	8	23
Exhibition Area	5	9	6	20
Hants Community Hospital	4	5	8	17
Howard Dill's	3	9	4	16
Shand House	4	5	6	15
King's Edgehill	5	7	2	14
Community Centre	2	2	9	13
High School	3	3	5	11
N.S. Textiles	1	7	3	11
Water Front	1	6	4	11
Block House	3	2	5	10
Fort Edward	1	7	2	10
Mermaid Theatre	3	4	3	10
Windsor Hockey Heritage Centre	2	6	2	10
Gazebo	1	3	5	9
Martock	1	3	4	8
Windsor Fire Department	2	3	2	7
Birthplace of Hockey Mural		2	4	6
Long Pond		4	2	6
West Hants Museum	3	1	2	6
Cenotaph		3	2	5
Aquatic Club	1	1	2	4

Churches	1	2	1	4
Elm Croft Playground	2	1	1	4
Industrial Parks	1	2	1	4
Manning Seniors Complex		2	2	4
Original Hockey Rink	1	2	1	4
Windsor Elms Seniors Home	3	1		4
Bowling			3	3
Causeway		2	1	3
Curling Club	1	2		3
Fort Edward Mall			3	3
High Tides	1	2		3
Lake Pisaquid	2		1	3
Royal Canadian Legion		1	2	3
Swimming Pool	2		1	3
Tennis Courts	1	1	1	3
View of Windsor from 101		1	2	3
Windsor on the Avon Mural	1	2		3
Catholic Church	1	1		2
Clockmaker Inn	1		1	2
Golf Course		1	1	2
Gypsum Company	2			2
Highway 101 (Bridge)		1	1	2
Imperial Theatre			2	2
King's Edgehill Chapel	1	1		2
Library	2			2
Main Street		1	1	2
New Windsor Elementary School		1	1	2
Railway (Crossing @ Sobeys)		1	1	2
RCMP (Station)		1	1	2
Scenic Views		2		2
Sobeys	1		1	2
Tim Horton's (Downtown)		1	1	2
Tim Horton's (Superstore)		1	1	2
Tourist Bureau		1	1	2
Town Hall	1	1		2
Water Slide			2	2
Welcome Sign (City)	1	1		2
Windsor Elementary School	2			2
Windsor United Church	1		1	2
Windsor Wear Mural	1		1	2
Historic Buildings		2		2

Adult High School		1	1
Anglican Church	1		1
Agricultural Fair Monument	1		1
Avon River		1	1
Avon Valley Golf Course		1	1
Baptist Church			1
Bay of Fundy			1
B & B's	1		1
Biomedica		1	1
Bleakness of Windsor			1
Brooklyn Rink			1
Centennial Building	1		1
Clifton Ave. Walking Trail	1		1
Downtown vacancy		1	1
Dooly's			1
Dykeland Lodge			1
Family & Children Centre		1	1
Farm Land			1
Hantsport Railway		1	1
Hawboldt			1
High school Basketball			1
High School (Intramural)			1
Hockey Day in Windsor		1	1
McDonalds's/Tim Horton's			1
Mini-Train			1
Mural on Credit Union			1
Old Homes	1		1
Old Burying Ground			1
Pockets			1
Post Office		1	1
Pothier Motors		1	1
Quite & Safe Neighbourhoods		1	1
Rotary Club		1	1
Sam Slick		1	1
Single Mother		1	1
Skate Park			1
Ste. Famille Winery		1	1
The People		1	1
Thomas Haliburton Plaque (Community Centre)			1
Tim Horton's Mall			1
Town Rec Shed		1	1

Tower Sewer System		1	1
Water Tower (Birthplace of Hockey)		1	1
Windsor Town Sign (Sam Slick)	1		1
Welfare & Low Income Housing		1	1
Windsor Needs			1
Windsor Wear Factory Outlet	1		1
Windsor Royals		1	1
Windsor's Tulips			1

Table 2 reports the places and spaces in town that are considered special or “sacred” to participants. That is, participants were asked to identify those places that are important to their personal lifestyles. Even though data were gathered during the winter, participants were encouraged to think about all seasons and not just wintertime. The fact that photos were taken of the swimming pool, aquatic club, and waterfront would indicate that participants were able to think outside the current season. Coincidentally, there were also 64 multiple responses on what are the sacred spaces with over a hundred themes that were reported by only one participant.

**TABLE 2**  
**SACRED PLACES**

<b><i>Sacred Places</i></b>	<b><i>Seniors (N = 9)</i></b>	<b><i>Middle (N=10)</i></b>	<b><i>Youth (N = 11)</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
Friends House		4	9	13
Kings Edgehill	1	6	6	13
Swimming Pool	2	6	5	13
Exhibition Arena	3	2	6	11
Home Residence	2	6	2	10
High School		2	7	9
Open Spaces	2	2	5	9
Halliburton House (walking)	1	1	6	8
Water Front	1	2	5	8
Aquatic Club	1	3	3	7
Martock	2	4	1	7
Windsor United Church	1	4	2	7
Church	1	5		6
Community Centre	1	1	3	5
Curling Club	2	3		5



Fort Edward (walking)	3	1	1	5
Hants Community Hospital		5		5
New Windsor Elementary School		3	2	5
Walking Path	1	1	3	5
Bowling Alley	1	1	2	4
Cemetery	1	2	1	4
Cenotaph	2	2		4
Fort Edward Mall	2	1	1	4
Gazebo & Community Centre (gathering place)		1	3	4
Grandparents & Sibling's Old Home		1	3	4
Imperial Theatre		3	1	4
Lake Pisaquid	2		2	4
Old Homes	2	1	1	4
Windsor Fire Department		2	2	4
Causeway	2		1	3
First Home		2	1	3
Friend's Farm		2	1	3
Howard Dill's	2		1	3
Library	2	1		3
Manning Residence		3		3
McDonalds	1	1	1	3
Pond that Never Freezes (Tourist Bureau)		1	2	3
Post Office	2	1		3
Tennis Courts	1	1	1	3
Architecture	1	1		2
Windsor Armouries	1		1	2
Avon River	1	1		2
College Road Farm	2			2
Community Centre (Specific Activities)			2	2
Community Centre Park			2	2
Coop Basics	1	1		2
Downtown (retail)	1	1		2
Eldridge Road Park		2		2
Friends		1	1	2
Golf Course (Falmouth)	1		1	2
High School (Art Room)			2	2
Mermaid Theatre			2	2
Monuments to Great Windsor Fire		2		2
Neighbours & House		2		2
Old Elementary School		1	1	2
Old Hospital		1	1	2
Pony Club Barn		1	1	2
Sainte Famille Winery	1	1		2
Superstore	2			2
Tim Horton's (Superstore)	1	1		2
Walker's Restaurant			2	2
Windsor Elms Seniors Home	1	1		2

Windsor Nursery School	1	1	2
Lifelong Learning @ Acadia	1		1
Ambulance Detachment		1	1
Avon Animal Hospital	1		1
Avon Valley Golf Course		1	1
Banks		1	1
Barber		1	1
Basketball Coach		1	1
Bird watching	1		1
Birthplace of Hockey Mural		1	1
Bit's & Bridles		1	1
Brooklyn Rink		1	1
Central Building Supplies		1	1
Christ Anglican Church		1	1
Church Booth (Exhibition Grounds)	1		1
Church Senior Luncheons	1		1
Cleve's Factory Outlet		1	1
Community Education		1	1
Credit Union Mural		1	1
Credit Union		1	1
Day Care	1		1
Dill Road		1	1
Dykeland		1	1
Dykeland Lodge		1	1
Edgehill School for Girls		1	1
Elegant dining	1		1
Elmcroft Park		1	1
Enterprise Centre	1		1
Falmouth Connector Bridge		1	1
Family and Children Services	1		1
Farm Fresh Meat		1	1
Federal Gov't Building		1	1
Fitness Centre (Locker Room)	1		1
Former Community College		1	1
Frenchy's		1	1
Friends Dog		1	1
Funeral Home		1	1
Fuzzy Duck (Tourist Bureau)		1	1
Golf Club	1		1
Halibutorn Pond		1	1
Hensley Chapel		1	1
High School Fields		1	1
High School (Intramurals)		1	1
High School Parking Lot		1	1
Hockey	1		1
Hockey Heritage Centre	1		1
Home (View)		1	1
Home Hardware (successful business)		1	1
Irving Station		1	1

Judy & Dena's Tree		1	1
King Street		1	1
Kings Chapel			1
Kings Edgehill Soccer Fields			1
Kings Edgehill Library		1	1
Kingsway Arms Swimming Pool	1		1
Little Students		1	1
Long Pond		1	1
Look Off Point		1	1
Murals		1	1
N.S. Textiles	1		1
Old A & W		1	1
Old Apartment		1	1
Old Burial Ground		1	1
Old Irving Hill			1
Old Seyton Residence		1	1
Old Store (Garrish & Water)	1		1
Old Windsor School		1	1
One on One Hairdressers		1	1
Original Hockey Rink		1	1
Personal Car			1
Pik' N Wear Used Clothing		1	1
Presbyterian Church		1	1
Rotary Club	1		1
Run Down Housing		1	1
Rural (country) spaces		1	1
Sam Slick Grounds			1
Soccer Fields			1
St. John's Pres. Church	1		1
Sunflower Gift Shop		1	1
The Judith Tree			1
Three Mile Plains (Elementary School)			1
Tim Horton's (Downtown)			1
The Fruit Loop			1
Turtle Pond			1
United Church		1	1
Video Store		1	1
View of Windsor			1
Water Street			1
West Hants Museum		1	1
Windsor as a small farming community		1	1
Windsor Church of the Nazarene		1	1
Windsor Town Sign (Sam Slick)	1		1
Windsor Wharf		1	1
Windsor, Birthplace of Hockey Sign (Exit 6)		1	1
Workers	1		1
Workplace Education	1		1

Following are three areas of questioning during the personal interviews that generated interesting responses in terms of lifestyles in Windsor. Rather than attempt to synthesize the results and lose some of the richness of data, the participants' own words are reported in order to give them voice.

### ***What makes Windsor a good place to live?***

#### Youth Group

The youth interviewed in our study spoke only about the friendships they had developed and the smallness of Windsor when they were asked about what made Windsor a good place to live. A few felt Windsor might be a better place to live if there was more to do. Examples of comments were:

They [my friends who have moved here from Halifax within the last four years] like the smallness of it. They like how there is nothing here in a way. They like how everybody knows everybody.

There's enough stuff here to keep you interested. There's Locker Room and everything. I dunno, Windsor's pretty good because it is a small town, you know. Everybody knows everybody. There's enough there to do but there could be more.

I find there are a lot of friendly people here. Everybody knows everybody. It's a small community, so it's good that way. There's not a lot of rivalry between the young teenagers, between like 12 and 13. They all get along pretty good at the school and things like that. And in the community, it's not really a lot violence. So, we get along pretty well.

Probably just the people I've met—like you know. There's some bad people but there's some good people.

It's just a nice little town I guess. There's just not much to do.

It's nice growing up in a small community where you know everyone. It's a comfortable environment. But it's kind of the drug capital in NS.

#### Middle Age Group

The responses of people in the middle age group were similar to that of the seniors in our study. The things mentioned most often were the small town character of the community,

friendliness of the people in the community, proximity to family members, and proximity to amenities including access to sports. Examples of comments were:

My family is here and I'm within driving distance of my family and you know there are sports offered within the town that my kids participate in which I think are very important for us. I know a lot of people who live here in this town.

Lots to be said for a small town. You know your neighbours, you know your friends' friends, you know your friends' parents. It's a tight-knit community. Just like a small town.

I guess 'cause its small, friendly. There are a lot of things that it probably lacks. Everything is so familiar. I can just walk downtown and you know practically everybody you meet.

Windsor is a good place to live. . . . This is an area that we choose to move to as apposed to the metro—you know, Sackville, Bedford areas, the various places outside the metro area—because it was a small town and things were here . . . it is a small town. The kids can get involved in things, I don't have to drive too far and they can walk too because of where we live in the town. They can walk to a lot of their sports or recreational activities.

I like the small community atmosphere, and I like the fact that the country is right there, right beside you. It's not very far away from other things like the city. . . . My friends are here, and the activities that are here, and it is less intimidating.

I think it is a good place to live, it is a nice little town that has a lot to offer as far as restaurants. It is a good place to bring up kids because they have good education system and good teachers in this area. And I think it is central—whether you want to visit the city or the Valley, it is not that far to go either way. You can still travel there and back within the day. And enjoy some of a country atmosphere.

### Senior Group

Seniors in our study most often spoke about the following when asked specifically about what made Windsor a good place to live: the small town character of the community, the people in the community, a sense of being safe, proximity to family members, and proximity to amenities. Examples of comments were:

I really enjoy the people. Running a business, I sold to people, and I don't miss the hassle of the business but I miss the contact with the people. And the area, like it's the gateway to the valley. If you

want the seashore it's half an hour to 40 minutes from here. If you want the city it's the same thing.

I like the close knitness of the community. You practically know everyone that you meet along the street.

I know a lot of people here and I find them very friendly, easy to get along with and at least the ones that I associate with have similar likes and dislikes that I have. They like the small town living. They like the close proximity of Halifax and also to the close proximity to good shopping further up the valley in New Minas. The shopping here in Windsor is not real good, but since I'm not a complainer. You know, I just like things the way they are.

Well, if you're sports minded, most any sport that you want to participate in is either in town or in the town's backyard. We have the best of both worlds because if there's entertainment, or evening life that you are looking for, we are only half an hour away from the Metro area. We are neighbours with Wolfville who has all the cultural activity that one could ask for. The University is right next door.

It's free and easy and, you know, you don't have to watch. I couldn't live in the city because I couldn't stand to watch over my shoulder every time I moved. . . . There haven't been too many bad things go on per se right where we are. If I lived in the city I'd be scared to death. In fact I didn't even like going out in the noon time.

### ***What challenges are facing Windsor currently?***

#### Youth Group

When asked to discuss the challenges facing Windsor, several youth in our study discussed the economy and lack of employment, drug use among teens and young adults, the need for more youth activities, and the proposal to ban smoking in public places. Other challenges mentioned included racism in the high school and the closing of hospital beds. One person in this group could not think of an answer to this question. Examples of comments were:

Lack of things pretty much. The library, we need bigger area. We need more things for youth to do. And welfare, getting people jobs. . . . Just lack of things, lack of entertainment, lack of clubs, lack of schools, because our school is really sick. I would mostly concentrate on lack of things to do for the youth.

There is a lot of racism and stuff in our school, somewhat, but it's kind of the opposite of what you would expect. It's like, you don't do anything and somebody that's black or whatever—a white person—would say something racist instead, and it's just because you drove by them and you looked to see who it was, that was it.

You have to find, there's gotta be something, like SOMETHING there that we can all just go to. Take part of. I don't know what it is. There's a lot of people who use drugs and stuff. That's a problem. . . . There's nothing to do really. Well, there's always something to do, but nobody really wants to do it, but nobody really wants to do it because it doesn't really interest them. There's gotta be something for everybody.

Certain groups of people like, more of the thug kind of group peoples. I don't really know how to describe them, but the badder part of Windsor I guess.

I think we should at least try to get the class system up to like Wolfville or something. Although Wolfville has got a University and they're a pretty high class system, I guess, but even like Kentville, you know. . . . Windsor just doesn't have that. It just doesn't have that. Just to raise the standard on everything they do. They need to cut back a little bit on social assistance. And stuff like that to give a couple more people jobs and create a bit more employment or stuff like that in the town.

Whether to ban smoking in public places. . . . That's pretty much the biggest thing whether to ban smoking in public here.

Getting people to listen to our problems and try to make them understand why the problems are there. Like all the people that walk around town and get high all the time.

The hospital. It used to be a lot bigger but now there's more and more people getting re-routed to Kentville so that's a big change. . . . There's no like smoking in any of the public facilities. A

lot of places like Pockets and Dooleys aren't too happy.

### Middle Age Group

When asked to discuss the challenges facing Windsor, people in the middle age group in our study discussed the economy and lack of employment, drug use among teens and young adults, and the need for more improved infrastructure (water, roads and school) . Other challenges mentioned included land development, the closing of hospital beds, teenage pregnancy, and preserving the downtown. Examples of comments were:

I would say the drug community is really big in Windsor now. And I don't know if it always has been but it appears to me that there are a number of crack houses and drugs readily available to our teenagers. We see evidence of that every single day at our resort. The lack of regard that the teens seem to have for the impact of drugs in their everyday lifestyle. You know we stop kids from smoking drugs in the entranceway of our lodge and they just can't understand why it's not, you know, acceptable to smoke a joint on somebody else's property. There's a lot of welfare in Windsor. Windsor pays the highest welfare rates in all of Nova Scotia and so we're a big magnet for that. We seem to be very accommodating and I think that that's a problem. Unemployment is really, appears to be quite rampant in Windsor. We see so many people walking the streets, young girls with babies, more than one. It just seems to be a way out and it seems to me—I don't mean to sound elitist at all—but it just seems to be really an easy way out and it's really sad to me to see that. For the children and for these teenage mothers. That's definitely a problem and that would be a big turnoff to me.

Windsor would be no different than any other community as far as substance abuse goes—it's everywhere—but I don't think it's as prevalent here as if we say in Halifax or Sackville.

The infrastructure is bad. The tax rate is high. The water, but that's been addressed or is being addressed.

I think employment is one of the main ones. There is not a lot of local employment in Windsor. . . . Getting the new school approved and built.

Trying to keep downtown. I suppose that's one of the challenges.

The land development. There is no room very very little room for the town to expand and its tax base is limited.

Keeping the hospital going.



I think finding some kind of recreation for the young people. Upgrading certain buildings like the library, the community centre. Just keeping people here in Windsor, period, and making it a place people want to come to.

Probably most of them are not municipal but health care is always a concern, education, transportation—all of these issues that are probably federal or provincial but it affects every member in our community. Recreation is a concern to try to find the right mix for all of us. Lots of people are wondering what is there for us. . . To challenge our youth and to hold onto people. I think that our greatest national export is our youth and it is a shame that they all have to leave home. It would be nice if we could have a community that could sustain more employment if they chose to stay.

I know also that when my husband and I are driving and we see a business just opening up, we joke about wondering how long it is going to be open for? It is our first comment. It's sad that we have to think that way but unfortunately, right now, Windsor as it is we do. Also, to keep the people in Windsor to shop, to support the local businesses, but it is a vicious cycle.

### Senior Group

When asked about the challenges that faced Windsor, seniors in our study spoke frequently about drug abuse, health care, employment, and taxation. They also mentioned tourism, smoking, the hospital, high school, highway, and the development of the downtown area. Examples of comments were:

One that bothers me an awful lot is the smoking of the young people and I see that as a future hazard, of course that's not just here.

Attracting new business I think. The downtown area especially . . .

I'm not really knowledgeable about, you know, problems at the school level—drugs or anything like that—but I think the big thing facing the town in my view is the tax base. Taxes are high here. Much lower in the outlying area and that makes it that much more attractive for people to build outside of town rather than move into town. I think that's a major problem as is the smaller the tax base, the higher the taxes.

Well, substance abuse is everywhere so the schools are full of it. I hear my granddaughter, you know, and I hear my adult son saying

that you can go to the corner store and pick up your drugs. It's been at the school for 10 years . . . but I think it's worse now.

Keeping the tax rate down! Haha. I'm sure that's one that if our taxes go up our, the poor town council is going to swamped with calls. Maintaining our fire department because that is a very good organization that is for our protection.

Keeping our hospital and employment for young people.

There's quite a struggle for a new library which I think they should have. . . . I would like to see some maintenance on the hospital. I would not like to see us lose our hospital. And you're probably aware that there's quite a lot of fuss over the school.

The fact that the twinning of the highway is gonna happen. I really don't think that municipal government has any plans right now for dealing with it.

How to promote tourism is one. Health care is another one. Seems to be. Not in my personal life but in others'. That's all I can think of right now.

***Are there things about the town that you would like to change? If you could change one thing about the town, what would it be?***

Respondents were asked to identify changes they would like to see during both interviews. The interview analysis also took note of any instances where the respondent noted a desire for change when responding to other questions.

Youth Group

In most cases, the youth respondents gave the same answer each time the question was asked. Generally, youth in our study spoke of a need for more activities either as part of a youth recreation centre or in terms of more businesses that offered attractive recreational activities such as coffee shops where they could socialize or a movie theatre to replace the one that was closed down. Another issue raised by 2 of the 12 youth respondents was the attitude of the Windsor as residents. These respondents saw Windsor as a bit of a closed community. Example comments include the following:

More things to do. I'm on a committee that is helping with the youth trying to get more things for them to do and get them off the streets and from corners and things that they shouldn't do. So that's what I'd like to change in Windsor. . . .A youth centre for our teenagers, to stop vandalising, and stuff. I just want more things, even more for older people. They should all be able to do more.

The town as in people or the town as a community because the community needs a more togetherness. There's too many subcultures. Too much BS going on between groups. . . . You gotta get everybody to get along somehow before you can bring anything into it because one group, one culture, or subculture, will dominate whatever comes in. If you brought in a rec. centre there would be a group dominating it somehow and then that other group would not feel that they would feel welcome there. . . . Don't put it [the rec centre] right downtown. People won't go to it right downtown. The industrial park would be a better place because it's the center of everything I guess. It's the center of the entire community. Like, if you put it right downtown, you'd just have the people that hang out downtown there. And those are the druggies . . . . I know I wouldn't want to go there if it's just going to be a bunch of drunk people and druggies and stuff. And that's what downtown is now. It's bars, pizza joints, and Tim Horton's, that's it.

I'd like to add some things, like a transportation system, like a bus system and I don't know, have a theatre again, that would be good.

Just more things that involve the community. There's not a lot of community involvement. . . . There's not a lot really at school that is unrelated to sports, it's more like soccer, basketball, things like that. Directly with the community, nothing special.

The people. There's too many negative, stupid people in this town that need to leave. Too many hopeless people that need to leave. I mean, it's a bumming thing. There's a lot of, I don't know, less fortunate people in there and it's just advertised really well in Windsor. . . . I think the people should change. But Windsor itself is a fine community.

We could do with a little less Tim Horton's and maybe throw in something else there. . . three Tim Horton's in such a small town is a little much. We could do with a little less Tim Horton's . . . I think they could throw in a couple of things like, like other like coffee shops where people could hang out, like where kids could hang out, more relaxed coffee shops. I would not want to see the smoking ban come down here too much 'cause I like the right of being able to smoke.

The attitude because it could be a little more positive, just like the fear of the influence that everybody has over everybody else kind of thing.

Well our malls, both of them. One of them basically has nothing. Oh, it has a health food store and a bank, and the other one, they do have nice little shops and stuff like that but we could use more because not a lot stays in this town: people go outside of the town to do their shopping and stuff.

I'd probably personally like a summer sports team like a summer rugby team or something to that effect. . .

I'm sure there are buildings that need to be cleaned-up and stuff like that but I think that needs to be dealt with kind of thing. . . . In the high school there is a lot of prejudice . . . so I'd try to get rid of that as much as I could. And it probably follows and applies to the rest of the community as well, but just because high school is where I am that is where I notice it.

The air quality stuff at our school.

There's a skate-park but I'd built a better one. I just think better things for kids, like more playgrounds and stuff like that.

### Middle Age Group

The middle aged respondents frequently gave different responses when these questions were asked. Some respondents had some difficulty coming up with a response until they were prompted by the interviewers. This group spoke of a desire for more services and businesses, revitalization of the downtown, general town improvements, lower taxes, and more activities for youth outside the school environment. At least one respondent also spoke about wanting to change the attitude of the Windsor. Example comments include the following:

I guess I would try to alter the spirit of the town so that people

would be more positive in participating and making things better instead of looking for reasons why things won't work. Trying to work with the people within the community to alter their spirit so that they would hop on board and help a little bit.

I would like to see something more for the children. Sportsplex type of thing, an indoor pool, good soccer fields, a rink. I would like to see the hospital put back to full capacity. They've taken some beds. Probably won't get that back. . . There's a couple of things I'd change. But if I were to change one thing I think it would be Main Street. I'd like to see Main Street revitalised. Like the way it used to be.

I would like to see it [Windsor] a little bigger. There's a hotel supposed to be coming down. I would like to see that. I'd like to see it cleaned-up a little bit. When I lived in Hantsport we always considered Windsor a little scummy, cause the welfare rate is quite high in Windsor, the unemployment rate is quite high in Windsor, there is a lot of low cost housing I would change the low cost housing, the picture I took of the building with the siding coming off. I think it gives Windsor a bad image. Small parts of town could be fixed up a little bit.

It'd be nice to see the downtown get a little more pumped back into it. There's not quite as many storefronts but there's still a few down there and it really would be nice to see them all filled. . . . with actual walk-in businesses like maybe doctor's offices or insurance companies or, maybe retail would be really nice to have down there.

Flowers, gardens, community improvement–beautification?  
Beautification is the word, where everybody can get involved.

The big thing that I have always felt that they should have is something for the young kids–for the teenagers and younger–more activities for them, because they seem to be wandering the streets a lot more than I think they should be.

Less pizza shops and hairdressing shops and Tim Horton's and more variety of something else.

I would like to see some kind of an entertainment place like a pub. We have had them before but something, that is more to my age group I guess. And because I am single. Then somewhere you can have the opportunity to meet someone maybe, that has the same interests. I would like to have somewhere that is kind of a like a

sports place kind of thing that's still involved with sports. . . . In Canning, they have a walking, hiking group together. You pay a couple of dollars or whatever and do that whenever. You don't have to go all the time. I thought that would be a nice thing to have around here. I could join there but then you are going to another community and I do try to stay in my community as much as possible . . . .

I think there's isn't a lot of things to do—indoor things—or things to do with the family together that are reasonably priced.

Well basically one of the things that I have heard about is that we are losing one of the exits to Windsor, and I'd probably like to change the mind of the people who are doing that. I would like to keep the exit. It would be nice to have some kind of a bigger drawing feature like a sportsplex or a big department store of some kind that draws other people to our community, rather than taking people from our community outside.

I don't know, probably having a bit lower taxes but we're paying for what we are getting. We demand a lot so we have to pay for that. I don't know, there's a lot that I would change. . . . I just think that the town is a very unique little place and I just think that we're very lucky to be able to live here

### Senior Group

The senior group of respondents varied in the things they mentioned when they responded to these questions. This group most commonly spoke of a desire for more services or improved ones, a new school, more business/industry, revitalization of the downtown, and lower taxes. At least one respondent also spoke about wanting to change the attitude of the Windsor residents. Example comments include the following:

The downtown. I would like to see something done with it. It could never be a big shopping thing. Other than that, I would like to see the identity of it change. To get away from it being a big business thing that's going to come back someday- that's not going to happen. But I think that if the identity was changed to be a small-shop shopping centre—little boutiques, maybe a one- or two-people business.

We need a new high school, which is coming. Probably a few more places to shop would be nice and we need more motels or whatever for the skiers that come to town and hockey players and I

think that may be in the works. I dislike seeing so many businesses closed and, but I think that will change when the 101 is twinned. Hopefully it will change. I think we just need new interest, new ideas, just to kind of keep things rolling along. To bring people to our town, I think.

The no-smoking ban kind of gets under my skin right now. I'm not a smoker but I think people have the right to smoke and I don't think that the town council has the right to say you can't smoke here, you can't smoke there. They have the right to set up a no-smoking and a smoking area but they don't have [the right to ban it]. I don't think they do. That's my opinion.

More involvement of our council.

The stores that we do have, they should leave lights on in their windows because it makes it not quite so dreary and dead looking.

I wish there was some industry here that would keep the children here, you know, young-younger people here. It'd be nice if . . . there was some more industry here. A library that we need desperately. And it would be nice if we had a, an indoor swimming pool. . . . You know there's a shortage of sidewalks but of course that's finances. . . . Everyone is walking now and our sidewalks are not that good.

I would like to see our town be a little more aggressive when it comes to commercial development. Because, as a home, property owner, the taxes are derived basically from residential properties. Which of course makes our residential taxes very high. And, you know, for people on a fixed income, that would like to stay in their own home, it makes it very difficult. If we would have more commercial development, it would give some relief to the residential tax rates.

I would change the sign on that ugly downtown mall that stands out like a sore thumb. It's [The Windsor Mall] ugly; it's not in keeping with the buildings down along that street, and so even if they put a facade up there, even just a front that had some sort of Victorian characters up, some kind or another, anything at all would be better than what is there. It is ugly. You can't get any blunter than that. And it has been, we tried to do that, but we didn't leave with scratches.

There is an attitude here, you know—people don't support things here and I would like to see that change. I think it is changing. We do have a lot to offer. . . . And I would like to have a sort of Coffee

Merchant but our antique store is serving coffee. These are important at this stage in life. So we need a coffee shop in Windsor, you know, a meeting place. And so there, it keeps people here. Keeps the money in town.

I would like to have a decent place to go out to eat, and not have to go out to Hantsport. We do not have a half-decent place here. And it is a fact. And we have people [go] to the houses and museums and they'll come back and say, don't send other people to that restaurant. So that is a major thing here. If I could change that, I would.