

## Municipality Transforms Housing Commitment into Concrete Action

St. Mary's, May 29, 2024 – In a momentous step towards addressing the ongoing housing crisis, the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's is announcing actionable measures aimed at turning its commitment to challenge the housing crisis into action. Specifically, the Municipality is requesting feedback from St. Mary's residents and businesses regarding a Neighbourhood Concept for the municipal land next to St. Mary's Education Centre/ Academy in Sherbrooke. The transformative next step of issuing a Request for Proposal for the design of a Neighbourhood Concept underscores the Municipality's dedication to ensuring that all residents have access to safe, secure, and affordable housing.

Warden Greg Wier emphasized the urgency and significance of this initiative, in November of 2023, by stating "Housing is a fundamental human right, and it is our responsibility as a Municipality to ensure that every possible policy and financial commitment is in place to accelerate residents' access to a decent and affordable place to live. Council's commitment to housing is not just about providing a roof over people's heads, but also about creating a more equitable and sustainable community for all."

Today, Warden Wier reiterates this commitment on behalf of Council by stating "We've committed to challenge the housing crisis, and now, with the community, we're excited to shift from dialogue to action. St. Mary's is ready for concrete solutions, and that's exactly what we're providing."

The new plan for a neighbourhood in St. Mary's, located next to St. Mary's Education Centre/ Academy, aims to include the construction of market and affordable housing of varying types with a central theme of health and wellness designed into the neighbourhood. Creating a new neighbourhood presents an incredible opportunity for St. Mary's that can have positive effects for generations to come. The next step in this process is requesting public feedback about the scope of the Neighbour Concept to ensure the Municipality has captured the most up to date recommendations and requests from the community. St. Mary's residents are asked to visit [saint-marys.ca/Housing](http://saint-marys.ca/Housing) to share their thoughts and ideas or to drop by the Municipal office at 8296 Highway 7, Sherbrooke for a paper copy.

Key components of this initiative include partnerships with local developers and non-profit organizations, efficient permit processes and incentives for affordable housing projects, and the allocation of over \$100,000 in municipal funds to support these efforts. This comprehensive approach aims not only to increase the availability of affordable housing but also to foster a supportive environment where all residents can thrive.

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's remains steadfast in its resolve to create a more inclusive and equitable community. By turning commitment into action, the municipality is paving the way for a brighter future where everyone has a place to call home.

**Question:** Does this mean the Municipality is building housing?

**Answer:** No, the Municipality will not be building, owning or managing any housing in the new neighbourhood. We aim to create partnerships with housing developers and nonprofit housing organizations to support their building, owning or management of housing.

**Question:** What types of housing could be in the new neighborhood?

**Answer:** At this stage of the concept, we are requesting the design as a starting point for developers who will edit and make the numbers work for a successful build. Theoretically, there could be single family dwellings, apartments, duplexes or fourplexes even tiny homes. If you are a resident of Saint Mary's and have a suggestion on housing type, visit [saint-marys.ca/housing](http://saint-marys.ca/housing) to fill in the survey.

**Question:** Why Is the Municipality reserving this land for housing and starting a neighbourhood concept design?

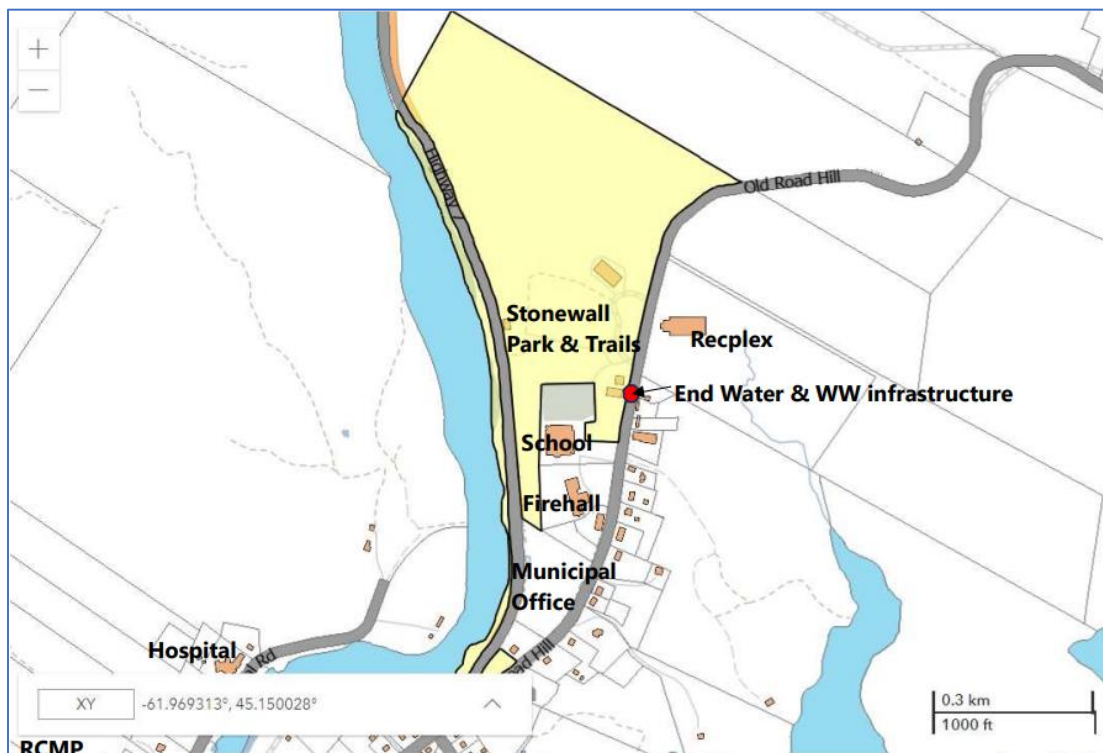
**Answer:** The Municipality owns the land and has determined that a vibrant neighbourhood could address several needs the community is facing and is the best use for this property. The location of the property is optimal due to proximity to amenities and utilities.

**Question:** How does this impact Sherbrooke?

**Answer:** The aim of Council is to design the neighbourhood with the community so that it compliments, enhances and strengthens Sherbrooke and St. Mary's as a desirable place to live, play and work.

**Question:** Why this property and location?

**Answer:** The property is owned by the Municipality, and it is near power, water and sewer. The property is located by an abundance of services such as grocery store, bank, retail, drug store, restaurants, hardware and medical services co-located with the hospital. The Property Identification Number is 37501095.



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

## Press Release

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