

# COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

## Online Workshops

The insights gathered from the Community Discussion workshops were emblematic of the comments and input gathered throughout the process.

These workshops were structured around specific subjects and allowed citizens to reflect on their comments within frameworks that resemble the key characteristics of the community and its identity; in a sense a more "real world" set of discussions.

### **Downtown Development and Key Public Lands Workshop**

This workshop focused on Meaford's downtown core and key public lands such as the waterfront, Georgian Bay, and the Georgian Trail, in recognition that these areas and lands are a focal point for economic, residential, recreational, and tourism opportunities in the Municipality.

The discussion and guided questions focused on the vision and development for these areas.

Participants lauded Meaford's downtown, noting the walkability, character, heritage, proximity to amenities, and community assets such as Market Square, Meaford Hall, the Harbour, restaurant row, the Meaford Library, and the Georgian Bay Trail as the key strengths of the downtown.

In envisioning a future for the downtown, participants stressed the need to utilize, maintain, and improve these assets.

Key ideas that were discussed included:

- urban design and streetscape improvements
- improvement of public access and connections between the downtown and the waterfront
- investment and refurbishment of vacant buildings
- preservation of heritage
- efficient use of land through prioritizing a pedestrian-oriented environment and public spaces.

In envisioning a successful downtown for the future, participants pointed to a downtown Meaford that is walkable, creative, green, while celebrating Meaford's heritage, supporting local businesses, and fostering opportunities for community events.