



Community Conversation One: Considering Amalgamation

January 25, 2025

Introductions



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Brief Presentation: Project Overview and Engagement Process
3. Feedback Stations



Housekeeping

Location logistics

- Bathrooms
- Exits
- Refreshments

Role of Facilitator

- Listen, collect, and document your feedback
- Remain neutral
- Promise to report back accurate summary

Conversation Guidelines

- Use tools available
- Build rather than repeat
- Challenge ideas, not people, stay curious
- Let me know how I can support you



Project Overview

- The municipalities of **Sundridge, Strong, and Joly** are exploring the potential benefits and challenges of amalgamation.
- This initiative aims to examine whether combining resources, governance, and services could lead to better efficiency, improved services, and long-term sustainability for all three communities.



Why It Matters

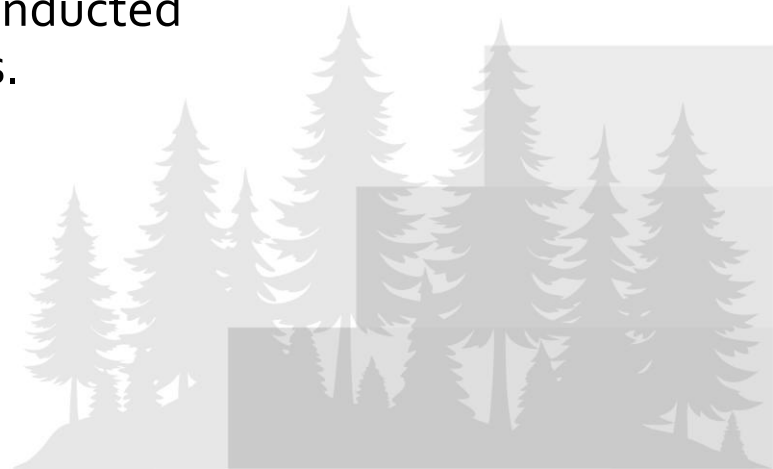
This initiative is about understanding:

- **Community Identity:**
Exploring efficiency with the unique traditions and character of each municipality.
- **Service Delivery:**
Exploring how amalgamation could impact municipal services.
- **Taxation and Costs:**
Analyzing financial impacts and ensuring transparency.
- **Representation:**
Ensuring all voices are heard and considered in this process.



History of the Project

- Since the late 1990s, discussions about amalgamation have occurred periodically.
- In 2019, the SSJ Tri-Council formed a task force to assess restructuring.
- Based on initial work, a Committee with equal representation was created.
- The Committee has conducted an inventory of resources and is developing a mock municipality model.
- An independent facilitator was hired to engage the public.
- Public engagement activities are being conducted to gather feedback, and answer questions.



Purpose of Engagement Process

- Collect initial questions, concerns, and feedback on potential impacts.
- Facilitate discussions to explore community values and perspectives.
- Inform Council decisions through engagement results.



Engagement Process

Phase 1:

Collect initial opinions on amalgamation and identify questions residents have about amalgamation.

- Activities: Community Conversation (Today), and Survey
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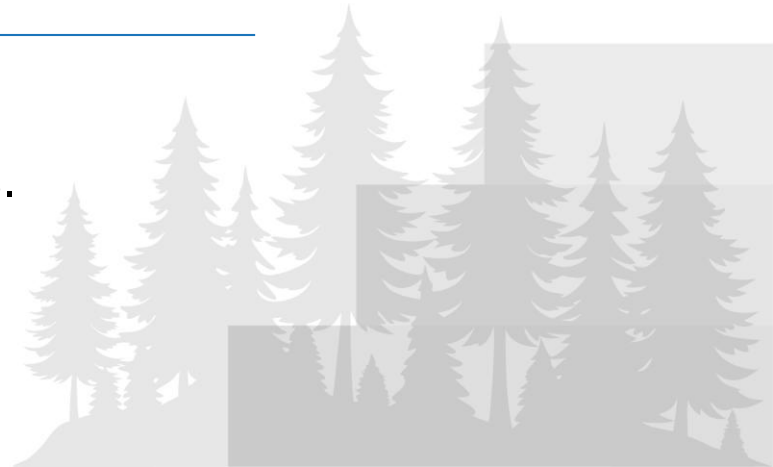
Phase 2:

Respond to community questions and explore further community perspectives on amalgamation.

- Activities: Community Conversation and Survey
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Report Back:

Summary of feedback provided to Councils.



Purpose of Today

- Share information about the amalgamation process.
- Create spaces and opportunity for you to contribute your initial thoughts and questions.
- To better understand residents' aspirations, concerns and questions on the potential of amalgamation.



We Want to Hear From You



Feedback Stations

Interactive Stations:

- **Question Wall:** Post your questions on sticky notes.
- **Benefits and Concerns Station:**
 - What benefits to you foresee?
 - What concerns do you have?
- **Community Identity Station:** Share your opinion on community identity.
- **Survey Cards:** Use QR codes to complete the online survey.



Thank You! Next Steps...

- Feedback will be analyzed to and summarized to inform next steps.
- Join us for Phase 2 in the spring, for further updates and responses to your questions.
- Stay connected: Visit the municipal websites for updates.
- Your voice matters—thank you for participating!

