

# A Rural Community for Hanwell

## Brief Background

Over the past six years, a local volunteer group, assisted by provincial staff, has studied the possibility of the local service district (LSD) of Hanwell becoming a Rural Community. A variety of factors were examined, and findings were mailed to area residents in July 2013. Currently, information sharing efforts continue across the LSD to inform residents on what a Rural Community would mean for them.

This document provides a final look at the results of the study. On December 2nd, residents qualified to vote from the affected LSD will be asked whether their LSD should become a Rural Community.

*You are encouraged to review this information as you consider the best choice for your community.*

## Study Highlights

Establishing a Rural Community would...

- ♦ allow residents to elect a local council to represent their community: Local people making local decisions for the benefit of the community;
- ♦ enable council to manage local community services on behalf of residents, including managing the budget and setting local tax rates. Currently, these tasks are carried out by provincial government staff;
- ♦ require regular council meetings be held and be open to the public;
- ♦ keep community decision-making local—focusing on issues of local importance for residents, property owners and businesses;
- ♦ create a vibrant community of 4,266 residents, which would provide the power to negotiate and collaborate with federal and provincial governments and other communities, to improve services in the community;
- ♦ help local groups in the development of their projects, like the Hanwell Community Development Association recreation park;
- ♦ increase the property tax rate from 2014 to 2017 by an annual average of 1 cent per \$100 of property assessment for home properties and by 1.6 cents per \$100 of property assessment for business properties, while it will lead to an average annual decrease of 3.3 cents per \$100 of property assessment for apartments and cottages, compared to the rates projected for Hanwell if it were to remain an LSD.

*By establishing a Rural Community, the community of Hanwell would be able to establish its own tax rate for agreed upon services; negotiate contracts for services; and could also secure grants and municipal loans to develop infrastructure and facilities, and to purchase equipment.*

## The Choice is Yours!

### Does This Proposal Affect Your Community?

*The LSD of Hanwell includes the local subdivisions of Birchwood, Brookdale, Brookdale Gardens, Somerset, Deer Wood, Starlite Village, Eaglewood, Eagle Ridge Cobblestone, Pinecrest, Tranquil Valley, Madison Heights, Tower Lake, Yoho Lake, and other roads that are not associated with a subdivision but are linked to the Hanwell Road.*

## A Few Rural Community Basics

A Rural Community (RC) is similar to a municipality. It is designed to serve rural areas by allowing them to assume the delivery of certain services. For example, if established, your RC would be responsible for planning, emergency measures, dog control, garbage collection, street lighting and recreation services. However, the province would continue to be responsible for fire protection, road maintenance, and policing services, while the RC could decide to assume these responsibilities in the future.

### Key Points of Interest...

If residents of the LSD of Hanwell vote to establish a Rural Community, it will:

- ♦ be known as Hanwell;
- ♦ be made up of 4 voting wards;
- ♦ have a mayor, and 6 councillors—one elected from each ward and two at large, to represent and serve the interests of the community;
- ♦ retain a full-time staff member, an administrator, to serve council and the community;
- ♦ keep mailing addresses and 911 services the same.

## Message from the Steering Committee Chair

"Past discussions with the community have revealed many concerns, including lack of adequate access to recreational facilities, community centres, and the absence of representation with decision making authority in the LSD of Hanwell. Members of the Steering Committee feel that it is time for the community to control its destiny, by exploring the opportunity to become a rural community for the benefit of all residents. Meetings will be held in our LSD in November and it is an important opportunity to ask your questions regarding the feasibility study and get the answers from the Steering Committee to help you make an informed decision on the future of our community. Please attend, get informed and vote on December 2nd."

More information available at [www.hanwell.nb.ca](http://www.hanwell.nb.ca) -Peter Michaud, Chair.

## Your Community - Your Choice

*A vote will be held on December 2, 2013 to determine whether the LSD of Hanwell will become a Rural Community.* The date, time and place of regular and advance polls will be mailed to you by [Elections New Brunswick](http://Elections New Brunswick). All residents, who are qualified to vote, will be asked to answer the following question:

*"Are you in favour of the establishment of the local service district of Hanwell as a rural community?"*

Support of local residents will be considered sufficient if the majority (50% + 1) of people who voted are in favour of the establishment of a rural community.

## For Additional Information

Contact:

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