



# ***Youth Perspectives on Grey County Planning: Funny but Insightful***

**CIP Generation 2019 Conference  
Ottawa  
Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Randy Scherzer and Scott Taylor**

# A Snapshot of Grey County

- Grey County has roughly 96,000 permanent residents, located approximately 2 hours northwest of Toronto.
- Four season recreational activities increases our population with seasonal residents and tourists.
- Grey County is made up of 9 municipalities, with towns, villages, and small cities, but is primarily made up of agricultural, recreational, and natural lands.
- Grey County includes large swaths of the Niagara Escarpment, Bruce Trail, Georgian Bay shoreline, and also includes Blue Mountain Resorts.
- Our Planning department includes 4 – 5 planners.



# What is Recolour Grey?

- Beginning in May 2016, Grey County began drafting a new County Official Plan, branded 'Recolour Grey'.
- From the outset staff and council were determined to do as much public consultation as possible, with an emphasis on hearing new voices, and reaching out to those under-represented in traditional planning processes.
- Going out to the community, rather than making them come to us, was a key principle of Recolour Grey.
- One of the first steps was a youth design competition to design the Recolour Grey branding.
- Throughout the entire process the public were consulted, consulted again, and re-consulted.





# Recolour Grey – by the Numbers

Between 2016 – 2018, public and stakeholder engagement included;

- **18 youth sessions at libraries, classrooms, or youth centres,**
- 13 public events attended (e.g. fairs, downtown street sales, farmers markets, etc.) with the Recolour Grey planning booth,
- 9 municipal public workshops,
- 8 speaking engagements at stakeholder group meetings,
- 5 discussion papers and 1 What We've Heard Comment Summary,
- 4 drop in public open houses,
- 3 meetings with municipal planning staff and/or municipal CAO/Clerks,
- 3 contests (logo, colouring, and photo),
- 3 Official Plan drafts,
- 2 County Council workshops,
- 2 public meetings with County Council,
- 2 provincial meetings, and
- countless phone calls, emails, social media posts, and individual meetings.



# Youth Opinions – The Fun

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?



What I would love to see in our community is more wild life and less spiders

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

A candy store ~~with~~ with hot dog stand and tables.  
with a parking lot.



# Youth Opinions – The Fun

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

w e fl e e d a k i l l e r c l o w n  
s t a r e , a t h u n d e r d o m e

N/A Response by \_\_\_\_\_  
70A # Entered in Spreadsheet  
✓ Summarized (comment chart)

Additional comments:

c a l l 1-800- [REDACTED]  
f o r a d d i t i o n a l p l a n i n g

# Youth Opinions – The Fun and Insightful

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

I would like to see youth valued. I would like to see the stereotype that all youth steal taken out of the community. I would like more youth based activities

Additional comments:

I like food ☺  
and peace

NA Response by \_\_\_\_\_

39 # Entered in Spreadsheet \_\_\_\_\_

✓ Summarized (comment chart) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional)

Sexy tater

Phone/email (optional)





# Youth Opinions – The Insightful

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

My big park (the one we designed) and the trees. I want us to have more parks and trees.

N/A Response by \_\_\_\_\_  
0914 # Entered in Spreadsheet  
✓ Summarized (comment chart)

Additional comments:

I really like our creation.

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

I like that there are lots of trails to go hiking. But I think Owen Sound needs more sport stores or more parks. Also what I would like is a trampoline park.



# Youth Opinions – The Insightful

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?  
What do you like about your community? What is missing?

That youth aren't all generalized  
as thieves/nuisances.

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?  
What do you like about your community? What is missing?

It has trees! Safe, Most communities are accepting.  
-Accessibility- Sidewalks, Curb cuts are hard to get around  
if you have any mobility issues.  
-Transportation is an issue for youth, low income.  
So that can't drive. Better voice for youth.

# Youth Opinions – The Insightful

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

I would like to see a free and open place where LGBTQ+ and Allies can be together and have a safe place to meet new people

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

family activities at a low -o cost.  
- Places for youth to learn new things.  
eg. help host a radio show.  
- Movie theater, chess, bowling alleys



# Youth Opinions – The Insightful

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

-I would like my community to have a Dairy Queen, splash pad, rec hall, and other activities for the youth.

What would you like your community to look like in the next 5, 10, or 20 years?

What do you like about your community? What is missing?

In the next few years I want to my community holding on to the true values of what I grew up knowing it to be. For example making the beach more modern but with its classic look.

I also think places for youth to go on weekends where they can hangout in a safe fun environment. That

Additional comments: doesn't have a thousand rule.

Thanks for doing this!

NA Response by \_\_\_\_\_





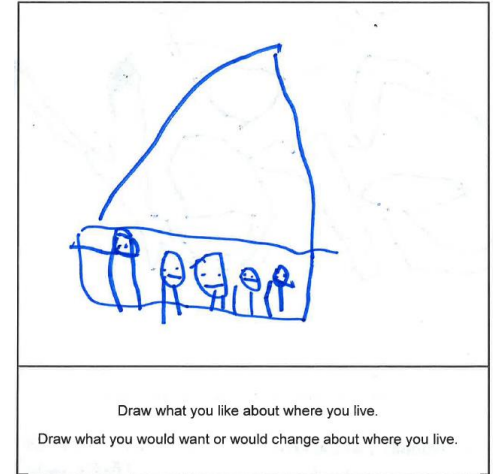
# What did the Youth Tell Us?

There were many common themes from youth across the County, including;

- Youth need to be appreciated and not stereotyped or vilified,
- More outdoor (skateparks, splashpads, or dog parks) and indoor (arcades, arenas, trampoline parks) recreational facilities are needed,
- Youth need safe spaces to hangout and meet each other,
- Parks, trails, wildlife, and natural spaces are important reasons why they love their communities,
- Additional job opportunities are needed for youth retention,
- Youth-friendly transportation methods are needed,
- Need for more shopping / restaurants in the County, and
- Youth want to be involved in our communities and are seeking ways to do so.

# How did you get Youth Input?

- ▶ Youth generally don't come to public meetings, unless dragged by their parents. Instead we tried to go out to the youth at;
  - youth centres,
  - community events,
  - classrooms / libraries,
  - live-in rehab facilities, and
  - youth festivals / conferences.
- ▶ We used LEGO® to have kids 'plan' or 're-plan' spaces in their towns.
- ▶ We also had colouring contests and 'draw your ideal community' opportunities.
- ▶ Social media did not prove effective in gaining youth input, though it was useful for other demographics.





# Planning ideas from Grey's Youth





# What did You Do with the Input?

- ▶ Many comments received were incorporated into the new Recolour Grey Official Plan, which was adopted October 25, 2018, including sections on communities, parkland, natural areas, climate change, etc.
- ▶ Some comments were outside of the purview of County Planning Staff, in most cases these comments were shared with;
  - other County departments,
  - municipalities,
  - the Health Unit,
  - agencies,
  - youth centres, or
  - social service groups with responsibility for those fields.
- ▶ In some cases comments were not able to be directly addressed i.e. we need an Old Navy or a Dairy Queen.
- ▶ This consultation has given us greater insight into youth values and opinions across our County.



## Comments / Questions

For more information on Recolour Grey please visit

[www.grey.ca/recolourgrey](http://www.grey.ca/recolourgrey)

or contact;

Randy Schezer at [Randy.Scherzer@grey.ca](mailto:Randy.Scherzer@grey.ca)

or

Scott Taylor at [Scott.Taylor@grey.ca](mailto:Scott.Taylor@grey.ca)