

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX 3 TERMS

**Community Governance:** Community governance is a community-based, collective approach to decision-making which reflects several social trends and which continues to evolve. Governance is fundamentally defined as a process as opposed to a structure or institution, which differentiates it from government. Community governance encompasses these principles and attributes:

- Decisions should be taken as close as possible to those affected by them
- Interest in public issues is not confined to government and so may be best addressed by means other than government
- Collective action works best to deal with needs in areas that have a very high priority for the community, such as the nature and quality of social, economic or cultural needs
- Local government plays an enabling role in community governance by providing much of the infrastructure and resources required by the process
- Recognizing that what is a priority to the community may be beyond the authority or proper role of local government, a community governance approach also expands intellectual and practical opportunities for addressing problems through partnerships between public, private and voluntary sectors of society<sup>1</sup>

**Stewardship:** The Seymour Local Plan states: “*Stewardship of the land*’ is the governing principle directing the future of Seymour.” A basic definition of land stewardship is the careful management and responsible use of resources to ensure that natural systems are sustained for future generations, based on a balance of economic, environmental and social values. The essence of stewardship is taking responsibility for the impact of today’s actions on the health of the land.<sup>1</sup>

**Sustainability:** Sustainability is about living and working in ways that meet and balance existing environmental, economic and social needs without compromising the well being of future generations. The United Nations-sponsored Brundtland Commission of 1987 captured widespread concerns about the global environment and poverty in its report, *Our Common Future*, which

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<sup>1</sup> McKinlay Douglas Lt. Reading Room. *Understanding Community Governance: A Paper Delivered to the Special Interest Group on Community Governance at the 1999 Local Government New Zealand Conference*. 10pp.

Tim Plumptre & John Graham. *Governance in the New Millennium: Challenges for Canada*. Ottawa: Institute on Governance. 15pp.

<sup>1</sup> The Land Stewardship Resource Centre. [www.landstewardship.org](http://www.landstewardship.org)  
Ontario Stewardship. [www.ontariostewardship.org](http://www.ontariostewardship.org)

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recognized that while economic development could not halt, it had to change course to fit within the planet's ecological limits. The report popularized the term "sustainable development," and provided its benchmark definition as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Sustainability Report. [www.sustreport.org](http://www.sustreport.org)

World Commission on the Environment and Development. *Our Common Future*. 1987