

values

Values timeline.

Date	Process
2001?	The values that were used in the bookmark were decided on. They have been reproduced in the document: “RCC Founding Vision”.
February 25 & 26, 2006	A weekend values workshop was held and out of that came the flip chart sheets which formed the basis for the next step.
March 2006	A task group appointed by the members at the workshop took the work from here. Ellen & Michele transcribed flip chart sheets from the February workshop and Angela and Stacia edited them and put them in some sort of logical order.
March 2007	The task group then brought their work back to the membership at a series of CL meetings. Minor amendments were made as a result of member input and the six values were passed unanimously (1 st & 2 nd readings March ‘07 CL meetings.).
November 2008	Tim Reeve facilitated a workshop on “re-presencing” our values. The Learning Events Committee has hired him to write up a report as a basis for future action.
January 2009	Allan Franks will facilitate a values workshop to help us move towards using values as a template for our long-term goals as well as budget planning.

Follow-up to VISION 2020

At the conclusion of the VISION 2020 Workshop:

- Marje volunteered to type up the ideas that had been recorded on all the big sheets of paper.
- Jane & Sharon & Ron & Sean agreed to take on the task of reviewing the ideas from the day and then suggesting what steps should come next.
- It was decided that Jane & Sharon would focus on the “internal” concerns and Ron & Sean would focus on the “external” (based on how the ideas were grouped on the sheets into two categories).
- Sharon & Jane met February 26th and suggest that a good start would be to:
 1. Integrate the input from VISION 2020 into our currently adopted values.
 2. Ensure that the subsequent revised values are clear and specific.
 3. Identify do-able, practical steps that can be taken to realize both our vision and values.
 4. Work out a reasonable timeline with do-able processes that keep the vision alive.

WHAT COHO HAS DONE SO FAR (up to and including VISION 2020):

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NEXT STEPS (NOTE: Start by sharing the following suggestions with members (at CL)):

1. Create a small task group (3-4 people) to take the work that Tim Reeves did with us and integrate the new ideas into our existing values. Ask for skilled volunteers.
2. Rewrite the values to include the new additions
3. Present the revised values to Community Living for discussion, input and approval.
4. Once we have a set of agreed, revised values, ask each committee to do four things:
 - a. To identify actions that they could take or are currently taking that reflect our community values.
 - b. To also review the ideas that were generated at the VISION 2020 workshop
 - c. To identify actions and visions from both the values and VISION 2020 that relate to their committee's mandate and then prioritize them.
 - d. To create a suggested action plan and timeline for their committee (including the next ten years) to take to back to the community as a whole for further input.
5. Ask the Learning Events Committee to host a meeting of the whole community
 - a. to offer input
 - b. to prioritize both values and suggested actions.
 - c. to develop a do-able timeline for all actions – including all committee suggestions.
 - d. to ascertain genuine buy-in and commitment from all members.

RCC FOUNDING VISION

NOTE: *These values, vision and intentions were crafted and agreed upon by the founding members. They were the groundwork for the subsequent decisions that followed.*

OUR VALUES:

- Decisions will be made by consensus.
- Diversity will be encouraged with respect for and celebration of differences.
- Pets will be permitted as long as there is a limited number and owners are considerate to the community and the impact on the property.
- The community will be environmentally friendly by not using chemical fertilizers, pesticides, chemical cleaning products, wood stoves or dirt bikes.
- Priorities include diversity, respect, safety, health, aesthetics, friendship, quiet and peace.

OUR VISION:

- To work together to create a multi-generational community of varying race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, ability and financial status where residents as well as the natural environment will thrive.

OUR INTENTION:

- To support each other, share resources and strive to be stewards of the land and live in harmony with the larger community.

Consensus Decision Making

VALUE: We value using the consensus process to enhance community decision making.

STATEMENT: We recognize that the Consensus process is the quest for the highest shared perception of what is best for the group. The consensus process is a creative practice weaving together an agreement out of different perspectives, concerns and understandings present in the meeting. By following a specific process everyone is given the opportunity to present their opinion or input so that it is heard by the group.

Behaviours and actions that support a consensus decision making process:

- Commitment to the time and skills required to use consensus.
- Coming to meetings prepared and informed about the decision to be made.
- Listening, spending twice as much time in silence as speaking.
- Clear agendas
- Effective facilitation (chairing)
- Using a speakers list .
- Trusting the wisdom of the group
- Willingness to co-operate.
- Trust in committee decisions.
- Respecting the care, integrity and wisdom that has been put into the decision making process.
- Showing a willingness to 'let go'.

Please refer to the section on Making Decisions by Consensus

Diversity And Acceptance

VALUES: We value diversity:

STATEMENT: We respect the freedom of each person to live as he/she chooses, so long as that doesn't interfere with others in the community to do the same. We respect diversity in ideology, spirituality, interests, talents, beliefs, opinions, race, age and income. We welcome expressions of that diversity.

We recognize (assume) that we are all flawed and perfect human beings and that we have an intention to create an environment that accommodates and celebrates a diverse range of personal needs and values

Behaviours and actions that support acceptance of diverse values and needs.

- Supporting all family structures within the community.
- Keeping the awareness alive that our tendency to be right is always present.
- Acknowledging that personal core values and beliefs may not be held by others in the community.
- Acknowledging and taking responsibility for our own personal interpretation of situations.
- Providing opportunities for each other to express our personal opinions, beliefs and values without judgment.
- Being clear about our own motivations, needs and values and 'unfinished' business.
- When challenged by diversity we will attempt to apply tolerance and wisdom to the situation.

Interconnection and Relationship

VALUES: We value our interconnectedness, relationships and privacy.

STATEMENT: Recognizing that interconnectedness and authentic relationships foster a sense of community, belonging, friendship, safety and love our intention is to encourage positive connections while honouring personal privacy.

Behaviours and actions that support interconnectedness, authentic relationship and privacy.

- Challenging ourselves and the community to live our values.
- Supporting each other through times of joy and grief.
- Expressing appreciation.
- Respecting personal boundaries.
- Respecting individual and community property.
- Recognizing that what we perceive outside ourselves often mirrors what's inside ourselves. Committing to look at these elements within before expressing as criticism or irritation of others.
- Taking personal responsibility for our feelings and how we react to the words and actions of others.
- Taking personal responsibility for getting our own needs met, not expecting/assuming that others in the community will do it for us.
- Using clear, open and honest communication.
- Talking to people rather than about them.
- Dealing with issues face to face not via email.
- Addressing concerns and issues in a timely and respectful way.
- Using our community's conflict resolution guidelines.
- Asking for the support of advocacy or mediation when conflicts or issues arise.

Learning and Play

VALUES: We value Lifelong Learning, celebration and play:

STATEMENT: Our vision is of community that encourages learning, celebration and play in order to foster understanding, personal growth and a vital community. We believe that celebrating joy and acknowledging grief/sadness are authentic expressions of our life together. We believe that our personal growth increases our contribution to our community and the world.

Behaviours and actions that support learning, celebration and play.

- Eating together.
- Having fun together.
- Laughing together.
- Dancing together.
- Working together.
- Nurturing our children.
- Sharing our unique, creative talents with each other.
- Opening meetings with check-ins and grounding/spiritual exercises.
- Being willing to share personal spiritual practices.
- Making the common space available for education, celebration, play and spiritual practices.
- Creating meaningful community rituals together.

Participation and Contribution

VALUES: We value Participation and Contribution in our community:

STATEMENT: We recognize that to sustain our community contribution/participation is required by community members and that we have diverse abilities to contribute to the community.

We ask each other to honour the vision of active participation and celebrate the unique contribution of each one. We also ask that at times we put our own personal needs to the side and make what we are co creating as a community a priority. We acknowledge and honour individuals need to withdraw from the community when necessary. We endeavour to incorporate fun and play into our participation whenever possible.

Behaviours and actions that support participation and contribution.

- Individually acknowledging and being thankful for the unique contributions, seen and unseen, of each one.
- Being generous with our time, skills and resources.
- Willingness to speak up when we see a need.
- Willingness to take initiative on the basis of our own unique contribution, what we love to do and offering it.
- Willing to do the work to bring things to fruition.
- Making time in community life for sharing circles and deeper discussion.
- Acknowledging that contribution begins from the inside with an intention to support what we are co-creating together.
- Incorporating play and fun in our contributions and co creation.
- Celebrate our contributions.
- Speaking up when we have reached our limit.

Ecology and Our Environment

VALUES: We value protecting and enhancing our natural environment and also see threats to its health as worthy of our community's attention and action.

STATEMENT: "Stewardship" of our natural environment is a key value that we wish to see reflected in our daily life both in our own homes and in our common spaces.

BEHAVIORS AND ACTIONS:

- Increasing our members' awareness of ecological and environmental issues and how they manifest in our local lives.
- Ensuring that RCC bylaws and rules and regulations support a healthier environment
- Growing our own food.
- Managing our wastes (garbage, sewer, runoff) to best reduce negative impacts. This includes recycling, composting and reducing wastes.
- Encouraging the use of non-polluting products and processes amongst members.
- Encouraging communal meals to reduce wasting both food and fuel (gas & electricity).
- Encouraging the purchase of food that is locally and organically produced.
- Participating in local efforts to improve the health of the environment.
- Encouraging interdependent car usage (shared rides to ferries and such).
- Encouraging indigenous plantings that support natural wildlife.
- Encouraging cats to be kept indoors at dawn and dusk to protect birds.