

## **Spryfield Community Meeting**

The Spryfield community meeting on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> was a great success. The meeting was an opportunity for the Action for Neighbourhood Change staff to report back to the community on what has been learned and heard over the past 6 months. More importantly, the meeting was the beginning of the next stage for Action: creating interest and enthusiasm with the residents to start crafting a vision for their community. Over 50 residents participated in the Saturday meeting. They were predominately from Spryfield, and they brought energy and creative ideas to Action.

There were seven themes that the meeting centered around. These included Our Recreation and Leisure, Our Income and Employment, Our Education and Literacy, Our Culture and Image, Our Community Network, Our Housing and Development, and Our Natural Environment.

Peter Mortimer along with Marjorie Willison gave an excellent introduction on each theme. The meeting was conducted using a blend of an open space and world café styles which allowed the participants to discuss particular themes as a group or to roam around and provide input where needed. The groups did not seem to

disperse as frequently as anticipated, instead residents seemed to focus on one theme and spent time discussing ideas with other neighbours.

Connections were made, ideas were shared, and groups were formed.

As the talks were winding down sign up sheets were filled out by the individuals who were interested in future meetings on their chosen theme. 25 people signed up. For the next three months, Action will provide support to these 25 residents as they start meeting as a team to craft a vision for their theme of interest. In the spring, the Action team is planning on re-convening the residents to formalize their vision for the community.

Saturday's event was covered by both the Daily News and The Coast.

Well done everyone.

*"I don't usually come out to meetings and I was hesitant about how I would feel about today. But now that I've had a chance to chat with other residents around the theme of Spryfield's image, I'm keen to do more." Resident*

Prepared by Christina Carter