

Community Questionnaire: Results and Analysis

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ALGONQUIN

ONTARIO, CANADA



Background

In July 2007 the Township of South Algonquin formally commenced the process of creating its first-ever official plan. Once adopted, this plan will outline land use policies for all areas of South Algonquin over which the Township has planning authority. An official plan usually spans a time horizon of 20 years or more and deals mainly with issues such as where new housing, industry, and shops will go and what services like roads, parks and schools will be needed in the future.

At the invitation of the South Algonquin Township council, Professor Christopher Fullerton, who is employed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Brock University, has taken the lead role for this project. Since the project began, Professor Fullerton has been working with several Brock University Geography students to compile as much community input as possible in order to ensure that South Algonquin's official plan reflects to the greatest extent possible the values, goals and objectives of the Township's residents. Accordingly, several public meetings and workshops were held between January and October 2008. A survey questionnaire was also made available for completion by the Township's year-round and seasonal residents between February and September 2008.

The results of this extensive effort to collect public input and other forms of data regarding matters of relevance to the future planning and development of South Algonquin are documented in a series of reports, including:

- the *Township of South Algonquin Community Profile* (January 2008);
- a *Preliminary Issues Report* (January 2008);
- a *Community Meetings and Workshops Summary Report* (December 2008);
- a *Community Questionnaire Results and Analysis Report* (January 2009); and,
- a *Youth Integrated Planning Assessment Report* (January 2009).

These reports have been prepared as a collaborative effort by Christopher Fullerton and the following project team members:

- Tyler Collins (December 2007-March 2008)

- Amanda D'Agostino (October 2008-Present)
- Alicia Davidson (October 2007-August 2008)
- Dan Della Mora (October 2008-Present)
- Sara Epp (October 2007-April 2008)
- Hillary Even (October 2008-Present)
- Erin Heibein (October 2007-April 2008)
- Courtney Heron-Monk (October 2008-Present)
- Tiffany Onesi (October 2007-August 2008)
- Samantha Papadacos (October 2007-April 2008)

The official plan is slated for presentation to the Township of South Algonquin Council for approval by mid-2010. Questions, comments or any other input concerning the formulation of the official plan may be directed to: **Professor Christopher Fullerton, Department of Geography, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON, L2S 3A1. (Email: chris.fullerton@brocku.ca; Telephone: (905) 688-5550, ext. 3487)**

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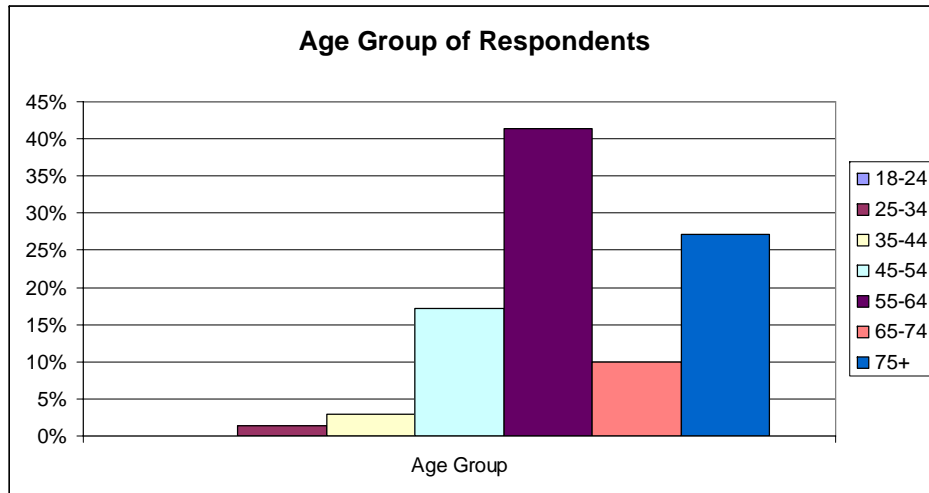
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Introduction

This report examines the results of a survey conducted between January and October 2008, in which South Algonquin residents were asked to provide their input regarding several land use planning and community economic development issues of relevance to the Township and its people. The primary intent of the survey was to solicit participants' perspectives and concerns in order that they may be considered when the project team begins the process of proposing potential land use planning policies for South Algonquin's first-ever official plan, which is expected to be ready for adoption sometime in 2010. The survey also gave the respondents the opportunity to express any needs or concerns that residents may have regarding any specific topic mentioned in the survey. A total of 72 respondents submitted completed questionnaires; together, these provided the project team with a strong sense of what local residents' feelings are towards specific land use planning and community economic development issues.

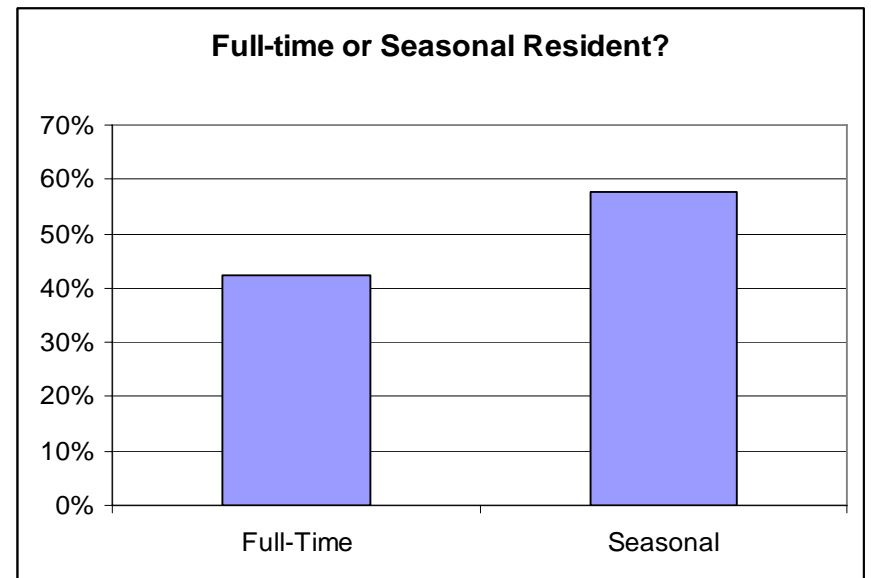


Respondents Relation to South Algonquin and Basic Demographics

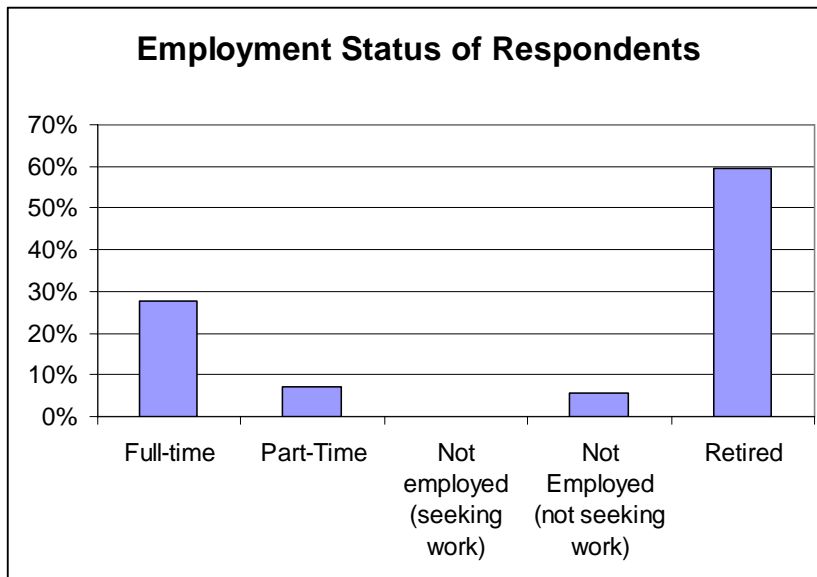
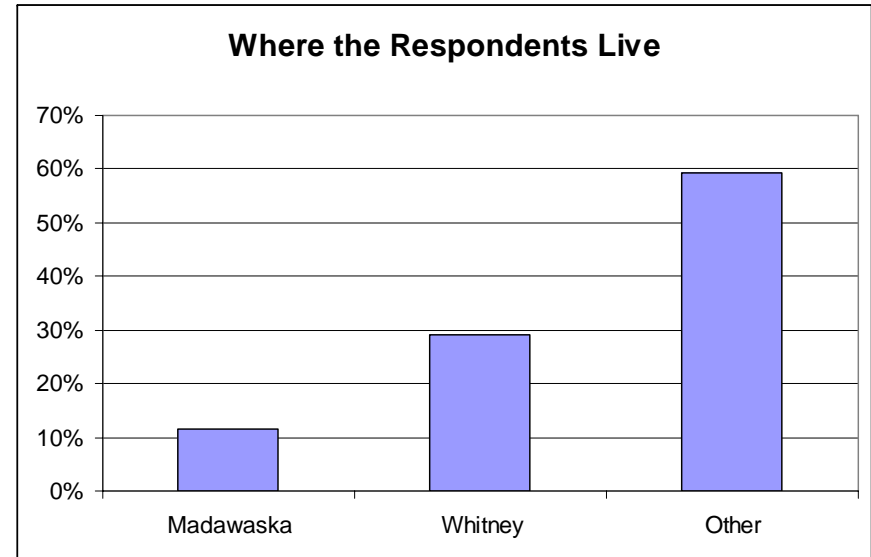


Survey participants' ages ranged from 25 to over 75 years of age. Most respondents were aged between 55 and 64. By receiving information from residents in a wide range of age groups, it was possible to obtain a more complete understanding of the feelings and concerns of South Algonquin residents.

All residents of South Algonquin, including both full-time and seasonal residents, were invited to take part in the questionnaire survey. Overall, the results show that both groups actively participated, 58% of the respondents being seasonal residents and 42% being full-time residents.



The breakdown of the survey results shows that 59% of the respondents lived in rural areas of South Algonquin Township, while 29% lived in Whitney and 12% lived in Madawaska.



To gain a comprehensive understanding of the basic demographics of the respondents, questions were asked about employment status. Overall, the majority of the respondents were either retired or full-time employees.

Living in South Algonquin

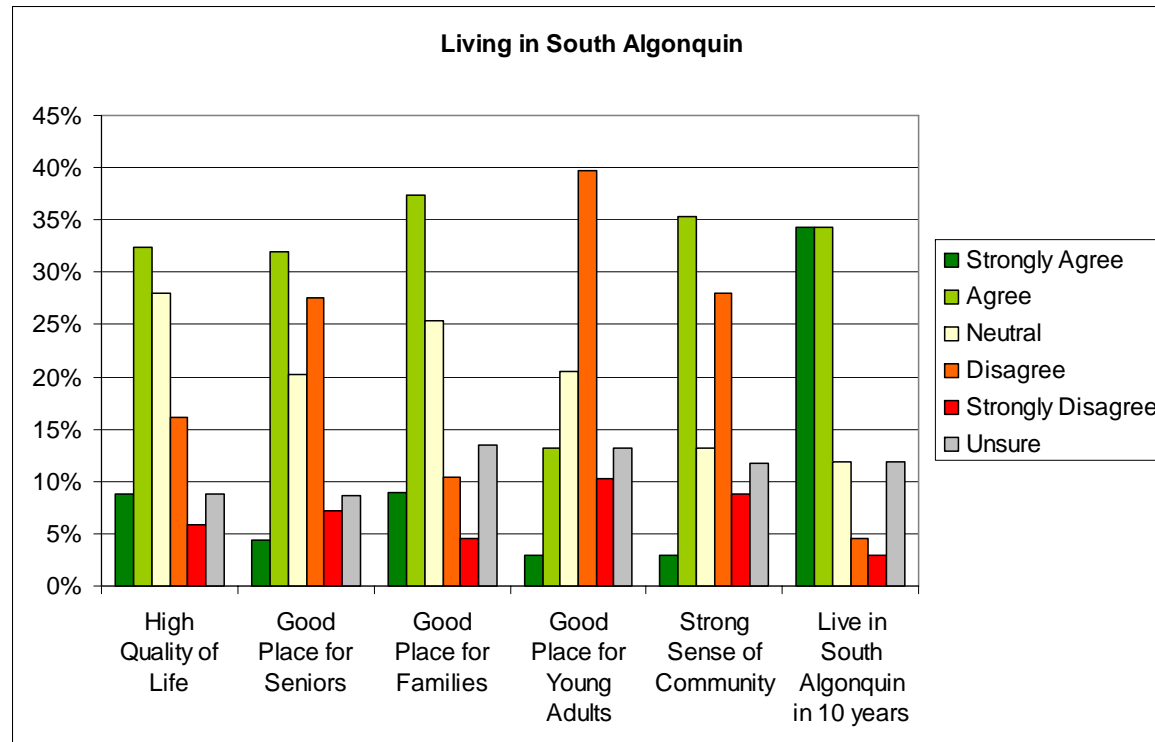
	High Quality of Life	Good Place for Seniors	Good Place for Families	Good Place for Young Adults	Strong Sense of Community	Living in South Algonquin in 10 years
Strongly Agree	9%	4%	9%	3%	3%	34%
Agree	32%	32%	37%	13%	35%	34%
Neutral	28%	20%	25%	21%	13%	12%
Disagree	16%	28%	10%	40%	28%	4%
Strongly Disagree	6%	7%	4%	10%	9%	3%
Unsure	9%	9%	13%	13%	12%	12%

Survey Results

Based on the data shown in the above chart, opinions about the quality of life in South Algonquin varied significantly. Only 16% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that South Algonquin is a good place for young adults, 36% either agreed or strongly agreed that South Algonquin is a good place for seniors, and 46% felt this way about South Algonquin as a good place for families. The results show that there is no unanimous consensus that South Algonquin is a good place for seniors, young adults or families; however, it should be noted that, on average, 22% of respondents felt “neutral” about all three questions asked. In regards to quality of life, 41% of the respondents agreed that the residents of South Algonquin enjoy a high quality of life, compared to the 22% who feel that there is not a high quality of life. The broadest range of results in this section dealt with sense of community, and whether South Algonquin possesses a strong sense of community. Thirty-eight percent of respondents agreed that there was a strong sense of community in the Township, whereas 37% disagreed. The most unanimous agreement was that 68% of respondents agreed that they would like to be living in South Algonquin ten years from now.

Additional Comments

Numerous comments were added to this section of the questionnaire by survey participants, many of which served as explanations as for why respondents made their particular choices when answering the survey questions. The bulk of comments centered on themes such as opportunities for young adults, opportunities for young families, and care for seniors. For example, many respondents felt that there are not enough opportunities for young adults in the Township. Some expressed their concern with what they felt was a lack of modern amenities, recreational services, and educational opportunities. In the case of younger families, many felt that the amenities needed by families are not sufficiently available in South Algonquin, thus resulting in the need to travel elsewhere to find them. While issues such as these were repeatedly mentioned throughout the completed questionnaires, the most common topic of discussion was the adequacy of care for seniors residing in the Township. Many respondents felt that South Algonquin is only a good place for seniors to live if they are healthy. The lack of a medical care facility, senior’s building, or even a retirement home were all voiced in the comments that were made. The lack of personal mobility for seniors was another issue raised, as was the impact of the lack of facilities on social relationships among seniors.



Quality of Municipal Services in South Algonquin

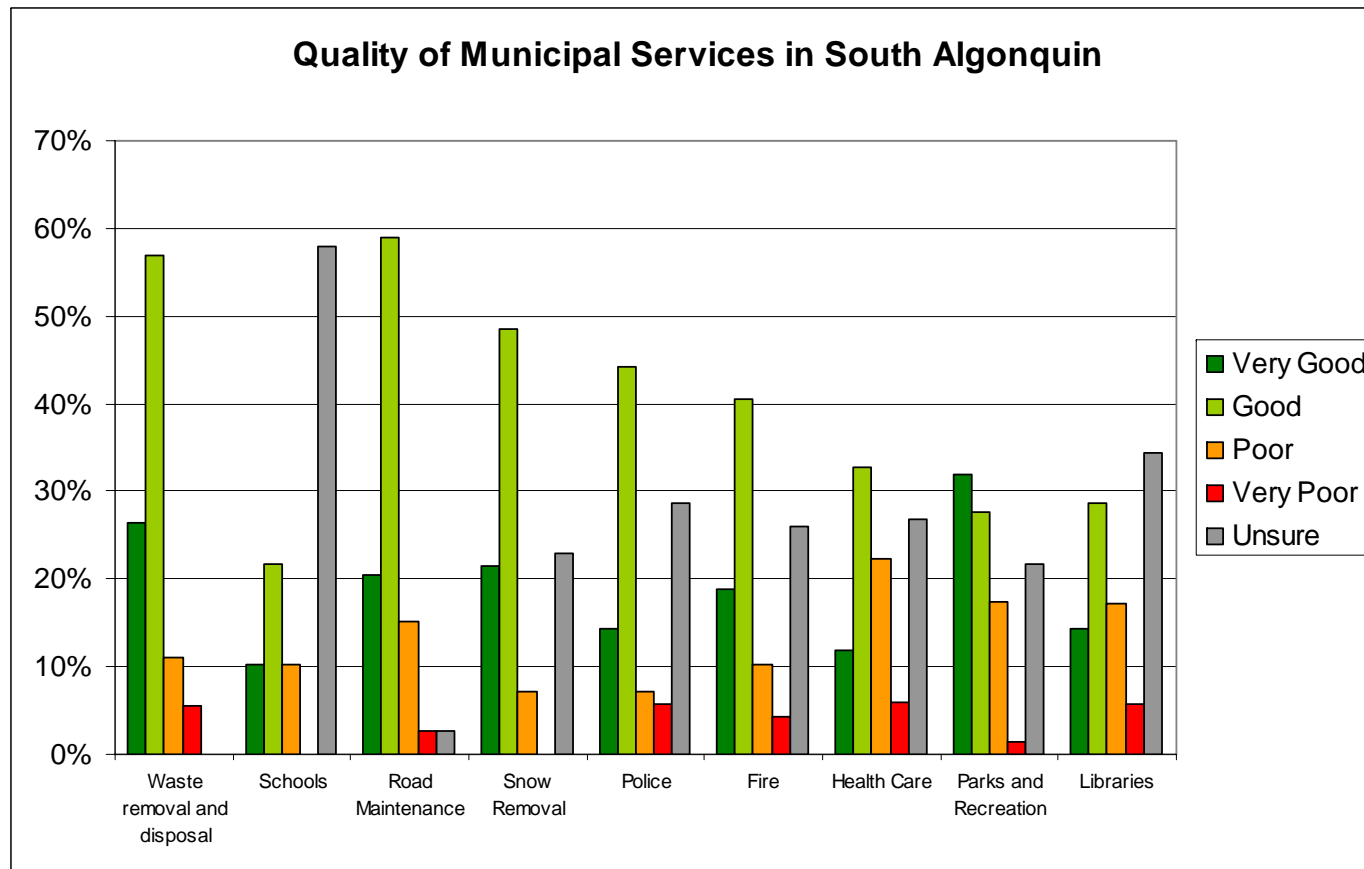
	Waste Removal and Disposal	Schools	Road Maintenance	Snow Removal	Police	Fire	Health-care	Parks and Recreation	Libraries
Very Good	26%	10%	21%	21%	14%	19%	12%	32%	14%
Good	57%	22%	59%	49%	44%	41%	33%	28%	29%
Poor	11%	10%	15%	7%	7%	10%	22%	17%	17%
Very Poor	6%	0%	3%	0%	6%	4%	6%	1%	6%
Unsure	0%	58%	3%	23%	29%	26%	27%	22%	34%

Survey Results

The data collected regarding perceptions of the quality of municipal services show that there is widespread agreement that waste removal and disposal is categorized as either ‘good’ or ‘very good’ (83% of respondents). Eighty percent of those surveyed felt that road maintenance was of good or very good service quality in South Algonquin, as did 70% of participants when asked about snow removal. Similar results were also found regarding policing and fire protective services; 58% felt that the police services (provided by the Ontario Provincial Police) were either good or very good, and 60% felt the same about the South Algonquin Fire Department. Interestingly, while the majority of respondents (45%) found health care services to be good or very good, 28% felt it was either poor or very poor, and 27% were unsure. This statistic does not show an overwhelming amount of support in a very crucial area of municipal services. Sixty percent felt that parks and recreational services were of good or very good qualities, where libraries had 43% positive feedback, and 34% claiming they were unsure. Schools showed the largest percentage of ‘unknown’ in this category (58%), where only 32% of respondents felt that the quality of schooling in South Algonquin was either good (22%) or very good (10%).

Additional Comments

Based on the provided comments, there were clear themes in the concerns that were voiced. Some respondents were concerned with the lack of proper medical facilities in the area, with the closest being located in Barry’s Bay, and the fact that, if special treatment is needed, one must travel long distances to seek medical care. Some felt that certain roads needed to be maintained more frequently, whether it mean paving, ploughing, or issues with gravel roads being torn up. The most commonly occurring theme was the need to expand the Township’s waste removal services to include recycling. Frequent comments were made throughout the completed surveys that expressed the desire to introduce some form of recycling program for Township households. The promotion of sustainability and proper waste management practices is a growing concern; even though the data show 83% of respondents to have felt waste removal services to be either good or very good, there is an obvious concern and call for action to implement recycling in South Algonquin.



Variety of Retail Services in South Algonquin

	Financial Services	Restaurants	Grocery Stores	Entertainment	Home and Auto Repair	Tele-communications
Very Good	3%	7%	10%	1%	6%	3%
Good	18%	39%	41%	6%	23%	24%
Poor	34%	35%	32%	30%	34%	38%
Very Poor	28%	13%	15%	40%	14%	21%
Unsure	17%	6%	1%	23%	23%	14%

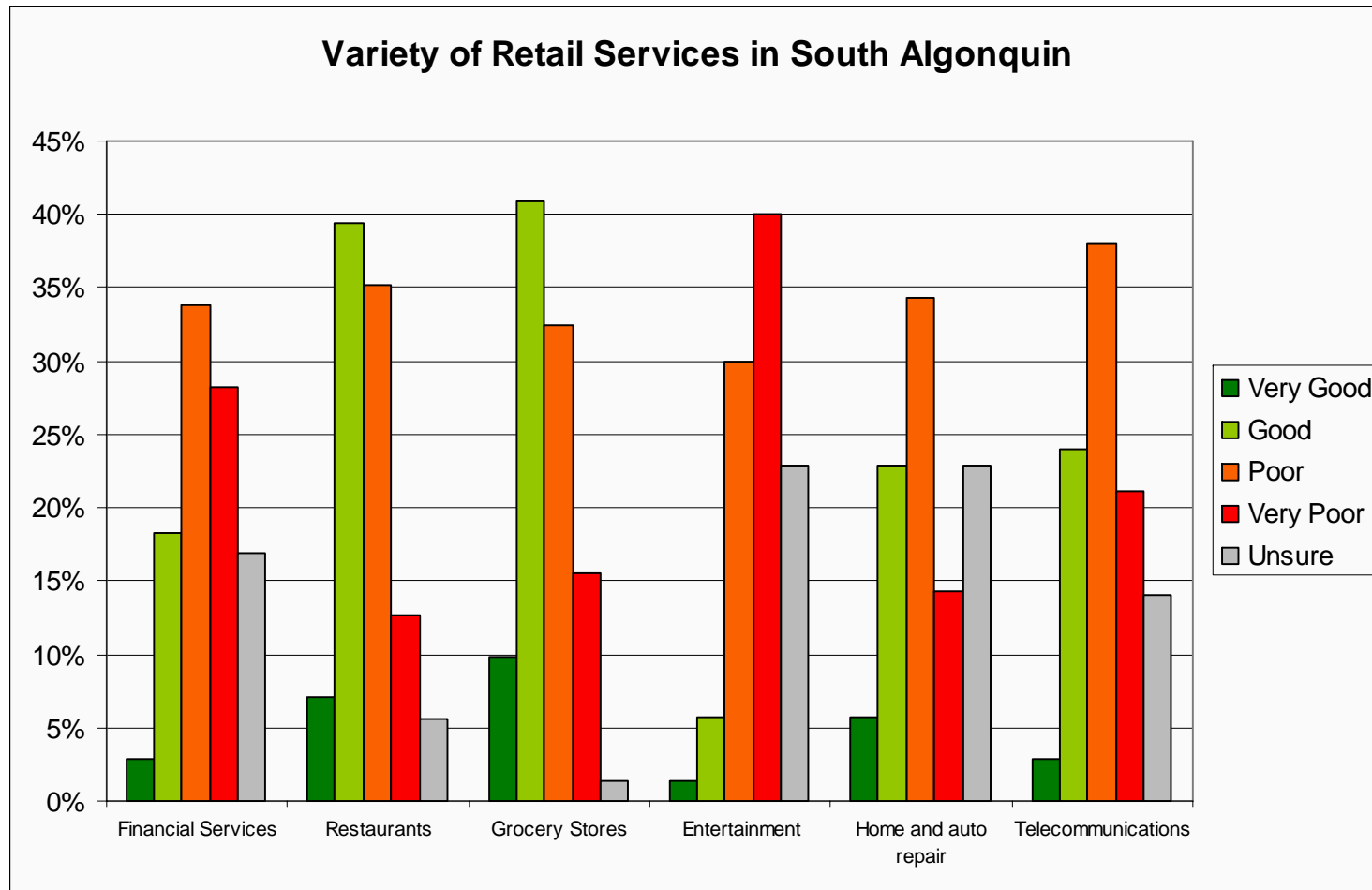
Survey Results

In this section, the data collected and analyzed show the respondents to be almost evenly divided in their opinions about the variety of restaurants (46% good or very good, 48% poor to very poor) and grocery stores (51% good or very good, 47% poor or very poor) available within South Algonquin. There is no real consensus that either depicts positive or negative feedback on these two issues. The variety of home and auto repair (48%) and telecommunication services (59%) were most commonly viewed as being poor or very poor. In terms of financial services, 62% of respondents felt that the variety offered was poor or very poor and only 21% felt the services to be good or very good. The most generally agreed upon issue was that of the entertainment services provided in South Algonquin. Seventy percent of those surveyed felt that the variety of entertainment services in the Township was either poor or very poor, with 23% being unsure; only 7% felt it was good (6%) or very good (1%).

Additional Comments

Many of the comments pointed to the loss of the TD Bank in Whitney as a reason why the quality of financial services is so poor in South Algonquin. There is expressed concern to have financial services readily available, including the suggestion of a 24-hour ATM machine. Many of the respondents feel that a lot of their retail needs have to be met elsewhere due to the fact that the availability of retail services in South Algonquin is so limited. Complaints about telecommunications were another commonly occurring theme among the written comments, including the lack of high-speed internet. Based on the comments, it seems that beyond the most basic

goods and services, South Algonquin's source for retail services is in areas such as Barry's Bay, Bancroft, or Huntsville, and sometimes even further to places such as Peterborough or Ottawa. One suggestion that, if pursued, could promote local economic development and also serve as a viable tourist attraction, was the creation of a local farmer's market in South Algonquin.



The Future of South Algonquin

	Beautify Whitney	Beautify Madawaska	Promote Tourism Development	Promote Industrial Development	Promote Retail Development	Direct new development to Whitney and Madawaska	Tighter controls on local property
Strongly Agree	28%	25%	29%	18%	15%	17%	18%
Agree	28%	35%	33%	29%	51%	44%	31%
Neutral	22%	17%	17%	19%	24%	20%	15%
Disagree	11%	11%	11%	17%	6%	8%	21%
Strongly Disagree	10%	10%	7%	15%	3%	7%	14%
Unsure	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	4%	1%
	Ensure land use activities on properties located near one another are compatible	Provide affordable housing	Retail services available meet the needs of residents	Over time, install sidewalks on all streets	Development of a traditional downtown setting in Whitney would make the area more attractive to live/visit	Allow rural landowners to sever their properties into smaller lots	Allow further creation of cottage lot development
Strongly Agree	38%	14%	4%	3%	19%	20%	17%
Agree	45%	30%	17%	15%	30%	43%	24%
Neutral	10%	28%	13%	22%	24%	6%	7%
Disagree	4%	7%	38%	19%	14%	16%	19%
Strongly Disagree	3%	14%	17%	32%	10%	7%	21%
Unsure	0%	7%	10%	8%	3%	9%	11%

Survey Results

The data show an almost identical consensus (56% for Whitney and 60% for Madawaska) on agreeing to beautify the towns of Whitney and Madawaska, while in both cases 21% of participants either disagreed or strongly disagreed. The majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the promotion of tourism development (62%), promotion of industrial development (47%) and promotion of retail development (66%). 61% of those surveyed agreed with the need to direct new development to both Whitney and Madawaska, only 15% either disagreed or strongly disagreed. While the quality of retail services has already been explored, only 21% of residents felt that the retail services in South Algonquin was meeting their needs; 55% felt their retail needs were not being met.

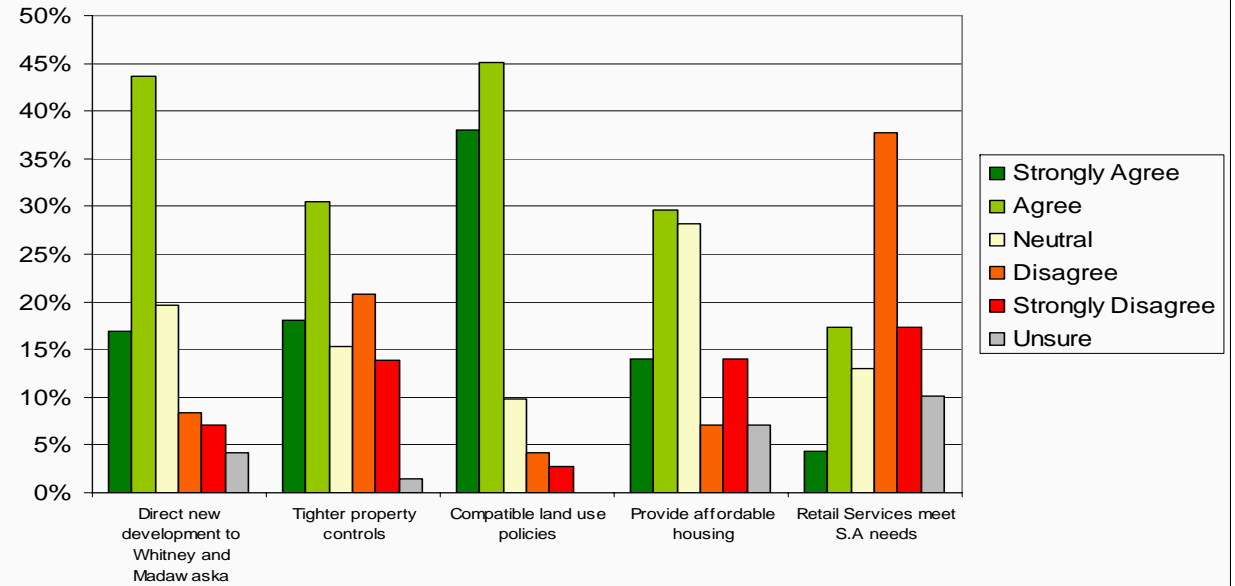
When examining land use and lot development, 63% either agreed or strongly agreed that landowners should be allowed to sever their properties into smaller lots. At the same time, 49% felt that there should be a need to place tighter controls on what local property owners can and cannot build on their land; 35% disagreed or strongly disagreed that tighter controls are needed. The strongest agreement of respondents in this section found 83% of residents agreed or strongly agreed with the ensuring of land use activities located near one another are compatible with each other. 41% of respondents felt that the further creation of cottage lot development should be allowed, where quite contrastingly 40% either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Fifty-one percent of those who took part in the survey either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the idea to install sidewalks on all streets in Madawaska and Whitney over time. The notion of small-town urban design in Whitney was a topic, where 49% believed that the development of a traditional downtown setting in Whitney would make South Algonquin a more attractive place to live or visit. The question of whether the Township should pursue the construction of affordable housing saw 44% of people agreeing with this idea; conversely, 21% disagreed and 28% were neutral on this topic.

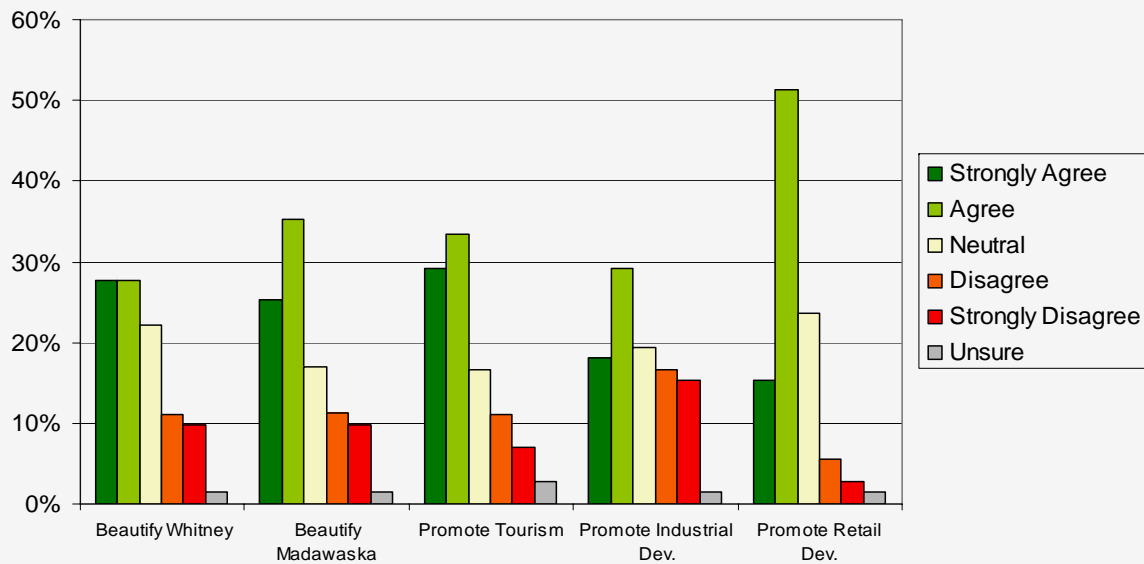
Additional Comments

The individual comments made in this section were very diverse with many different needs being addressed. There was a common suggestion made throughout that encouraged retail and other growth to occur in Whitney and Madawaska. While some had mentioned the idea of building along the highway, the issue of Crown Land becomes an important factor. One suggestion had putting sidewalks along the side of the highway, unlike that of the question asked, which was putting sidewalks on all streets in Madawaska and Whitney.

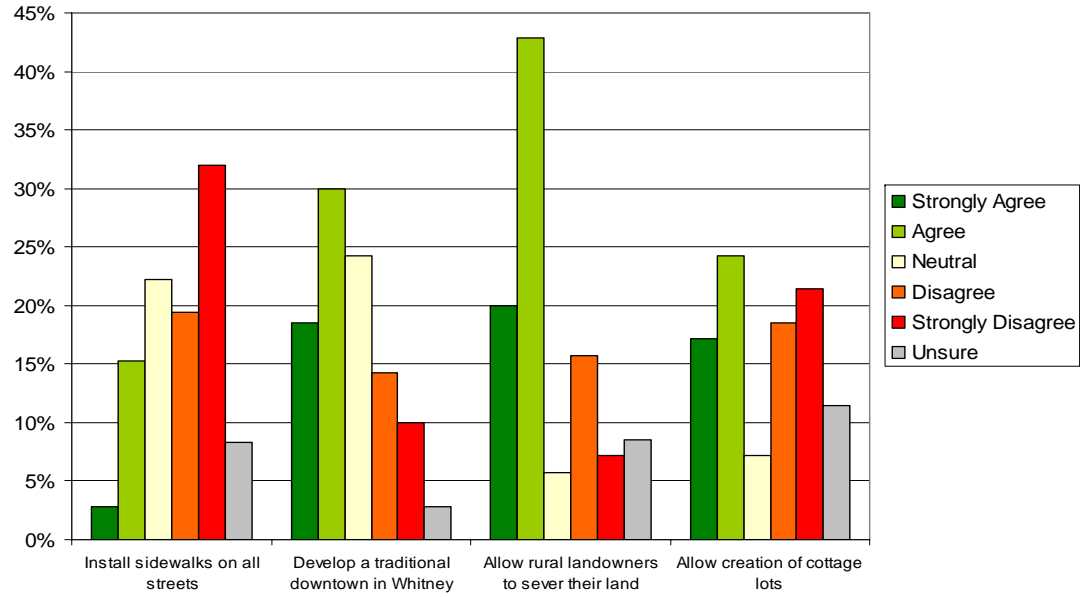
The Future of South Algonquin



The Future of South Algonquin



The Future of South Algonquin



Settlement Design

	Appropriate scale for buildings	Natural materials in fencing	Preserve existing vegetation, topography, views and watercourses in Whitney and Madawaska	The planting of trees and shrubs should be encouraged in Whitney and Madawaska	Restrictions on parking lot sizes	A greater effort to integrate signage into the land and architecture
Strongly Agree	43%	24%	59%	52%	24%	32%
Agree	49%	53%	34%	39%	27%	38%
Neutral	3%	13%	1%	4%	28%	19%
Disagree	0%	4%	1%	3%	10%	4%
Strongly Disagree	3%	3%	3%	1%	6%	1%
Unsure	3%	3%	1%	0%	6%	4%

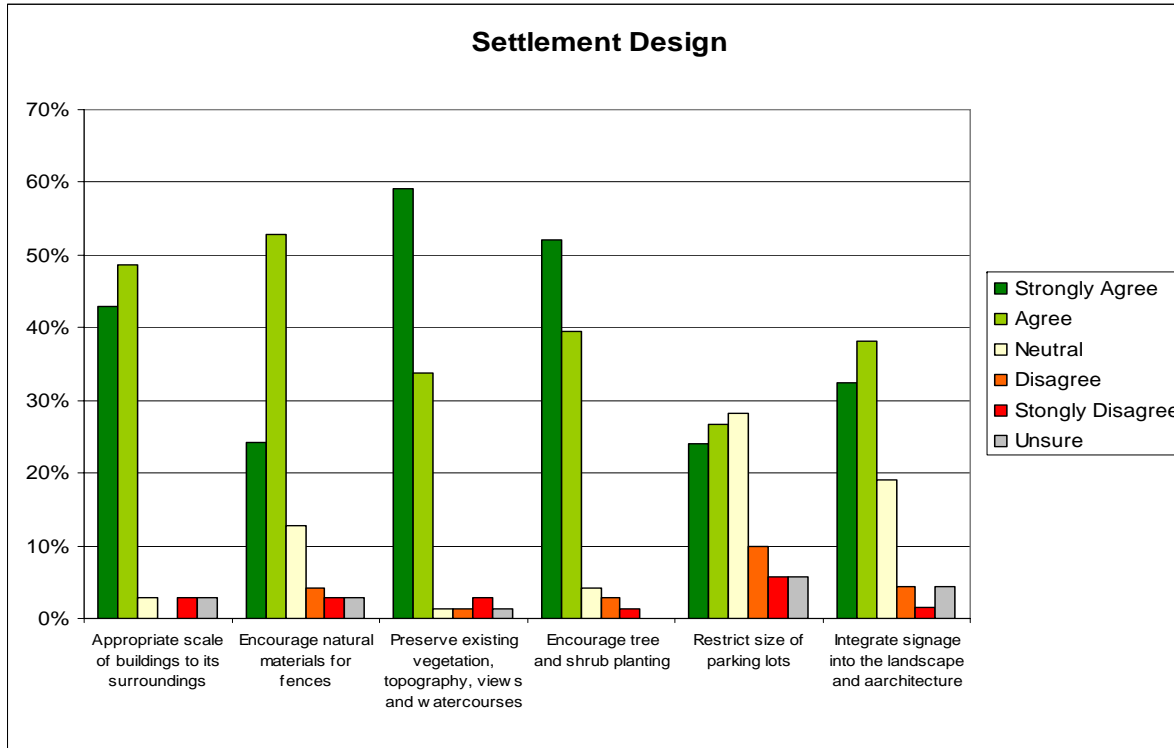
Survey Results

The data collected show a clear and unanimous sense of agreement on all topics relating to Settlement Design in South Algonquin. In particular, appropriate scale for buildings (92%), natural materials in fencing (77%), preserving existing vegetation, topography, views and watercourses (93%), and encouraging planting trees and shrubs (91%) were of the highest unanimous results found. Similarly, the majority of those surveyed felt that a greater effort should be made to integrate signage into the land and architecture (70% agreed or strongly agreed). When concerning restrictions on parking lot sizes, just over half (51%) of respondents felt that there should be restrictions made to the sizes of parking lots, where as 16% disagreed and 28% stated a neutral stance on this particular topic.

Additional Comments

The comments presented in this section display a wide variety of concerns and suggestions among those who took part in the survey. While there was not a strong common theme presented in these comments, it should be noted that there were various comments with regards to the sizes of parking lots in the area. This is important to note and to document, as this topic had the lowest sense of agreement (51%) than any other topic in this section. One respondent felt that limiting parking lot sizes should be designed in a way that is appropriate to the scale of the building it is serving, stating that “if a building can accommodate 200 people for a sit down meal,

then it would not be reasonable to limit spaces to 25 spots!” Other respondents noted that limiting parking lot sizes may detract tourists from the area during busy times of the year, and that idling restrictions as well as signage to deter motorists from idling should be implemented. As consistent with the results found in the survey, respondents noted that any new development should not interfere with the natural surroundings of the area and that any development should be built in appropriate scale to the size of the towns.



Rural

	Agricultural uses acceptable on rural properties	Hunting acceptable on rural properties	Forestry acceptable on rural properties	Extractive operations acceptable on rural properties	Kennels acceptable on rural properties	Recreational uses acceptable for rural properties	B&Bs acceptable for rural properties	Multi-dwelling residential development acceptable along waterfront
Yes	83%	86%	83%	41%	64%	88%	91%	27%
No	17%	14%	17%	59%	36%	12%	9%	73%
	Allow waterfront lots to be placed along private roads	Rural lots should have access to community facilities	Marinas allowed along shorelines	Tourism allowed along shorelines	Anything allowed along shorelines	Should be a minimum shoreline frontages for new lots	Allow shoreline lots with no road access	Should be a minimum setback for all waterfront dwellings
Yes	56%	81%	85%	72%	13%	94%	76%	81%
No	44%	19%	15%	28%	87%	6%	24%	19%

	A continuous row of residential development in rural areas is acceptable	Operating home businesses in rural areas acceptable	Additional Dwellings should be allowed on waterfront lots	Guest cabins should be permitted on waterfront properties	Encourage the development of recreational areas along shorelines
Strongly Agree	7%	26%	6%	15%	29%
Agree	24%	57%	37%	58%	38%
Neutral	16%	11%	9%	7%	4%
Disagree	17%	3%	29%	6%	14%
Strongly Disagree	27%	0%	16%	4%	11%
Unsure	9%	3%	4%	10%	4%

Survey Results

In regards to issues affecting rural areas of South Algonquin, the majority of respondents (on average 85%) feel that agricultural uses, hunting camps, forestry, low intensity recreational uses, bed and breakfasts are acceptable uses for rural properties and 15% feel that they should not be permitted on rural properties. Seventy-three percent of respondents felt that multi-dwelling residential

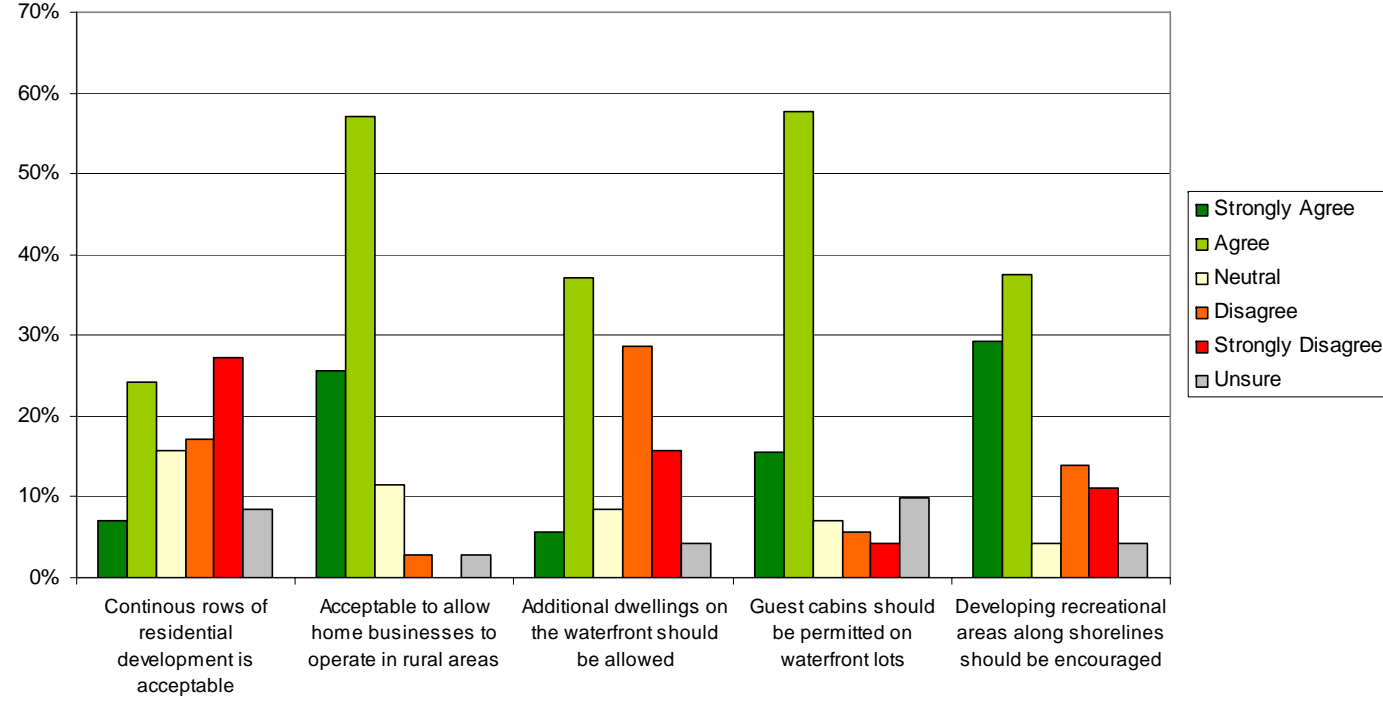
development along waterfronts is not acceptable, and 27% felt that it is acceptable. About one half of the respondents (56%) feel that waterfront lots should be allowed to be placed along private roads and the other half (44%) feel that they should not be allowed. Overall, respondents agree that all residential lots in rural areas should have reasonable access to community facilities, such as schools and other recreation centers (81%), that commercial uses such as marinas (85%) and other tourist related activities (72%) should be allowed along shorelines, that there should be minimum shoreline frontages for new lots (94%), that shoreline lots should be permitted where there is no access by roads (i.e. islands) (76%) and that there should be a minimum setback for all dwellings on waterfront properties (81%). Eighty-seven percent of respondents did not support allowing just “anything” to be allowed along shorelines.

Also regarding land uses that affect rural areas of South Algonquin, 31% of respondents agree or strongly agree that a continuous row of residential development in rural areas is acceptable, whereas 44% disagree or strongly disagree and the remaining 23% of respondents are neutral or unsure. There is a general consensus (83%) among respondents that it is acceptable to allow home businesses to operate in rural areas. Forty-three percent agree or strongly agree that additional dwellings should be allowed on waterfront lots, whereas 45% disagree or strongly disagree. Seventy-three percent agree or strongly agree that guest cabins should be permitted on waterfront properties and 67% agree or strongly agree that the development of recreational areas along shorelines should be encouraged, whereas 25% disagree or strongly disagree.

Additional Comments

In regards to the written comments pertaining to issues affecting rural areas of South Algonquin, many respondents feel that there should be limitations to waterfront development, in order to preserve the health and beauty of the water bodies. The reoccurring issue that was raised regarding the question about whether or not a continuous row of residential development in rural areas is acceptable was that of housing congestion. The main concern is that dense development will take away from the natural beauty and serenity of the waterfront and possibly affect the health of the water. However, as one respondent stated, small row development may be beneficial as “there is a significant need for rent-to-income accommodation for seniors.”

Rural Development



Land Division/ Lot Creation

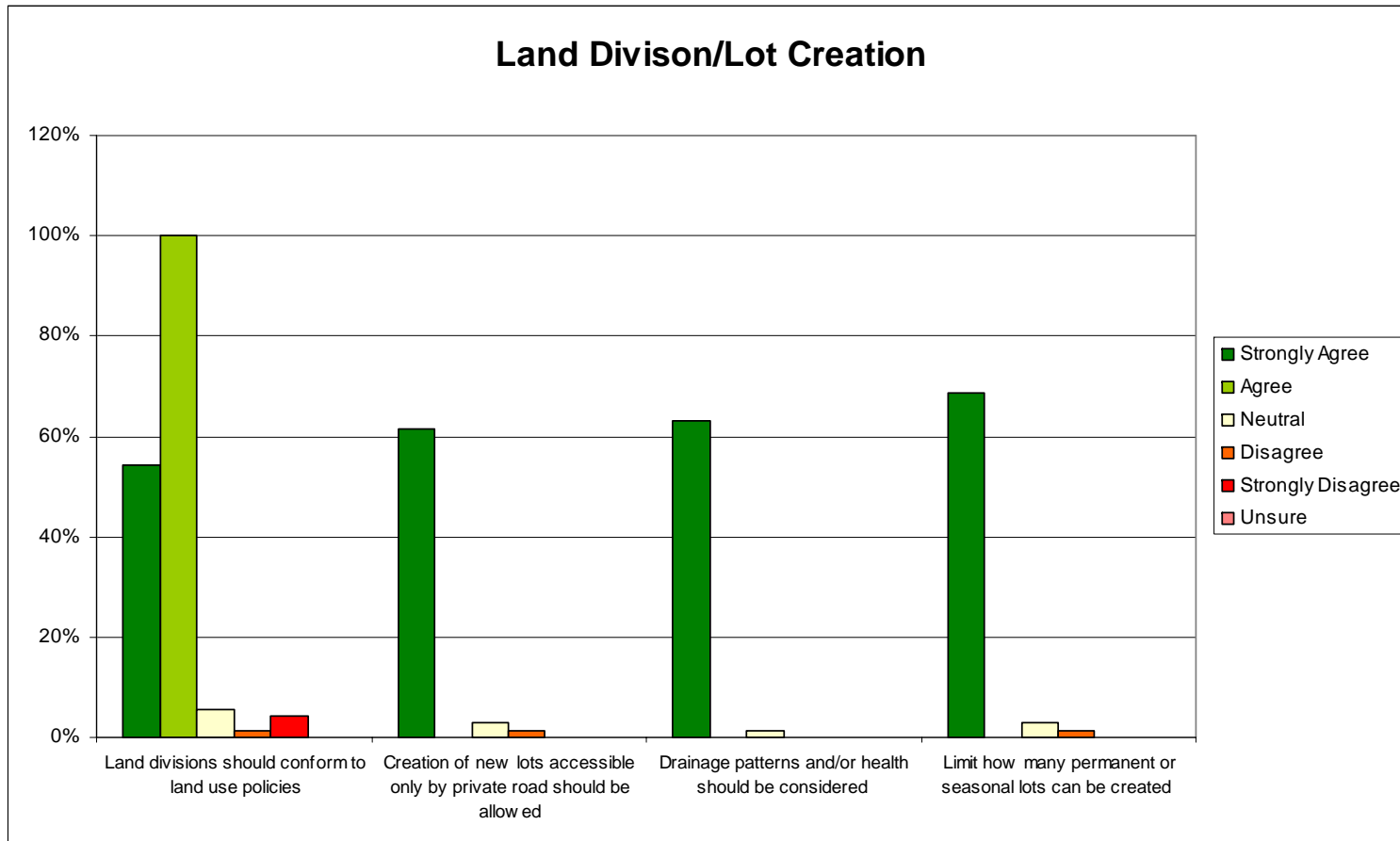
	Land divisions should conform to land use policies in plan	Allow new lots that are accessible only by private roads	Drainage Patters should be considered when subdividing land	Lot Division Limits on how many permanent and seasonal lots can be created	Protection of Natural Heritage Features should be considered when subdividing land	Buffer zones should be used to separate different types of land use
Strongly Agree	32%	7%	76%	52%	72%	63%
Agree	52%	27%	22%	36%	21%	28%
Neutral	8%	21%	1%	1%	6%	1%
Disagree	3%	27%	0%	10%	0%	3%
Strongly Disagree	0%	13%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Unsure	5%	4%	0%	0%	0%	3%

Survey Results

Data regarding issues of land division and lot creation show that the majority of respondents (84%) agree or strongly agree that land divisions should conform to land use policies outlined in the official plan of South Algonquin. The surveys show that 34 % agree or strongly agree that the creation of new lots that are accessible only by private roads should be allowed, whereas 40% disagree or strongly disagree, leaving 25% neutral or unsure. Mostly all respondents (98%) agree or strongly agree that drainage patterns and/or health of nearby water should be considered when subdividing land. There is also a general consensus (88%) that there should be limits as to how many permanent or seasonal lots can be created from a land division. Regarding the protection of natural heritage features, 93% agree or strongly agree that they should be considered when subdividing land; likewise, 91% of respondents agree or strongly agree that buffer zones should be used to separate different types of land use.

Additional Comments

The majority of the comments pertained to the importance of protecting the natural heritage features of the landscape when considering the subdivision of land.



Transportation

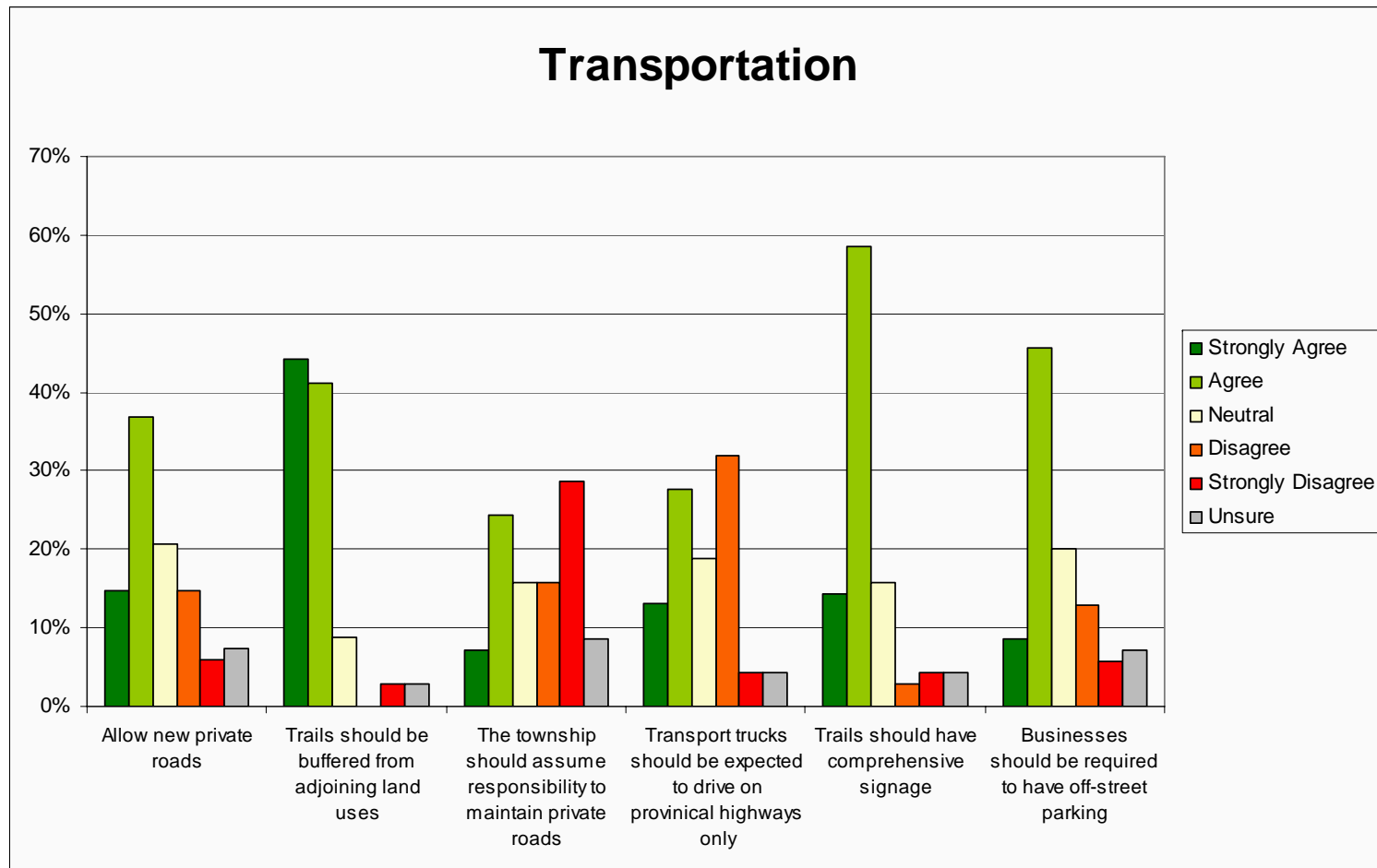
	New Private Roads should be allowed	Trail Setbacks from adjoining land uses	Township responsible for MTO standards of private roads	Transport Trucks on Provincial Highways only	Trails should have comprehensive signage system	Businesses required to provide off-street parking
Strongly Agree	15%	44%	7%	13%	14%	9%
Agree	37%	41%	24%	28%	59%	46%
Neutral	21%	9%	16%	19%	16%	20%
Disagree	15%	0%	16%	32%	3%	13%
Strongly Disagree	6%	3%	29%	4%	4%	6%
Unsure	7%	3%	9%	4%	4%	7%

Survey Results

According to the survey results regarding transportation infrastructure in South Algonquin, 52% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that new private roads should be allowed, while 21% are neutral, and 21% either disagree or strongly disagree. Eighty-five percent of respondents agree or strongly agree (41% and 44% respectively) that trails should be buffered from adjoining land uses in order to avoid conflicts such as noise. There was less of a consensus, however, that the Township of South Algonquin should assume responsibility for and maintain any private roads that meet the Ontario Ministry of Transportation standards, while 31% of respondents agree or strongly agree and 45% disagree or strongly disagree. Residents' opinions regarding the question as to whether transport trucks should be expected to drive on provincial highways only are quite divided, as 41% agree or strongly agree, 19% are neutral, and 36% disagree or strongly disagree. The majority of respondents (73%) agree or strongly agree that trails should have a comprehensive signage system, and 16% are neutral to the subject. Just over half (55%) of respondents agree or strongly agree that business should be required to provide off-street parking, where 20% are neutral and 19% disagree or strongly disagree.

Additional Comments

One respondent pointed out that “local businesses could not likely sustain the cost of off street parking” and suggested that the Township should instead be responsible for “a parking lot located in the town centre in close proximity to as many local businesses as possible”. As per the question as to whether transport trucks should be expected to drive on provincial highways only, of those who agreed, their main concern was about the quality and maintenance of the roads as well as human safety, whereas those who disagreed, maintained that it is a necessity for transport trucks to use other roads to access extraction or delivery sites or that some residents drive transport trucks for a living and park them at their homes, and therefore require the use of local roads.



Aggregate Pits and Quarries

	Township should pass by-law to regulate extractive operations	Effects of extractive operation should be considered	New extractive operations away from residential	Environmental impacts of extraction are important
Strongly Agree	54%	61%	63%	69%
Agree	34%	34%	35%	27%
Neutral	6%	3%	1%	3%
Disagree	1%	1%	0%	1%
Strongly Disagree	4%	0%	0%	0%
Unsure	0%	0%	0%	0%

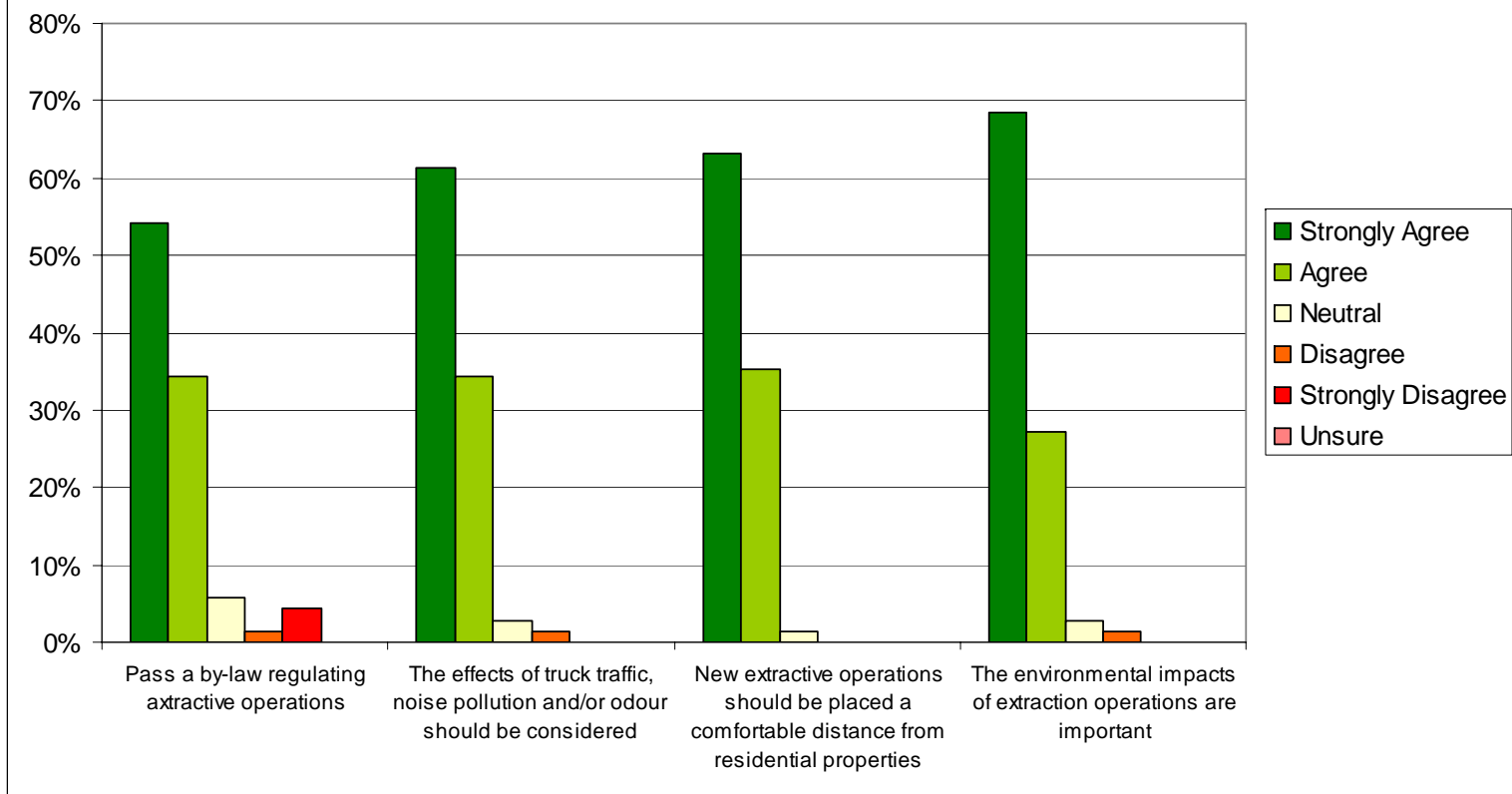
Survey Results

According to the data collected regarding the presence of quarries in South Algonquin, there was a general consensus (90% or more) among respondents in that they agree or strongly agree that the township should be able to pass a by-law regulating extractive operations, that the effects of truck traffic, noise pollution and/or odour should be considered when allowing extractive operations, that new operations should be placed only a comfortable distance from any residential properties and that the environmental impacts of extraction operations are important.

Additional Comments

As per the individual written comments regarding aggregate pits and quarries, a number of respondents feel that there should be public consultation if new extractive operations will take place. Several respondents also agreed that the environmental impacts should be taken into consideration and quarries should not have authorization to be located close to homes or cottages.

Aggregate Pits and Quarries



Importance of Environment and Recreation

	Green Space Designated for Recreation	Lake Accessibility	Bike Routes	Clean Green-space	Sports Facilities	Protecting Flora and Fauna
High Priority	57%	49%	37%	84%	30%	79%
Medium Priority	29%	30%	22%	11%	36%	16%
Low Priority	10%	6%	16%	3%	18%	1%
Not a Priority	3%	8%	16%	0%	14%	3%
Don't Support	1%	7%	9%	1%	2%	1%
Don't Know	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	1%
	Quality of Trails	Preserve Natural Beauty	Conserve Energy	Preserve Natural Heritage Features	Preserve Archaeological Resources	
High Priority	59%	90%	76%	75%	67%	
Medium Priority	23%	6%	16%	14%	17%	
Low Priority	12%	0%	1%	7%	13%	
Not a Priority	3%	1%	3%	0%	0%	
Don't Support	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Don't Know	3%	0%	3%	1%	1%	

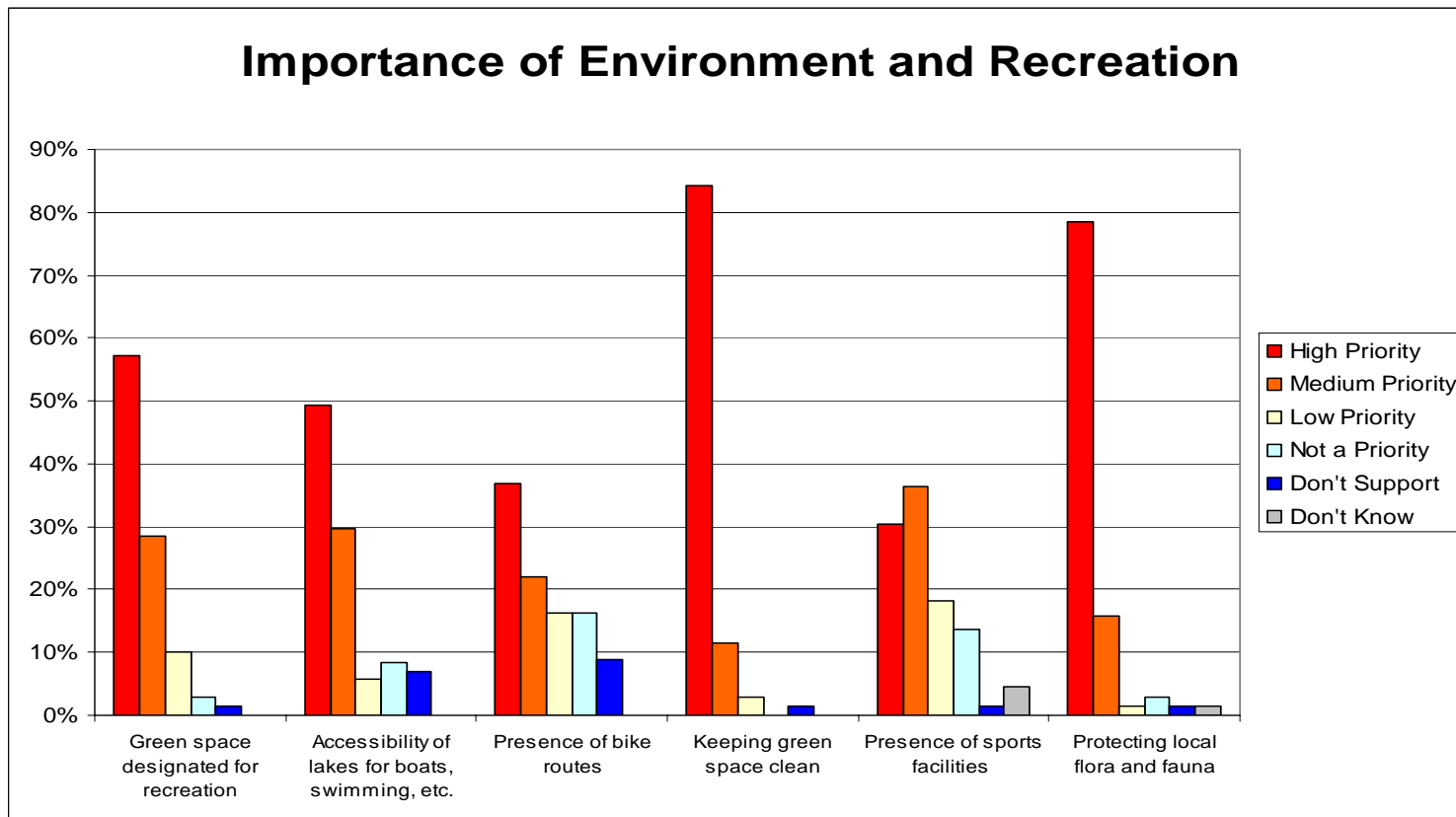
Survey Results

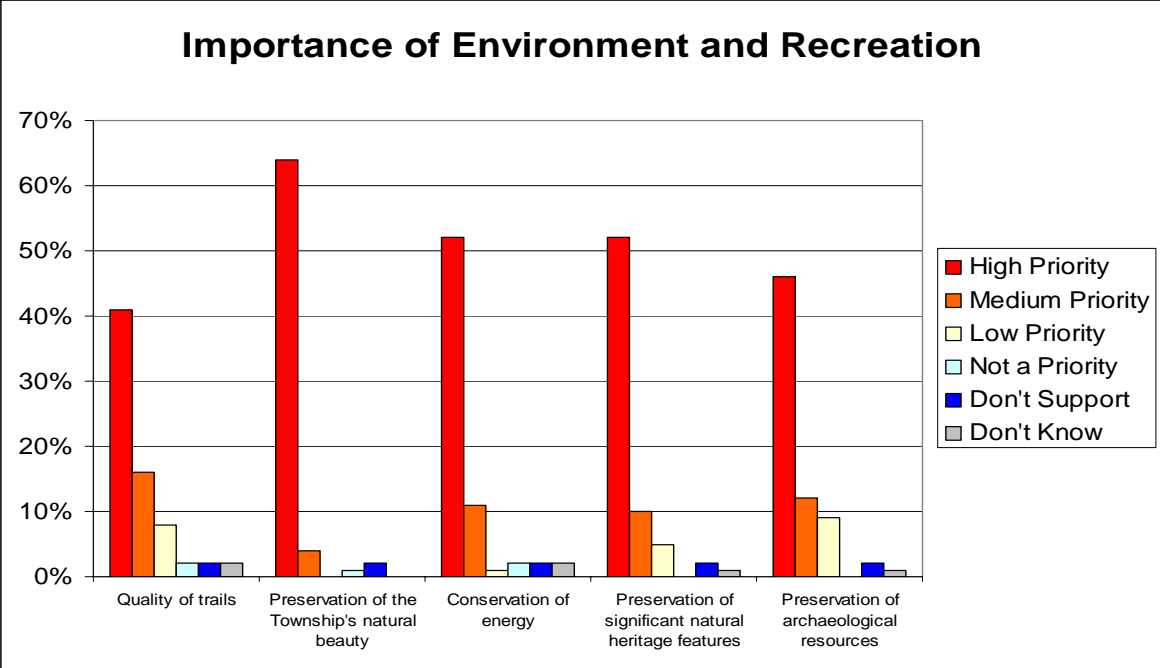
According to the data, the most important aspect of South Algonquin’s environment and recreation is perceived by respondents to be the “preservation of the townships natural beauty”, where 90% of respondents agreed that it is of high priority and six percent agreed it is medium priority. The next issue of importance is “keeping green space clean,” where 84% agreed it was of high priority and 11% agreed it was of medium priority. Of equal importance are the “protection of local flora and fauna”, the “conservation of energy” and the “preservation of significant natural heritage features,” where 75-79% agreed they are of high priority and 14-16% agreed they are of medium priority. About half of the respondents agreed that “designating green space for recreation”, the “preservation of archaeological resources”, “quality of trails” and “accessibility of lakes for boats, swimming, etc” are of high priority and about 20-

30% agreed they are of medium priority. Of least importance in the eyes of the participants were the “presence of sports facilities” and “bike routes”; however, 30% and 37% of respondents, respectively, agree that they are of high priority, 36% and 22% agreed they are of medium priority, 18% and 16% agreed they are of low priority and 14% and 16% agreed that they are not a priority at all.

Additional Comments

The significance of South Algonquin’s environment and recreational landscape can be summed up in one respondent’s quote: “Environmental beauty is our best asset. We must preserve and protect it above all else.” Residents felt that issues such as maintaining healthy water bodies, nature trails, and considering all of the environmental impacts before implementing any new development were of great significance.





Closing Comments

Along with the South Algonquin Community Profile, the Preliminary Issues Report and the Youth Assessment Report, the South Algonquin Community Planning Questionnaire surveys have provided a comprehensive understanding of South Algonquin's residents' feelings and attitudes towards many planning issues that will be addressed in the future. It has also served as an opportunity for South Algonquin residents to voice their opinions and concerns regarding issues that will both directly and indirectly affect future physical, economic and community development throughout the Township and, ultimately, the quality of life that residents will enjoy for many years to come. A great deal of information, including helpful suggestions, has been gained from the respondents and is thoroughly appreciated.

