

Amherst

The Friendly Island of

Waves



&



Waves

The AICA

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life on Amherst Island by identifying and supporting projects that reflect the needs and will of the community.

We will do this by developing and supporting projects that:

1. Promote sustainable economic and community development including agri-business, tourism, entrepreneurs and home based workers;
2. Support the health and welfare of citizens; and
3. Protect and celebrate the unique heritage, culture and community of Amherst Island

2019 Census Survey Results

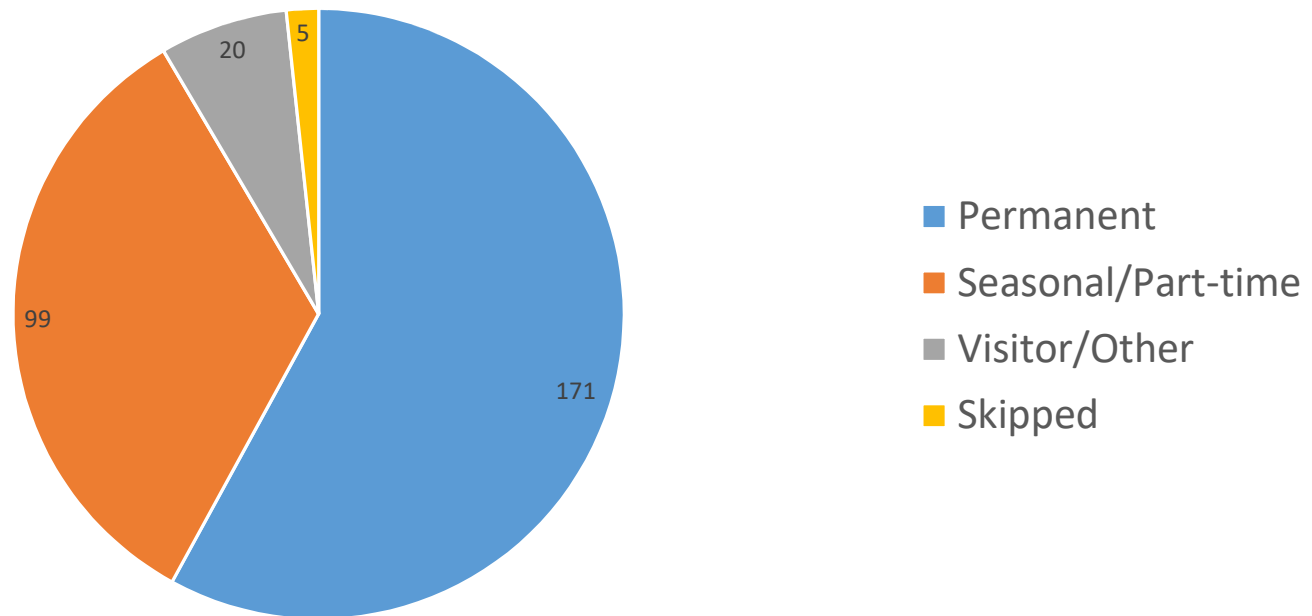
Disclaimer

- Results are based on what was submitted and may therefore not be totally accurate.
- To the best of our analysis duplicate responses or other interference in the process used to collect the data was not present.
- Insufficient data was able to be collected concerning household size so the data presented has not been weighted to account for the numbers represented in a household. We do not believe that this significantly changes the results.

Dilbert

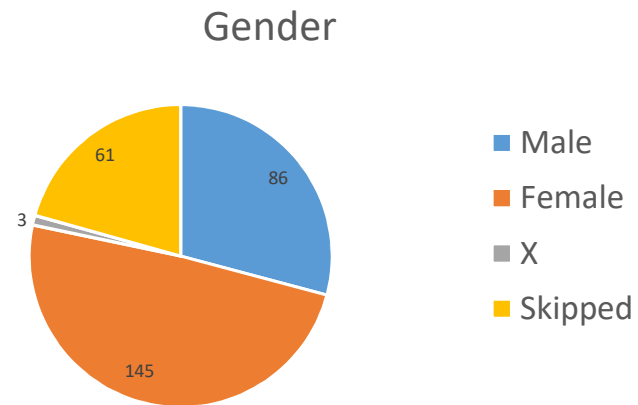
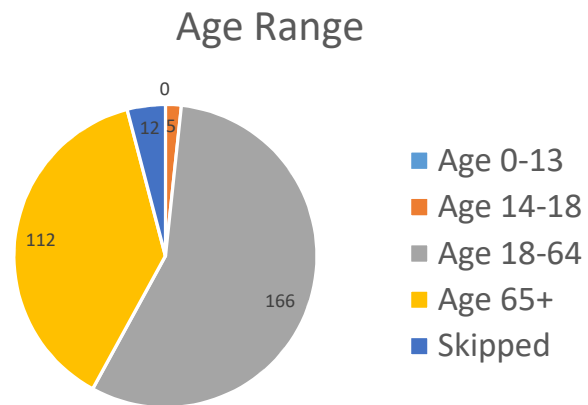


Residency



Total of 295 responses to the survey which is an exceptional response rate.

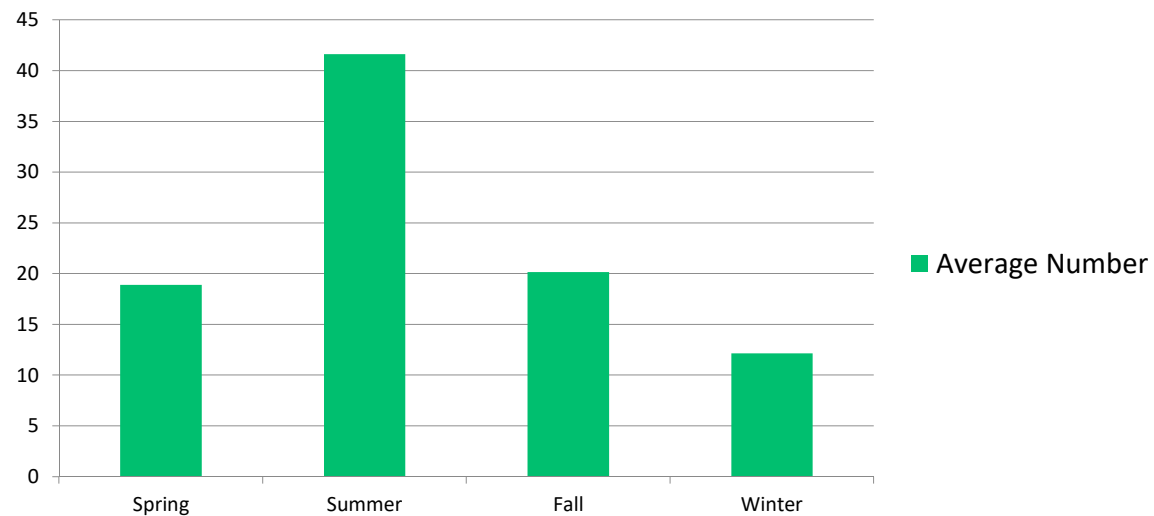
Respondents



216 people filled it out for the household; 79 filled out only Part B.
160 Roll Numbers responded but more than half skipped the question.

Seasonality

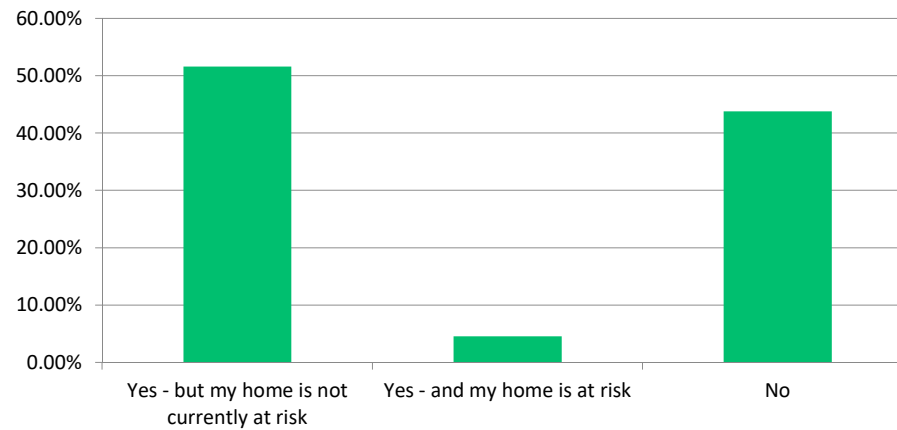
If you are a part-time or seasonal resident, how many days per season do you estimate that you spend on Amherst Island?



Based on the 54 people who answered

Erosion & Flooding

Is erosion or flooding an issue on any of your properties?



However 142 respondents skipped this question.

Ferry

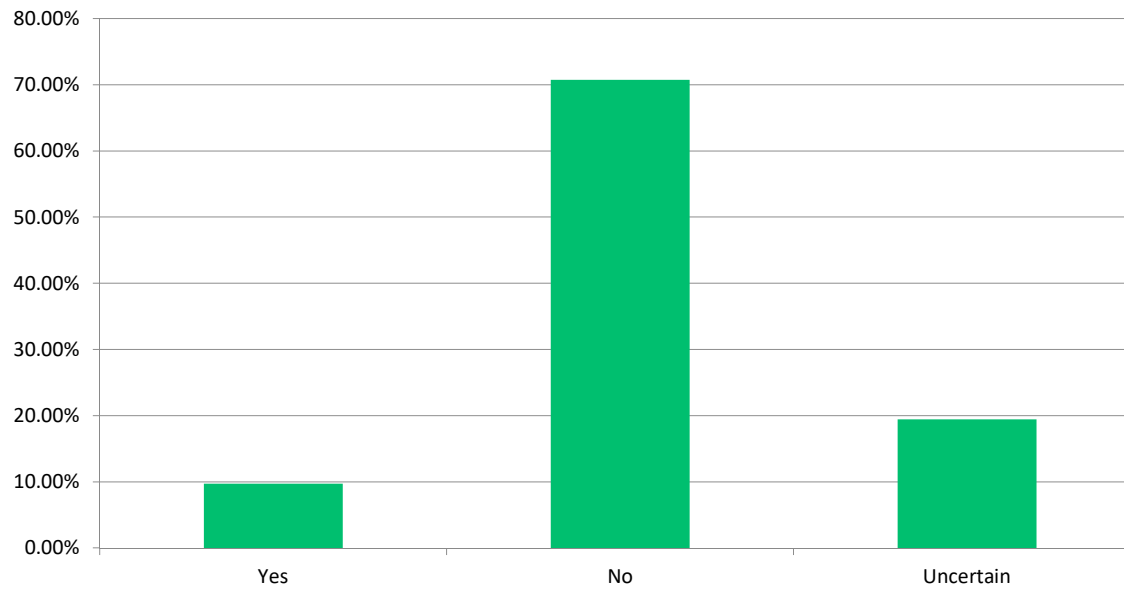
- A significant amount of data on types of trips and frequency was collected and can be shared with any group requesting the information.
- What was perhaps surprising was the number of trips coming to the island to service residents and businesses and the frequency of those trips.
- As seen by the later question on Major Issues, the cost of the ferry was seen as a significant concern by many.

Population

- 442 listed in the responses but half skipped the question.
- 2016 Stats Canada census lists the island permanent population at 420.
- Can Post advises that an Island mailing is 180 homes (Permanent) and there are 250 addresses on the island.
- We are estimating that the combined Seasonal and Permanent population is about 650 (+/-50). This would be consistent with the ferry loads observed in the peak summer season.

Property Turnover

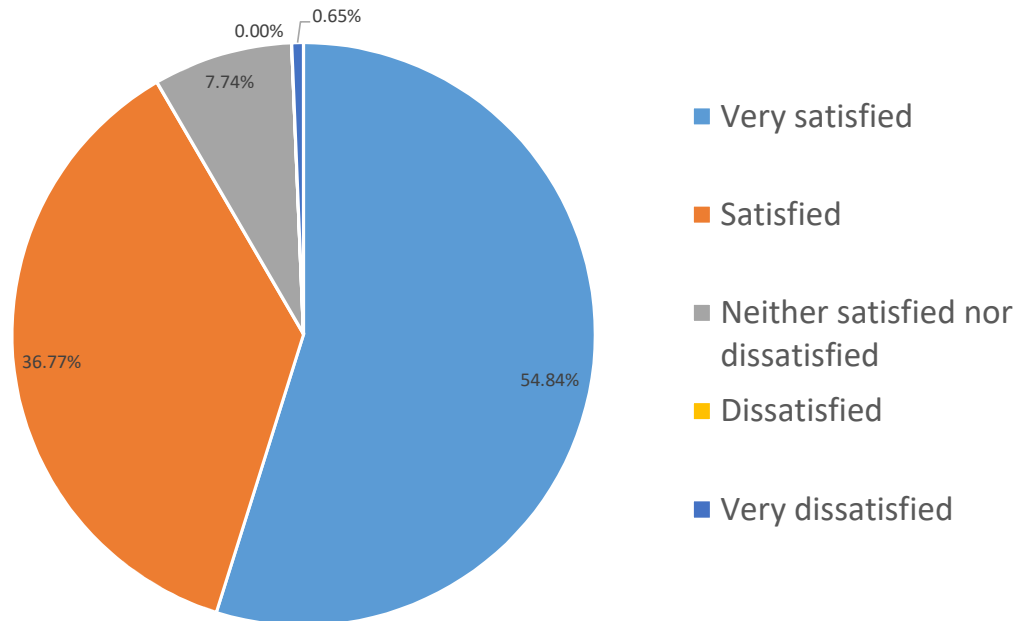
Do you expect to sell your island property in the next 5 years?



Slightly over half answered the question

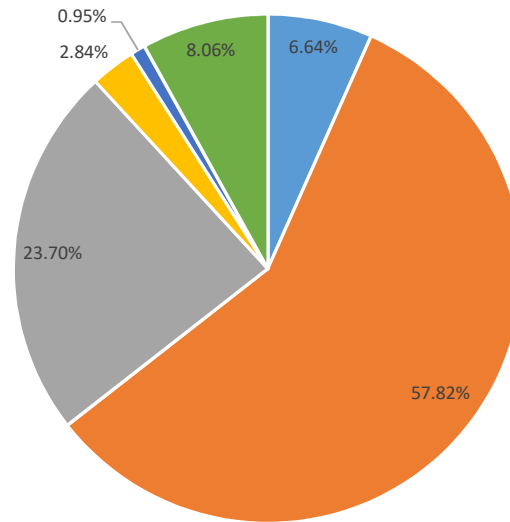
Satisfaction

Over 90% are Satisfied or Very Satisfied with island life



Island Future

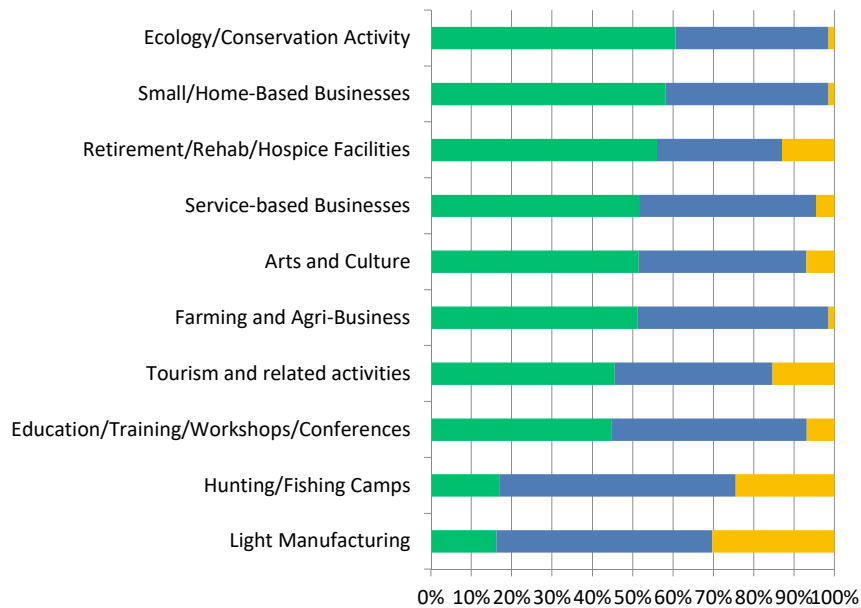
How do you want the population to change in the next 10-15 years?



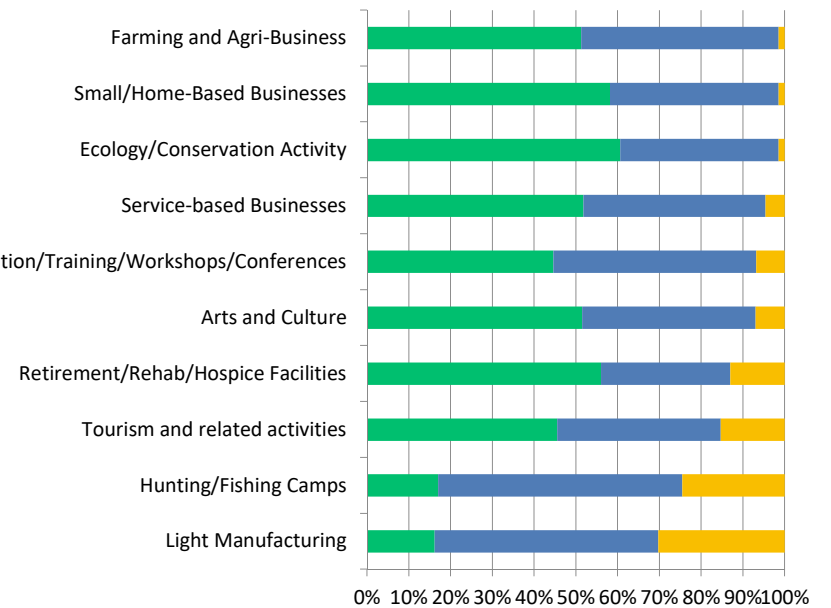
- Increase significantly
- Increase somewhat
- Stay the same
- Decrease somewhat
- Decrease significantly
- No opinion

Island Activities

Sorted by 'More'

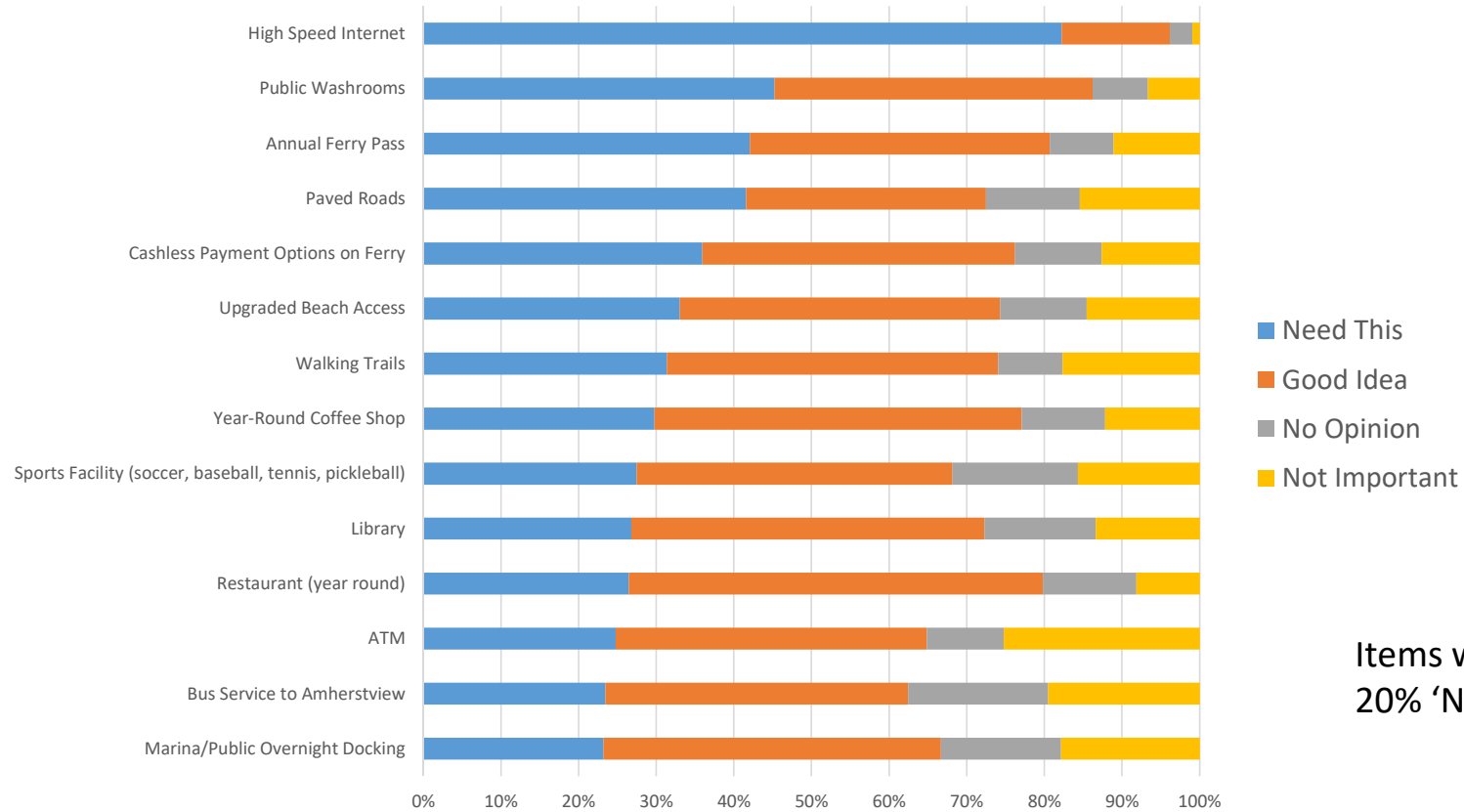


Sorted by 'Less'



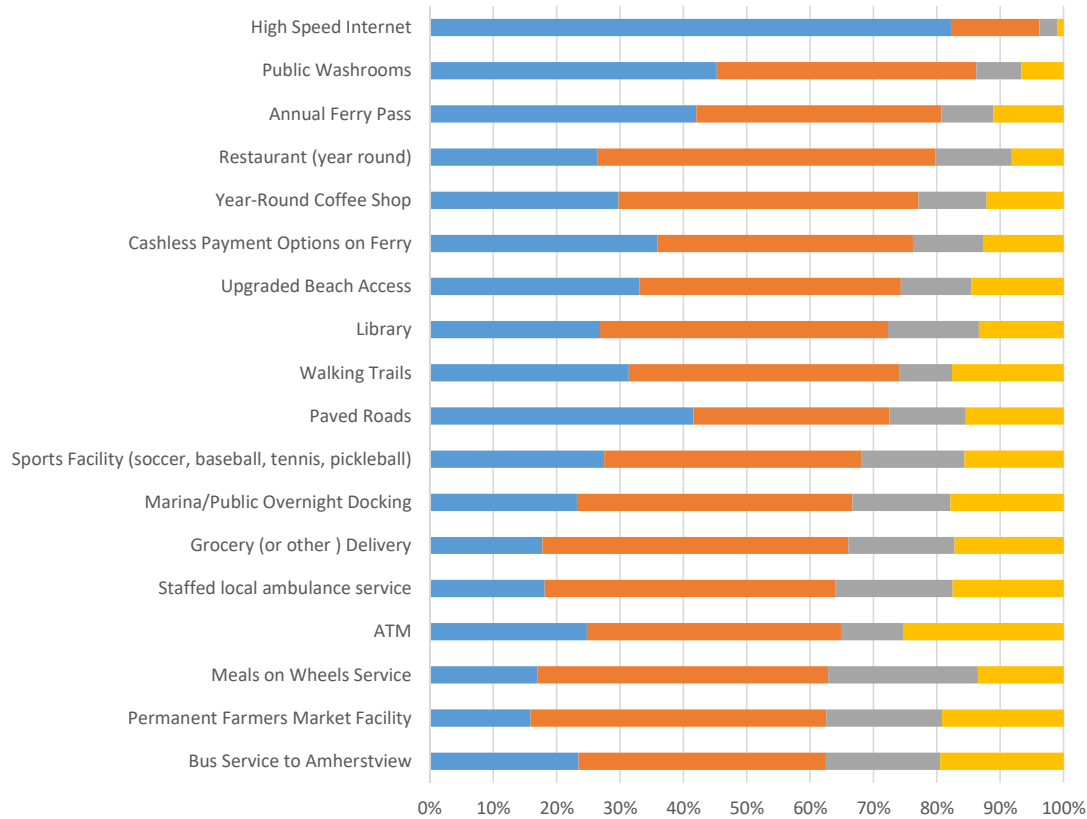
Hunting/Fishing and Light Manufacturing are clear non-starters.
 Tourism and Retirement/Rehab growth have some pushback.

Island Amenities & Services



Items with greater than 20% 'Need This' rating

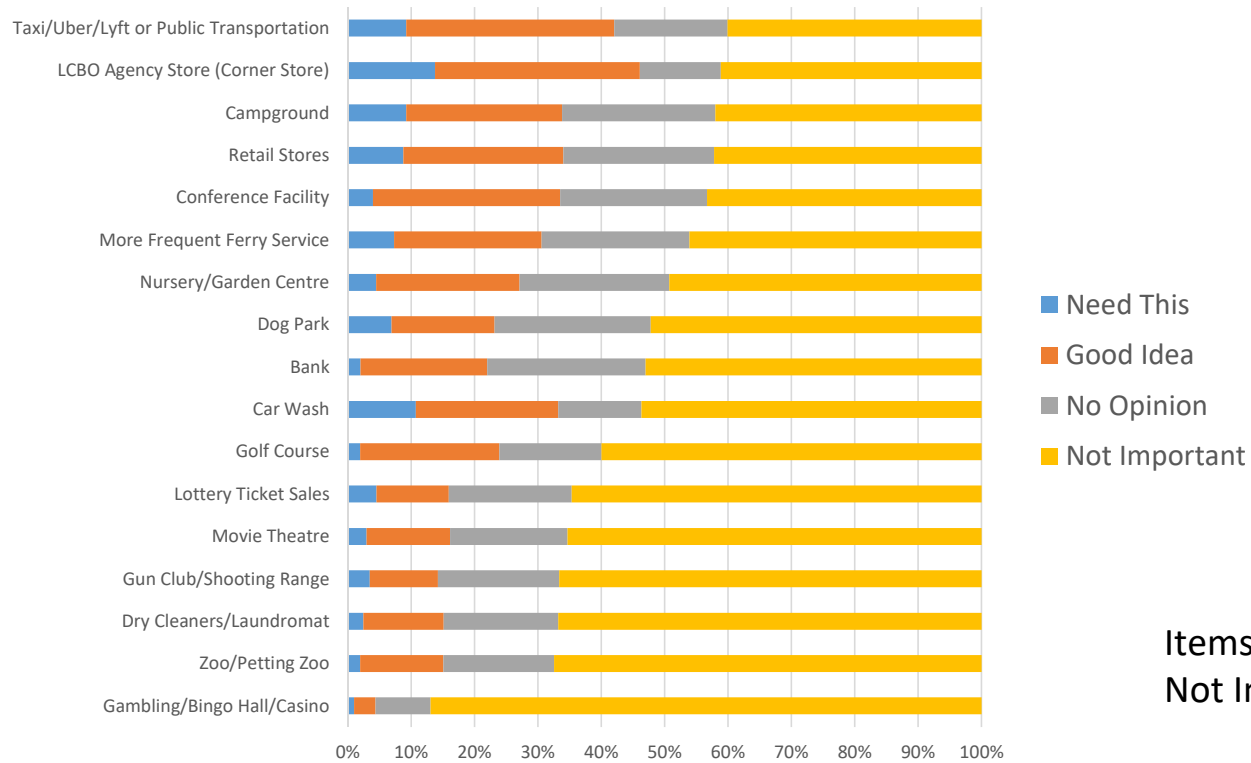
Island Amenities and Services



When sorted by 'Need This' Plus "Good Idea".
Displaying all over 60%

- Need This
- Good Idea
- No Opinion
- Not Important

Island Services (Not)

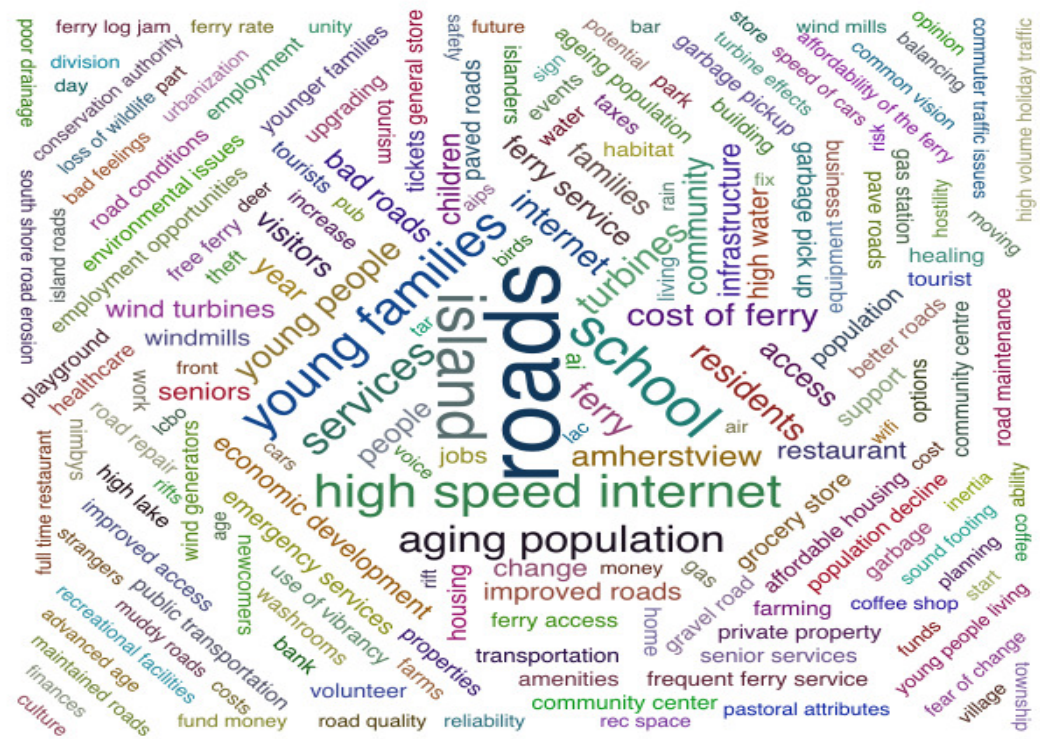


Items getting greater than 40%
Not Important rating

Other Suggestions

- Other suggestions added by respondents include: (Partial List)
 - Cross country skiing and skidoo trails
 - Retirement home and housing for families with children
 - An organized facility to assist islanders in hiring for common services
 - Brush pickup
 - Play groups
 - Dedicated bike lanes
 - Stone Wall heritage center
 - Signage on 401 for Amherst exit
 - Police services

Top Issues



Top Issues

- 475 issues were identified through the survey
- Top issues, to no surprise, were:
 - Roads (81)
 - Ferry (38)
 - High Speed Internet (28)
 - Flooding / High Water Levels (26)
 - School (25)
 - Turbines / Gas Plant (15)
- But there were some surprises too -

Other Issues

- Community Relationships (35 – third highest issue)
 - Significant concern how turbines have impacted relationships
 - Suggestion was made that the anti-turbine signs should now be removed
 - Also voiced was the split between the new and the old
 - Concern about volunteer burnout
 - Expressions of wanting to heal the community
- Store / Store Hours / Retail Services (29)
 - Need for better hours and weekend service
 - Desire for a full grocery store, gas station, year-round restaurant and coffee shops
- Demographics (29)
 - The aging of the island and the need for young families
 - One individual remarked on (the lack of) dating opportunities
 - Another advocated for increased diversity

Other Issues

- Housing / Affordability / Development (25)
 - Accommodation for families with children and seniors
 - Need for new building
 - Must be respectful of land use and agriculture
- Seniors issues (22)
 - Mostly about housing and services for seniors
- Tourism (17)
 - Split between problems with tourists and finding activities and services for them
- Rec Center (17)
 - Echoing the desire to have a new facility separate from the school

Other Issues

- Other major groupings included:
 - The Vibrancy Fund – how it was to be spent & making sure we got a fair share
 - Police / Crime – speed and response to issues
 - Dump / Garbage – pick up and the future of the dump
 - Jobs / Economy – need for more jobs on the island, especially for younger workers
 - Government – taxes too high, bureaucracy, etc
 - Conservation / Environmental – land use and preservation
 - Public transit – improvements once we get off the island
 - Boating – desire for a marina / public docks
 - Infrastructure – emergency services and continued staffing concerns
 - Healthcare – general concern about service access

Overall Summary

- Evolution not Revolution
 - Let's change but slowly
 - Not everyone wants change so small changes are ok
- Based on demographics and identified likelihood of property sales some change is inevitable
 - That change must occur in the context of healing Community Relationships
 - Volunteer base is changing too which may change our community activities

Next Steps

- Material will be shared with the Township and with L&A County. Complete survey data will be made available to any island organization or business that requests it.
- AICA will host a meeting of island organizations in Sep to discuss aspirations and challenges to see where we can help and to help create synergy between organizations.
- Hoping to find people who wish to take on some of the projects identified by the Census. AICA will help with finding funding and resources.
- Today's presentation will be posted on the website for general reference.
- Sign up to be a member of the Community Alliance. AGM will be in May 2020. Cost is free.