

Appendix J – SYF Project Public Survey Summary Report

Town of Sidney



Vision Committee

**Seniors, Youth and Families
Vision Project**

**PUBLIC SURVEY
REPORT**



**Submitted by
The SYF Project Steering Committee**

Fall 2005

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Town of Sidney's Seniors, Youth and Families Vision Project, a survey was conducted via a self-completion questionnaire, distributed in the community from December 1, 2004 to February 1, 2005. A total of 600 completed surveys were received.

Respondents indicated that they are generally satisfied with all aspects of the community examined in survey questions, as summarized in the table below. Greatest satisfaction is indicated for: community safety; achieving a positive community vision; leisure provisions; and roadways. Areas which respondents indicate somewhat lower satisfaction are: housing provisions; sidewalks; and public transit.

Table 1: Summary of Responses to Survey Questions

Survey Question	Average of Ranking "1" to "5"	Completely "5"	Almost Completely "4"	Somewhat "3"	Almost Not At All "2"	Not At All "1"
1. Degree Achieving a Positive Community Vision	3.8	19%	52%	24%	2%	1%
2/3. Satisfaction with Information Sharing	3.7	20	45	27	3	1
4. Satisfaction with Resources for Health Care and Prevention	3.6	10	51	29	4	2
5. Degree Feel Community is Safe	4.0	22	55	16	3	1
6a. Importance of Connection Within Your Age Group	3.9	30	30	24	6	3
6b. Importance of Connection Between Age Groups	3.7	26	24	26	9	4
7. Satisfaction with:						
- roadways	4.0	29	37	15	4	2
- sidewalks	3.7	23	30	23	8	5
- trails	3.8	21	35	16	6	3
- public transit	3.7	20	28	16	8	3
8. Satisfaction with Provision of Housing	3.4	12	29	28	9	6
9. Satisfaction with Provisions for Leisure Pursuits	3.9	23	45	20	4	2

Community **strengths** mentioned most by respondents include:

- Quiet, small town size and pace, friendly people
- Cleanliness of community
- Seasonal and special events
- Facilities – e.g. Mary Winspear Centre, Shoal Centre, Panorama
- Range of leisure activities available
- Beautification of the waterfront – e.g. walkways, piers
- Aesthetical appeal of parks and trails
- Downtown revitalization, appeal
- Strong small business and volunteer spirit
- Good services for those in need

The top 7 frequently mentioned **new directions** noted by respondents for improving the community include:

- Control development and density
- Be a balanced/integrated community with services, housing, etc. to meet the needs of residents of all ages
- Provide opportunities for youth to socialize and be active in positive ways
- Provide affordable housing
- Increase the availability and use of green space
- Continue to enhance the waterfront and access for all (vs more development)
- Keep Sidney small – avoid overcrowding, excess traffic and loss of character

People primarily find **information** about community services, programs and facilities in brochures, directories/guides, newspaper ads and by word-of-mouth. The top 7 ideas most frequently mentioned suggestions for improving information sharing are:

- Provide and promote a comprehensive website
- Promote/cover events, services, etc. more in the Peninsula News Review
- Develop a lit reader sign on top of Mary Winspear Centre
- Broadly distribute Town Talk and include more community information
- Place pamphlets/brochures around town
- Use television/radio to promote community happenings
- Provide one central information directory – in print and on the website

The top 7 frequently mentioned ideas for improving **health care and prevention** include:

- Increase prevention efforts – e.g. promote a healthy lifestyle, workshops, literature
- Increase the availability of physicians
- Decrease wait times/lists for specialists, diagnostic procedures, surgery
- Increase funding – pressure government, more fundraising
- Increase availability of walk-in clinics – hours, open more
- Increase in-home care
- Provide services for those in need – e.g. youth, low income, mental health

The top 7 frequently mentioned ideas for **enhancing community safety** include:

- Improve lighting on streets, pathways, bus stops, etc.
- Provide more police presence – e.g. downtown, around schools, at night
- Control speeding, enforce limits – e.g. near schools, residential areas
- Get police out on foot/bike – mix more with the community
- Provide youth more opportunities for positive social and recreational activities
- Involve more neighbourhoods in Neighbourhood Watch
- Deal with offenders in a more timely, aggressive way re: sentencing, penalties

The ideas mentioned for **improving connection/support with different age** groups in the community include:

- Offer opportunities to bring all age groups together
- Bridge the gap between youth and seniors
- Provide a meeting place/centre for youth with necessary support provided
- Provide support and connection opportunities for seniors
- Involve seniors and young children together

The top 7 frequently mentioned ideas for **improving transportation** in the community include:

- Improve the sidewalk system
- Provide new public transit routes/mini-feeder buses
- Improve traffic management/flow – e.g. stop signs, traffic signals, pedestrian crossings
- Develop more bike lanes
- Develop more multi-purpose trails
- Improve bus scheduling/frequency
- Provide more parking in/near downtown

The top 7 frequently mentioned ideas for **improving living accommodation** in the community include:

- Offer more family-type accommodation
- Slow development and density
- Provide more affordable housing in general
- Increase affordable rental accommodation
- Provide more affordable accommodation for seniors
- Offer single-level homes for seniors, the handicapped
- Provide more assisted living accommodation

The top 7 frequently mentioned ideas for **strengthening leisure opportunities** in the community include:

- Provide a youth centre/more activities for youth
- Address Panorama Recreation Centre's size and offerings
- Improve existing parks and playgrounds, provide a waterfront park/picnic area
- Provide a pool, recreation centre in Sidney
- Review offerings at the Mary Winspear Centre
- Provide an outdoor water park
- Review offerings at the Shoal Centre

Discussion groups in spring 2005 with community provider organizations and a range of resident demographic groups (youth, families and seniors) explored in more detail the strengths, issues and ideas raised in this public survey.

1. PROJECT AND SURVEY OVERVIEW

The Seniors, Youth and Families consultation is the fourth in-depth project to be undertaken as part of the Town of Sidney's Vision 2000 initiative. Three primary topics are being investigated through the SYF Project: housing and transportation; recreation and culture; and community living (wellness, safety, information sharing, community connection and support). While the needs of the seniors, youth and families demographic groups are a core part of project research, the interests of ALL community residents are also being taken into consideration.

Project activities have been planned to assess the current community strengths and needs, as well as future directions and specific recommendations for enhancing provisions in the three topic areas. With broad community input, we can discover together what we have now and what new directions we can pursue, all in support of shaping and enhancing our community's future.

Various information gathering activities are being implemented throughout the project to help identify strengths, needs and future directions within the community. The first initiative is a public survey (see Appendix D), reported in this document. Other activities include:

- conducting an inventory of existing community living-related services and resources
- a survey of recreation and culture organizations/businesses
- 3 discussion group sessions with a cross-section of service providers
- 14 discussion groups with a cross-section of community residents representing the demographic groups of seniors, youth and families
- planning sessions with various service providers and interested residents to prepare action plans/recommendations for each topic area
- a public open house to present preliminary findings and recommendations and receive input from residents

The purpose of the SYF Project public survey is to:

- Reach as many community residents as possible to inform them about the SYF project and receive their initial input to the topic areas
- Gather general feedback from area residents to gain an initial understanding of strengths, needs, and possible solutions for each topic area
- Use insights from the survey findings to shape questions for community discussion groups to probe further into issues and solutions for each topic area

Survey Distribution

Approximately 5,300 surveys were made available to area residents from December 1, 2004 to February 11, 2005. A total of 600 surveys were returned, which represents about an 11% response rate. Distribution methods included:

- A project display (with surveys available) at the December 1, 2004 Community Resources Open House, and in the foyers at the Mary Winspear Centre and Panorama Recreation Centre
- Handing out surveys at the Sidney Sail Past event in December
- Project sub-committee members distributing surveys through their networking
- Distribution of survey through Parent Advisory Councils at Sidney, Greenglade, McTavish and Sansbury Elementary Schools and North Saanich Middle School
- Completion of survey by several classes at Bayside Middle School, and by teens at Parkland Secondary School
- Copies left at the Districts of Central Saanich and North Saanich Municipal Halls
- Survey pick-up/drop boxes at Panorama Recreation Centre, Mary Winspear Centre, Shoal Centre, VIRL Sidney branch, Town Hall, and the two PCS offices
- 3,600 surveys inserted in the late-January water bill/Town Talk mailing
- 1,000 surveys dropped off with Town Talk at rental/condo facilities in Sidney by Public Works staff

Survey Data

Although this study was neither random nor is it representative on a real statistical basis of the Peninsula population, it can be considered to be a close snapshot of residents' opinions at this time: an 11% response rate is very good for a widely-distributed, self-completed survey.

A total of 582 usable surveys provides considerable confidence in the analysis of the numerical data, particularly as gender and age groups are well-represented. (If this survey had been truly random and representative, the range of error on the total respondent base would have been approximately 4.2 percentage points - i.e. an answer from the total respondent base is within 4.2 points correct, either side of the answer (50% is either as much as 54% or as little as 46%).

This is a very acceptable range of error, particularly as we are mainly interested in understanding the general views, issues and needs within the community from this survey. Issues and needs will be examined much more closely in the qualitative work of the community discussion groups and planning workshops.

2. SURVEY FINDINGS

This report includes analysis of the numerical data from 582 usable surveys and of cross-tabulation data charts. The written comments from all 600 surveys are also summarized, with key themes and the frequency of comments noted. A sampling of quotes from respondents are included to give readers a feel for the different viewpoints of a cross-section of residents (note that the quotes do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of respondents). Respondents were asked to consider Sidney and the Peninsula area when responding to questions about “community”. *(NOTE: the full SYF Project Survey Report contains all survey written comments and cross-tabulation data charts)*

2.1 RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

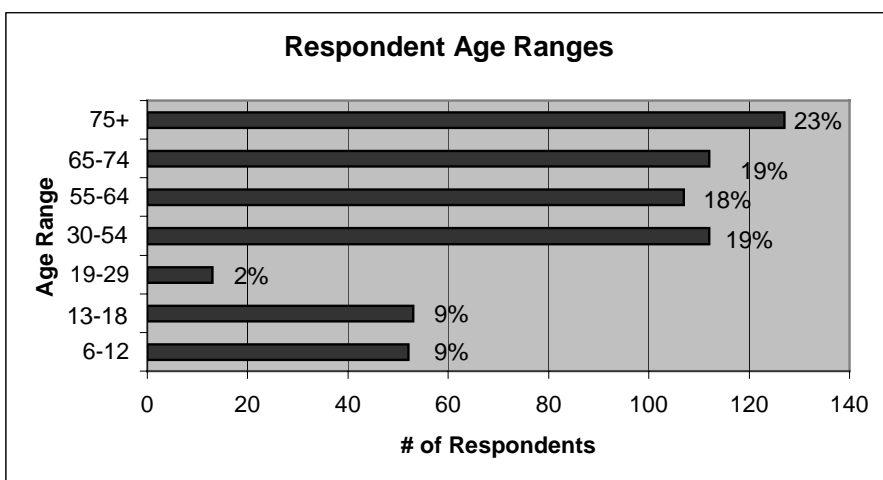
Table 2: Age and Gender of Respondents

Gender:

Male	(237)	41%
Female	(329)	56
No response	(16)	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	

Age:

6-12 years	(52)	9%
13-18 years	(53)	9
19-29 years	(13)	2
30-54 years	(112)	19
55-64 years	(107)	18
65-74 years	(112)	19
75+ years	(127)	23
No response	(6)	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	



Fifty-six percent of respondents are female, 41% male. Age ranges are fairly evenly represented in the categories between 30 and 75+ years of age (average of 19% each). However, the 19-29 age range is greatly underrepresented, as only 2% of total respondents are in this category. Further, youth aged 5-18 are only 19% of total respondents, which could have been influenced by a limited distribution to prospective school-age respondents.

Table 3: Household Composition

People in Household:

(Indicates number of households that have 1 or more people in that age category)

0 to 5 years	(50)	6%
6 to 12 years	(124)	21
13 to 18 years	(128)	22
19 to 29 years	(53)	9
30-54 years	(245)	42
55-64 years	(186)	32
65-74 years	(141)	24
75+ years	(144)	25
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	

Type of Household:

Single-parent family	(20)	4%
Two-parent family	(176)	30
Single person	(124)	21
Two people in home	(262)	45
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	

Two-person households represent the single largest percentage of respondents on the basis of “type of household”, followed by the group in two-parent families. On the basis of “ages within household” (one or more persons in that category in that household) the largest single age group representation is 30-54 year olds, followed by the group aged 55-64. About a fifth of respondents have children aged 6 to 12 years or 13 to 18 living at home. A smaller percentage of young families with children under five years of age participated in the survey.

Table 4: Community and Term of Residence

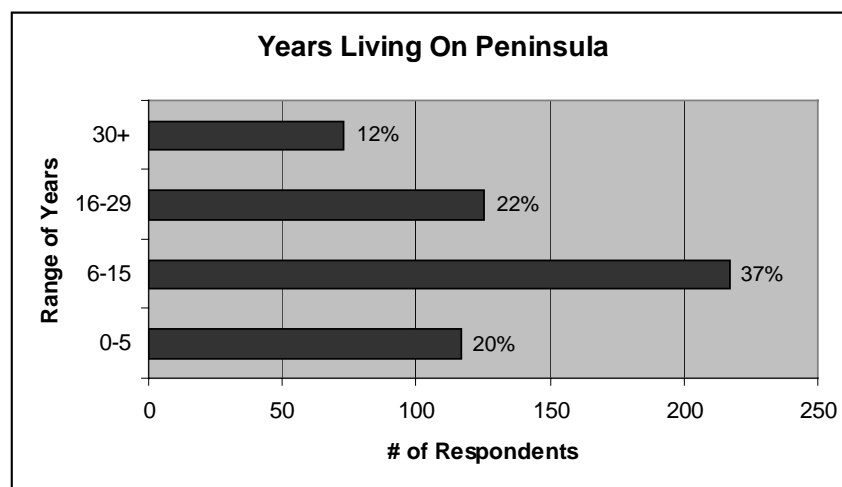
Community of Residence:

Sidney	(425)	72%
District of Central Saanich	*(105)	18
(*90 were Bayside School students)		
District of North Saanich	(44)	8
Other	(2)	1
No response	(60)	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	

Number of Years Living on the Peninsula:

(Average number of years – 16)

Short-term	0 to 5 years	(117)	20%
Interim-term	6 to 15 years	(217)	37
Long-term	16-29 years	(125)	22
	Over 30 years	(73)	12
No response		(50)	9
<i>Total</i>		<i>582</i>	



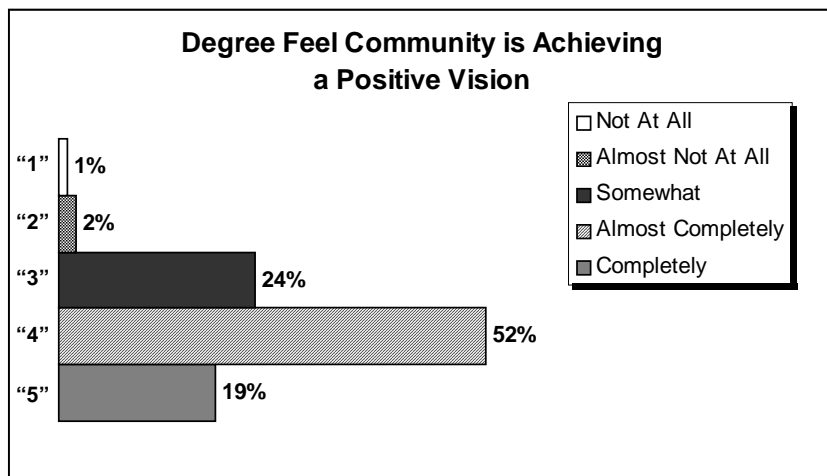
The majority of survey responses were from Sidney residents (72%), reflective of the concentration of survey distribution activities in this area. The average number of years respondents have lived in the Peninsula area is 16 years. Interim-term residents (6 to 15 years) make up the largest percentage of respondents, with short-term and long-term residents having equal representation.

2.2 COMMUNITY VISION-BUILDING – Strengths and New Directions

The first survey question was intended to get general insights on how the community is doing/its current strengths as well as new directions/vision elements it can pursue in the coming years. Respondents were asked, **“To what degree do you feel we live in a vibrant, connected, healthy community where people are supported and support each other, have a strong sense of well being, and have their needs and interests met?”**

Table 5: Degree of Agreement with Vibrant Community Statement

“1” / Not At All	(7)	1%
“2” / Almost Not At All	(10)	2
“3” / Somewhat	(140)	24
“4” / Almost Completely	(305)	52
“5” / Completely	(111)	19
No response	(9)	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	
<i>Average of responses</i>	<i>a 3.8 out of 5</i>	



Over two-thirds of respondents feel that the Peninsula community is “completely” or “almost completely” achieving a positive vision, while about one-quarter indicate it is only “somewhat” achieving this goal.

Respondents living in the area who fall into what we have classified as “short term” and “very long term” categories are most likely among all respondents to say the community is “completely” or “almost completely” achieving a positive vision.

On the basis of area of residence, North Saanich respondents are most likely among all respondents to say the community is only “somewhat” achieving a positive vision, as compared with those living either in Sidney or Central Saanich.

Overall, the youngest and the oldest respondents say the community has almost achieved a positive vision. Those respondents who are youth aged 13-18 years or adults 30-54 are least likely to agree with this positive outlook.

Both male and female respondents provide equally strong views that the community is “completely” or “almost completely” achieving a positive vision.

Current Community Strengths to Build On – 326 respondents

Community Events – 75 responses

- Many well-run seasonal and special events are held, appealing to all ages
- Opportunities for residents to interact
- Promotes community spirit and pride

Mary Winspear Centre – 53 responses

- A wonderful community facility
- A vibrant, central meeting place for different groups
- Offers a wide range of positive programs/activities for the community

Shoal Centre/Seniors Opportunities – 47 responses

- Shoal Centre / Silver Threads are wonderful
- Many activities/services are available in the community for seniors
- Seniors are well looked after, enhancing their quality of life

Waterfront Beautification – 44 responses

- Improved access to wonderful waterfront for all residents, visitors
- Walkways, piers, beach accesses
- Port Sidney, Marine Ecology Centre

Quiet, small town setting – 38 responses

- Can easily access everything in town
- Pedestrian friendly
- Safe, slow pace
- Rural surroundings being maintained

Aesthetic Parks and Trails – 33 responses

- Beautiful flower displays and trees
- Attractive trails and parks

Leisure Facilities Available – 32 responses

- Panorama Recreation Centre serves broad interests/ages
- Museums, library
- Skateboard park, tennis courts, lawn bowling, soccer fields, marinas

Downtown revitalization/aesthetic appeal – 31 responses

- Attractive new buildings
- Statues, benches, brick sidewalks
- Nautical theme

Strong Businesses/Volunteer Spirit - 27 responses

- Variety of small, locally owned businesses active in community
- Good connection between businesses and citizens
- Strong local fundraising, community organizations, service clubs

Quotes

"I think this is a lovely, gentle town and wonderful place to live." **75+ years**

"I love the small town community feeling and lovely, friendly people. Please don't get too big." **75+ years**

"Thank you for encouraging public input. This is a wonderful community." **65-74 years**

"There has been so much growth and enhancement in this community over the past years, what else could you do to improve it? A fantastic job!!" **65-74 years**

"Shoal Centre, Panorama Recreation Centre, Mary Winspear Centre, Saanich Peninsula Hospital, B.C.S. - we draw our strength, health and well-being from all of these. The Peninsula would be a derelict place without them. We should support these." **75+ years**

"We have well-attended community events/traditions that are well known in our community and beyond. People outside our community come to enjoy our traditions. The events bring people together and build a sense of pride." **30-54 years**

"There is a strong sense of community associated with the small town feel of the downtown area. Kudos for developing a great streetscape!" **55-64 years**

"There is a strong connection between Sidney business people and citizens, and good community activism to support cultural activities." **55-64 years**

"There is easy access to administration staff. Councilors react positively to citizens' concerns." **75+ years**

Current Community Strengths to Build On – *continued*

Friendliness of Community – 26 responses

- Friendly people, welcoming to visitors and newcomers
- Mutual understanding and cooperation

Range of Leisure Activities Available – 26 responses

- Many opportunities for physical, cultural and social activities for all ages
- Encourages healthy lifestyles

Cleanliness of community – 23 responses

- Appealing, clean look
- Appears well-run, managed

Good Services for Those in Need – 21 responses

- Beacon Community Services is an inspiring organization
- Food Bank, thrift stores, youth employment, counseling, other services all helpful

Good Local Government – 13 responses

- Caring Council and Mayor
- Good access to Town staff
- Cooperation between municipalities
- SYF Project positive way to get residents' input

Fifth Street Upgrading – 12 responses

- Nice street, boulevards, plantings

Positive Education – 8 responses

- Strong connection between the community and local schools
- Good extracurricular activities
- Interesting courses for adults

New Directions to Enhance Our Community – 279 respondents

Controlled Development – 58 responses

- Firmly maintain zoning and construction bylaws vs being developer-oriented
- Stop high density development – height restrictions, minimum homes per lot, more green space
- Have a cohesive look to the community – building/design guidelines

A Balanced/Integrated Community with Services for All – 52 responses

- Foster a demographic mix of all ages – reflected in diverse services, mixed housing, etc.
- Be aware of/address the needs of young families – they are the community's future
- Bring all ages together, foster a feeling of community vs segregation
- Encourage ethnic diversity - connect with First Nations communities, other cultures

Opportunities for Youth – 43 responses

- Offer healthy, productive activity options – recreation, training, life skills, experience
- Encourage safe social activities
- Provide a youth centre/meeting place

Affordable Housing – 27 responses

- Provide lower cost housing, rentals to keep young people and families here
- Build fewer multiple, high density dwellings for seniors; more one-level, affordable patio homes
- Provide housing assistance for low income seniors

Increase Availability/Use of Green Space – 23 responses

- Encourage healthy, active lifestyles
- Provide throughout town more parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, benches
- Avoid cutting down trees, plant more shade trees
- Maintain, keep park areas clean

Waterfront Enhancement – 22 responses

- Keep accessible, views for all to see vs more development
- Extend the seawall walk north, make all path surfaces hard/even
- Provide more public washrooms, garbage cans
- Extend the pier and its use

Keeping Sidney Small – 19 responses

- Build a vision/direction to avoid overcrowding, excess traffic, etc.
- Maintain our character, heritage
- Foster getting to know our neighbours
- Keep the rural openness of the area

Quotes

“Encourage younger adults to remain in the area by increasing career and work opportunities, suitably priced accommodation and socializing facilities.”

55-64 years

“Sidney is a wonderful community to live in and I have lived here for many years. The fear I have with the way things are going is there are fewer and fewer young families coming here to live. I strongly feel that a community must have a good balance of people to make it thrive. Unfortunately, this is not the direction Sidney appears to be going. Sidney has focused a lot of energy to make this a wonderful place for seniors but now needs to start focusing on the young families again. Thank you for this opportunity.”

30-54 years

“Greater acceptance is needed of each other's diversity, multiculturalism, lifestyle and economic class.”

19-29 years

“This is not only a tourist town. Look at local needs too. Pay more attention to areas outside of the downtown core (i.e. traffic speeds, roads, sidewalks, lighting, etc).”

30-54 years

“As of the last year, Sidney has become too commercial. Too many large condos seem to unbalance the town. If we don't save the charm and sea views, we will even lose tourists!”

65-74 years

“We have a beautiful, scenic community, which seems vibrant, healthy and safe. We need to safeguard this by not letting developers dictate development and the aesthetics of the town.”

55-64 years

New Directions to Enhance Our Community – *continued*

Improved Parking – 18 responses

- More parking on Beacon, near water, and for events
- Longer parking times

Enhance Trail System – 13 responses

- Develop more trails, pathways, bike lanes in the community and area
- Promote the trails, paths – maps/brochures of safe cycling loops – tourism potential
- Maintain/clean the trails/paths for safety, aesthetics

Address Neighbourhood Improvements – 12 responses

- Shift the focus from downtown enhancement, businesses and tourism
- Address neighbourhoods' needs - sidewalks, streetlights, road cleaning and resurfacing, traffic speed

Promote More Events/Attractions – 10 responses

- Pursue other opportunities for tourism, visitors
- Pursue scuba tourism, competitions (e.g. road bike, skateboarding, BMX), boat show, arts market, more murals, cycling destination/trails
- Develop a lit promotional sign by highway/Beacon

Better Traffic Management – 7 responses

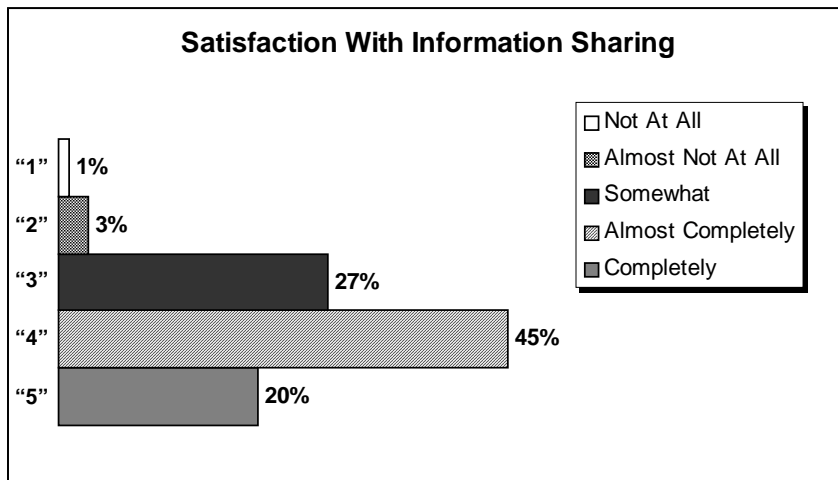
- Address traffic lights, 4-way stops, traffic direction
- Review pedestrian crossings/safety
- Consider access to highway, overpasses

2.3 INFORMATION SHARING

Survey question 2 asked respondents, “How satisfied are you with what and how information is available on community services/programs/facilities?”

Table 6: Satisfaction with Community Information Available

“1” / Not At All	(9)	1%
“2” / Almost Not At All	(14)	3
“3” / Somewhat	(156)	27
“4” / Almost Completely	(262)	45
“5” / Completely	(119)	20
No response	(22)	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	
<i>Average of responses</i>	<i>a 3.8 out of 5</i>	



About two-thirds of respondents are quite well-satisfied with information sharing about community services, programs and facilities.

And two-thirds of both male and female respondents are similarly satisfied with information sharing. The mid-to older-age respondents indicate the highest levels of satisfaction with information sharing, while younger respondents aged 13-18 years, or 19-29 show lower levels of satisfaction.

The very long-term residents had the highest level of satisfaction with information sharing.

Respondents from Sidney or Central Saanich showed similar and higher levels of satisfaction on this measure than did those who live in North Saanich.

Survey question 3 asked respondents to clarify **where they currently look for information about services/programs/facilities in our community?**

Table 7: Current Sources Used for Community Information

	Recreation Opportunities		Cultural Opportunities		Health Care Services		Community Services	
Brochures	(299)	51%	(159)	27%	(139)	24%	(201)	34%
Newsletters	(185)	32	(158)	27	(126)	22	(220)	38
Directories/Guides	(175)	30	(88)	15	(222)	38	(208)	36
Newspaper ads, listings	(305)	52	(340)	58	(159)	27	(294)	51
Posters	(148)	25	(179)	31	(50)	9	(113)	19
Websites	(108)	19	(68)	12	(66)	11	(87)	15
Word-of-mouth	(250)	43	(223)	38	(180)	31	(207)	36
Other: Phone book, TV/radio, doctors office, recreation centre, library, PCS office	(28)	5	(28)	5	(40)	7	(32)	5

Responses indicate that:

- Newspaper ads and listings are the most frequently used source for recreation, culture and community services information. Respondents are more likely to rely on directories and guides for health care services information.
- For all types of information, respondents are least likely to use websites among all sources.
- For information on recreation opportunities, brochures are used by about half of respondents, and word-of-mouth is also a frequently used source for information. One-quarter of respondents also view posters for recreation information.
- For information regarding cultural opportunities, word-of-mouth and posters are important information sources. Just over one-quarter of respondents refer to brochures and to newsletters.
- For information on health care services, word-of mouth and newspaper ads/listings are used by many respondents,
- Respondents indicate that for community services, newsletters, directories/guides, word-of-mouth, and brochures are used about equally as sources of information.

Ideas for Improving Information Sharing – 153 respondents

Website – 36 responses

- Provide full information on services, events, etc.
- Keep information up-to-date
- Respond to email
- Effectively promote the website
- Also provide hard copy material because not all have computer access/skills

Peninsula News Review – 31 responses

- Increase reporting/articles on local events and community services vs just listings
- Have a pull-out community calendar, What's Up column
- Have coverage well in advance of event

Mary Winspear Centre Sign Board – 16 responses

- Have it visible from the highway and Beacon to avoid traffic hazards

Town Mailings – 14 responses

- Ensure all homes, apartments, etc. receive Town Talk, inserts
- Include in Town Talk community group submissions, profiles of volunteer organizations, Peninsula-wide information

Pamphlets/Brochures – 13 responses

- Place in stores, restaurants, facilities in community
- Mail out, insert in paper

Television/Radio – 12 responses

- Have staff person provide information to TV, radio, paper re: happenings

Information Directory – 11 responses

- Pull together the current separate information sources into one central source and keep in up to date
- Have in print and on the website
- Emphasize information, contact numbers for community services, programs for all ages
- Do not make the directory commercial (e.g. with business ads)

Posters – 8 responses

- Place in stores, facilities in community

Notice/Bulletin Boards – 9 responses

- Place downtown (near Beacon) at key facilities

Information Line – 7 responses

- Recording of events
- Informed person to answer questions

Quotes

"The Wednesday News Review is excellent, as is the Town Talk newsletter. I wish more people would read them!"

55-64 years

"There has to be a better way to get information to newcomers in the area about what services this community offers."

30-54 years

"As a new home owner it would be ideal to have access to a website which provides all details on town operations, services and contact information."

19-29 years

"Have a community information booklet that emphasizes information, not advertising."

55-64 years

"Community information seems scattered. There should be a central information source regarding services, activities and events."

65-74 years

"Employ someone to contact TV stations, radio stations, newspapers, etc. to give them information on what is going on."

75+ years

"Provide a central notice board showing current and future activities in one place."

75+ years

"Provide and promote a phone line strictly dedicated and staffed by competent, informed staff to answer questions."

65-74 years

"Better communication is needed between the Mayor, Council and the general public before making decisions on spending (e.g. Lochside underground wiring)."

75+ years

"Provide more inter-Peninsula district information on current and future plans. Keep information sharing wide open."

65-74 years

Ideas for Improving Information Sharing – *continued*

Schools – 6 responses

- Distribute information on events to schools – flyers, posters
- Have visitors come to school to present information

Panorama Recreation Centre and Program Guide – 5 responses

Town Hall – 5 responses

Newcomers Club – 5 responses

Other:

Open, Honest Information Sharing Between Politicians and Electorate – 19 responses

(Partially stemming from disagreement with completing the underground wiring project after a “No” vote won)

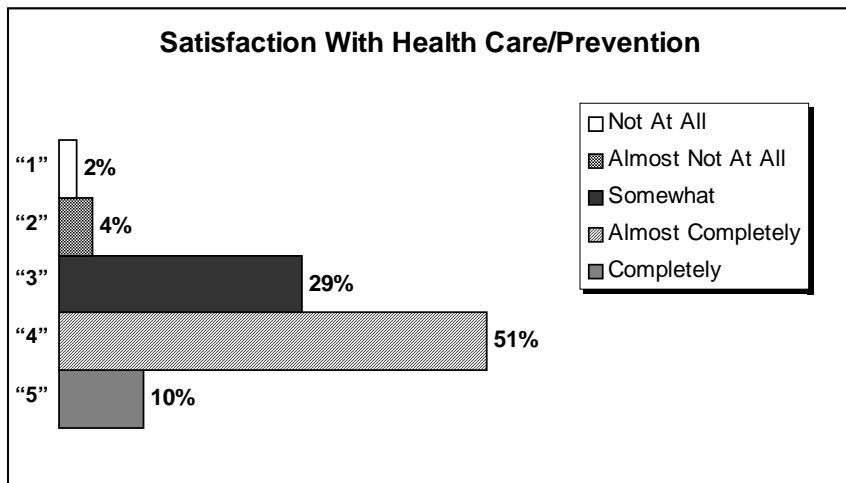
- Residents need to be informed, asked for input and listened to
- Be responsive, open to change and citizen input
- Circulate unbiased, complete information in advance of referendums, decisions
- Inform residents of projected work and why, before decisions are made on spending
- Hold more Town Hall meetings to exchange information and ideas
- Keep website current with meeting minutes, project information
- Make the Vision Coordination Committee and Advisory Planning Commission accessible for public input, and consider broader representation on each (e.g. families, seniors, social agencies, schools, churches)

2.4 HEALTH CARE AND PREVENTION

In survey question four, respondents were asked, “How satisfied are you with current resources and services for health care and prevention for all ages?”

Table 8: Satisfaction with Current Resources for Health Care and Prevention

“1” / Not At All	(13)	2%
“2” / Almost Not At All	(25)	4
“3” / Somewhat	(166)	29
“4” / Almost Completely	(299)	51
“5” / Completely	(58)	10
No response	(21)	4
<i>Total</i>	582	
<i>Average of responses</i>	a 3.6 out of 5	



Just under two-thirds of respondents are quite well-satisfied with current resources and services for health care and prevention.

Female respondents have a slightly lower level of relative satisfaction than the males.

Six-12 year old respondents have the highest level of overall satisfaction with resources and services for health care and prevention, followed by the 13-18 year olds.

Respondents living in the area for an interim term (6-15 years) have the highest levels of satisfaction, while very long-term residents (over 30 years here) have the lowest level of satisfaction among all such groups.

Ideas for Improving Health Care/Prevention – 116 respondents

Increase Prevention Efforts – 32 responses

- Comprehensive, integrated approach needed
- Connect through schools, community facilities, public health, paper
- Offer workshops, lectures, health fairs, literature, counseling
- Promote a healthy lifestyle approach – recreation activities, nutrition, no smoking

Increase Available Doctors – 21 responses

- Tired of going to clinics, wait times, struggling to find a doctor
- Attract more doctors to the area
- Provide a current list of doctors accepting new patients
- Doctors should accept seniors too

Decrease Wait Lists – 16 responses

- Decrease wait times for diagnosis, surgery
- Provide more OR time
- Make fuller use of diagnostic equipment (i.e. more staff)

Increase Funding – 14 responses

- Pressure the government to increase funding – hospitals, emergency, surgery, staff, supplies, etc.
- Cut no more services
- Do more fundraising

Walk-in Clinics – 12 responses

- Extend existing clinics' hours – 7 days/week, later in evening
 - so people don't go to emergency for minor problems
- Provide more clinics (e.g. downtown, at Shoal Centre)

Provide Services for Those in Need – 11 responses

- Provide talks, counseling, resources, medications for youth at risk – drug/alcohol abuse, birth control, STDs
- Make services accessible for people no matter their income
- Address mental health needs - professional counseling, etc.

Increase In-Home Care – 10 responses

- Provide more in-home care programs/services for at-home seniors, handicapped – they can stay in their homes, have continuity in care
- Research the “Are You Okay” check-in service (in Oak Bay)

Plan for Extended Care/Assisted Living – 9 responses

- Address increasing need for extended care and assisted living facilities

More Local Specialists – 8 responses

- Provide specialist services in Sidney several days per week (at one facility?) to minimize trips to Victoria, wait times

Quotes

“Clinics should be open later and more often on weekends so people can use them and not the hospital emergency for minors things.”
75+ years

“Consider weekly clinics at Shoal Centre for residents (e.g. medical, dental...).”
30-54 years

“More doctors need to be available. Many people are without a family doctor and I feel this is important for quality and consistent care, especially for children.”
30-54 years

“We must make further effort to get people of all ages moving, but especially the younger people (8-15).”
30-54 years

“Prevention should be integrated into education, recreation and local planning by taking a comprehensive approach to keeping our citizens healthy.”
30-54 years

“Provide more education. Send periodic flyers to households about health information, fitness opportunities, the importance of wellness/prevention, etc. Provide incentives for active living (e.g. first 2 fitness classes free).”
54-64 years

“We need many more places for seniors in nursing homes or where care is provided and more places for couples to stay together.”
75+ years

“Lobby the government to build long-term care and intermediate care facilities in and around Sidney for our large aging population, and to free up acute care beds at the local hospital.”
65-74 years

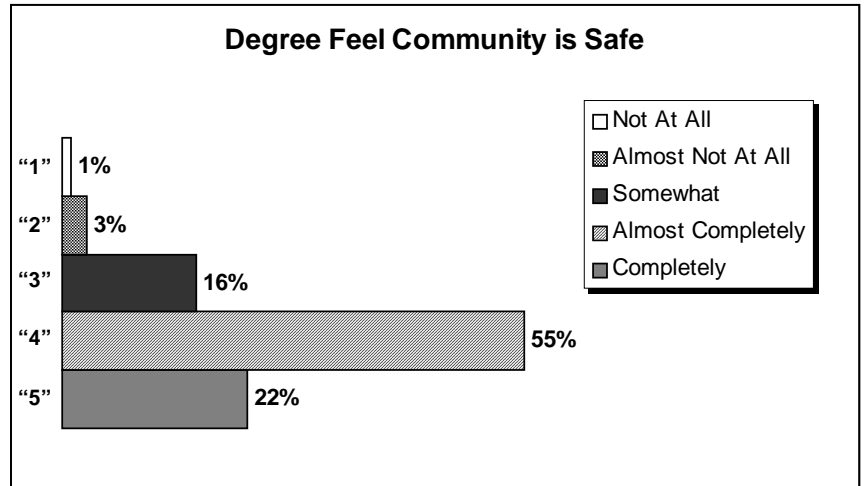
“Improved homecare options are needed for handicapped individuals that cannot live with families but don't belong in geriatric care.”
30-54 years

2.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY

Survey question 5 asked respondents to consider, **“To what degree do you feel this is a safe community?”**

Table 9: Degree of Agreement with Safe Community Statement

“1” / Not At All	(4)	1%
“2” / Almost Not At All	(19)	3
“3” / Somewhat	(95)	16
“4” / Almost Completely	(319)	55
“5” / Completely	(128)	22
No response	(17)	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	
<i>Average of responses</i>	<i>a 4.0 out of 5</i>	



Respondents accorded the highest average level of agreement to this statement among all such queries in this study: 4.0 out of 5.0. Overall, more than three-quarters of respondents feel the community is “completely” or “almost completely” safe, representing the highest positive rating given to any such question in this survey.

Male and female respondents are equally likely, at very high levels, to feel the community is safe.

The 13-18 year old respondents are least likely to say that the community is relatively safe.

Responses on the basis of “type of household” generally indicate a high rating on this safety measure. Respondents representing “two people in the household” had a lower level of agreement with this statement.

Respondents living in the community short-term have the highest percentage feeling the community is safe.

Respondents living in all three local areas (Sidney, North Saanich and Central Saanich) all show high levels of agreement that the community is quite safe.

Ideas for Enhancing Safety – 216 respondents

Improve Street Lighting – 55 responses

- Improve street lighting (more lights, brighter bulbs) for walking and driving safety
- Needed for intersections, residential streets, pathways, sidewalks, bus stops, beach accesses

Provide More Police Presence – 32 responses

- Have police more visible downtown, around schools, West Sidney, marinas
- Patrol at night in the downtown area, known hangouts, bar areas

Control Speeding – 26 responses

- Decrease speeding in residential areas and near schools
- Increase patrol, ticketing, enforcing speed limits
- Watch for speeding/not stopping at intersections, stop signs, crosswalks
- Help keep Sidney pedestrian friendly

Get Police Out on Foot/Bike – 22 responses

- Mix more with the community day and night
- Go to beach areas, parking lots
- Casual clothing at public events

Youth Opportunities – 17 responses

- Offer programs, activities to encourage them in a positive way
- Provide a place to socialize/youth centre
- Parents need to encourage youth to participate in positive recreation and work, to respect others

Neighbourhood Watch – 15 responses

- Involve residents in taking responsibility, interest
- Volunteer patrols

Deal with Offenders – 13 responses

- Improve the judiciary system, enforce penalties for minor offenses before they become major
- Speed up sentencing, make it more aggressive

Snow Removal – 9 responses

- Enforce bylaws for snow clearance by residents
 - Remove snow from roads, sidewalks, salt/sand promptly
- (Note: survey was distributed following the January snowstorm)

Safety Workshops/Lectures – 8 responses

- Inform people about emergency preparedness
- Provide sessions/information on keeping homes secure, seniors not feeling intimidated, children's safety
- Have police visit/liase with schools
- Build upon a positive community image vs over-reacting to limited dangers

Quotes

"Maintaining a police liaison with the schools has proven to be very effective."

13-18 years

"The only advice/comment would be the street lighting. Street lighting in general is poor, especially in winter and rain. Intersections are poorly lit. Different gas tubes are available."

55-64 years

"People try very hard to make this a safe community. They watch out for neighbours and generally offer friendly support."

55-64 years

"Neighbourhood Watch should perhaps be encouraged more."

65-74 years

"Greater visibility of RCMP is needed on the streets of Sidney along with enforcement of traffic speed limits, stop signs, crosswalk rules, etc."

75+ years

"I would like to see police patrolling on foot or bikes, especially during summer months and special events."

30-54 years

"We need more law enforcement re: cycling with helmets, riding/skateboarding on sidewalks, etc. This requires more police presence in downtown."

75+ years

"Convince the courts to provide penalties (not a gentle slap on the wrist) for all adult and juvenile offenders of vandalism, break and enter, etc."

65-74 years

"We all need to work towards better education of parents and young people to respect others."

65-74 years

"Focus on "building" a positive community and don't fall into the trap of focusing on/reacting to limited dangers that exist."

55-64 years

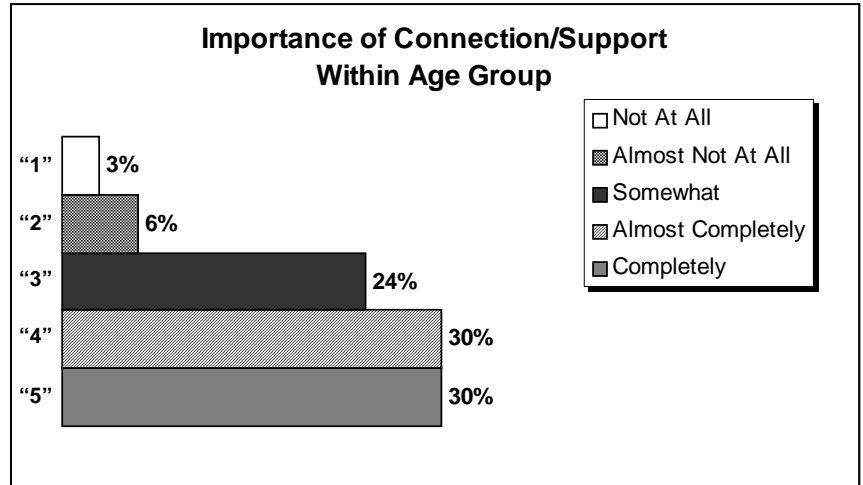
2.6 CONNECTION/SUPPORT

Survey question 6 had two parts, asking respondents to consider, “How important to you are opportunities in our community to connect/support 1) within your age group, and 2) between different age groups.”

Table 10: Importance of Opportunities to Connect with Others in the Community

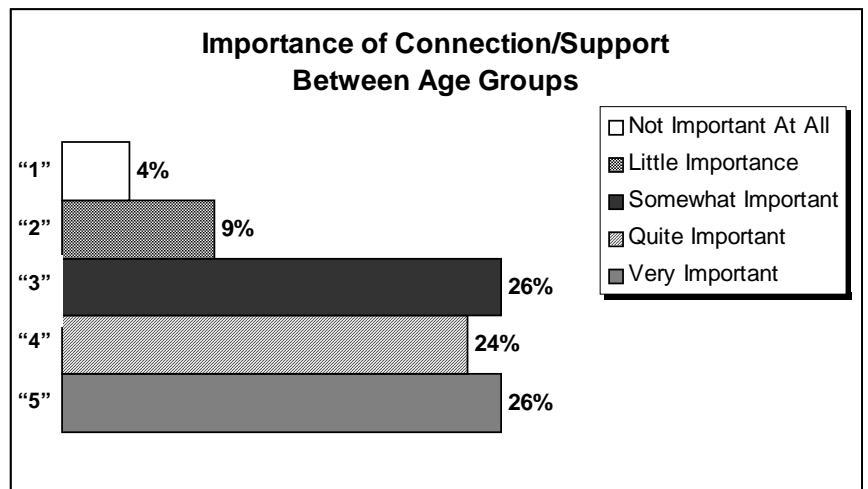
Within age group:

“1” / Not At All	(16)	3%
“2” / Almost Not At All	(34)	6
“3” / Somewhat	(140)	24
“4” / Almost Completely	(172)	30
“5” / Completely	(17)	30
No response	(44)	7
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	
<i>Average of responses</i>	<i>a 3.9 out of 5</i>	



Between different age groups:

“1” / Not At All	(23)	4%
“2” / Almost Not At All	(54)	9
“3” / Somewhat	(151)	26
“4” / Almost Completely	(137)	24
“5” / Completely	(150)	26
No response	(67)	11
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	
<i>Average of responses</i>	<i>a 3.7 out of 5</i>	



Responses indicate having connection/support within your age group is slightly more important to respondents than connection/support between age groups.

Female respondents indicate there is more importance to connecting within their age group than do males. Both female and also male respondents place slightly less importance on connection between age groups, than within their own age group.

The importance of connecting within your age group is strongest for 19-29 year old respondents and those aged 75+. The 13-18 year old respondents accord lower importance to this type of connection.

For connection between age groups, the 13-18 year old and 75+ respondents indicate the least importance on this measure. The 19-29 year old and 30-54 year old respondent groups place the highest levels of importance on connection between age groups.

For “type of household” respondents living on their own (one-person home) place the highest level of importance on connection within their age group.

For connection between age groups, the single-parent family respondents place the most importance on this type of connection, and the two-person home respondents indicate the lowest need for such connections.

On the basis of “number of years living in the community,” most respondent groups indicate they place more importance on connection within your age group than connection between age groups. The exception is among those respondents living here more than over 30 years, who give equal importance to the two types of connection.

Ideas for Creating/Improving Opportunities for Connection/Support – 87 respondents

Offer Opportunities to Bring Age Groups Together – 33 responses

- A healthy community provides ways for age groups to mix and connect – this brings a feeling of community and cohesion
- Offer a variety of activities/events to reach various ages and interests
- Promote school events that the public can attend
- Encourage all ages to come to the Shoal Centre
- Hold community dances, block gatherings, in addition to current community events - publish event calendars
- Involve the First Nations community in regular events

Bridge the Gap - Involve Seniors and Youth – 24 responses

- Provide opportunities for talking between youth and seniors – hear stories, skills, discover differences and appreciation
- Get involved in projects, events together
- Have seniors involved as teaching, coaching, homework helping guests at middle and high schools
- Develop a youth mentoring program / junior achievement program, with seniors as advisors
- Have youth volunteer to help seniors (e.g. nursing homes, take for walks, meals on wheels)
- Be aware of what is need, prepare a directory of skills/volunteer interests for youth and seniors

Offer a Youth Centre/Support – 15 responses

- Have a vision/directions for youth provisions – positive education, places to socialize, recreation, work, involvement in things
- Make drug, alcohol, job, and other counseling available

Support for Seniors – 7 responses

- Provide peer support, connection opportunities through promoted regular and special events
- Reach those who live alone to participate
- People in their 50s/60s could provide elder support
- Offer more for non-retirees to connect

Involve Seniors and Young Children – 6 responses

- Seniors can visit preschools, daycares, elementary schools and vice versa
- Consider a drop-in program for seniors and preschoolers at the same time

Quotes

"I feel the elderly are intimidated too easily by youth. More needs to be done to bring these three categories (youth, adult and seniors) together, not only to make the community feel safer but also to give each group new perspectives." **19-29 years**

"Young people hanging around, or walking streets at night, make us feel uncomfortable and wary." **75+ years**

"Seniors and families are two groups that don't mix much in Sidney. It would be nice to change that. When my kids reached their teens, they felt the seniors didn't like them anymore - some even crossed the street to walk on the other side." **30-54 years**

"Address bridge building. Young adults bring the spice and vitality of youth. Seniors bring the wisdom of age and history." **65-74 years**

"More linkage is needed between old and young. Encourage youth to visit and offer volunteer help in seniors' facilities. Encourage older people to volunteer in schools." **65-74 years**

"School events that allow attendance by the public could be better advertised." **65-74 years**

"Events that bring the young and old together in a common interest are great. Market night, parades and Sail Past are good examples." **55-64 years**

"Age doesn't matter – interest does, very much. The more we have going on, the more opportunities we have to connect." **30-54 years**

"I don't have any connection ideas and don't know anybody in the community. It is difficult for me to meet new people." **65-74 years**

2.7 TRANSPORTATION

Question 7 ask respondents to consider, **“Whatever your means of transportation, how satisfied are you with current opportunities to get around in our community?”**

Table 11: Satisfaction with Current Transportation Opportunities

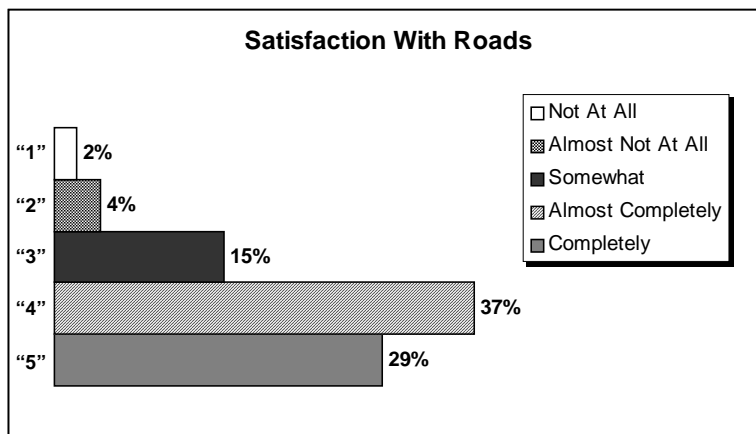
	“1” Not At All		“2” Almost Not At All		“3” Somewhat		“4” Almost Completely		“5” Completely		No Response	Average of Responses	
Roadways	(13)	2%	(23)	4%	(89)	15%	(212)	37%	(166)	29%	(79)	13%	4.0 out of 5
Sidewalks	(26)	5	(45)	8	(134)	23	(176)	30	(134)	23	(67)	11	3.7 out of 5
Trails - cycling, walking	(16)	3	(32)	6	(94)	16	(204)	35	(125)	21	(111)	19	3.8 out of 5
Public transit	(19)	3	(47)	8	(93)	16	(164)	28	(113)	20	(146)	25	3.7 out of 5
Other: downtown parking crosswalks, bike lanes, taxis	(13)	2	(5)	1	(4)	1	(5)	1	(5)	1	(550)	94	

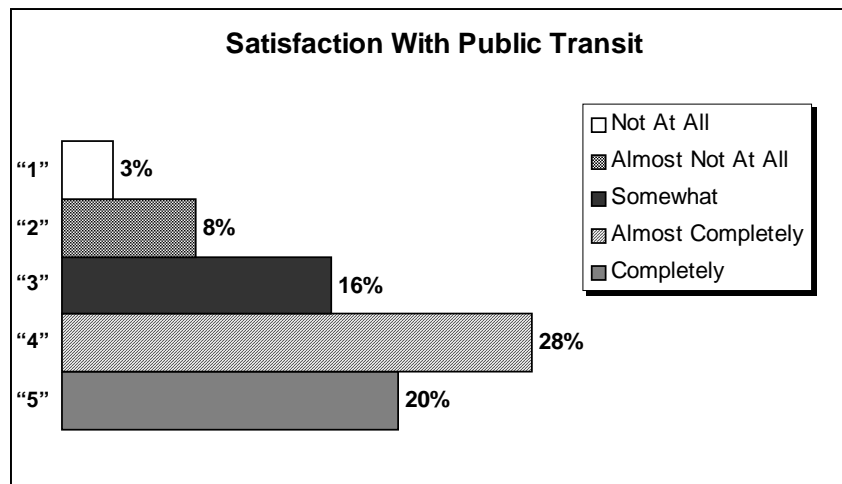
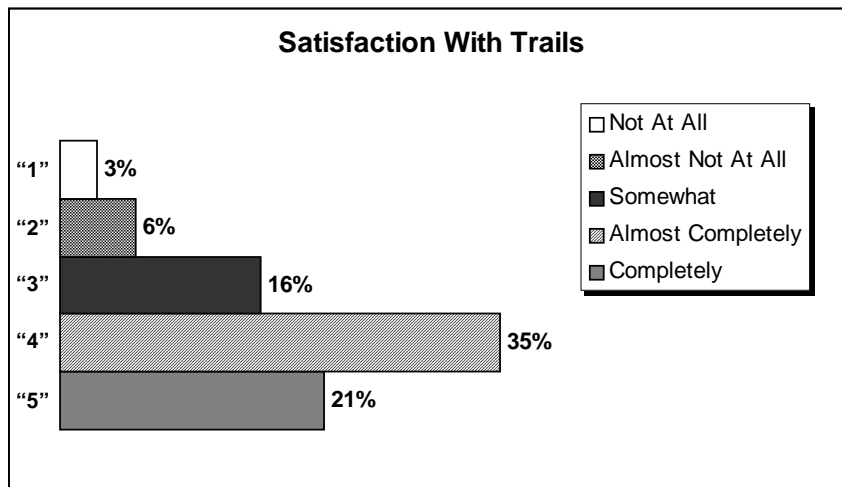
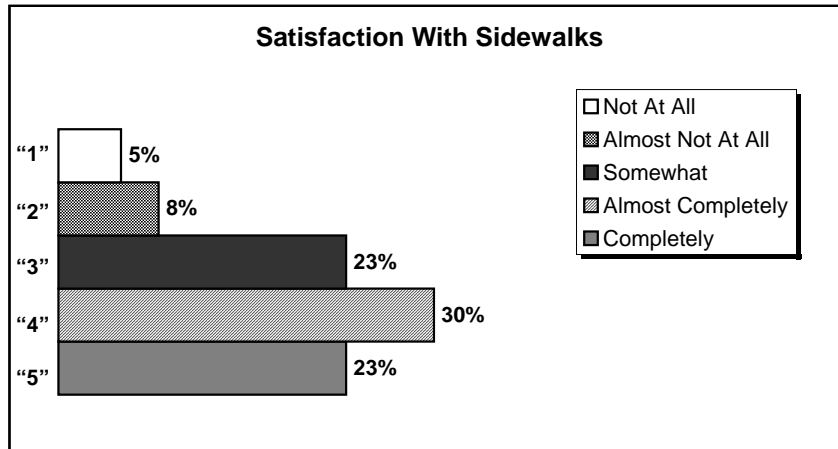
Of the four transportation options reviewed, respondents appear most satisfied with roadways in the community (an average of 4 out of 5 rating, versus 3.7 or 3.8 averages for the other three options). Two-thirds of respondents are well-satisfied with roadways.

Respondents appear to have a lower level of satisfaction overall with sidewalks in the community, with almost half less than satisfied.

Trails satisfy just over half of all respondents

Satisfaction with public transit is rated lowest of all these options among respondents, with just under half content.





When reviewing the transportation responses by “gender”, female respondents appear slightly less satisfied with provisions than the male respondents.

When reviewing the transportation responses by “age range”, the 30-54 year old respondents and 55-64 year old respondents have the lower overall levels of satisfaction with roads, compared with the other age range groups .

These two age groups also have the lower levels of overall satisfaction with sidewalks.

For trails, respondents aged 13-18 years, or 30-54, or 55-64 years indicate lower overall levels of satisfaction than do the other age groups.

For public transit, respondents 19-29 years old, or 30-54, or 55-64 show lower levels of overall satisfaction than the other age groups.

When reviewing the transportation responses by “community of residence”, Sidney, Central Saanich and North Saanich respondents are all generally satisfied with roadways.

For sidewalks, Sidney and Central Saanich respondents have similar levels of overall satisfaction. North Saanich respondents, perhaps due to the area’s more rural nature, have a lower level of overall satisfaction.

Similarly for trails, Sidney and Central Saanich respondents have high overall levels of satisfaction. North Saanich respondents have a somewhat lower level of overall satisfaction with trails.

For public transit, respondents from North Saanich have somewhat lower levels of overall satisfaction, as compared with ratings in the other two jurisdictions. Central Saanich and North Saanich respondents indicated higher levels of dissatisfaction in general with public transit, compared to Sidney respondents’ negative-tending views.

Ideas for Improving Ways to Get Around in the Community

– 335 respondents

Improve Sidewalk System – 92 responses

- Current state of sidewalks limits “pedestrian friendliness” of Sidney
- Provide more sidewalks – extend ones which just stop for greater consistency, add new ones for safety and mobility (e.g. on residential streets, along Lochside, west to east Sidney, McTavish, Mills Road, Sterling, Ocean)
- Repair sidewalks – make them more even, fill in dips/cracks
- Address slopes at driveways and corner curbs
- Address narrow sidewalks - remove poles, widen so scooters, pedestrians, etc. can safely pass

Provide New Public Transit Routes/Mini Feeder Buses – 54 responses

- Examine routes and send buses where riders/growth is
- Provide better service to more areas (e.g. airport, Ardmore, North Peninsula, West Saanich, Mill Bay ferry, UVic)
- Increase express buses to Victoria, have later evening return buses
- Provide stand-alone and feeder mini-bus service

Improve Traffic Management/Flow - 54 responses

- Develop consistent 2-way/4-way stops, reduce number of stops, provide signage re: right of way
- Improve timing of traffic signals (e.g. speed up, sensor-activated, advanced turns) so better flow of traffic and fewer frustrated/confused pedestrians (e.g. Beacon/Fifth, Beacon/Seventh, west to east Sidney, west Beacon to Hwy 17 north, McTavish Road and Hwy 17)
- Return Beacon Avenue to two-way traffic for maximum convenience
- Improve sight lines, visibility of street signage at intersections/stops
- Address traffic calming in residential streets
- Reduce obstructions on roadways during building and road construction

Develop More Bike Lanes – 45 responses

- Develop dedicated bike lanes/barriers put up to remove bikes from traffic
- Lanes shared by cyclists, scooters, rollerbladers, etc.
- Less on-street parking for better safety of cyclists
- Areas in need – routes to schools, Lochside to Mt. Newton completed, West Saanich Road, East Saanich Road, Mt. Newton, Wain Road, Stellys, route running east/west

Quotes

“The sidewalks are non-existent or too narrow in some areas, full of cracks, unsafe curb slopes, uneven segments and dips caused by poor driveway entrances. They are potentially dangerous and should be upgraded. With the large number of walkers and scooters in Sidney, consistent, wide, even sidewalks are needed. Forget the red bricks on the main streets. We need better sidewalks.” **55-64 years**

“The sidewalks are filled with sandwich boards. There is no need to put them right in front of the businesses on the main street. Limit only to side street businesses. Those with walkers, scooters or visual impairments have a terrible time.” **65-74 years**

“There needs to be a service to provide education to the seniors who have scooters as it is becoming more dangerous for people walking.” **30-54 years**

“The road surface on many Sidney streets is disgraceful and poses an accident danger. Trenches are cut across streets for service lines and left unfilled or the top is unfinished for months.” **65-74 years**

“The traffic lights in Sidney do nothing to encourage reasonable safe, steady traffic flow. They are an abomination, holding up traffic and encouraging frustrated pedestrians to jay walk.” **75+ years**

“There are many ways to enter Sidney and few to leave. Make other routes out to the highway and discourage through traffic in residential areas.” **34-45 years**

“Bus service should be reviewed. Abandon old routes and send service to where the people are/areas where ridership has increased.” **75+ years**

Ideas for Improving Ways to Get Around in the Community – *continued*

Develop More Multi-purpose Trails – 34 responses

- Shared trails for pedestrians, joggers, bikes, horses – all ages, families
- Make them connected, well signed. Have post markers, posted rules of etiquette, printed and display maps, rest areas/benches
- Positive for residents' health/activity and tourism

Improve Bus Scheduling/Frequency – 26 responses

- Provide more frequent bus service, improved evening service
- Time morning buses for start of school (e.g. Parklands)
- Have clearer schedules – post them, display in Town Talk

Provide More Parking – 20 responses

- With increased development, there is less parking for visitors
- No more wide brick sidewalks and the resulting reduction in parking
- Provide more parking by waterfront, stores, side streets
- Alternate dates for parking on sides of side streets
- Improve accesses to parking lots

Improve Pedestrian Crosswalks – 18 responses

- Increase visibility of crosswalks (e.g. signs, overhead lights)
- Address timing of traffic lights/intersection walk signals, especially Beacon and Fifth
- Improve crossings (e.g. on Lochside – Weiler, Frost, Tulista, and at Shoal Centre/Resthaven)

Address School Zone Safety/Access – 17 responses

- Address speeding in school zones (e.g. monitor/enforce, speed bumps, lower speed limit)
- Post resume speed signs outside school zones
- Improve safety of children biking to Sidney School from south of Beacon
- Provide more connected walking/cycling paths throughout neighbourhoods/parks so children can walk/bike to school safely

Enforce Scooter/Cycling Rules and Safety – 15 responses

- Provide safety talks to increase consistent, safe driving
- Consider getting these vehicles off sidewalks
- Monitor/enforce rules
- Educate motorists to respect pedestrians, cyclists, scooters

Maintain Pathways/Road Shoulders – 13 responses

- Keep clean, repaired, smooth for maximum safety

Develop Overpass at Beacon/Highway 17 – 13 responses

Repair/Resurface/Clean Roads – 11 responses

- Repair cuts/patches/uneven surfaces after construction
- Clean up after construction (e.g. ruts, mud)
- Make step downs at driveways smooth, low
- Keep roads clean in residential neighbourhoods

Extend waterfront walkway – 11 responses

- Extend paths along waterfront to the north
- Improve walkway through Tulista Park area
- Surface properly, fill holes for safety

Ideas for Improving Ways to Get Around in the Community – *continued*

Address Transportation Needs of the Handicapped – 9 responses

- Increase accessibility of infrastructure/facilities for the handicapped
- Provide more handicapped parking in downtown
- Provide more information on HandiDart, Taxi Saver Coupons service – keep these services affordable
- Improve access for people with walkers on public transit

Sandwich Boards – 6 responses

- Concerns from scooters, sight-impaired, other pedestrians due to congestion/difficulty passing safely
- Address the safety concerns/obstruction posed by sandwich boards jutting out on sidewalks
- Review/adjust/enforce bylaws regarding sandwich boards on sidewalks

Address Jutting Curbs/Boulevards – 7 responses

- New bump-out curbs and boulevards narrow streets/parking and pose traffic/safety hazards
- Consider impact before deciding to build more

Provide More Accesses onto Highway 17 – 5 responses

- Increase interchanges onto Highway 17 from throughout Sidney to decrease local traffic trying to get out of town, reduce excess traffic on Resthaven

Provide More Bicycle Racks Downtown – 5 responses

Pedestrian Walkways Over Highway 17 – 4 responses

- Provide overpasses to increase pedestrian safety (e.g. end of Beach Drive, Sterling Way, Ocean Avenue)

Carpooling – 3 responses

- Increase carpooling opportunities for commuters downtown, North Saanich, Parkland students, etc.

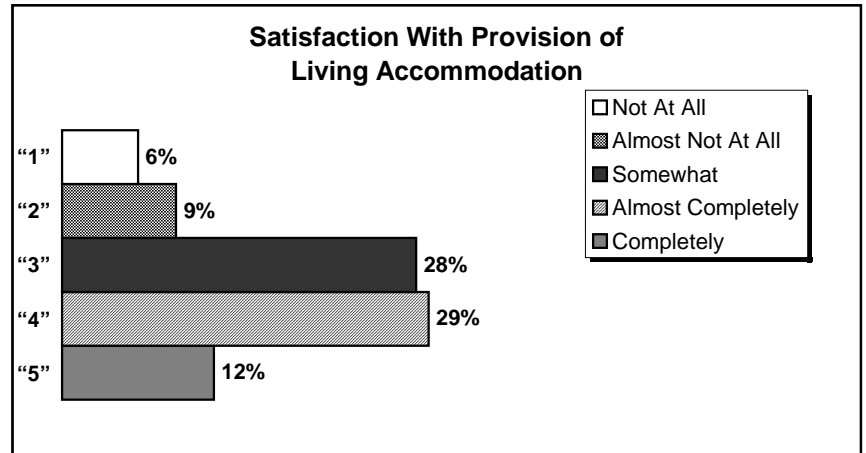
Rapid Transit to Downtown – 2 responses

2.8 LIVING ACCOMMODATION/HOUSING

In survey question 8, respondents were asked, “How satisfied are you with the current provision/availability/balance of living accommodation in our community?”

Table 12: Satisfaction with Current Accommodation in the Community

“1” / Not At All	(36)	6%
“2” / Almost Not At All	(50)	9
“3” / Somewhat	(160)	28
“4” / Almost Completely	(170)	29
“5” / Completely	(73)	12
No response	(93)	16
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	
<i>Average of responses</i>	<i>a 3.4 out of 5</i>	



Current Type of Residence:

Own residence	(460)	79%
Rent residence	(41)	7
Live with parent(s)/guardian(s)	(57)	10
In assisted living residence	(5)	1
Other	(7)	1
No response	(12)	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	

The majority of survey respondents own their homes.

Of all survey questions, satisfaction with living accommodation available in the community received the lowest average rating of 3.4 out of 5.0, compared with response averages for other similar questions. Only about four-in-ten respondents are relatively satisfied overall with the current provision of living accommodation in the community.

Female respondents indicate slightly less satisfaction with provisions for living accommodation than do males.

The 30-54 year old respondents have the highest level of dissatisfaction overall with current accommodation provisions.

On the basis of “type of household,” respondents in family households have the lowest level of satisfaction with current provisions for living accommodation. “

Respondents living in the area for the very long-term have a lower level of satisfaction with living accommodation among all such respondent groups.

Respondents living in Central Saanich are more satisfied overall with living accommodation than are residents of Sidney and North Saanich.

Ideas for Meeting Current/Future Housing Needs – 248 respondents

Offer More Family Accommodation – 77 responses

- Support families wanting to live/currently living in Sidney
- Stop building exclusive developments – housing should be affordable/accessible to all, especially families
- Keep affordable, single family dwellings/lots intact vs knocking down for expensive high density developments
- Offer single family homes/townhomes/co-ops/starter homes with backyards
- School area homes should be zoned family vs current retirement/assisted living developments

Slow Development and Density – 63 responses

- Take measures to keep our “small town” feel
- Stop the high density building – i.e. excess homes per lot, condos, high rises
- Put a cap on building height (e.g. 3 storeys)
- Provide more green space per lot, save trees, build homes further apart
- Stop burdening on-street parking, traffic flow, sewer, water with excess development
- Have more Council/Town input to builders’ plans

Provide More Affordable Housing – 48 responses

- Stop building expensive, exclusive housing
- Provide more moderately-priced, subsidized, low cost, assisted core housing and co-op housing
- Tax developers to help fund affordable housing
- Support Habitat for Humanity projects, the Housing Trust Fund

Increase Affordable Rental Accommodation – 35 responses

- Provide more affordable rental accommodation for young people, families and seniors

Provide More Affordable Housing for Seniors – 22 responses

- Offer choice other than expensive seniors’ residences
- Offer community seniors independent living housing through service club initiatives, Town sponsorship

Offer Single-Level Homes for Seniors, the Handicapped – 20 responses

- Maximize wheelchair/scooter accessibility – e.g. patio-style ranchers, one-level cluster homes
- Increase funding of housing for the handicapped

Provide More Assisted Living Accommodation – 15 responses

- Affordability is important

Increase Legal Secondary Suites – 10 responses

- Promote the option, allow more controlled, legalized suites to provide viable/affordable accommodation for lower income residents
- Manage on-street parking closely

Quotes

“Knowing the present and future demographics of the seniors population, I would like to see more lower-income housing. All of us cannot afford these high-priced units (condos and rentals) which aim to relieve the elderly of even blowing their own noses. We continue to like to putter in a postage-size garden and/or keep a pet”. **75+ years, rents**

“Do not replace affordable family dwellings with high density seniors homes at every turn. I do not want to live in a ‘Florida type’ community with closed schools, no kids, no dogs, no fun and a lot of ‘old’ people playing cards and ‘crafting!’” **65-74 years, owns home**

“There are too many ‘no land developments for housing’. If someone is poor or “in need”, there is little help available. And the many residents who are comparatively affluent do not appear to care!” **75+ years, owns home**

“If you remove all the affordable single family housing and replace it with condos and high-end strata homes, is it any great surprise we’re having to close schools? What about more Habitat for Humanity projects and subsidized housing for low income and disabled?” **30-54 years, owns home**

“Much more lower income housing is needed, it seems to me. Young people, families, older people need a better variety of housing options. I am sick of seeing good, older housing around Sidney being torn down for upper income condos.” **55-64 years, owns home**

Ideas for Meeting Current/Future Housing Needs – *continued*

Address the Needs of the Homeless – 5 responses

- See the people living silently in the bushes, on benches
- Consider a half-way house

Provide More Long-term Care Facilities – 4 responses

Mix Different Types of Housing/Demographics – 4 responses

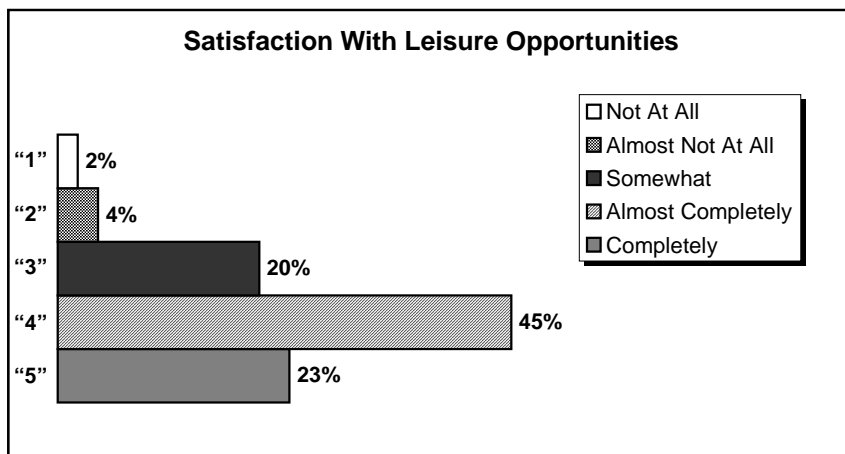
- Avoid concentrating one type of housing/demographic group in any one area (e.g. no just seniors, or low income focus)
- Foster diversity, balance in the community

2.9 LEISURE PURSUITS

The final questions of the survey, numbers 9 and 10, focused on leisure pursuits, defined in the survey as “what people do in their free time to fulfill and enhance their quality of life”. Respondents were asked, “**How satisfied are you with current provisions for leisure pursuits in our community?**” and “**Thinking of leisure time activities you/your family would like to undertake in our area, what, if anything, prevents you from doing them that the community could address?**”

Table 13: Satisfaction with Current Leisure Pursuit Provisions

“1” / Not At All	(13)	2%
“2” / Almost Not At All	(25)	4
“3” / Somewhat	(118)	20
“4” / Almost Completely	(258)	45
“5” / Completely	(132)	23
No response	(36)	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>582</i>	
<i>Average of responses</i>	<i>a 3.9 out of 5</i>	



Almost seven-in-ten residents are satisfied overall with current provisions for leisure in the community.

Female respondents appear more satisfied generally than are male respondents.

The 13-18 year olds and 19-29 year olds are the least likely to show higher levels of overall satisfaction with leisure provisions, while the 65-74 year olds respondents have the highest level of overall satisfaction among all age groups.

Respondents in family households indicate lower levels of overall satisfaction with current provisions for leisure, while non-family households show higher levels of overall satisfaction.

The large majority of respondents in North Saanich, Sidney, and Central Saanich had similarly good levels of overall satisfaction with leisure provisions, in that order of positive rating.

Ideas for Strengthening Leisure Opportunities – 297 respondents

Respondents' comments for questions 9 and 10 were similar and have been combined under the headings below.

Quotes

Provide a Youth Centre/More Activities for Youth – 38 responses

- Ask the youth what they would like and listen. Support them in developing events/activities that cater to their needs and interests.
- Provide affordable, accessible activities/places for youth
- Keep activities open later in the evening – e.g. bowling, gyms, climbing wall, promote our recording booth
- Provide leadership/youth-run opportunities, education, developing life/work skills
- Have caring staff/trained volunteers to work with youth - after school, in sports activities

Address Panorama Recreation Centre's Size and Offerings – 27 responses

- Enlarge the centre to keep pace with the growing population
- Offer more programs and activities – maintain adequate funding so no opportunities are cut
- Keep prices affordable
- Broaden the variety of programs/activities, especially for children, youth (e.g. balance sports-oriented courses with art, theatre etc.)
- Run a shuttle bus from Sidney to the centre

Provide More Parks/Playgrounds – 25 responses

- Improve existing park areas, especially those in neighbourhoods and in the north end of Sidney
- Include directional signage, washrooms, benches, range of play equipment (including more challenge apparatus for older children)
- Provide a waterfront picnic area, BBQs, trees, place for performers/concerts

Provide a Pool/Recreation Centre in Sidney – 24 responses

- Establish a centrally located recreation facility in Sidney, easily accessible by all (vs distance to Panorama)
- Consider a pool, gym, etc.
- Perhaps a local hotel facility would make pool time available to residents

Review Offerings at Mary Winspear Centre – 18 responses

- Appeal to all ages and interests – include children, teens, families, not just seniors, arts-oriented people
- Promote events more, including electronic sign use
- Provide affordable events/programs, have evening box office sales
- Make rentals more affordable for community groups
- Include a system for the hard-of-hearing
- Increase municipal funding to keep offerings/rentals affordable for all

"As a senior I would like to see a recreational facility within Town limits equivalent to Panorama that would be accessible by walking. Shoal Centre activities are expensive for many and out of reach."

75+ years

"Encourage a variety of events at Mary Winspear Centre for different age groups and different entertainment interests."

30-54 years

"I'd like to see public parks/playgrounds improved (e.g. north end). Use some funds spent on seniors to help the next generation. The parks are in bad shape - my children don't even care to use them."

30-54 years

"There is a lack of outdoor summer recreation activities in our parks for the older elementary age children up to early teens (e.g. water park, outdoor pool, day camps.) Other small towns do it!"

30-54 years

"Why can't we ask around in schools, etc. what the youth would like. One day my kids are going to be teenagers. I would rather have them hang out at a place they like here in Sidney. Maybe there wouldn't be so much of this vandalism during the summer time if they weren't so bored."

30-54 years

"Sidney needs more activities for the youth living here. There needs to be somewhere they can go to socialize (supervised) to do what they will that is safe and acceptable."

30-54 years

"We would love to see a better skateboard park for our teenagers. The skateboard park we have is a pretty sad sight. A basketball court is also a good place to hang out. It is so very important to let them have a place to use and socialize."

30-55 years

Ideas for Strengthening Leisure Opportunities – *continued*

Provide an Outdoor Water Park/Picnic Area – 18 responses

Review Offerings at the Shoal Centre – 16 responses

- Provide more programs (including intellectually stimulating courses) and community events – appeal to a range of interests/ages
- Get input from users on program planning
- Promote activities/events more to residents, users, the community
- Have tour vans take people to activities in the area/Victoria
- Keep activities more affordable (via grants, municipality) – currently too expensive for low income seniors

Offer More Family Activities – 13 responses

- Provide more affordable family activities year-round to keep families doing recreation in the area
- Ideas include gym drop-in, non-competitive sports nights, day camps in local parks, family events, model boat pond

Address the Local Library – 10 responses

- Expand the current library (6 responses)
- Join the Greater Victoria Library System (4 responses)

Provide More Centralized Soccer Facilities – 10 responses

- Provide more fields, an all-weather field, club house

Provide New/Resurfaced Tennis Courts – 9 responses

Improve the Skateboard Park – 8 responses

- Clean up the park, provide benches, picnic tables, trees for enjoyment for all ages
- Address youth's concerns about older drunken people, and drug users frequenting the park

Provide More Community Events – 9 responses

- Community walk/ride, Oldtimers basketball game, salmon BBQ, ethnic food festival, summer music festival, children's festival, Wheels Night on closed streets, street dance, monthly outdoor performances
- Encourage event of cultural and age diversity

Provide an Outdoor Pool – 7 responses

Provide a Gymnasium Facility – 7 responses

Provide Launch Areas for Kayaks/Canoes – 7 responses

Provide More Mixed-Use Trails (walking, cycling, equestrian) – 6 responses

Provide More Opportunities to Do Evening Activities – 6 responses
(vs. the town closing down at 7 - 9 pm)

Hold Community Dances – 5 responses

Provide More Venues for Cultural Activities – 5 responses

- Granville Island-type market, artist studios, small venues for live music

Provide More Local Continuing Ed. Courses from UVic, Camosun, etc – 4 responses

Ideas for Strengthening Leisure Opportunities – *continued*

Other Comments (from Questions 9 and 10)

Deal With Dog Issues – 20 responses

- Improve people's enjoyment of walkways, parks, etc. by addressing off-leash dogs and excess dog droppings underfoot (e.g. signage, bag dispensers, fines)
- Provide an enclosed dog run area, more off leash areas, and longer off leash times

Increase Access to Affordable Leisure Activities – 11 responses

Address Public Washrooms in Parks/Town – 6 responses

- Provide more in all park areas of Sidney, in downtown area
- Have them open later
- Post directional signs for washrooms
- Provide more washrooms for special events

Provide More Affordable Meeting Space/List of Spaces for Small Groups – 3 responses

Coordinate Recreation Planning Between the Three Municipalities – 3 responses

- Cooperate in facility planning, funding/grants, common use