

Resort Village of Big Shell  
Survey Results  
June 2013

## Introduction

In August 2012, the Council of the Resort Village of Big Shell developed a questionnaire to seek the input of ratepayers. Council was looking for a sense of what things are most important to ratepayers, what things they like about the resort and what are their concerns. The answers to these questions will provide Council with a broad context that will help in setting a direction for the future and in decision making.

A questionnaire consisting of 10 questions was developed in the fall of 2012 (see Appendix 1 for the complete questionnaire). A copy was put on the web site of the Resort Village of Big Shell and a paper version was made available through the village administrator. Ratepayers were informed about the questionnaire at public meetings and via the newsletter and web site, and were invited to participate. The questionnaire closed at the end of May 2013.

In total, 25 responses were received. As there are 118 properties in the Resort Village, this represents a return rate of just over 21%. This is excellent in that we understand surveys of this type usually see a return rate of less than 10%.

What follows here is a summary of all the returned surveys. A few introductory comments are in order.

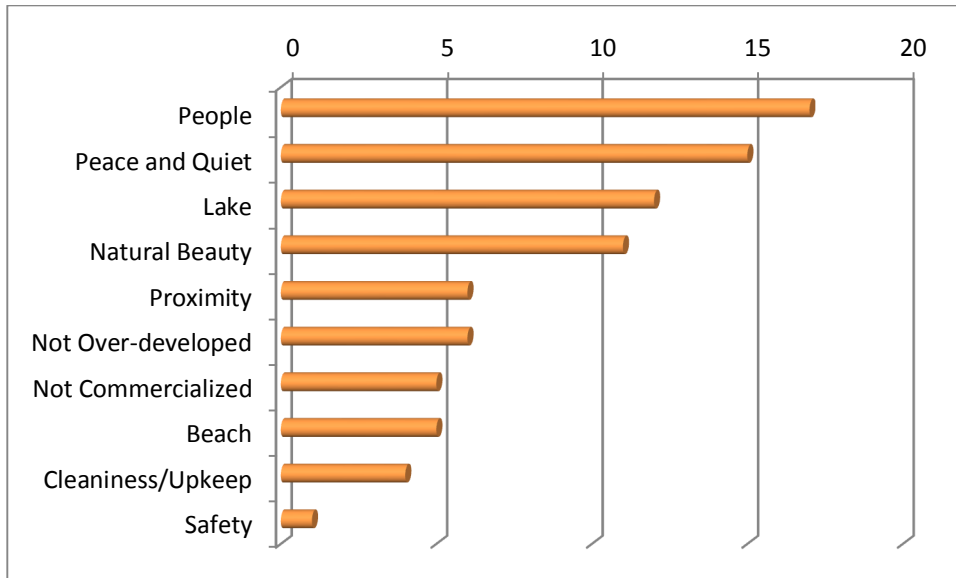
First, people often used a number of ways to describe the same thing. Similar individual ideas were grouped under a common title; for example the title “financial issues” covers a number of specific comments about financial sustainability, long-term fiscal planning, taxes, etc. In order to not lose the important details of exactly what people were saying, we have included examples of some of their specific comments in the summary. For those who want even more insight into exactly what people said, a complete unedited copy of all the responses is included as Appendix 2.

Second, the total number of answers to any particular question far exceeds the 25 responses received. There are two reasons for this. The first is that some questions asked for more than one response (e.g. “What are the three most important things that you like or value about the Resort Village of Big Shell?”) Another reason is that some responses contained more than one idea. For example, here is one response to this same question: “That it hasn't become commercialized; no public boat launch, store, public washrooms, commercial development, camping. We like the solitude, quietness, and friendliness of our village.” In order to preserve all of the thoughts contained in this one answer, it “scored one point” in each of the following categories –“not commercialized”, “peace and quiet”, and “people”.

Finally, we noticed that the top five to seven responses usually account for 80 percent of all the responses. In other words, 80 percent of those who responded to any particular question offered the same five to seven answers; only 20% of respondents offered different answers. This demonstrates that there is good consensus on most topics. While there are some opposing views on specific approaches to issues, there does not appear to be any real polarization.

Here then is a summary of what people said.

1. What are the three most important things that you like or value about the Resort Village of Big Shell?



Comments related to “people” top the list of what respondents say they like or value about the RVBS. Descriptions include friendliness and collegial neighbourhood. People talk about a sense of community that some say is supported by the range of social activities that are available, but not compulsory. Still others say they like the small size of the village where almost everyone at least knows who everyone else is. Some simply say the lake is a place for them to spend quality time with family and friends.

Running a close second to “people” is “peace and quiet”. Many use exactly those terms in addition to words like solitude and tranquility. Some talk with some regret that it’s not as quiet as it used to be.

The lake itself is important – some simply say they like “the lake” while others talk about the beautiful clear water. People also say they enjoy various activities on the lake including fishing. Still others talk about the relatively small size of the lake which makes it relatively quiet.

There are a number of ways people describe the natural beauty that they value, including lots of green space, buffer areas and undeveloped property, the birds, wildlife and nature. One person talks about access to wilderness areas. People comment they want to see a priority placed on maintaining these natural spaces.

As expected, a number of people value the close proximity of the resort to their homes.

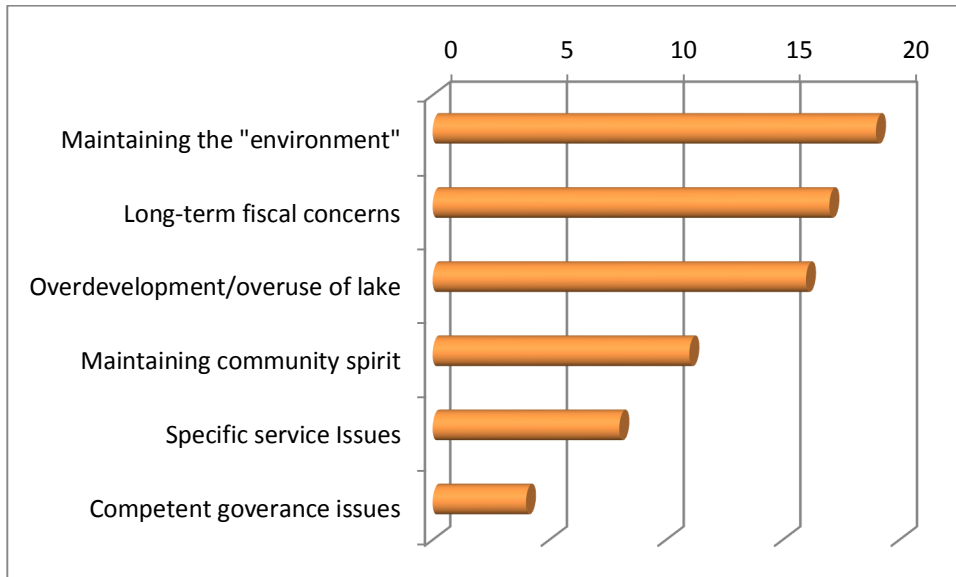
Not surprisingly, the fact that our resort is not overdeveloped or overpopulated is a good thing according to a number of respondents. A summary of these remarks might be “we like Big Shell because it’s not Emma”. One person said, “It is good that as a resort village we are not allowing any further residential development”. Another person remarks that “our lake is at capacity so let’s not allow any further cabins within the RVBS”. Similar comments note that the relatively small size of our resort means relative quiet and lack of “busyness”.

In a closely related way, people also say they like the fact that our resort is not overly-commercialized either, with no store, public boat launch or washrooms, and no camping. What people seem to be saying

is that this means our resort is used almost exclusively by ratepayers and their guests, thus keeping things less busy and quieter (although in another section of the questionnaire people express their concerns that this is changing – more non-ratepayers are now using RVBS facilities).

The beach itself is singled out by some respondents as something they value and the fact that it is clean and well-maintained. Overall resort cleanliness, upkeep and year-round accessibility are noted and one respondent comments that safety (i.e., no vandalism or theft) is important.

## 2. What do you believe are the three most important challenges facing the Resort Village?



There are a number of comments that we have grouped together as they all relate to maintaining a good “environment” at the resort. We included concerns about water quality and water levels, general cleanliness and tidiness, and pollution. Some talk about the need for (and the loss of) walking and skiing paths and the loss of green space (i.e., the ball diamond) for the storage for RVs, boats, lifts, etc. There are concerns about noise and nuisance abatement and safety concerns about the use of recreational vehicles in public areas. Together, these concerns represent what people believe to be the greatest challenge – maintaining and preserving the environment and the personality of the resort that they value.

A close second is long-term fiscal concerns, expressed in a number of different ways. Will we have sufficient funds to continue to provide the level of services people expect (i.e., maintained roads and facilities) and to provide for necessary upgrades and repairs? A number of people talk about the need for a long-term financial plan for infrastructure and capital assets. Some suggest that taxes must go up, some talk about trying to keep taxes down.

Another important category of concerns is the overdevelopment and/or overuse of the lake. There are comments about new resorts and developments on and near the lake and the pressure they might pose on the lake itself. Other concerns are specifically with respect to non-residents using RVBS facilities such as roads, the boat launch and beach, making our resort busier and less peaceful, maybe less safe, even causing our operating costs to increase while these new users contribute nothing back in taxes.

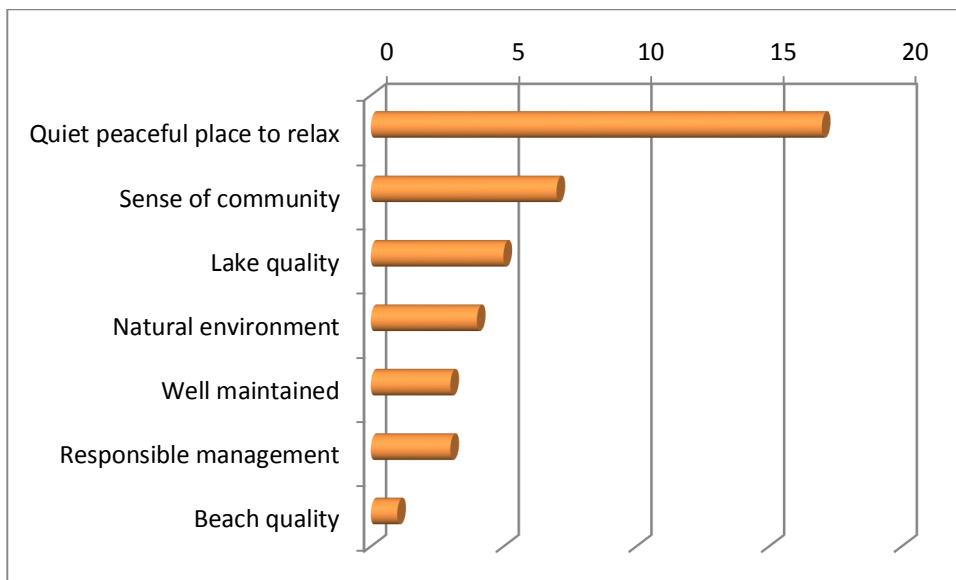
People are concerned about maintaining a sense of community and community spirit. They talk about the challenge of building and maintaining a critical mass of engaged residents that can be called upon to work together to resolve problems. There are comments about council needing to employ good communication

skills and techniques to keep residents informed and to rally their support. Some talk about the need to seek partnerships with other resorts on the lake to tackle common issues, maybe even finding ways to cost-share.

There are some comments that relate to specific service issues or needs, such as improving and maintaining the roads, maintaining the status quo of the beach, the public boat launch and storage requirements.

Finally, there are comments about the need for competent governance, including good communications practises, inclusiveness and transparency in decision making.

3. In one sentence, what do you want your Resort Village to become within 15 years?



The vast majority of respondents want a peaceful place to come and relax. They use terms like serene and tranquil, peaceful and quiet use in a natural setting, a safe leisure spot. Many say they want to see the present “maintained” as much as possible. They use terms like no busier than now, stay much as it is now, minimal cabin development with maximum green space and to stay as it is, a very relaxing place.

The second most popular response is the desire for a strong sense of community, a friendly place, conflict free and harmonious, a family oriented and cohesive caring community.

Several people put a priority on sustaining the lake, maintaining good water quality and healthy aquatic life. They recognize the need for responsible citizens to achieve this goal.

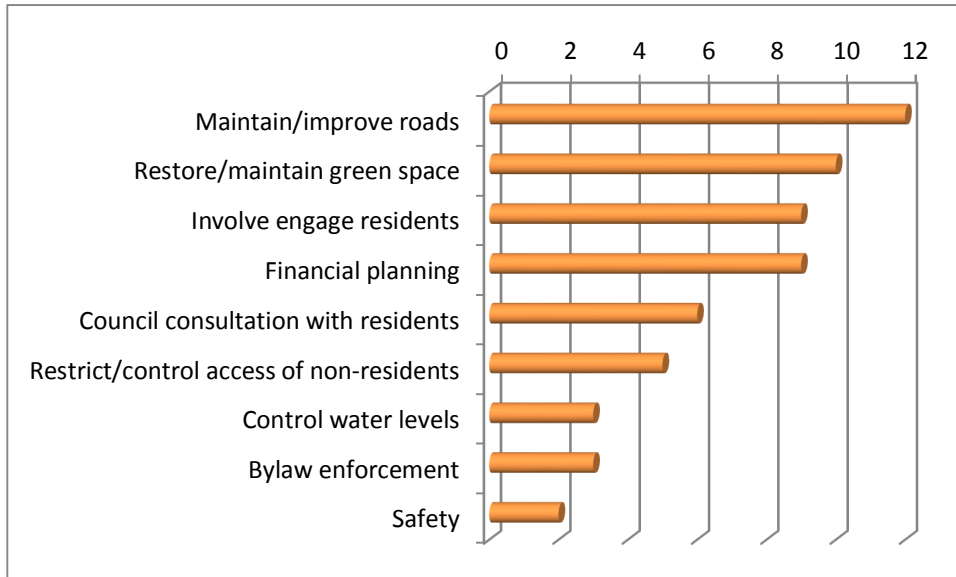
Likewise, people want to maintain a clean natural environment, again, recognizing the need for stewardship and environmental responsibility.

Still others specifically note the desire for the resort and its infrastructure to be well-maintained. One would like to see paved roads and paths.

Some note the need for fiscal responsibility and the need for the resort to be managed with respect and in a professional manner.

One individual makes special mention of the desire for a sandy beach.

4. What are the three most important changes you believe need to be made within the Resort Village in the next 5 years?



The majority of comments are specifically about the road, most expressing concerns that the village roads and the grid road need to be better maintained. While a small number say the roads should be paved, an equal number say that a well-maintained gravel road on which dust control measures are used is sufficient. There is an additional concern about being able to access the village in high-water years, a comment understood to be another reference to road conditions and maintenance.

There are a number of comments about restoring or maintaining green space. The majority talk about the need to clean up the ball field. Some comment on the need to control ATV traffic and it's destruction of the environment, probably a reference to the current state of walking trails in the woods.

A large number of people talk about the need for fiscal responsibility and long-term financial planning. Some specifically say they don't want to see us selling land to raise money. Several suggest that raising taxes is a necessity.

An equal number of people comment about finding ways to involve more people, by keeping them informed and engaged. They talk about more volunteerism and work bees, although in this regard, some say work should be hired out instead of relying on councillors and volunteers. Several talk about the need to form relationships with the other resorts on the lake, because collectively we will be more successful in addressing common concerns. Some even believe this may provide an opportunity for cost-sharing.

A number of people point to the need for council to seek input from residents and to govern on the basis of the majority view.

There are a number of specific concerns about non-residents using our facilities. Some go as far as suggesting our resort should be gated to allow access to cabin owners only.

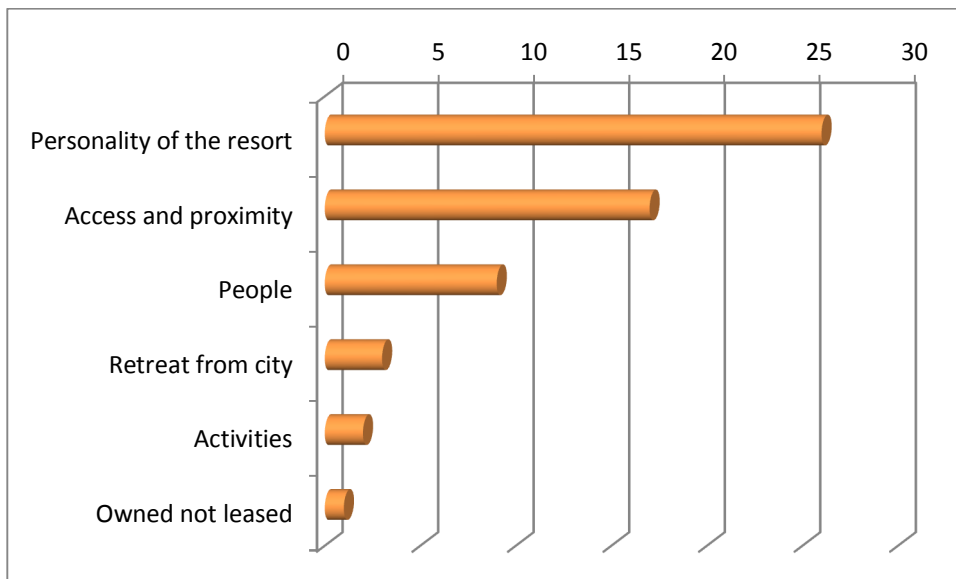
There are several comments about controlling water levels, some specifically referencing controlling the beaver population, probably referring to the ones at the lake's outlet creek, the pond behind Mallard Cove and beside Gull Road.

There are some suggestions about employing a bylaw enforcement officer for the summer, among other things, to control ATV traffic. Another suggested that trails for quads should be established in an area away from the resort.

On a similar theme, there are some specific comments about the need to keep things safe, one person specifically suggesting we maintain a good capability for firefighting.

In response to this question, there is also a wide variety of suggestions for specific capital-type improvements to the resort. These include maintenance equipment, boat launch dock, campsite area, improved walking trails, replacing the main beach toilets, adding a toilet to the community centre, more recreation for children and several other ideas. Each of these suggestions had only one "vote" and it is clear that council needs to have a conversation with the ratepayers to help set priorities and make choices.

5. In one short sentence, why did you choose this Resort Village in which to live or spend your leisure time?



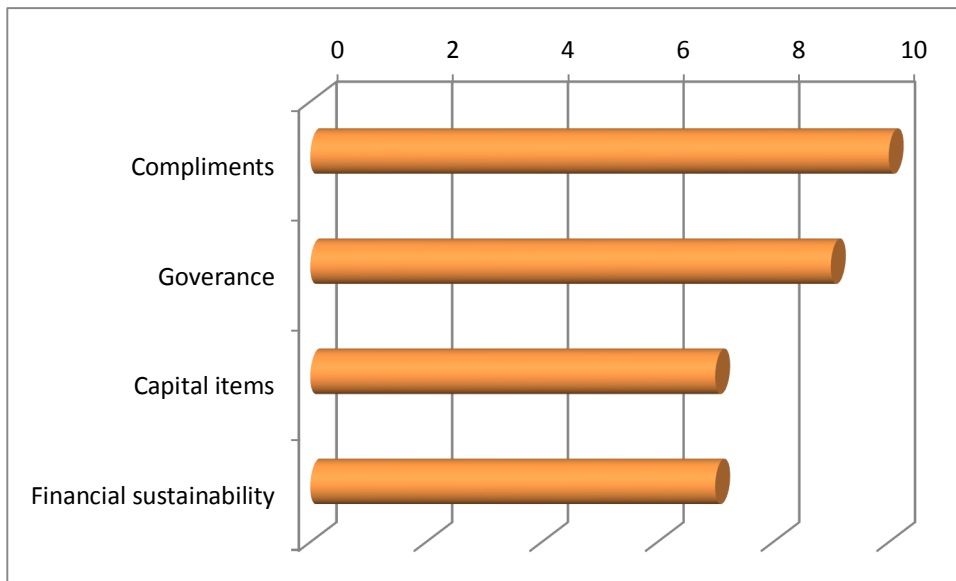
The vast majority of respondents talk about the characteristics or personality of the resort as the reason they chose it. Most say they picked this resort because it was not overdeveloped or overpopulated. Some add that there seemed to be no community interest in further development. Many say they liked the quiet and peaceful character of the resort and the lake, and some make specific comments about the natural setting.

Many people say they picked this location because of its proximity to home and to family. They have relatively easy and quick access, as one person puts it, on a highway that is usually not too busy.

A number of respondents say that people were the reason they chose this resort. Some knew people here when they bought their cabin, and presumably many have stayed here because of the friendly people in the resort.

Some specifically say the resort is the ideal retreat from the city, a few talk about the activities available here, and one person talks about choosing this resort because lakefront lots here are purchased as opposed to being leased.

6. Please provide any additional comments you believe are important in the planning and development of your Resort Village.



The majority of the comments offered in this section are compliments – for the work of council and volunteers, for communicating with ratepayers (e.g., newsletter, web site) and for seeking input from them (e.g., this survey).

Next are a variety of comments about governance. A number of people remind council to continue to have a dialogue with ratepayers, seek their input and find ways of engaging them in addressing issues. A number of people suggest that we work more closely with the other resorts to deal with common issues, perhaps even save money. There are also a few suggestions about bylaws needed to limit development and to deal with home-based businesses.

A number of people reiterated the need for good management to achieve financial sustainability. Several make strong arguments for increasing taxes, and some suggest investigating grants and various cost-saving measures such as sharing resources with other resorts. One person specifically implores that we don't sacrifice green space in order to raise funds.

Finally, there are a few suggestions for capital items such as improvements to the village hall (one suggests a bathroom is needed), a campsite area and a new entrance sign. One person suggests that paved walking paths might be a good idea as our residents age. At the same time, a number of people say we don't need anything new, simply maintain what we have. This includes not paving the road but

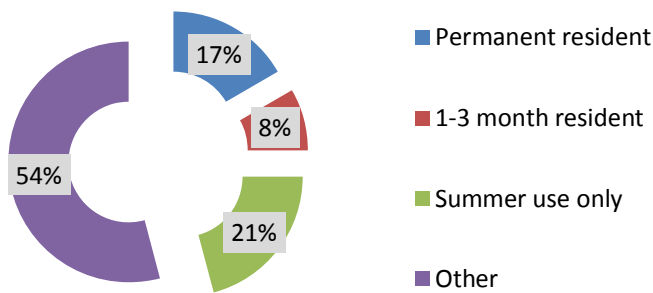
maintaining it better. One person sums up his/her view by saying “the simplicity of this village is its beauty”.

### Respondents

Here is a summary of the people who responded to the questionnaire. It is interesting that there do not appear to be any patterns that suggest the opinions of a particular group of people differ substantially from the opinions of another group.

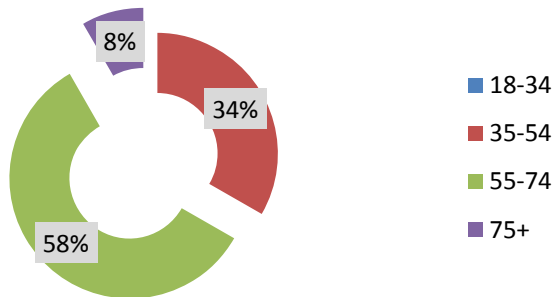
*What type of residency best describes your situation with respect to the Resort Village of Big Shell?*

It seems that the majority of respondents (54%) do not reside at the village permanently or for extended periods of time, but use their cabins recreationally all year around.



*What age group are you in?*

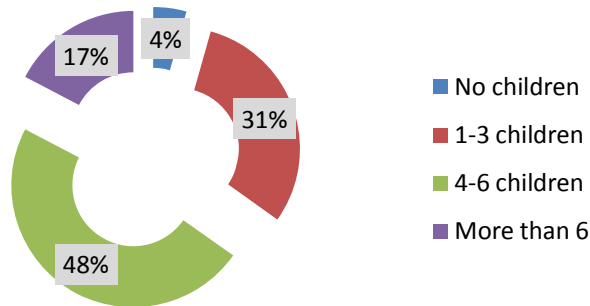
The majority of respondents (58%) are in the 55-74 year age group.





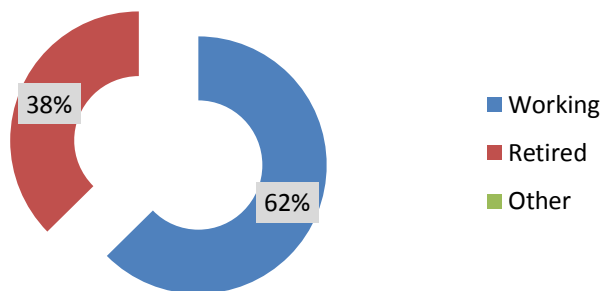
*How many children of yours or those of family and friends regularly spend time at your cottage?*

This question may not have been worded well as we didn't specify an age to define children. It is possible that some told us, for example, their 35 year old children continue to use the cabin. Having said that, it is clear from these results that children (regardless of age) and thus families are an important aspect of people's enjoyment at the village.



*What situation best describes you?*

The majority of those who responded (62%) are still working.



## Appendix 1: Resort Village of Big Shell Questionnaire

As we continue to plan for the future of the Resort Village of Big Shell, it is important that the views and interests of our ratepayers provide the context. Your answers to the following questions will help us to better understand your wishes to ensure that our Resort Village remains a sustainable community that meets the needs of both present and future residents.

Please take time to consider your answers from a personal perspective, then fill out this form and either email or mail it to Tara Bueckert:

[villagebigshell@gmail.com](mailto:villagebigshell@gmail.com)

Resort Village of Big Shell  
PO Box 130  
Shell Lake SK S0J 2G0

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1. What are the three most important things that you like or value about the Resort Village of Big Shell?
2. What do you believe are the three most important challenges facing the Resort Village?
3. In one sentence, what do you want your Resort Village to become within 15 years?
4. What are the three most important changes you believe need to be made within the Resort Village in the next 5 years?
5. In one short sentence, why did you choose this Resort Village in which to live or spend your leisure time?
6. Please provide any additional comments you believe are important in the planning and development of your Resort Village.

What type of residency best describes your situation with respect to the Resort Village of Big Shell?

Permanent Resident     1-3 Month Resident     Summer Use Only     Other

What age group are you in?

18-34     35-54     55-74     75+

How many children of yours or those of family and friends regularly spend time at your cottage?

\_\_\_\_\_

What situation best describes you?

Working     Retired     Other

Thank you for your thoughtful comments. We sincerely appreciate your input, an important part of planning for the future of the Resort Village of Big Shell.

## Appendix 2: Detailed Responses

This is a complete set of all the responses received, completely unedited.

### 1. What are the three most important things that you like or value about the Resort Village of Big Shell?

- peace and quiet
- people
- proximity to the city
- We value that our lake has not followed in the footsteps of other lakes, like Emma and Christopher, where it has become so over populated. It is good that as a resort village we are not allowing any further residential development.
- We like the large amounts of green space that are contained within our village and we hope that maintaining this space is a priority for the current and future councils
- That it hasn't become commercialized; no public boat launch, store, public washrooms, commercial development, camping. We like the solitude, quietness, and friendliness of our village.
- The peacefulness
- Beautiful clear water
- nice sandy beach
- collegial neighbourhood
- Its natural beauty.
- The amount of undeveloped property.
- The lake.
- You are not pressured to participate in activities, they are offered but not mandatory
- Where we are located it is usually quiet during the week
- Lake front is actually "lake front"
- Quiet and peacefulness
- Cleanliness
- Size - most people know each other or at least recognize each other
- the short drive from city
- the friendly people
- the beach
- Proximity to Saskatoon
- Non commercialization--stores etc
- People that reside here
- Place for family and friends to gather in a natural setting
- Peace and tranquility of the nature that surrounds the village. Lake traffic is not busy.
- The resort is small, not extremely busy and close to Saskatoon. A get-away from the city.
- birds and nature
- quiet
- people
- When we bought at the RV, the environment within the RV was very different than now. But, when we bought it was because we valued the quietness, few boats on the lake and no transients using our facilities. Some of these changes are now out of our hands with the development of Aspen Ridge, Misty Grove, campgrounds, etc, etc. This has changed the level of activity on the lake as well as within the village. However, our values remain unchanged.

- We love to fish and spend time outside at the lake. We enjoy getting to know our neighbours, and we like to get together with neighbours for social times. We also value the peace and quiet, and enjoy using the beach, especially when we have company
- natural beauty,
- upkeep of the village,
- friendliness of it's people
- clean, well-maintained resort with lots of green space and buffer areas
- the lake itself, an ideal size and relatively quiet with clean water that's great for all kinds of water sports and recreational activities
- a strong sense of community, history and tradition
- access to wilderness areas
- beach cleanliness
- year round maintenance=year round access
- peacefull
- a place to get together with family and friends.
- water activities.
- very quiet
- no retail
- good people
- Quiet and private - no public campground
- Non commercialized - no stores or gas, but close enough to a store and gas station
- The well-kept beach and playground
- fairly quiet lake
- Clean water
- Close to city
- That is it not overpopulated with cabins; however our lake is at capacity so let's not allow any further cabins within the RVBS.
- That there is no campground or public parking. We like that it is a private development.
- We like the wildlife and amount of nature spaces (ie trails in the bushes, green spaces).
- Safety (no theft, vandalism)
- Small community spirit
- Relative peace and quiet (especially in winter)
- No campgrounds nor stores- quieter
- The beach has been well maintained these past years.
- We appreciate that much of the area has been left more natural- not overly developed nor landscaped
- there are community functions (pot luck suppers, golf tourney etc)
- Close proximity to Saskatoon, quiet peaceful setting, the good people living there.
- The Lake
- Peace & Quiet
- Good Friends & neighbors
- Well kept roads and other areas
- Dedicated council
- Close to Saskatoon

## 2. What do you believe are the three most important challenges facing the Resort Village?

- maintaining services
- ensuring compatibility of cabin owners
- keeping taxes down
- Deterring people who do not own property within our village from using our facilities (ie boat launch, beach, garbage, parking areas)
- Having sufficient funds to undertake usual maintenance and enhancements
- Having a critical mass of property owners who are actively involved and interested in village affairs (such as providing input to council - this survey is a great example of how to obtain feedback)
- long term financial plans for infrastructure and capital assets
- Building capacity within the village so that villagers are informed and able to engage in resolving problems
- Good communication practices are needed to ensure all are aware and engaged in the continuing health of the village and the lake
- Over development in our village and the whole lake.
- Paying for appropriate upgrades and maintenance.
- Maintaining good water quality and appropriate water levels.
- Overuse of lake by non-cabin owners
- Improving the roads, roadways
- Quads, speeding and noise
- sufficient financial resources to maintain village without raising taxes.
- increase in visitor usage from non property owners
- maintaining the status quo of the beach area
- safe use of recreational vehicles on public areas
- Development of other areas of the lake
- Increased use of the Resort Villages facilities by non-owners
- Funding for infrastructure maintenance
- Maintaining the size - keeping it small. (We see expansions at Aspen Ridge, campground side of the lake) Will this overload the lake?
- Road maintenance and keeping everyone happy (permanent residents and seasonal residents)
- Enforcing/Encouraging tidy lots, weed pick up at the main dock area as you enter the village.
- sustainable funding to support the maintenance and improvements of the village
- long term planning
- finding a way for non residents to pay for using our roads and boat launch
- competent governance
- fiscal responsibility
- transparency in decision making
- I think that the village is challenged to remain united and to deal with the issues it is facing. There was some very divisive politics being played in the village over the past few years, that is very destructive, and one of the biggest challenges as residents withdraw and don't trust their council, involvement goes down, and residents don't share their concerns or their feedback.
- we need a very good long term plan that outlines what our long term investments must be, and we need to understand different revenue models and to be more open to different ways of doing things.
- we should be forming stronger partnerships with all of the other settlements at Big Shell. We have the lake in common, so anything that affects the lake, we should be trying to work together on. There might also be some opportunities to cost share.

- public boat launch
- overpopulation
- pollution
- getting people more proactively involved in ensuring sustainability for the future, including things like limiting further residential development around the lake, and maintaining water quality and levels
- pressure on the resorts amenities from the outside.
- storage of resident rv's,boats equip. etc.
- lake quality
- Better control of beaver population on the lake.
- maintaining water levels to avoid flooding on low-lieing lots and shoreline erosion.
- keep on budget and no extravagant spending.
- Funding projects
- environmental issues
- manpower
- Enough tax money to run the village affairs without going into debt or relying completely on volunteers. Need to think ahead for capital expenditures and major maintenance items and make sure that we have enough income to cover these items.
- Proper long term planning for maintenance of our main road
- proper storage space for ratepayers boats, lifts, and assorted items so that the public green space is not cluttered with these things.
- providing services with limited budget
- providing info to cabin owners so everyone has "real story"
- keeping RVofBS facilities for rate payers not nearby seasonal RV pad leases
- Finding a way for council to receive input from the people, so that enhancements are made that are wanted by the majority of people
- finding a way to keep people from the campgrounds and nearby developments from parking and using/abusing our public areas
- ensuring we have sufficient funds to undertake necessary maintenance (perhaps need to raise taxes!)
- over-expansion on the lake that will overwhelm our small lake
- loss of walking/skiing paths and enjoyment of nature due to high quantity of motorized RV traffic
- crumbling infrastructure (roads); overuse by outside resorts with no contribution to upkeep
- How to deal with high water tables especially as it pertains to the access road
- maintaining a sense and feeling of community.
- noise pollution and safety issues - i.e. ATV's loud ski boats and sea-does
- To much week-end traffic, to many boats on the lake, lack of funds to develop. I like quiet, but not all people do, for some it is a place to let go.
- Lake being overcrowded
- co-operation among cabin owners
- Storage area
- Taxation
- Condition of lake
- That it not be commercialized

3. In one sentence, what do you want your Resort Village to become within 15 years?

- a place to enjoy all seasons without conflict
- We want our village to be a serene and tranquil place, an escape from the busy city and busy pace of life; we would like to see a strong sense of community, and we would like our lake to remain pristine, with good quality water and an environment conducive to healthy aquatic life.
- Sustainable lake resource, enjoyable sandy beach for all to enjoy and responsible citizens ensuring that the lake is looked after well
- I want it to stay as a place where we can come to enjoy the natural setting in a quiet, peaceful way.
- A well-developed, safe leisure spot with paved roads and paved walking trails
- As opposed to the term "become" I would like to see the village "maintain" the quiet, peaceful, clean natural environment we currently enjoy.
- A pristine safe place that our children and grandchildren as well as ourselves would continue to enjoy because of our stewardship today in terms of ecology and maintenance
- We would like the Resort Village and lake traffic to maintain the current activity level. (We don't want it to become busy like other lakes such as Emma and Candle)
- I would like to see the village maintain its natural, safe, friendly environment.
- A resort village with the reputation of being environmentally and fiscally responsible where property owners/families take ownership in building a conflict-free and harmonious environment.
- I want there to be good water quality and a well-maintained village, roads, etc. But I also want our Resort Village to be managed professionally and with respect.
- I would like the village to remain the same as much as possible-keep it simple.
- I would like to see it (and the overall lake) stay much as it is today, with any new development having been done in a sustainable manner.
- minimal cabin development and maximize green space.
- As unchanged as possible.
- to stay as is, a very relaxing place
- We would like the Resort Village to be a family-oriented village with a well-maintained main road, beach and boat launch with a green space.
- would like to retire at the cabin, have always liked Big Shell but notice that lake is getting busier each year, hopefully Resort village can retain "small community" feel
- I hope our village can remain as a peaceful place to come to and relax; and that our lake has good water quality and healthy aquatic life.
- Not a high traffic, high use beach town: keep it simple
- An environmentally friendly and family friendly community.
- A cohesive caring community.
- A peaceful place to come to
- Keep it the same size

4. What are the three most important changes you believe need to be made within the Resort Village in the next 5 years?

- some new equipment
- restoring green space
- involving more people in village activities
- Raise taxes. We have not had an increase in the municipal portion for many many years. It is long overdue. Council has been clear with the rate payers that we cannot seem to cover our expenses with the tax money we receive. A tax increase is needed and justifiable. Costs continue to rise for every type of expense, property values have risen substantially, and household incomes have also risen in proportion. It is time to raise taxes to ensure we can continue to undertake the regular maintenance and improvements that are needed around our village.
- We need a mindset change; need to help individuals understand that there are other options to cover off village expenses besides selling off village land
- That we have village councils (current and future) who regularly seek the input of property owners and who carry out the wishes of the majority. (this is something that has been lacking in recent years)
- I believe we need to change the divisive politics that appears to happen during each elected term. The divisiveness of the last few years is shameful.
- I believe we would benefit from more informed and engaged residents
- I believe we need to ensure that our village revenue is able to support and sustain good infrastructure for the entire village.
- I believe that we need to form relationships as residents with residents from the other settlements on the lake.
- Instituting and growing a Capital Fund for major expenditures.
- Reducing the environmental destruction caused mainly by ATVs.
- Managing the beaver population.
- Roads need to be improved
- Quad trails developed away from the Resort
- The gravel road from the highway is getting very neglected and dangerous
- The storage compound is a fantastic idea. It will allow items to be stored off properties and help maintain a clean, safe property environment.
- Road maintenance
- The main boat launch dock is in need of repair or replacement.
- controlling of water levels where properties are affected.
- the opening of the storage area
- the creation of a camp site area
- Infrastructure funding must be sourced, particularly for roads which need to be repaired/rebuilt and also dust control maintained
- Solution for public use of boat launch be it a daily charge or other restrictions for non-owners
- More support from owners on a volunteer basis to assist in work bees for general RVillage and beach upkeep
- Continued communication between the residents (both permanent and seasonal) and the board functions/decision making process.
- Storage area (as already planned) to assist in helping owners tidy their lots.
- Continued encouragement for others to get involved.
- Improving the roads; both inside the village and the access gravel road from the highway
- make the village more self sufficient ie: purchase our own sewage collection equipment (prices are raising sharply)



- Raising funds for capital projects
- Shared decision-making processes. Being elected to council does not equal a blank cheque; consultation and sharing of information needs to become part of the mandate of every council.
- Long-range planning for sustainability of essential services & operational costs as well as a capital plan.
- Development of partnerships with the RV of Echo Bay and the RM of Spiritwood, ie., for snow removal and road maintenance, group purchasing, (eg., gravel for roads, signage)
- Our road needs to be completed. Although there may have been good intentions, I think the road is abit of a mess.
- I think that Council needs to establish some very good communication lines, and needs to engage residents - this newsletter and questionnaire is a very good start.
- road upkeep
- landscaping
- electrical safety
- more cooperation among the various resorts on the lake, and with the RM
- improved/expanded walking trails within the village, maybe even around the lake
- cleaning up common areas (the storage compound is a good start but needs to be built and maintained so it stays neat and tidy).
- village amenities exclusive to resort ratepayers
- Remove speed bumps
- Leave Loon Dr. gravelled, use dust control in summer months.
- Replace outside toilets at mainbeach.
- access only by cabin owners
- gated resort
- more recreation for children
- Storage compound that produces income for the village
- Taxes may have to be increased a little bit, or a road maintenance fee added.
- Continue to support the web page and online exchange of village information to ratepayers
- obtain proper equipment to maintain roadways through-out the year
- hire out the equipment operations- councilors should have access to the equipment for emergencies only, they are volunteers and should not be expected to clear roads
- Bylaw officer for summer? enforce parking on roads so everyone has access to roads or marina
- Raise taxes so that council has the sufficient funds with which to make the necessary repairs and improvements. Selling land is not how we should be raising money.
- we need to find a better way to undertake maintenance within the village rather than relying on the council members doing all the work and/or appealing to the people to come out and pick rocks/help out. Can we not contract this out (raise taxes to get more \$ to do this)
- We need a way to keep the transient people out of our village. Don't provide a convenient place for them to park and then they won't come.
- Road maintenance or reversion to gravel
- Something to curb the unsightly assortment of lifts, huts, boats, trailers and detritus on the ball field
- Curb or control the RV traffic that menaces the roads and destroys our natural ambiance. Take it out of town!
- Ensuring we have access even in high water years.
- Find a way to ensure our swimming area remains safe
- The village needs to clean up the mess by the ball diamond,
- roads are getting better but need constant work,

- NEED a bathroom in the hall to make it more user friendly.
- Keep the roads in good shape
- Ensure that there is good firefighting capability

5. In one short sentence, why did you choose this Resort Village in which to live or spend your leisure time?

- enjoy the area and cabin owners (and Jim didn't want to live in the city)
- We come here because we like the quiet less-busy environment, away from the busy city life. This is our retreat. We chose this lake because it was not heavily developed, and there was no interest by the community to entertain further development. We liked the attitude that we saw about 5 years ago where property owners had an interest in keeping this lake as it is for future generations. This recent talk of selling land to gain money for village improvements was very distressing to us.
- We wanted a peaceful lifestyle, by the water where our family could come in the summer and build summer lake memories of good times spent fishing, swimming and visiting.
- We chose it because of its beauty and easy access - for us, under two hours to get there.
- We chose Big Shell Resort Village 21 years ago because of its proximity to where we live and it was a very quiet lake.
- Living in the city, the Resort Village provides the ultimate "get away" that is reasonably close to home yet can feel so far away - perfect.
- the first was the short drive from home as well as the friendly people we encountered from day one.
- The proximity to Saskatoon, the people that live here, the unique personality of the Resort Village and its isolation from commercialization
- We have chosen this resort because it is not overly populated, close to Saskatoon and close to our two families.
- Proximity to Saskatoon; highway 12 is not exceptionally busy like the PA highway
- owning, not leasing, a lake front lot with direct access to the lake.
- Close proximity to Saskatoon & the fact that no land surrounding the lake was a either provincial or regional park.
- It was close to SAskatoon, and that's why we came here initially, but now we love it for many many reasons.
- my parents built the cabin because it is close to the city of saskatoon.
- We chose the resort because of its character (layout, cleanliness, size, etc.) and its proximity to Saskatoon and stayed because of its quiet, natural, friendly and relaxed lifestyle.
- quiet. At one time anyway. And fishing and hunting.
- Peacefull
- a place to get together with family and friends.
- water activities.
- Location
- We knew people who had a cabin here and invited us to come and stay with them and rent from them. We stayed because it is beautiful and friendly and fairly inexpensive for a vacation property.
- We knew a few cabin owners here, liked the lake and close to city
- Because it is not an Emma or a Christopher lake, where there are way too many cabins and it is too busy. It is peaceful and quiet. I like that.

- When we chose this village, about 10 years ago, it had wonderful paths to walk in summer, X-country ski in winter and was a safe, quiet, small community with small town values and friendly people.
- It is close to Saskatoon, friendly and close to nature.
- It was close to Saskatoon, and at the time cabins were inexpensive.
- Born & raised in Shell Lake
- Close to Saskatoon and a reasonably priced lot

6. Please provide any additional comments you believe are important in the planning and development of your Resort Village.

- improvements to village hall
- This survey was a fantastic idea! We were actually shocked to stumble upon it today as we came to check out the new village website. We are pleased that this current council is seeking the input of the people (en masse) and not just asking the few permanent residents for their advice, to help guide them in their decision making. As owners who live in the city, we are not always around the lake and are not around to attend council meetings. So, our news has been limited to newsletters in the past, or third-hand through the rumour mill. We would encourage council to continue to seek input through online surveys as this is a great way to get feedback from everyone, no matter how far away from the lake they live.
- People will support what they help create. If you want support, engage and involve people.
- As our population ages it is probably a good idea to develop paved trails that can be used by scooters, wheelchairs, etc
- I salute the efforts that have been made regarding the main beach (sand, playground equipment, etc.)
- not to get too big other than a camp site area possibly attached to storage area
- I believe we have a very competent and sightful council to look after the future planning and development and they need to continue an open dialogue with the owners in order to accomplish this.
- Alternatively the owners need to support the councils they elect and work harmoniously with them to achieve the goals set for the future.
- The council is to be commended for the work that they do. We appreciate the pictures on the website, the newsletter and the invitations to the potlucks.
- Whatever direction the village goes, we have to make sure that the financing is sustainable. We may need to share resources with other resorts in our area to make things more affordable for all. We need to investigate if there are any grants available from federal/provincial governments to help us with our infra structure.
- We oppose any further sacrifice of village owned property/green space to raise money directed for operational expenditures. Budgets need to be established along with a 10-yr capital plan. Property values have risen tremendously in the past 10 years and the taxes have remained the same. Fulltime residents sold their homes in the city and made a HUGE profit & now live very inexpensively at the RV. Some spend the winter as snowbirds. Had they retained their city home they would have experienced tax increases - why would anyone NOT expect a tax increase in the RV???? This makes no sense and is a self-serving mentality!
- a new entrance sign would be nice.
- i want to thank council and those who assist them in the excellent job they do.
- Because we share the lake with others, and have many of the same concerns, we need to work closely with them to maintain the things we like and fix the things we don't.
- working in conjunction with Echo Bay, Misty Grove, Aspen Ridge towards common goals.

- I don't believe we need to develop anything more, but continue to maintain what we do have. The simplicity of this village is its beauty.
- We appreciate the amount that people volunteer in the community, that is one of the things that makes it a great place to live and vacation.
- We don't really think that a paved road is necessary if we properly maintain and upkeep our existing road.
- I think council takes too much upon itself to keep taxes down- if cabin owners want services taxes may need to increase if Resort properties cannot be sold- I do not expect or want retired councilors to put themselves at risk maintaining services, raise taxes to pay for services like every other community does and enjoy your time at the lake like I do.
- Thank you for initiating this survey. It is nice to be asked these questions.
- Bring back our calm and natural spaces.
- By-laws with regards development- are there by-laws stipulating that permanent residences must be built as opposed to RVs and trailers
- I believe a bathroom in the hall would allow it to be put to better use.
- There also needs to be discussion on commercial development to deal with the issue of homebased businesses.
- The website is a good step in informing people of what is going on. I really like the photos.
- Try & make this place a happy place to come to
- Do not develop more lots.

7. What type of residency best describes your situation with respect to the Resort Village of Big Shell?

- Permanent resident
- Other
- Other (year round residents, but not permanent)
- Other
- Other
- 1-3 month resident
- Summer use only
- Other
- 1-3 month resident
- Permanent
- Other
- Other
- Summer use only
- Permanent
- Other
- Permanent resident
- Summer use only
- Other
- Other
- Summer use only
- Other
- Summer use only
- Other
- Other
- Summer use only

8. What age group are you in?

- 54-74
- 35-54
- 54-74
- 75+
- 54-74
- 35-54
- 35-54
- 54-74
- 35-54
- 54-74
- 54-74
- 54-74
- 35-54
- 54-74
- 54-74
- 54-74
- 35-54
- 54-74
- 35-54
- 54-74
- 54-74
- 35-54
- 75+
- 35-54
- 75+

9. How many children of yours or those of family and friends regularly spend time at your cottage?

- Three
- 7
- 4
- 2 children & 2 grandchildren
- Two
- 2
- 6
- 6-8
- 3
- 4
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 4
- 4-6
- Up to 20
- 5

- 6
- Someone at cabin every weekend
- 2
- 1
- 5
- About 10 others, maybe a few more
- Not many
- 2

10. What situation best describes you?

- Retired
- Working
- Working
- Retired
- Working
- Working
- Working
- Retired
- Working
- Retired
- Retired
- Working
- Working
- Retired
- Working
- Retired
- Working
- Working
- Working
- Working
- Working
- Retired
- Working
- Retired
- Retired