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Village of Haines Junction

Recreation in our Community

Reporting on the 2013 Community Recreation Survey

December 2013

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The best things about recreation in Haines Junction are...



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Executive Summary

Recreation includes a range of physical, social, artistic, intellectual, creative and cultural activities and is a fundamental element of a vibrant and healthy community. Recreation is a priority for the community of Haines Junction. Residents value their easy access to parks, trails and the outdoor environment. Opportunities for creative expression through arts, culture and music are important. Recreation infrastructure such as the pool, arena and convention centre support participation in sports, recreation and special events. In Haines Junction, volunteers, community groups and local governments make recreation happen.

In order to set recreation priorities, the Village of Haines Junction initiated a process to develop a community recreation plan. Following a public meeting in March 2013, Council determined that a survey was an essential next step in the plan's development. Although survey results were never intended to be the sole source of information, it was considered a useful tool to gather input from residents who may not typically engage in public meetings or discussion.

This report presents the findings from the community recreation survey conducted in the fall of 2013. One hundred and fifty-five (155) surveys, a response rate of approximately 20%, collected quantitative and qualitative information through door-to-door, paper and online survey methods. Data collection, analysis and presentation were carried out by an independent consultant from Whitehorse.

Each piece of information is like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle. By themselves, the survey results do not provide all the pieces. Pieces are found in other sources information and when pieced together offer a glimpse of the vibrant and dynamic nature of recreation in Haines Junction. Community recreation changes with shifts in people and seasons. Therefore, the image will never be static.

Survey findings indicate that community recreation is perceived to be the responsibility of local governments, both the Village of Haines Junction and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), and community groups. A variety of strategies to finance community recreation are considered prudent. Many recreation opportunities happen in Haines Junction because of the energy, commitment and dedication of numerous community groups and volunteers.

Haines Junction residents prefer active, outdoor recreation around the community, with family or friends, on their own schedule, and for a minimal cost. Swimming, hockey, cross country skiing, yoga and arts and crafts are popular programs and activities while Canada Day, Halloween Fireworks, and music, concerts and festivals rank as the favorite special events.

The spaces and places most respondents use include local trails, the Convention Centre, Library and Yukon College, CAFN's Cultural Centre and day use areas. Trails are used by almost all respondents while the arena and swimming pool are well-used by children, youth and families.

Common reasons for not using recreation facilities include “not liking the activity”, “a preference for other/outdoor activities” and “scheduling or time constraints”.

Approximately 55% of taxpayers indicated a willingness to pay higher taxes for improved or additional recreation services. Respondents stressed the importance of maintaining existing facilities, ensuring multi-use facilities, and not wasting money on aging infrastructure. While more than half the respondents agree that the Convention Centre, arena, playgrounds, parks and rodeo grounds do not need improvements, almost half believe that improvements to the swimming pool and trails are essential. There is also a keen interest to develop a community weight room or exercise space.

Respondents believe that recreation should be low-cost and accessible for all residents. Programs need to take advantage of the outdoor environment, maximize use of built facilities, and ensure physically active, non-sport opportunities for youth. Special events should focus on activities for families and reinstating one or more music festivals.

Above all, respondents emphasized the need for coordination and communication. Improving partnerships with CAFN, supporting local non-profits to offer opportunities and creating an online community calendar of events were consistently stated as priorities.

As a result of these findings, it is recommended to:

1. Continue the process of developing a community recreation plan. There is sufficient information to move from information gathering to writing the plan.
2. Address recreation infrastructure and community priorities related to trail development, multi-use space, the swimming pool, expanded programming in the Convention Centre, space for an exercise/weight room, and maintenance of parks and playgrounds.
3. Conduct a Recreational Infrastructure Prioritization Exercise similar to the one conducted in March 2010.
4. Identify opportunities to improve networking, coordination and collaboration between the Village of Haines Junction, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and community groups to better support community recreation.
5. Foster active recreation opportunities for youth by strengthening partnerships.
6. Address community priorities for recreation programs and special events.
7. Develop and implement a community recreation communication strategy. Address community priorities such as an online calendar of events and a community bulletin board.
8. Identify the human resources available and those required for implementation of the community recreation plan.

Introduction

In Canada, recreation is considered an essential social service. Recreation contributes to the quality of life for Canadians through personal, social, economic and environmental benefits (Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, 2010). According to the National Recreation Statement, recreation is more than sport. It includes a vast range of artistic, creative, cultural, intellectual, physical and social activities which “make leisure time more interesting, enjoyable and personally satisfying” (Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council, 1987). As a form of social infrastructure, recreation is a fundamental element of a vibrant and healthy community.

Community recreation reflects the uniqueness of Canada’s diverse communities. Communities may have similar infrastructure such as a pool, trails, a community hall or arena, but the face of community recreation is shaped by culture, geography, interests, infrastructure and social capital—the energy invested by residents. Recreation activities vary by community because of these characteristics and because of the time and resources invested by local governments and residents.

Small communities in remote locations face challenges sustaining recreation opportunities suited to local interests and environments. Volunteer burnout is common, funds for facility operations and maintenance can be limited, and it is often difficult to recruit and retain trained staff (Sparks, 2011). Although there is no set formula to address these types of challenges, development of a plan can identify opportunities to strengthen local recreation.

A community recreation plan can provide guidance for decision-making. It can justify the investment of resources into recreation infrastructure and support services and opportunities. A recreation plan will prioritize actions based on the current state of recreation and a vision of the future. When connected to other plans, a recreation plan will reflect community values, interests and resources and answer three, key questions:

- Where are we now? (the current state)
- Where would we like to be? (future opportunities)
- How are we going to get there? (strategies, actions and resources)

To identify recreational priorities and guide program, infrastructure and expenditure decisions, the Village of Haines Junction (VHJ) initiated a process leading towards the development of a plan. Several documents, reports and meetings have provided background information. However, to ensure that local interests and priorities are reflected in the plan, Mayor and Council undertook a recreation survey in the fall of 2013. This report presents the findings of the community recreation survey and is intended to support development of the VHJ Recreation Plan.

Background

Council identified a community recreation survey as an essential step in the recreation plan's development. A survey was chosen as a means to gather, analyze and report upon feedback from residents; particularly residents who do not usually participate in public meetings. The recreation survey is not the sole source of public input into the recreation plan. Past meetings and planning activities, such as those noted below, have resulted in feedback from residents and contribute to an understanding of the context upon which a plan can be built.

Since 2000, the Village of Haines Junction has engaged in several recreation planning and information gathering activities. Thirty-four residents responded to a recreation survey in 2002. In 2007, a public meeting was held to identify community recreation priorities. Although this 2007 meeting was referenced in the Official Community Plan (OCP), a written record was not located. More recently, Council participated in the *Village of Haines Junction Recreational Infrastructure Prioritization Exercise*. This planning activity led to the completion of a number of priority facility upgrades and repairs over the past three years.

In March 2013, Council invited consultants from the Sport and Recreation Branch to facilitate a public recreation meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to collect community opinions and seek suggestions about recreation planning. The report identified what was working well with regards to recreation in the community (Meikle, 2013). Although some of the report focused on infrastructure, it illustrates that recreation in Haines Junction is also about people; the things people do, the events they coordinate and the activities they make happen. Future wishes for recreation facilities emerged and people envisioned strategies that would strengthen their ability to work together. Building upon that report's information, this community recreation survey sought a deeper level of information and aimed for broader community input and participation.

The OCP demonstrates that recreation is a priority in Haines Junction. A safe and aesthetically appealing community with access to parks and trails is valued as is the preservation and creation of recreational activities and opportunities for creative expression. Three of the four Council committees (Culture, Parks and Recreation; Community Development; and Art Acquisition Selection) address recreation. The St. Elias Centre and surrounding land provides recreational infrastructure including a theatre, meeting rooms, kitchen, arena, seasonal swimming pool, non-operational curling rink, basketball courts and playground. Most importantly, the OCP acknowledges the vital contributions of volunteers who make recreation happen in the community.

A recreation plan should be grounded in local context but also consider the community's external environment. In Yukon, municipalities receive block funding, support and services for recreation from the territorial government as legislated by the Municipal and Recreation Acts

(Yukon Government, 2002). A recreation plan which connects to territorial and national priorities will be more likely to obtain support and funding from higher levels of government. Territorially, the Renewed Yukon Active Living Strategy (Yukon Government, 2012) describes current territorial priorities and connects to national priorities (e.g. increasing population levels of physical activity, curbing childhood obesity, physical literacy, supporting the after-school time period, etc.). Although the Strategy focuses on active living, it provides background and rationale to substantiate the roles of active living and sport development in community recreation.

When a recreation plan is developed using multiple sources of information, it becomes a useful and meaningful tool for effective and efficient community-based actions. As shown in Figure 1, the VHJ recreation survey conducted in the fall of 2013 is one component of the community’s recreation planning process.

Figure 1: Recreation Planning Process

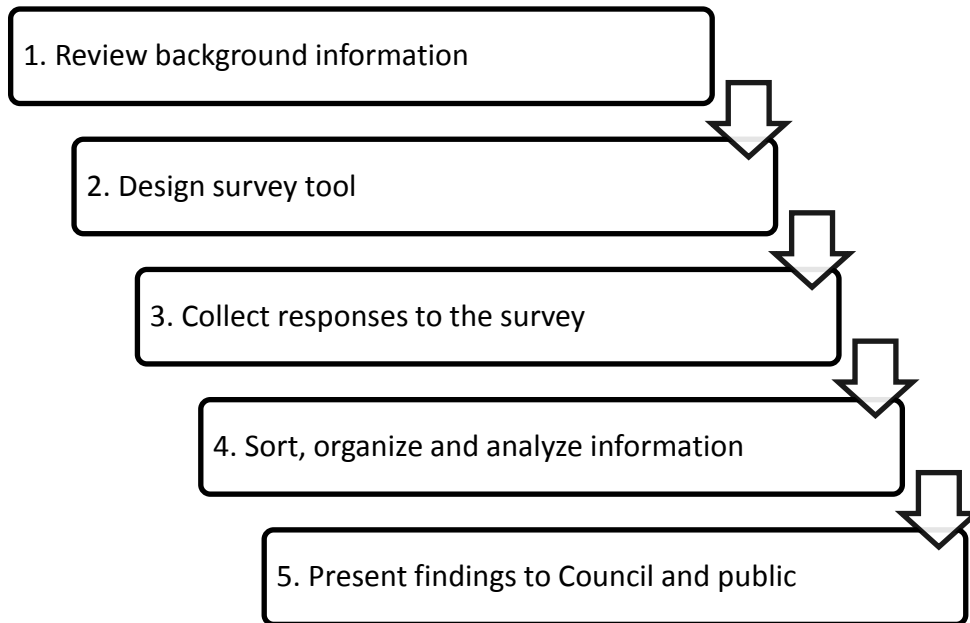


Methodology

Design, Collection and Analysis

A survey was selected to gather additional information from the community for the development of a recreation plan. This method was chosen by Council as they wanted to hear from residents who are less vocal and do not participate in public meetings.

A consultant was contracted to conduct the recreation survey. The process involved five steps.



The first step, a review of background information, involved reading historic documents and reports, a review of territorial and national priorities, and an Internet search for similar approaches taken by small municipalities across Canada. Using this information, a framework and bank of potential survey questions was compiled.

Council wanted the survey to elicit information about existing patterns of recreation and identify community priorities for the future. Therefore, the second step involved preparing, piloting, revising and then presenting a draft survey tool to Council for feedback. The final survey, included in Appendix A, collected both quantitative and qualitative data.

The third step, collecting responses, extended from early September into October. Notices about the survey were mailed to all post boxes, displayed throughout the community and posted on the VHJ Facebook page. Residents could respond to the survey online or on paper. Door-to-door surveying took place within municipal boundaries. Paper surveys were available at the Village Office or at Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) main administration building. Paper surveys were distributed to students in grades seven to twelve. Every household member was invited to complete a survey. To avoid duplicate responses, the survey required a

physical address and age/gender identifiers. After completing the survey, respondents could enter their name and phone number for a draw prize.

Door-to-door surveys were conducted on the evening of Friday, September 20th and during the day on Saturday, September 21st. Three surveyors collected responses either electronically or on paper. Households were not visited if one or more surveys were recorded as complete for the address.

One hundred and fifty (150) households were approached during door-to-door surveying. Maps showing the houses visited and response rates of the door-to-door survey are included in Appendix B. Door-to-door surveying resulted in:

- 28 surveys completed in person,
- 64 paper surveys distributed where residents were away from home,
- 36 paper surveys distributed to residents who preferred to complete the survey on their own, and
- 22 households which were not visited as the home was unoccupied or there was a concern for personal safety (e.g. dogs).

Although the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Village is outside municipal boundaries, CAFN was invited to participate in the survey process. It was proposed that the consultant would input, organize and analyze any data collected by CAFN. Interest from CAFN was not forthcoming so data collection and analysis proceeded. As of early December, it is anticipated that CAFN will undertake this survey in January 2014. A slightly modified paper and online version of the survey has been provided to CAFN and Council has agreed to contract the consultant at a later date to analyze responses and prepare a supplementary report.

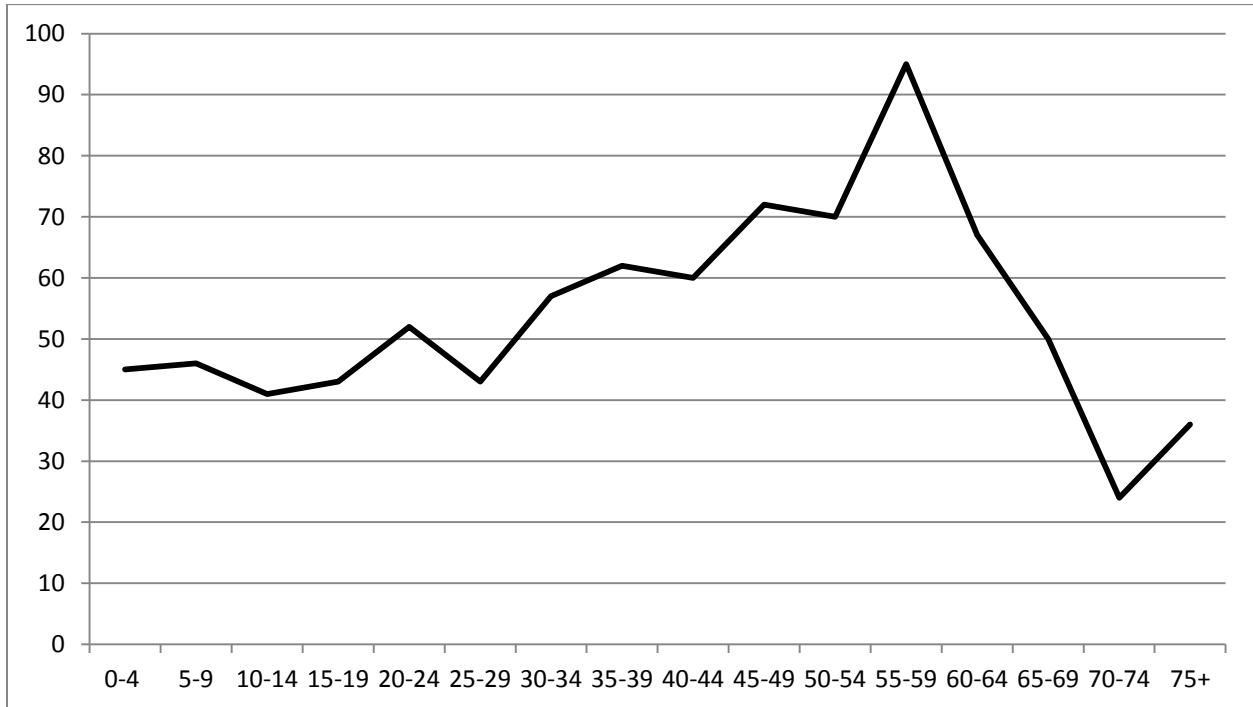
The fourth step involved working with the data. Completed surveys were compiled in Excel using Survey Monkey, an online survey tool. The data was cleaned by removing duplicate or incomplete surveys. Coding was assigned to each response and personal identifiers such as name or address were removed. As the survey asked for a physical address, data was sorted by municipal versus non-municipal resident. Demographics such as gender and age were also used to sort and organize information. Analysis of the data involved tallying and charting quantitative data as well as sorting and organizing qualitative data.

Step five consisted of a presentation of preliminary findings to Council and the community. Following questions posed at a Council meeting on Wednesday, November 13th, a subsequent analysis of the data sought taxpayers' priorities with regards to the community hall, swimming pool and curling rink and was compiled into a supplementary report. At a community meeting on Thursday, December 5th, findings were presented. Print versions of the PowerPoint presentations and the supplementary report on taxpayers' views are not included in this report, but are available upon request from the VHJ Office.

Response Rates

According to the Yukon Community Profiles, the 2011 Census estimated the population of Haines Junction at 593, a median age of 42, and the Aboriginal Identity Population at 270 (Yukon Bureau of Statistics, 2013). Yukon's 2013 Population Report estimated a total area population of 864 as shown in Figure 2 (Yukon Bureau of Statistics, 2013).

Figure 2: Haines Junction Population Distribution – March 2013



The community recreation survey collected 183 responses. Of these, 28 were removed because one was an out-of-country address, eight were duplicate responses (e.g. youth who responded twice, once during the door-to-door and a second time at school), and 19 were incomplete responses (e.g. a person began an online response, closed their browser before completing the survey and then when they returned to complete it, found they needed to restart the survey from the beginning). As the survey required a physical address, age and gender, it was possible to remove duplicates and incompletes from the data.

Data analysis was based on 155 completed responses. Although it is not possible to accurately determine response rates, Yukon's 2013 Population Report can be used as an estimate. Assuming that survey respondents were aged 10 and older, approximately 19% of the population responded to the survey.

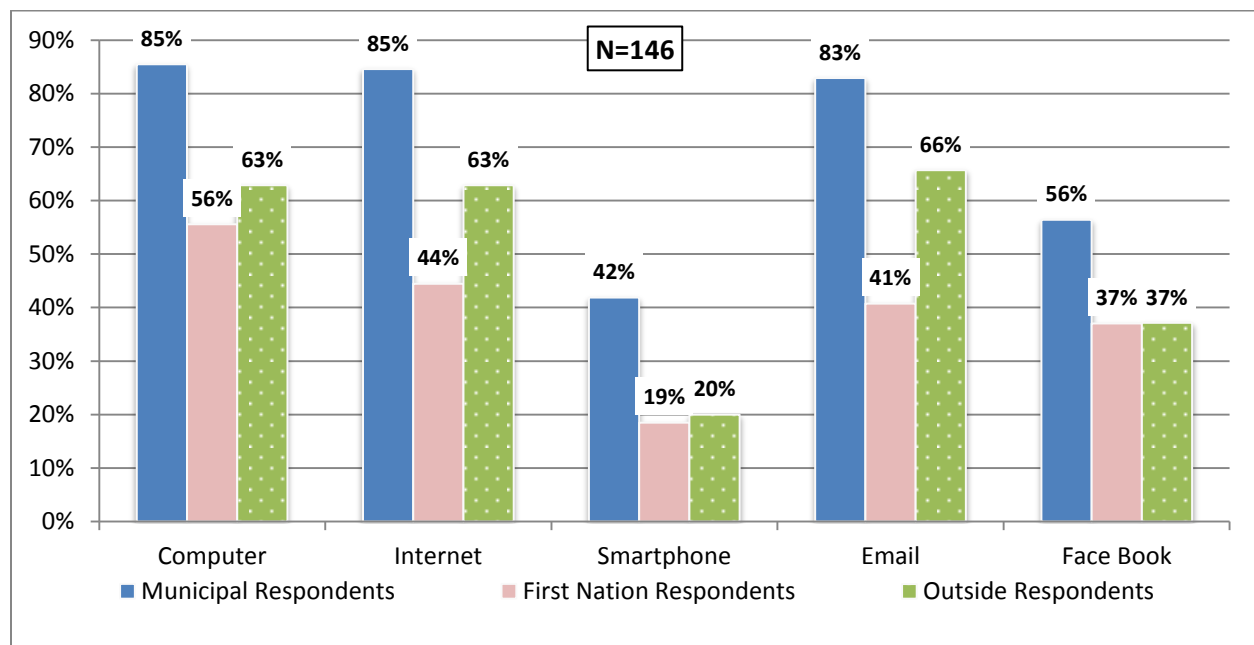
Amongst 155 respondents, the following characteristics were observed:

- More women (62%) than men (38%) completed surveys.
- Respondents aged 16 and under represented 17%, those aged 17-25 accounted for 5%, those aged 26-44 for 32%, those aged 45-65 for 38% and those 66 years or better for 8%.
- The majority of respondents (54%) have lived in Haines Junction for longer than ten (10) years. Another 31% have been in the community for five to ten years, 19% from two to five years, and 6% have lived in Haines Junction for less than two years.
- Twenty-seven (17%) respondents self-identified as First Nations with 19 indicating CAFN membership.
- Twenty-three (15%) respondents provided addresses associated with areas outside the municipal boundary (e.g. Pine Lake, Nygren Subdivision, etc.).

Taxpayers are estimated to account for 61% (94) of the 155 respondents. For purposes of analysis, taxpayers are described as over the age of 25 and living within municipal boundaries. The age of 25 was selected as only seven completed surveys were returned from people in the 16 to 25 age range. It is likely that most of these seven attend high school and/or live with parents and are therefore excluded from the taxpayer category.

Respondents can be further described by their access to technology (Figure 3). It appears that respondents living within municipal boundaries are more likely to have access and use technology than those living outside the boundaries or those living in the CAFN Village.

Figure 3: Respondents Access to Technology



Findings

This section of the report presents what was learned through an analysis of the 155 survey responses. As a significant amount of quantitative and qualitative data was gathered, it is impossible to present everything in one report. Therefore, the findings section of the report provides a snapshot, a description of what was apparent and what was learned as the data was organized, sorted and made sense of.

The findings are presented in four sub-sections:

1. Community Recreation
2. Recreation Preferences
3. Recreation Patterns
4. Recreation Priorities

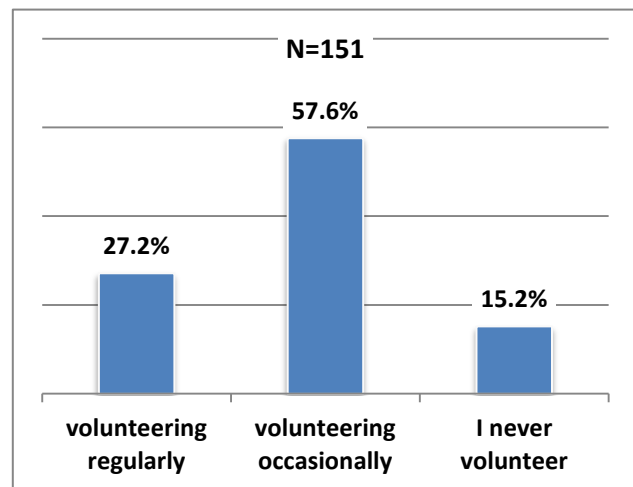
Figures included in this section illustrate key findings. Where 'Q' is followed by a number, this refers to the corresponding question in the survey (see Appendix A). 'N' indicates the number of people responding to the question out of a possible 155. Appendix C presents several supplementary charts, ordered by question number, to those included in this section.

Community Recreation

As one respondent wrote, *"No one group is most responsible"* for making recreation happen in Haines Junction. Recreation *"is about how all of these agencies and people work together. It is governments' responsibility to unite us and provide us with the tools and environment to achieve for ourselves."* As this respondent so clearly states, recreation does not happen because of government or one group of people. Recreation emerges through a collaborative effort of governments, groups and individuals and the ways in which people work together. The concept of social capital implies that networking, coordinating and collaborating results in something greater than individual efforts. By working together, a community builds social wealth or capital. Community recreation is most effective when leaders create supportive environments which encourage the growth of social capital.

Survey responses provide evidence of social capital in Haines Junction. Recreation opportunities happen because of the energy, commitment and dedication of volunteers and numerous community groups. As shown

Figure 4: Volunteer Patterns



in Figure 4, **27% of survey respondents volunteer regularly and 58% volunteer occasionally.** The age group most likely to volunteer is the 26 to 44 year-old group with 94% of respondents volunteering.

Respondents listed many of the groups and non-profits who work tirelessly to provide recreation opportunities in the community. The groups mentioned the most, in decreasing order, include:

- St. Elias Cross Country Ski Club
- JAM (Junction Arts and Music)
- Hockey (Minor and Adult)
- School Clubs and Activities (Climbing wall, running club, volleyball)
- Soccer
- St. Elias Lions Club
- 4H Club
- CAFN (various activities)
- Yoga/Pilates with Lia
- Youth Group(s)
- Shakwak Swim Club

Other groups mentioned less frequently include: churches, Silver Sled, the quilters, Rangers, the Library Board, home concerts, Community/Farmer's Market, Artists Guild, softball/baseball, Yukon College, Romp 'n' Run Tot Time, St. Elias Firearms Association, Shawkwunlee Youth Society, St. Elias Seniors, the curling group, the bird club, and the Elks.

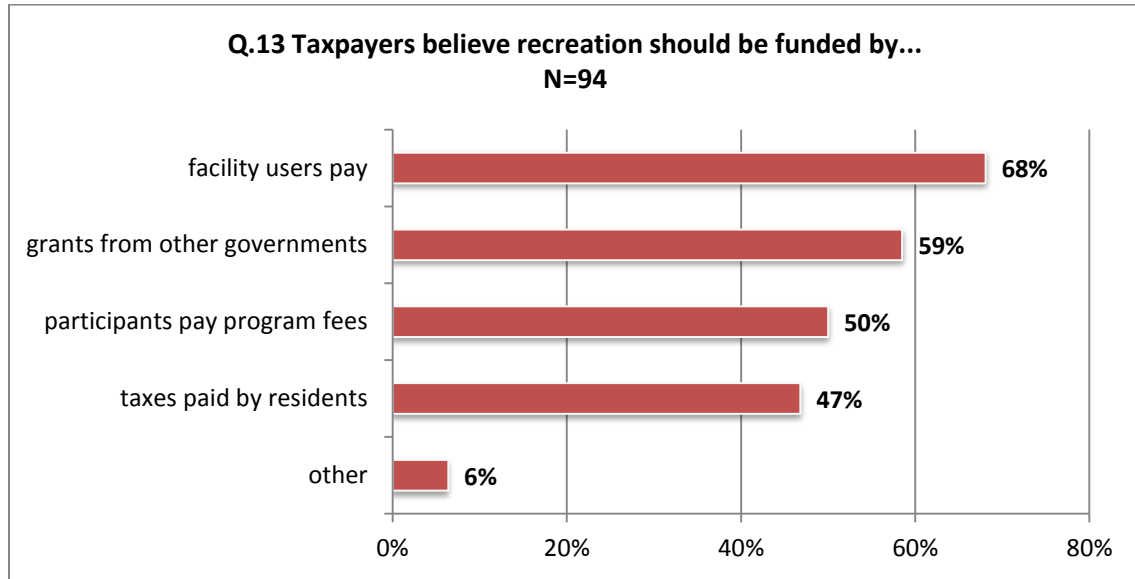
The survey asked who is responsible for making recreation happen in Haines Junction (Q.6). By ranking responses from most to least responsible, the perception that **local governments (VHJ and CAFN) and community groups hold the most responsibility for recreation** is evident.

1. Village of Haines Junction
2. Community Groups
3. Champagne and Aishihik First Nation
4. Yukon Government
5. Sport Governing Bodies
6. Individuals
7. Families
8. Local school
9. Other (e.g. Parks Canada)

Interestingly, respondents categorized as taxpayers believe that individuals, families and community groups should share more of the responsibility for recreation than did respondents living outside municipal boundaries.

Taxpayer respondents also placed a greater **priority on a combination of strategies to finance community recreation** (Figure 5). Other suggestions for funding recreation included volunteerism, inter-governmental agreements and reallocating the public works budget.

Figure 5: Recreation should be funded through...



Recreation Preferences

The survey found that **Haines Junction residents prefer active, outdoor recreation around the community, with family or friends, on their own schedule, and for a minimal cost** (see Figures 6-11).

Generally, younger and older respondents had a greater preference for passive and indoor recreation, in comparison to middle-aged adults. Women showed slightly more preference than men for indoor recreation. This was particularly true in the winter. Despite an increased preference in the winter for indoor recreation; 66% of respondents prefer to recreate outdoors.

Of concern is the 40% of respondents under the age of 17 who prefer passive recreation (see Appendix C). This figure alone may not cause concern, yet when compared to the low preference of adults aged 26-44 for passive recreation (6%) or to those over 66 (27%), the question of how to instill values for active lifestyles in young people must be asked. When preferences for motorized or non-motorized recreation are compared across age groups, the tendency towards passive recreation appears in this age group. Amongst respondents, 35% under the age of 26 prefer motorized recreation as compared to 10% in the 26 to 65 age range (Figure 12).

Figure 6: Preference for active or passive recreation

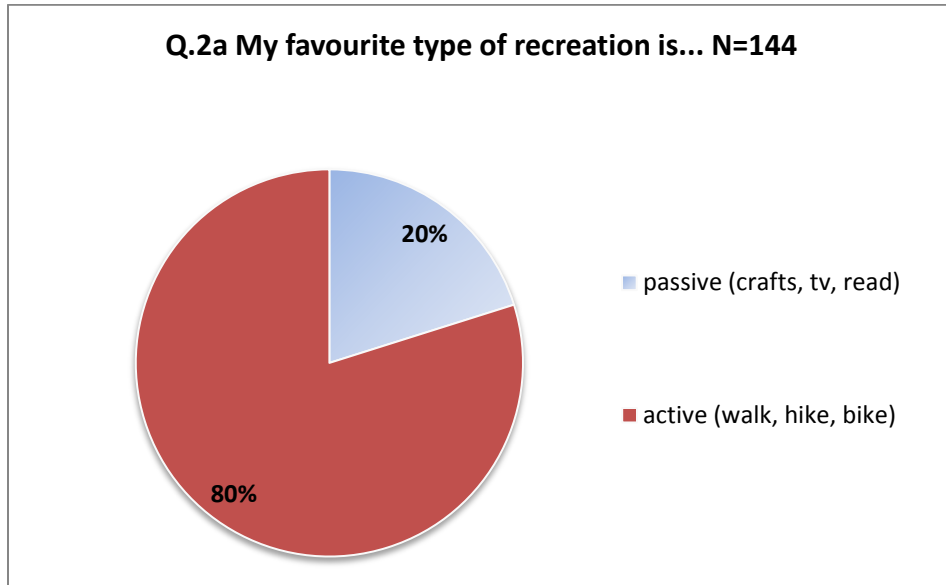


Figure 7: Preference for recreation indoors or outdoors

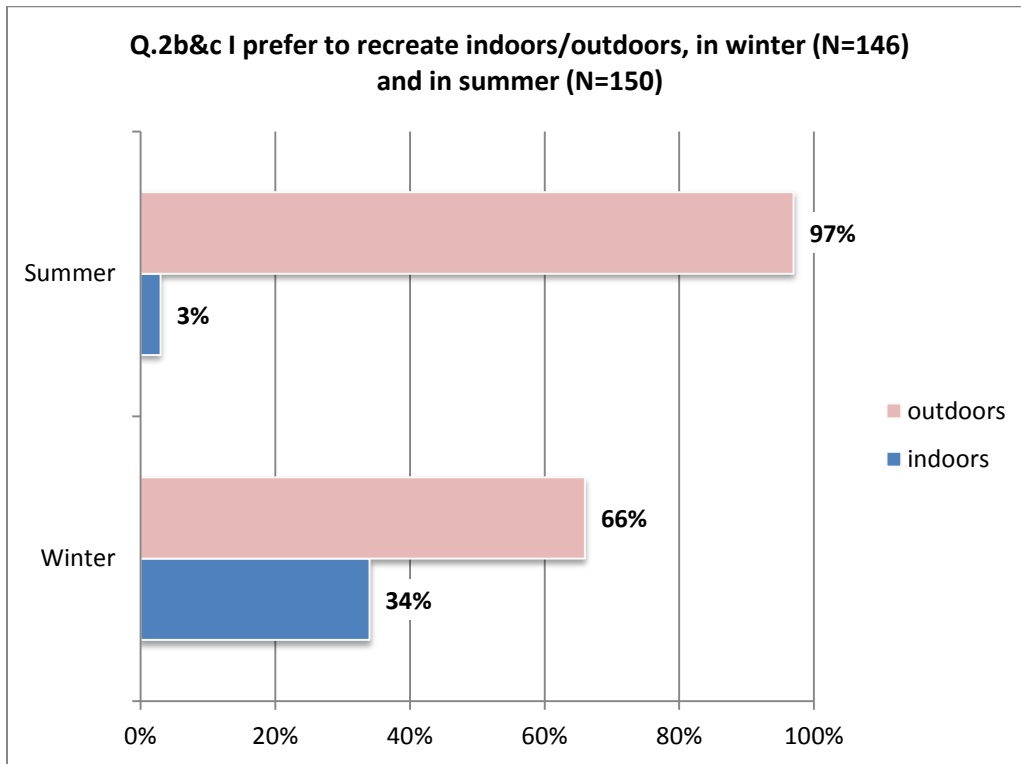


Figure 8: Recreating alone or with others

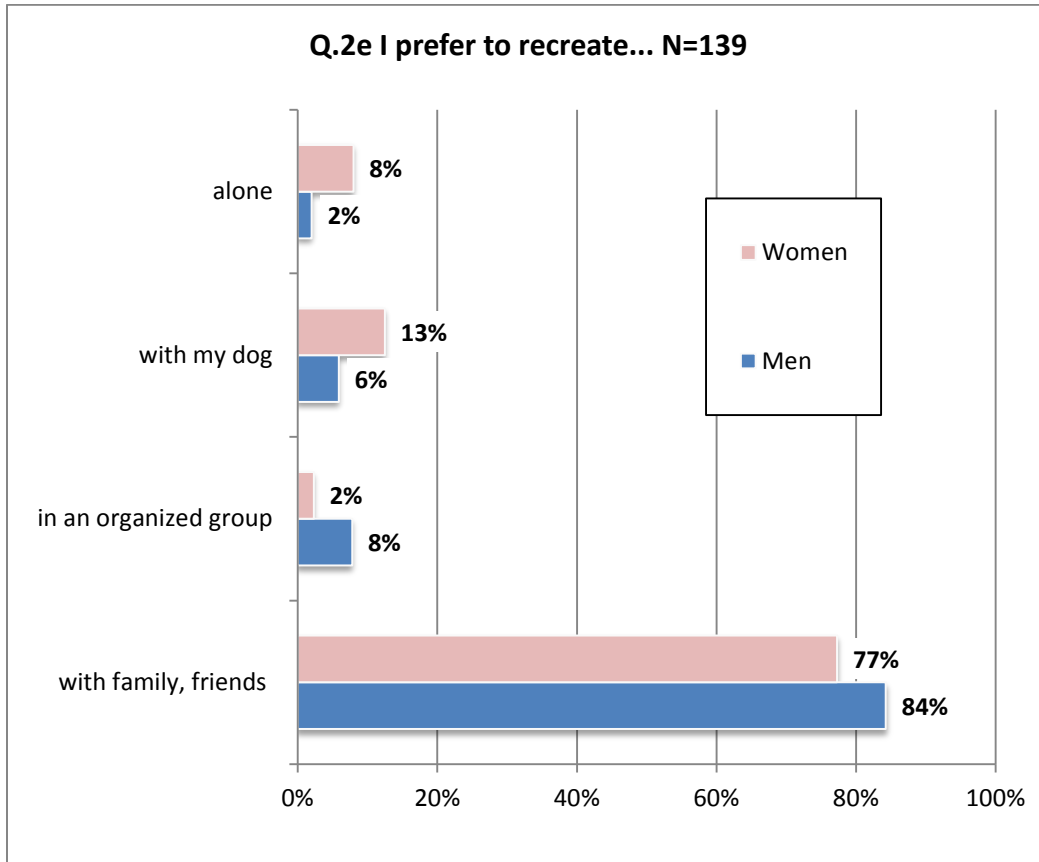


Figure 9: Structured or unstructured recreation

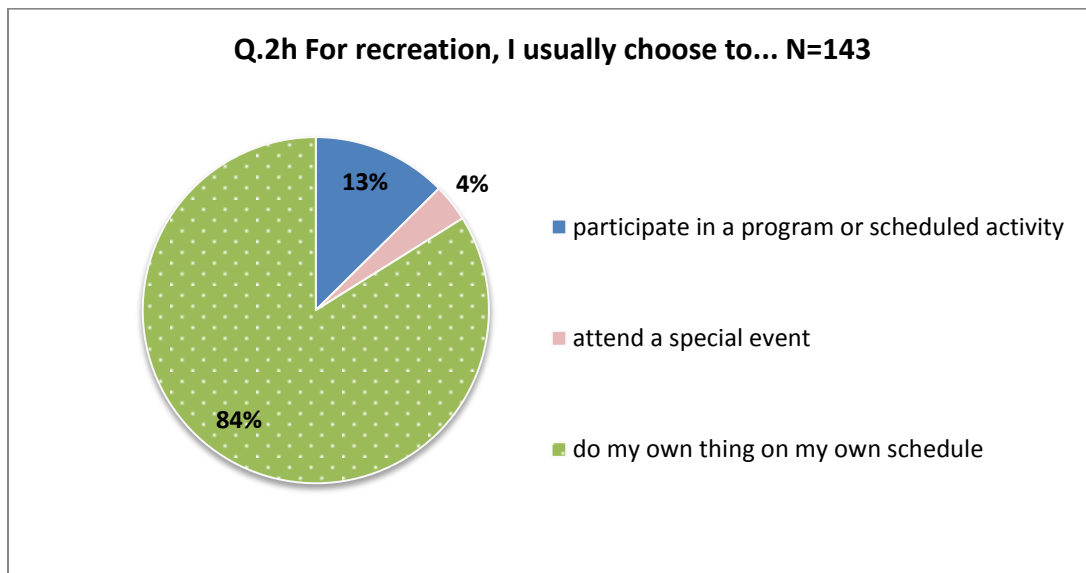


Figure 10: Cost of recreation activities

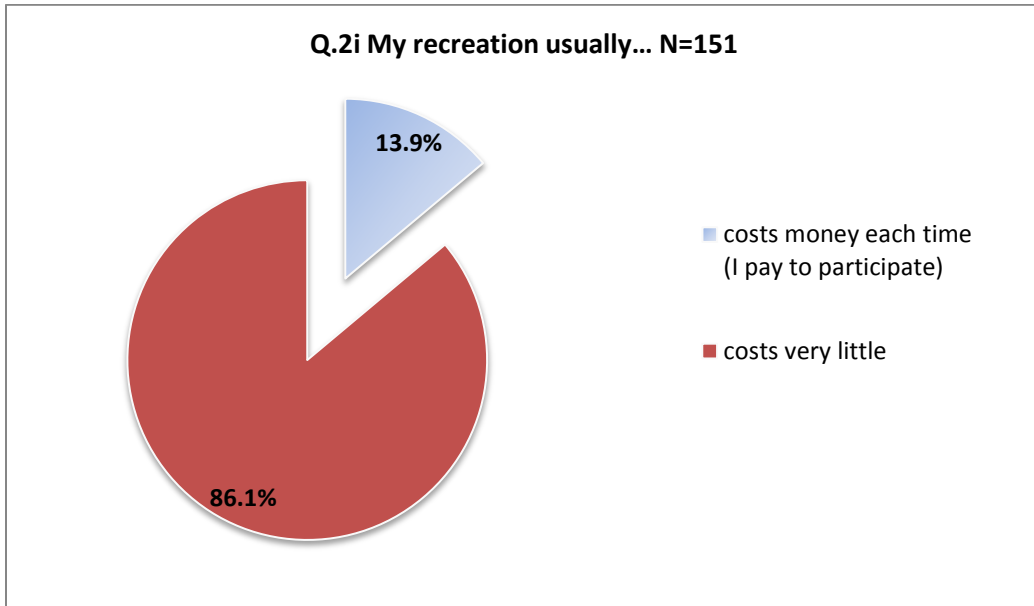


Figure 11: Favorite place to recreate

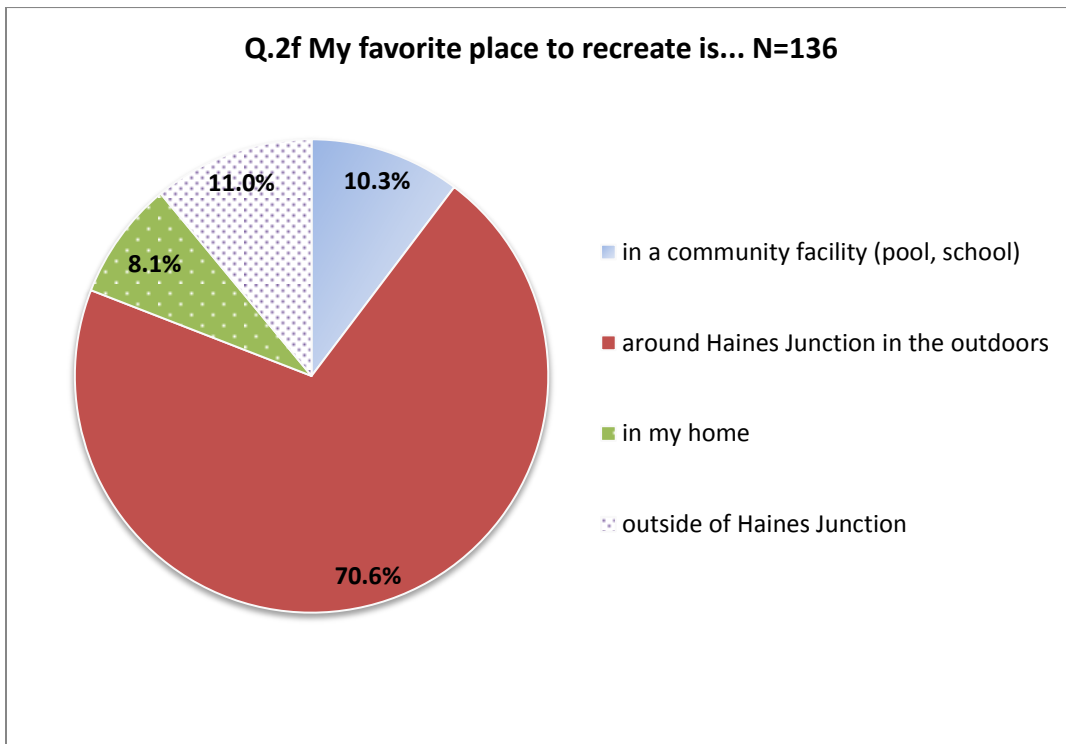
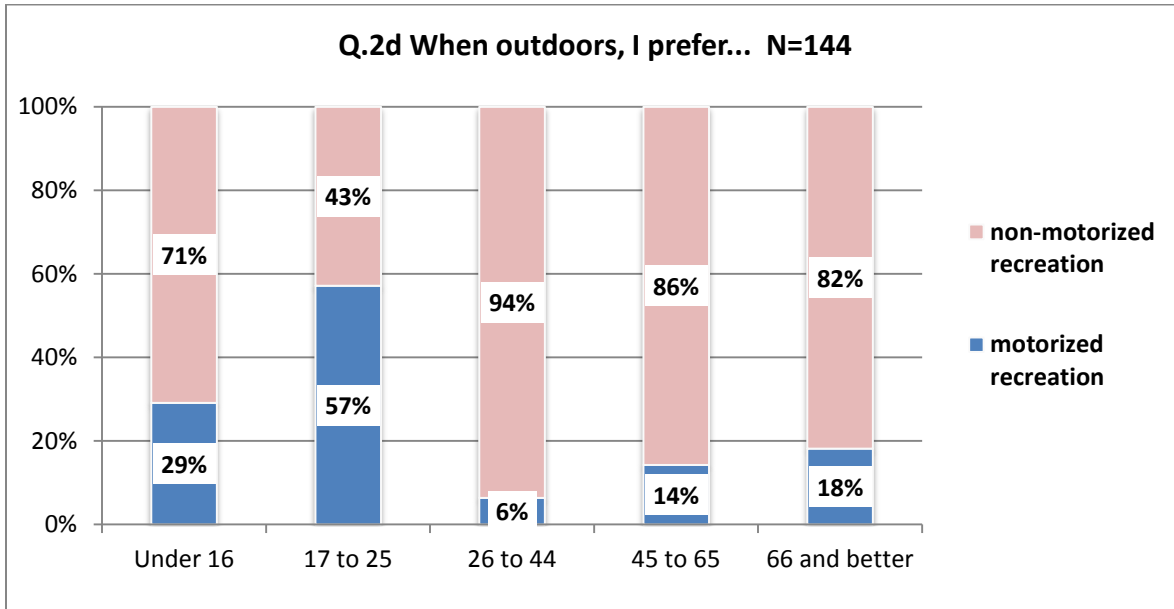


Figure 12: Preference for motorized or non-motorized recreation



Survey respondents enjoy participating in a wide variety of programs, activities and special events. Generally, a **program** is an organized and structured activity which occurs regularly and is scheduled (e.g. swimming lessons, hockey games or a book club). A **special event** is a one-time occurrence of an occasional recreation activity or celebration. Special events are often associated with holidays, seasons or sporting events. In contrast, a recreation **activity** is unstructured and may be done alone or with a group. Recreation activities are diverse and may include walking the dog, quilting, listening to music, fitness training or backcountry skiing.

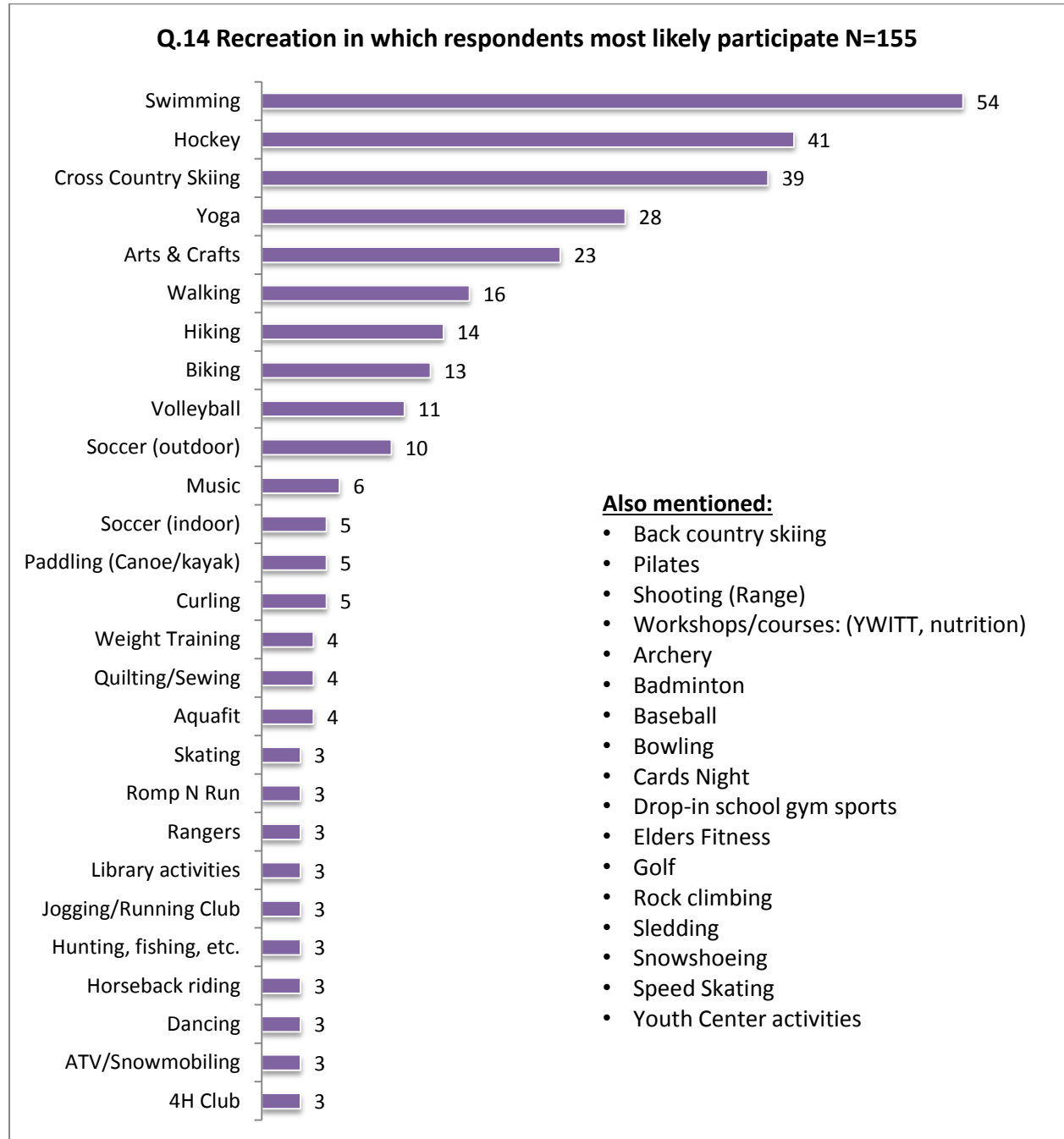
The survey asked respondents to list up to three programs they participate in the most (Q.23). Respondents listed their favorite programs (e.g. hockey) and also their favorite recreation activities (e.g. hiking). The most popular recreational activities and programs were **swimming, hockey, cross country skiing, yoga** and **arts and crafts** (Figure 13).

Respondents also listed their three favorite special events (Q.24). From the range of responses, it is evident that Haines Junction offers many opportunities to enjoy special events. The most popular, according to survey responses and in decreasing order of popularity, include:

1. **Canada Day**
2. **Halloween Fireworks**
3. **Music, Concerts and Festivals**
4. KICBR (bike relay)
5. Hockey Tournaments
6. JAM Events
7. Bonspiels
8. Community/Farmer's Market
9. Ski Function at the Junction
10. Fairs (Christmas/Library/Fall)
11. Movies and Film Festivals
12. Family Days (Fishing/Kathleen Lake)

Other popular events include New Year's Eve, the Lions Poker Run, Friday at the Bakery (when it was open), swim meets, tournaments (soccer and volleyball), arts events, Remembrance Day, Santa's visit and skate, the Silver Sled Race, community dances, school events (e.g. concerts and graduation), the Doug Twiss Memorial Ball Tourney, book readings and lectures, Open Mic(rophone), church/library events, the Terry Fox Run, the Neighbour-to-Neighbour community lunch, Stick Gambling and Summer Camps (e.g. soccer or Church).

Figure 13: Popular recreation programs and activities



Recreation Patterns

In the preceding section, Recreation Preferences, the figures illustrate how respondents like to recreate and what they enjoy doing for recreation. This section examines recreation spaces and places; the infrastructure people use for recreation and the frequency with which they are used. The spaces and places, or Haines Junction infrastructure, includes municipal recreation facilities (e.g. pool or arena), community buildings (e.g. school or Old Daku building) and outdoor spaces which may be developed (e.g. playgrounds or fields) or may vary in their development or maintenance (e.g. trails or parks).

Although previous figures show survey respondents prefer unstructured, outdoor recreation, infrastructure is appreciated and well used. Infrastructure used by almost all respondents includes **local trails, the Convention Centre, the Library and Yukon College**, as well as **the CAFN Cultural Centre** and **day use areas**. As some facilities are operated on a seasonal basis and others year-round, it is not possible to accurately illustrate use of infrastructure through a survey. Likewise, it is not possible to accurately compare use of an outdoor space (e.g. playground or trail) to the use of an indoor facility (e.g. Convention Centre). Regardless, the survey attempted to approximate the use and popularity of recreational infrastructure in and around Haines Junction.

Respondents were asked to identify how many times they had used each place or space in the preceding year (Q.17). Respondents could choose from four options: used it more than ten times in the past year (blue bar to the left in Figure 14), used it five to ten times (pink bar), used it one to five times (green bar), or never used it (purple bar at the right in Figure 14). Taxpayer respondents willing to pay higher taxes for recreation are more frequent users of facilities than taxpayers who do not want to pay more taxes. The facilities most likely used by taxpayers willing to pay a tax increase are **trails** and the **Convention Centre** (see Appendix C). The data indicates that the **arena** and **swimming pool** are well used by youth, CAFN members and people who live outside municipal boundaries. Respondents also report using the Old Da'Ku Centre, CAFN Youth Centre, Kluane National Park and Forestry trails, Pine Lake area, St. Christopher's Church Hall and the local artist guild/gallery for recreation.

Haines Junction values its proximity to the outdoors. In order to assess outdoor recreation patterns, two questions asked about trail use (Q8 and Q18). **Almost all respondents (89%) use local trails**. The most popular activities include walking, jogging and hiking in summer and skiing and snowshoeing in winter (Figures 15 and 16). People between 26 and 44 and under the age of 16 are most likely to use trails while men (83%) are more likely to use dirt trails than women (64%). Young people are more likely to use the local trails for motorized recreation than are adults over the age of 25.

Figure 14: Use of recreation infrastructure over the past year

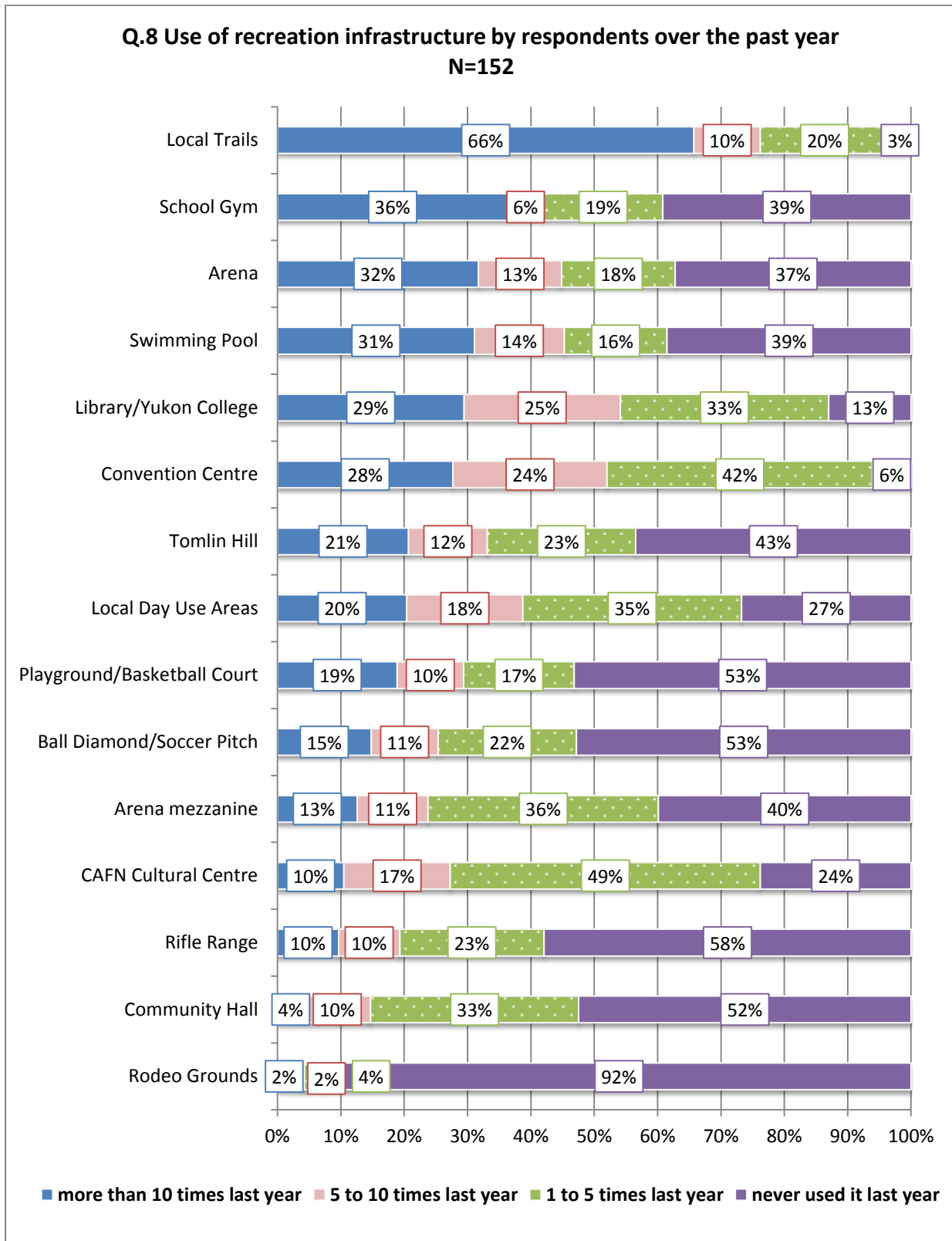


Figure 15: Types of trails used

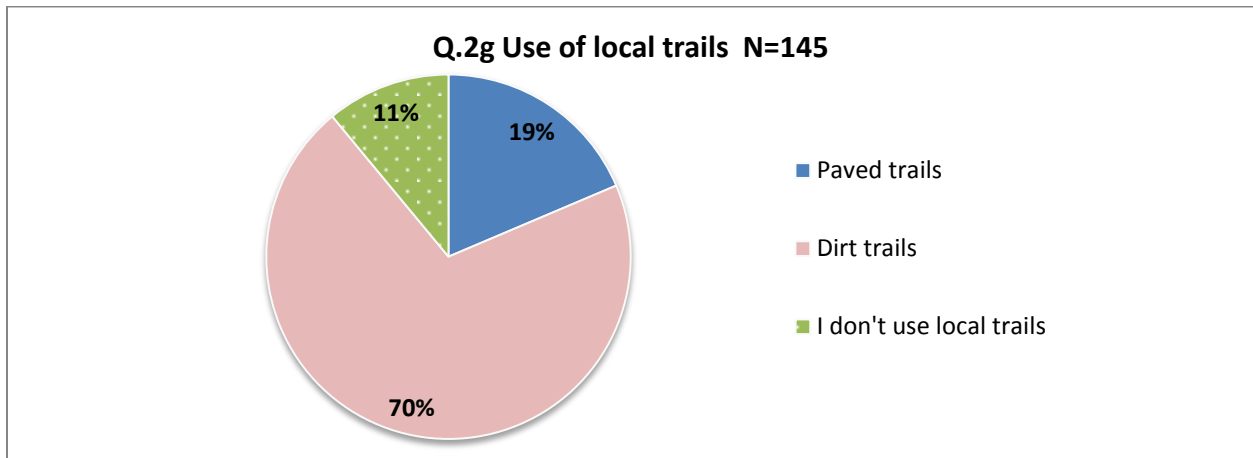
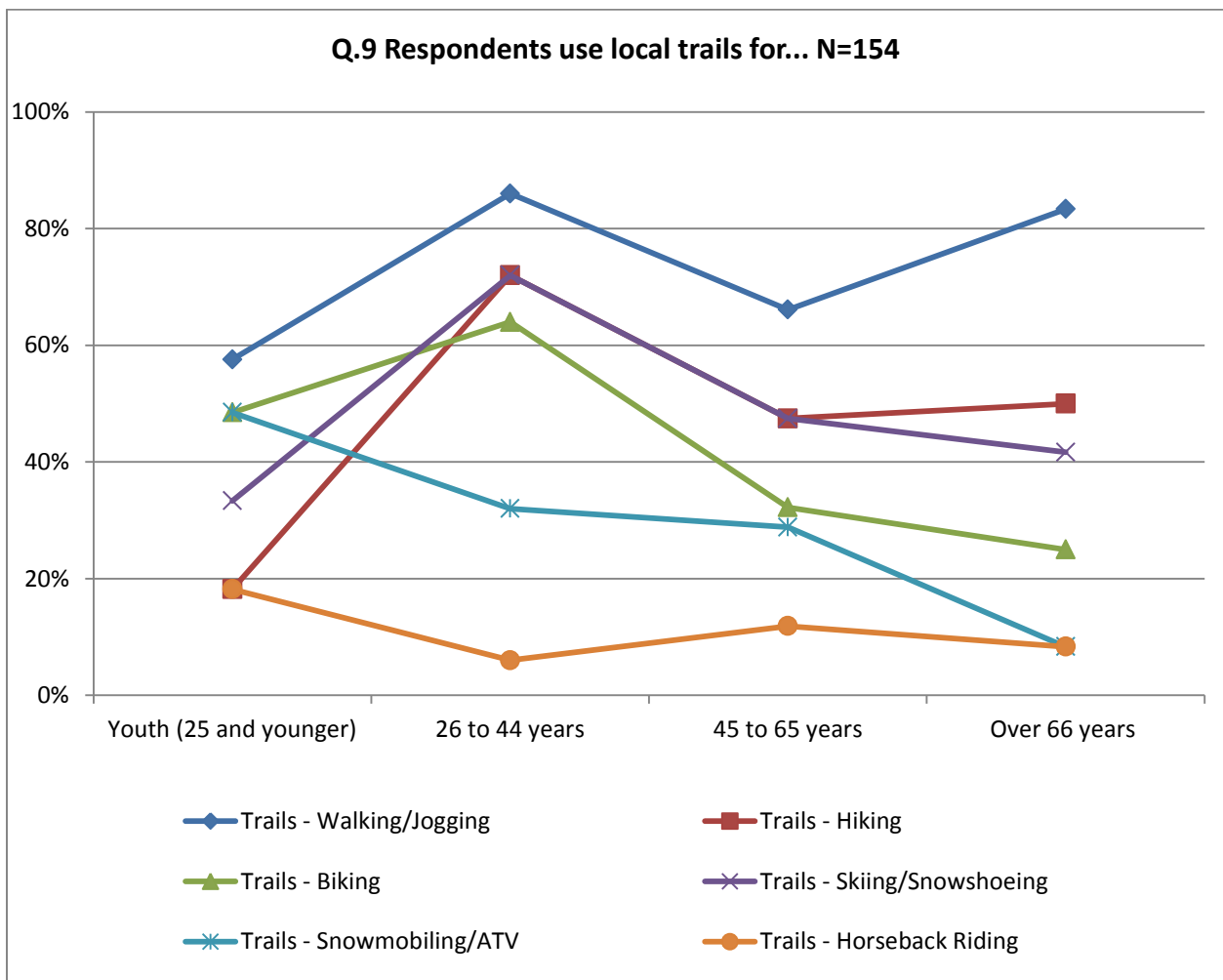


Figure 16: Types of recreation on local trails



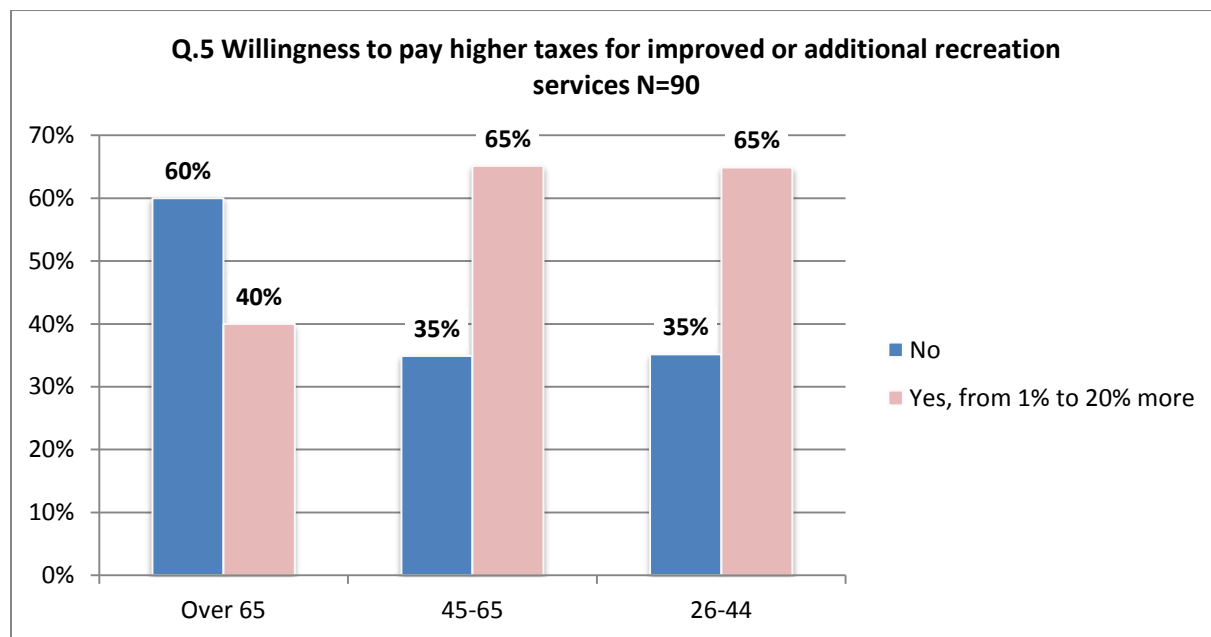
Respondents offered several reasons for not using infrastructure or recreation facilities (Q.19). The most common were related to not liking the activity or a preference for other/outdoor activities (49%) and scheduling, time constraints or a preference for non-scheduled activities (35%). Constraints such as cost (4%), accessibility (11%), lack of skill (11%) and lack of equipment (11%) were reported infrequently.

Recreation Priorities

Having gained insight into recreation preferences and patterns, the survey examined residents' recreation priorities. Questions sought input regarding priority population groups (e.g. youth or seniors), willingness to pay higher taxes for recreation, suggestions regarding aging facilities, recreation infrastructure, wishes related to programming and special events, and priority actions for the municipality (e.g. whether or not to hire a recreation director). Although the survey asked several quantitative and qualitative questions, many more could be asked and have been asked at other times. The figures in this section are small pieces of information which contribute to a bigger picture of community recreation priorities.

Approximately 55% of taxpayers indicated they would be willing to pay higher taxes for improved or additional recreation services (Q.5). There was no significant difference between all respondents and taxpayer respondents. Amongst taxpayers who indicated willingness to pay more taxes, 77% noted that up to 10% more would be acceptable. As shown in Figure 17, seniors (40%) are least willing to pay higher taxes for improved recreation.

Figure 17: Willingness to pay higher taxes



Question 18 presented several broad strategies which had previously been voiced in the community. Respondents were asked to what extent each should be prioritized in a recreation plan. The most important priorities, ranked as top priority (blue bar in Figure 18) or moderate priority (pink bar) by respondents, are to **support local non-profits to offer recreation opportunities** (88%) and to **create an online community calendar of events** (86%). Figure 19 compares responses to this question between all respondents and taxpayers. The closer a marker is to the outside of the web, the higher the priority, while closer to the middle indicates a lesser priority. As expected, respondents who are not interested in paying more tax for recreation are least likely to state that these actions should be a municipal priority.

Figure 18: Priorities for a recreation plan

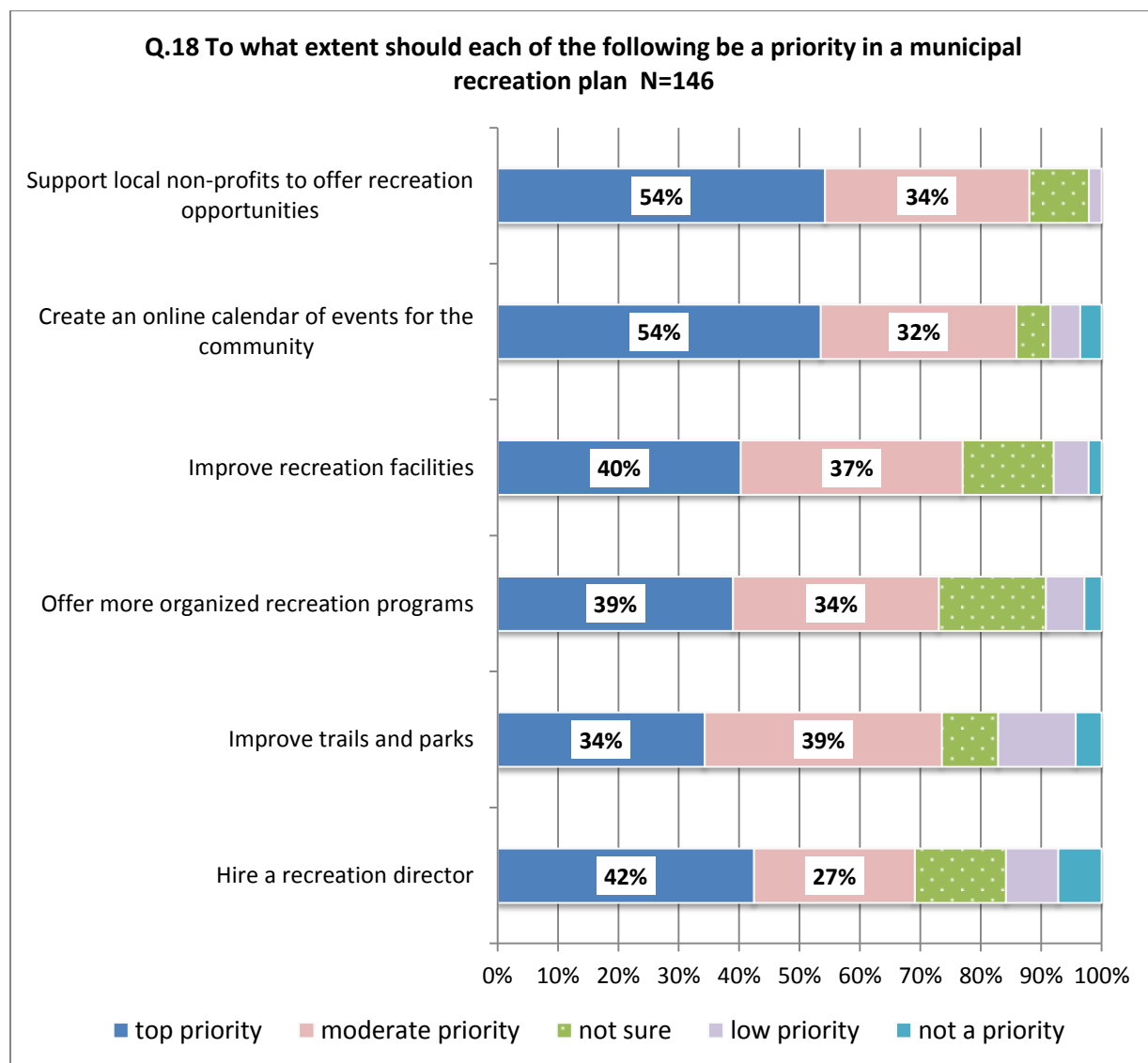
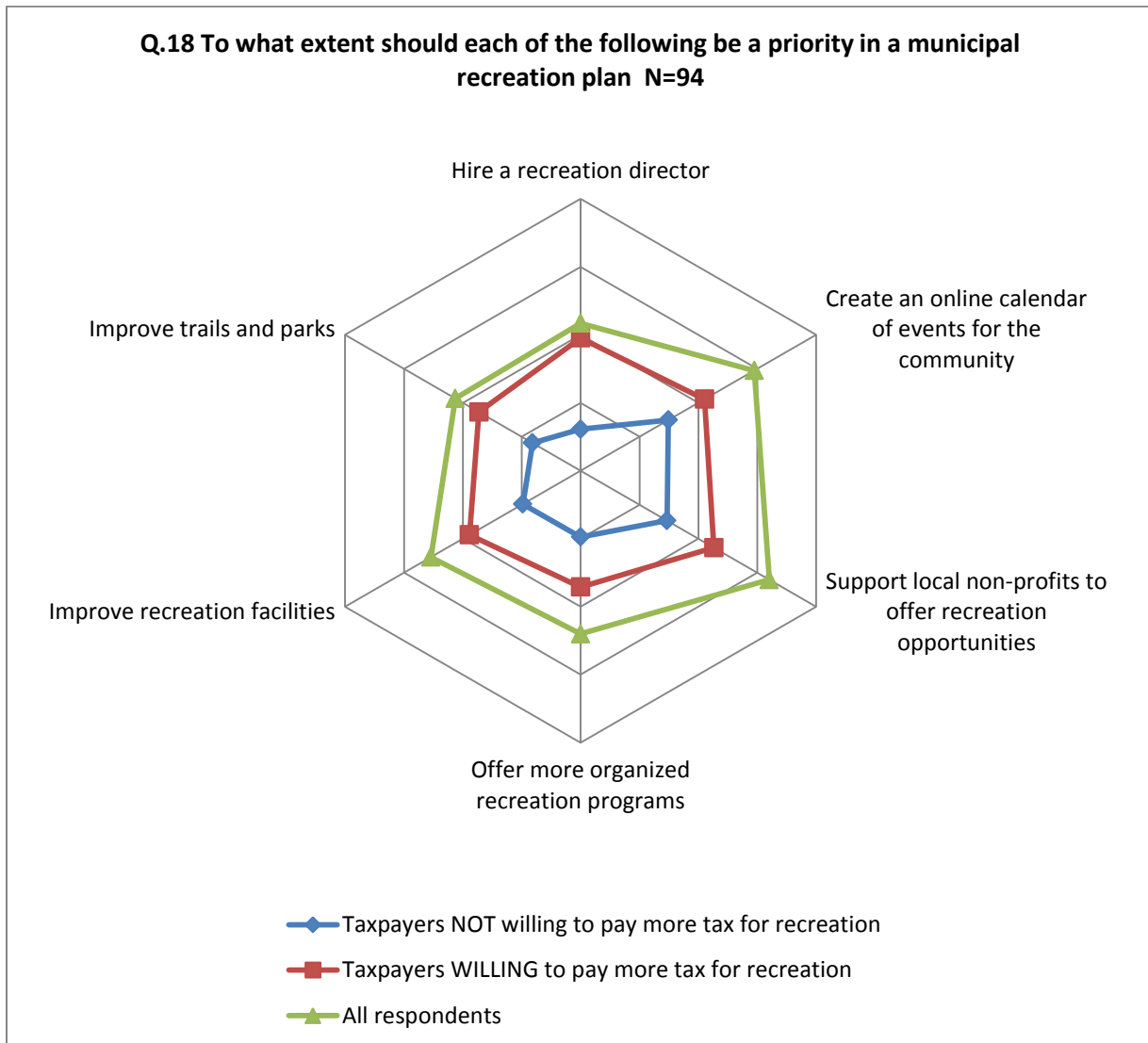


Figure 19: Priorities from the perspective of taxpayers

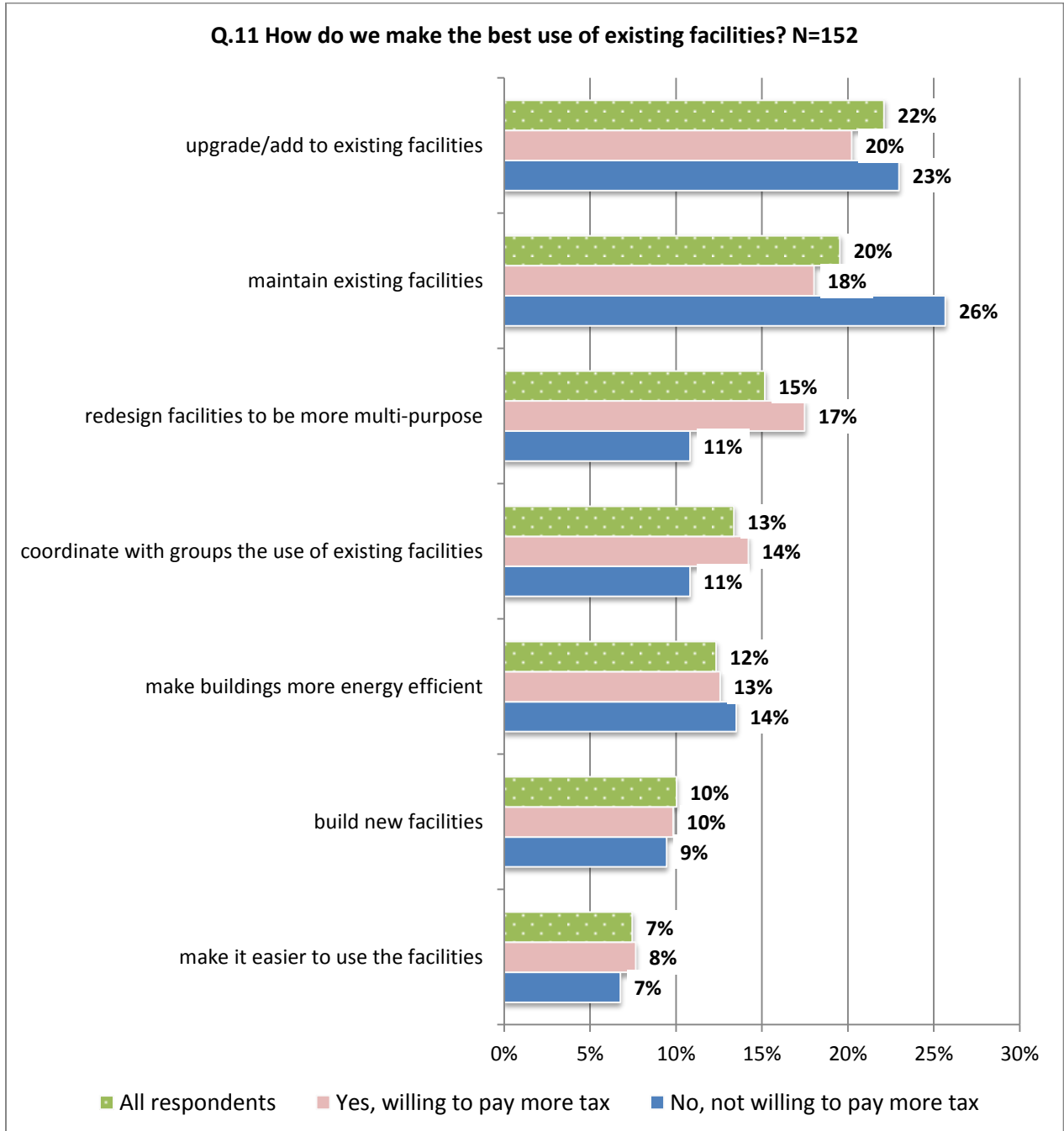


Infrastructure is a core element of municipal recreation, particularly in small and remote communities. Haines Junction shares a predicament experienced by communities across Canada where aging facilities have reached or surpassed their lifespan. Repair and/or replacement of one or more facilities (e.g. community hall, pool and curling rink) present financial challenges which are not easily addressed. To support difficult decisions regarding facility repair, upgrades or replacement, the survey included several questions regarding infrastructure and recreational assets (Q.11, Q.12 and Q.13).

Open-ended comments to these questions stressed the importance of **maintaining existing facilities, ensuring multi-purpose use of facilities, and not wasting money on aging infrastructure**. Figure 20 compares all responses to those of taxpayers with regards to making

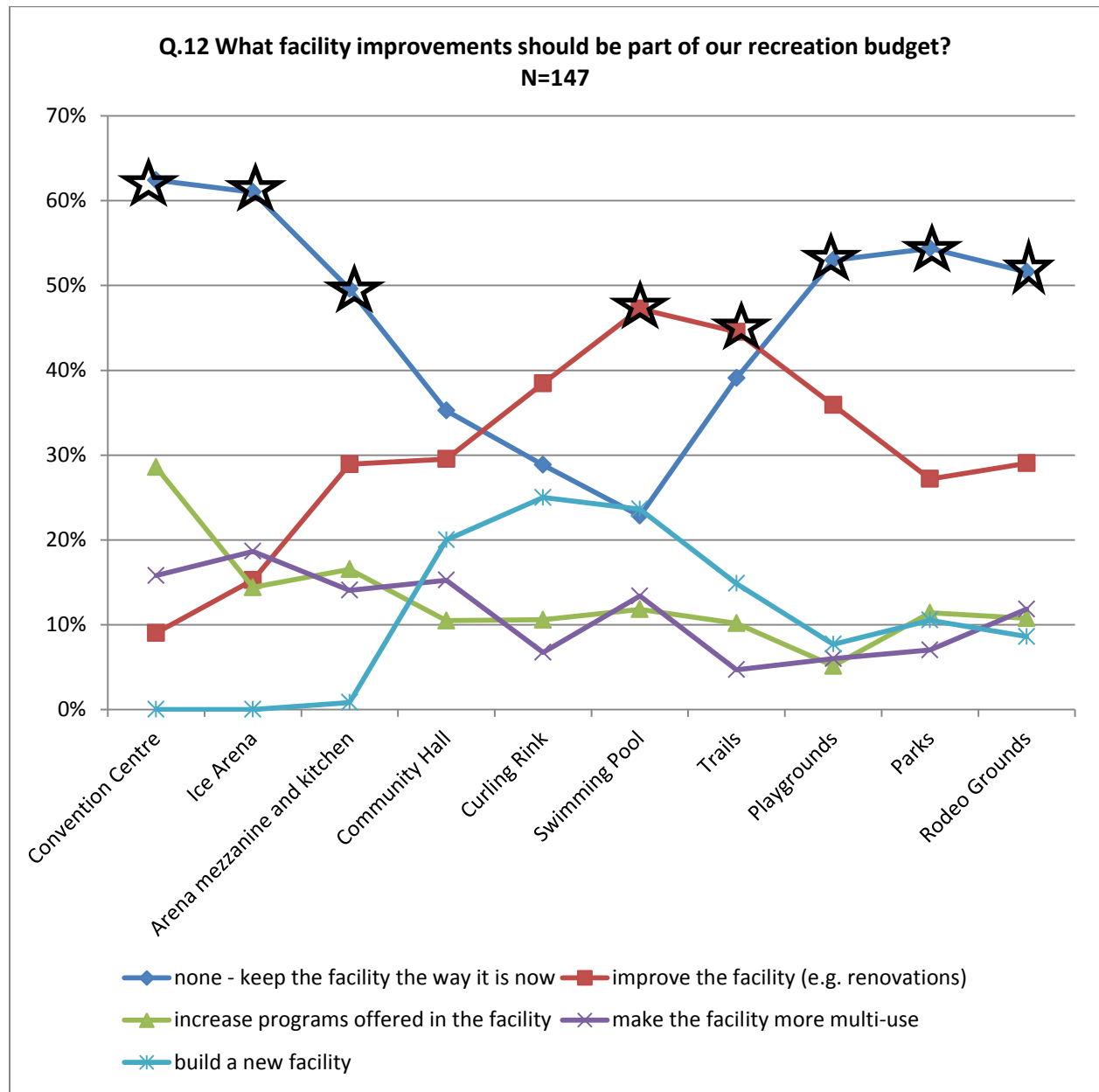
the best use of existing facilities (Q.11). Taxpayers prioritized **maintenance and upgrades of existing facilities**. Those willing to pay more tax also placed a priority on redesigning facilities to be more multi-use. Energy efficiency and building new facilities did not emerge as significant priorities.

Figure 20: The best use of existing facilities



In addition to recreation infrastructure priorities, respondents were asked about priorities for each of the recreation facilities shown in Figure 21 (Q.12). The stars in the figure illustrate the most significant priorities representing response rates of 40% or more. For example, more than half of respondents agree that **although the Convention Centre, arena, playgrounds, parks and rodeo grounds do not need improvements, the swimming pool and trails do**. Figures on subsequent pages compare all responses to taxpayers' responses by individual facility or recreational asset.

Figure 21: Priorities for recreation infrastructure

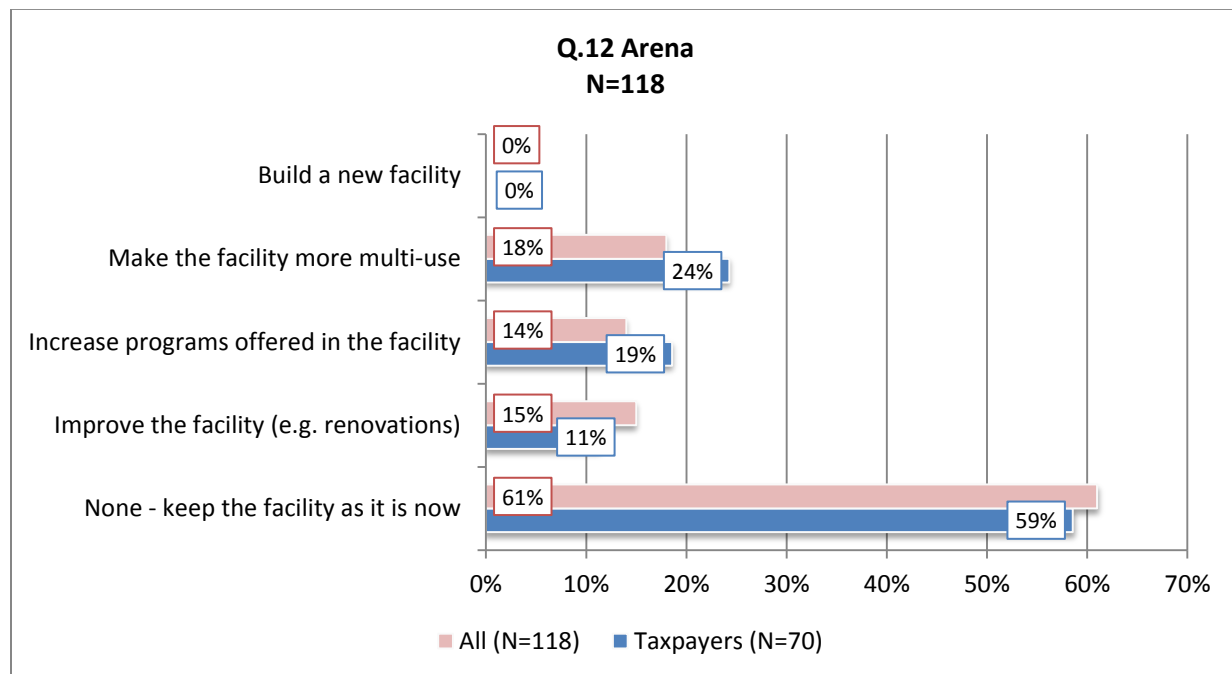


Question 13 asked respondents to list up to three wishes for recreation facilities. A total of 357 comments were analyzed for themes. In general, comments emphasized the need for, as one respondent wrote, *“open to use anytime facilities like trails, a bike park or skateboard park”*; for **multi-purpose, indoor space** to accommodate programs such as arts and crafts, dance classes and yoga; for **improvements to the pool**; and for an adequately-sized **weight or fitness room** accessible at various times of the day, during the evening and on weekends. A discussion pertinent to each of the major facilities follows.

Arena

Very few respondents commented on the arena. The few who did noted the need for lobby renovations and suggested that the arena should be promoted and used as a multi-purpose facility in the summer. The minimal number of comments may be indicative of respondents’ satisfaction with the arena’s present condition and operations as a result of recent upgrades and repairs.

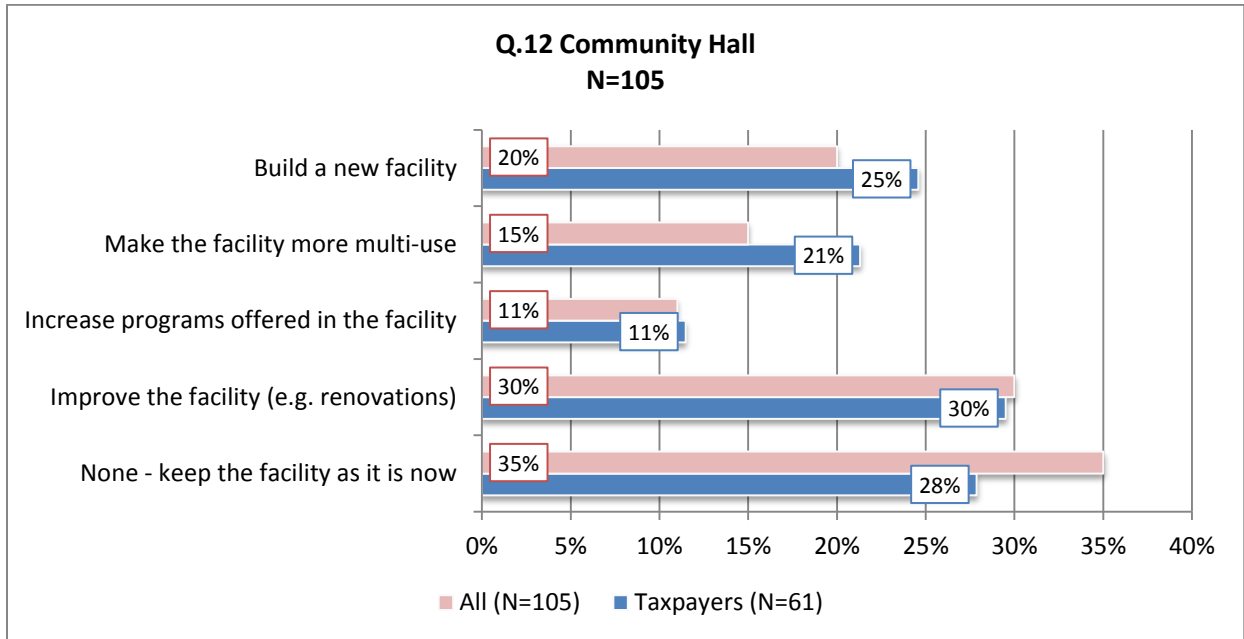
Figure 22: Arena



Community Hall

As with the arena, only a few comments referenced the community hall. Of these, most expressed concern about spending money on aging buildings or on facilities that are used infrequently. Comments also noted the need for multi-purpose space and suggested that the Convention Centre could fulfill this purpose instead of the aging community hall.

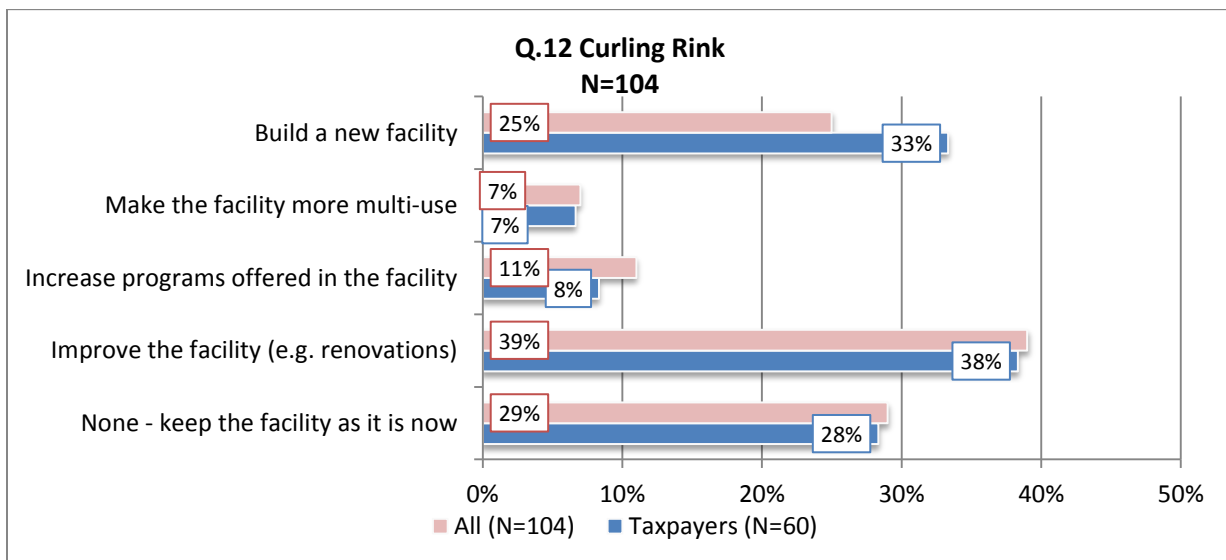
Figure 23: Community Hall



Curling Rink

Although slightly more comments were made about the curling rink, fewer were made than those in reference to the pool or trails. Mixed opinions about priorities for the curling rink were evident. Some respondents prioritized a new curling rink; others stressed improving to the existing rink; and others felt curling should take place on the arena ice.

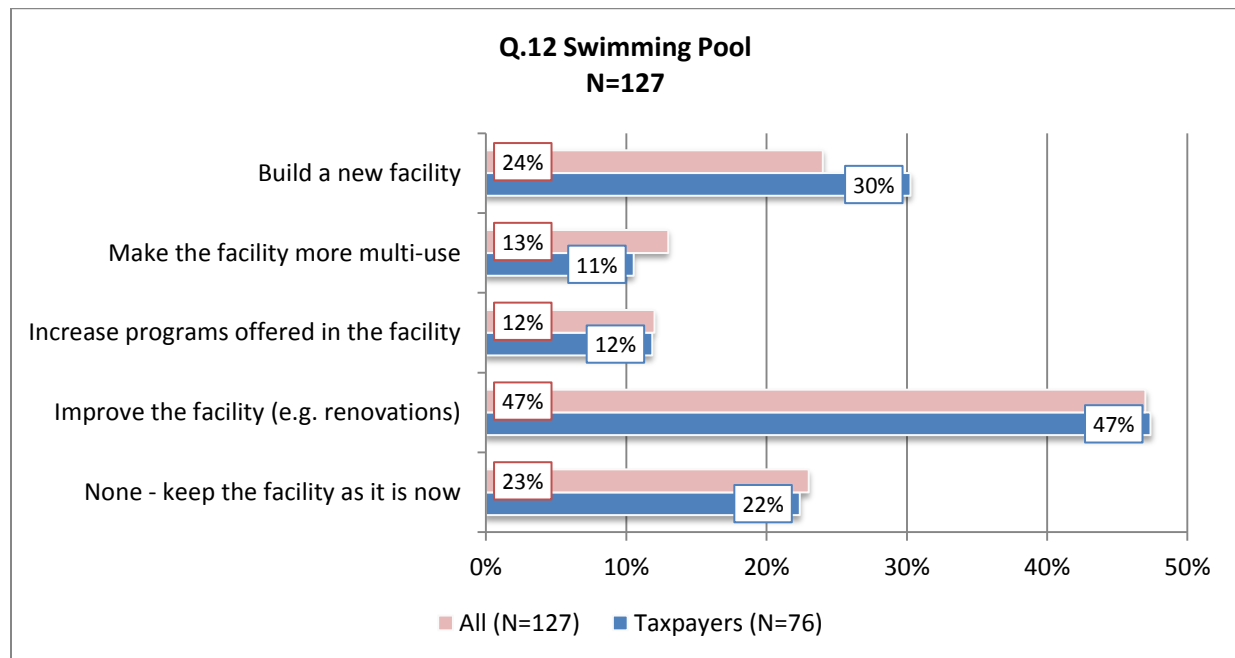
Figure 24: Curling Rink



Swimming Pool

As shown earlier in Figure 21, **respondents placed the highest priority on pool improvements (47%)**. The wish for a year-round pool was clearly stated. However, comments such as *“it would be nice to have a year round pool, but the cost of heating in the winter makes it entirely cost prohibitive for our small community”* demonstrate that respondents recognize a seasonal pool is more realistic. Suggestions for pool improvements include features such as a hot tub, a weight room and a sauna. The wish for a longer or extended pool season was also evident. Although 30% of taxpayer respondents prioritized building a new pool, a greater number (47%) stressed the need for renovations and improvements to the existing pool (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Swimming Pool

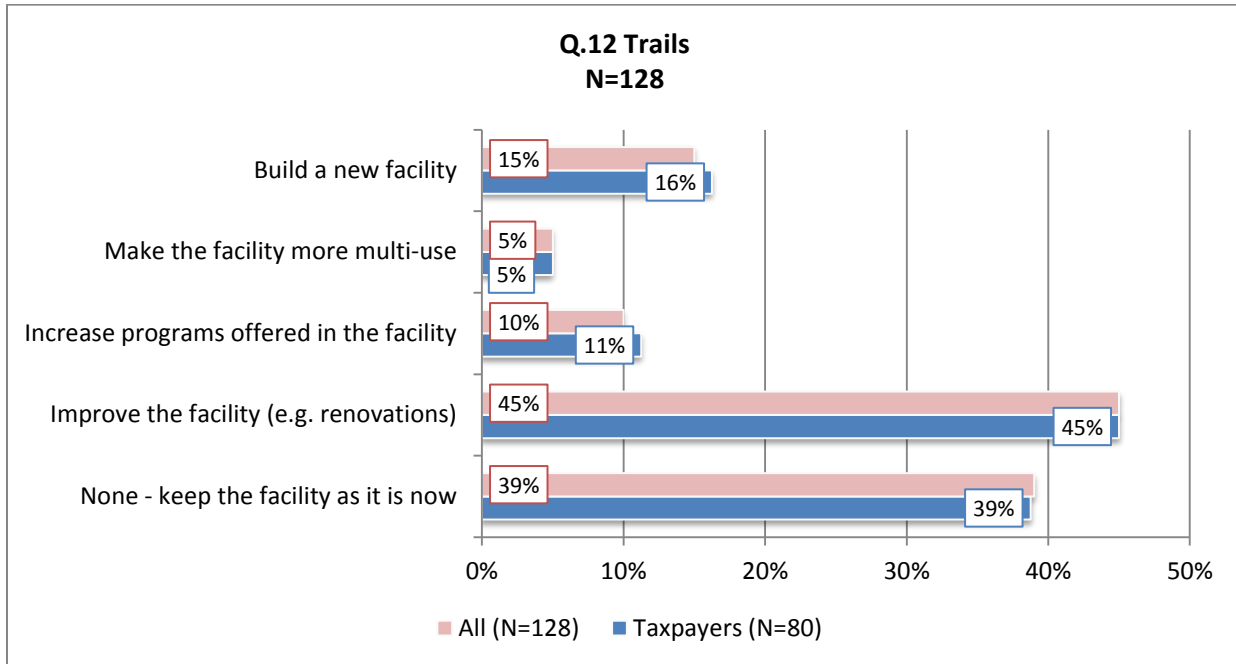


Trails

Comments in response to question 13 showed a keen interest in trail development and maintenance ahead of other priorities such as the pool, a weight room or multi-purpose space for arts and crafts. Amongst respondents, **45% stated that improvements to existing trails are necessary**, yet 39% believe that the trails are adequate and no improvements are needed (Figure 26). There was no significant difference between the perception of all respondents and the perception of taxpayers. Respondents wished for comprehensive trail planning, trail signage and maps that could be used by for residents and tourists, connector trails, better Kluane Park access, policies related to non-motorized and motorized use of trails, horse access, and a

warming hut and storage shed for the ski trails. One respondent suggested adding Disc Golf as a novel way to use the trails.

Figure 26: Trails



Several other comments were made in regards to infrastructure priorities. As previously noted, it was suggested to increase programming in the **Convention Centre** and to use it instead of the aging community hall. Remarks about **Parks and Playgrounds** related primarily to maintenance (e.g. keep playgrounds clean, resurface basketball courts, upgrade the soccer field, use sand rather than gravel at Pine Lake), and to development (e.g. build an outdoor rink, build a bike/skate park, develop a common outdoor space with a gazebo, barbeque, or warming hut). A few concerns regarding outdoor safety were expressed (e.g. remove metal soccer posts, address concerns regarding the skate park).

Several themes emerged in relation to recreation programming and special events. Recreation should be **low-cost** and **accessible to all** residents. Programming should **take advantage of the outdoor environment and maximize use of built facilities**. Special events, an opportunity to bring the community together, should focus on **events for families**.

When asked which population groups the recreation plan should prioritize, 31% responded that emphasis should be placed on recreation opportunities for **youth** (Q.16). Comments indicated that this was not an easy question to answer. As a result, 24% responded that **all residents** should be a priority with a minimal emphasis on families (13%) and Elders (13%).

Programming should ensure **physically active, non-sport opportunities for youth**. The term sport refers to activities which are a contest, game, race or other competitive event, are organized by rules, and are overseen by a sport governing body (Government of Canada, 2013). Therefore, non-sport physical activities might include outdoor activities (e.g. hiking or cultural camps) and indoor activities (e.g. climbing wall, yoga or dance classes).

Improved coordination with CAFN was suggested as strategy to facilitate appropriate and meaningful youth programming. As one respondent wrote, *“better coordination and agreements with CAFN to avoid duplication of programs would make a lot of sense”*.

With respect to recreation programs and special events, the most frequently occurring wish noted by 110 respondents was to **“bring back the music festivals”** (Q.17). Other wishes commonly mentioned out of 249 comments were for:

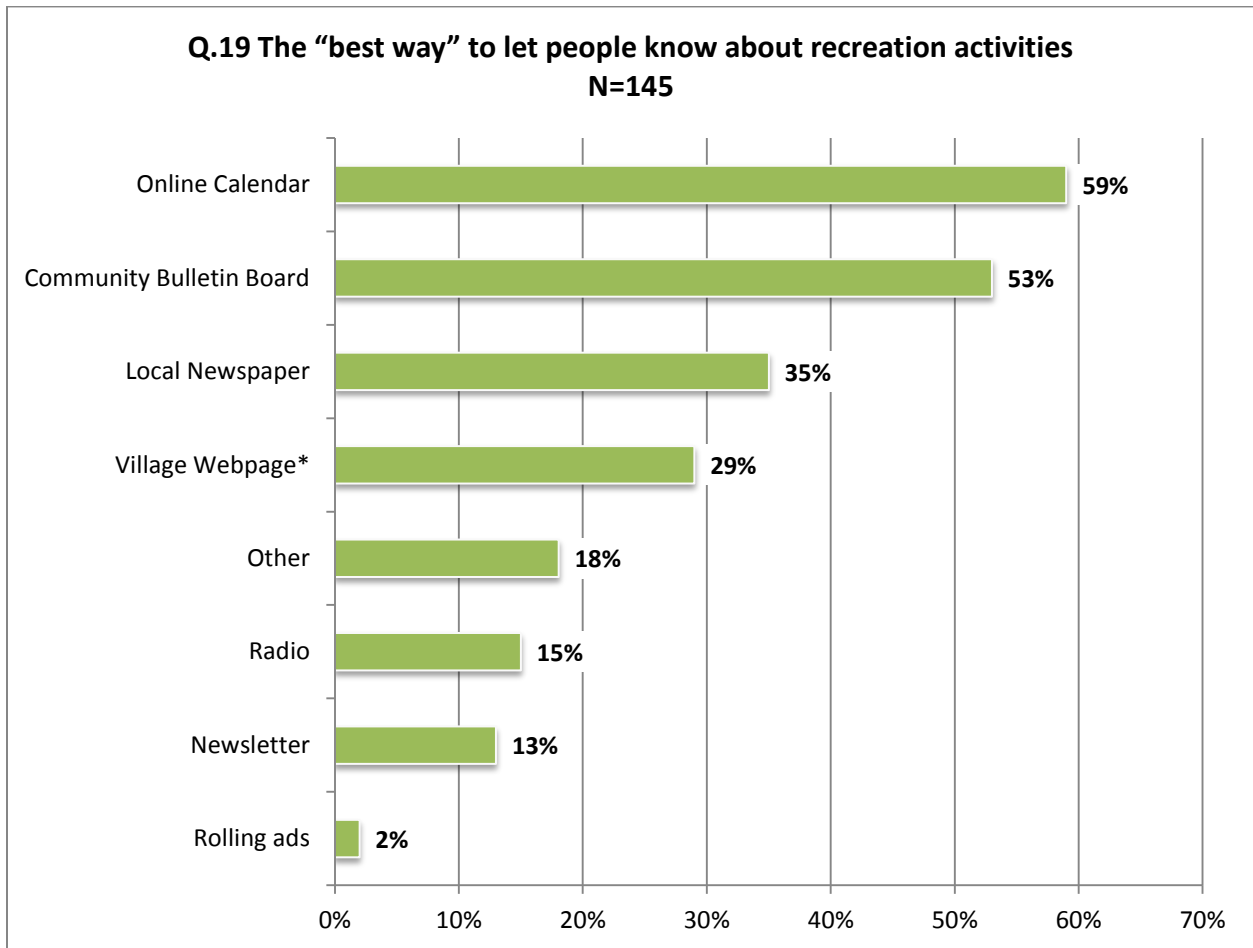
- Dancing and dances (e.g. community dances for New Year’s Eve, barn dances, children’s dance classes),
- Anything related to music, but particularly concerts and music festivals,
- Youth programming,
- Arts and crafts (e.g. pottery classes and space where community members could offer classes),
- Fitness classes,
- More programming at the Convention Centre (e.g. movies), and
- Family and seasonal events, fairs and festivals.

The desire for **improved coordination and communication** for recreation was evident in responses to several questions (Q.6, Q.11, Q.17, Q.18 and Q.19). In some cases, coordination was associated with the need for a recreation director. However, comments such as *“we need someone to coordinate the various groups, to liaise between First Nations and non-First Nations, to ensure communication from Village to community, to monitor effectiveness of recreation delivery, etc.”* demonstrate that coordination involves supporting community groups, scheduling community events, and enabling facility access and use. In this sense, coordination is a generic skill related to community building and does not necessarily require formal education or training in recreation.

Communication is a key aspect of coordination. One respondent shared, *“I love the activities that go on in HJ, but have found it hard to find out about upcoming events other than through my friends. How would I know that there is a soccer club for children? I can't seem to find the information anywhere.... My son would love to get involved with the... club, but I do not know what they actually do?”* Other responses highlighted opportunities to improve communication related to recreation. Responses to question 19 indicate that an online calendar and community bulletin board are popular ways to share information about recreation activities in

Haines Junction (Figure 27). With 269 members, the closed Haines Junction Facebook group offers another way to communicate with residents. However, communication should not be limited to electronic means. Although more than 80% of respondents report access to Internet and email, and 55% are Facebook users, 18% indicate that other means of communication continue to be effective (e.g. word of mouth, through the school and library, mailbox flyers).

Figure 27: Communication strategies



Conclusion

“Bringing our community together in as many fun ways as possible grows a strong community.”

“I believe we've got a lot of worthy resources within the community itself. Everyone wants recreation, but it starts with the community people stepping forward and helping. Not by bringing in resources from out of town. Encourage people in the community to bring forth their knowledge, skills, and abilities and to share with one another.”

Comments such as these demonstrate that recreation is not something done to the community. Recreation is something done by the community for the community. Recreation is about participation and engagement. It is the way in which people work together to make recreation happen. It is this process and the associated outcomes which contribute to personal and social well-being and quality of life.

A traditional view of recreation positions local government as a provider of services. When an approach to recreation is similar to the approach to managing water or waste, residents see themselves as consumers of a product which is provided by a municipality. In this context, a recreation director would determine appropriate programs and implement activities accordingly.

Survey results demonstrate that recreation is working well in Haines Junction. Respondents recognize the responsibility of local governments and community groups to make recreation happen; however, they also recognize that individuals and families share that responsibility. Respondents value current recreation opportunities and the easy access to unstructured, outdoor recreation. Almost all respondents (89%) make use of local trails for recreation and more than 60% make use of facilities such as the arena, swimming pool and Convention Centre. Recreation programs such as swimming, hockey and yoga and special events like Canada Day and Halloween Fireworks bring the community together.

A community recreation plan must recognize and support what is working well in the community. Strengths such as volunteerism, a keen desire for active and outdoor recreation, and the commitment of local groups to a range of recreation activities including arts and culture should continue to be nurtured. When strengths and community priorities are examined closely, it is possible to identify opportunities which need to be included in a community recreation plan. The VHJ's plan might include goals and strategies to strengthen partnerships with CAFN, to improve communication with the community and to encourage networking between community groups. It may address goals and strategies related to facilities such as improvements to trails or the swimming pool, or related to programming such as dance classes, youth activities or music festivals. Regardless of the specific goals of the plan, its overall intention must be to continue supporting, encouraging and building community. Recreation can bring people together fostering opportunities leading to a healthy, vibrant community.

Recommendations

Based on what was learned through the community recreation survey and other sources of information, the following recommendations are offered. Associated with each recommendation are points to clarify or provide additional detail.

1. Continue the process of developing a community recreation plan. There is sufficient information to move from information gathering to writing the plan.
 - Refer to the steps outlined in the background section for recreation planning. The Association of Manitoba Municipalities has a presentation that describes recreation planning in more detail (www.amm.mb.ca).
 - Build a local philosophy of, or approach to, recreation into the plan. Determine whether to take a service provider or community builder approach.
 - Keep the plan simple so that the community can read and understand it. Include detail and budgets in an implementation plan.
 - Review and connect to territorial recreation priorities. Refer to the Renewed Yukon Active Living Strategy (www.community.gov.yk.ca/pdf/ryals_final.pdf).
2. Address recreation infrastructure and community priorities related to trail development, multi-use space, the swimming pool, expanded programming in the Convention Centre, space for an exercise/weight room, and maintenance of parks and playgrounds.
 - Dawson City extended their pool operations later in the season in 2013 and may be able to provide some insight into this option.
3. Conduct a Recreational Infrastructure Prioritization Exercise similar to the one conducted in March 2010.
 - Use survey findings and other reports for background information.
 - Develop strategies related to facility upgrades, repairs or re-building.
4. Identify opportunities to improve networking, coordination and collaboration between the Village of Haines Junction, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and community groups to better support community recreation.
 - Identify strategies to foster partnerships. Assign responsibility for relationship building. Evaluate progress.

5. Foster active recreation opportunities for youth by strengthening partnerships.
 - Prioritize non-competitive opportunities for youth to be physically active.
 - Access funding through territorial sources (Youth Investment Fund, Kids Recreation Fund, Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon, etc.)
 - Incorporate opportunities for youth to develop recreation leadership skills (www.rpayschools.org/active-yukon-youth.html or www.yukonyouth.com).
6. Address community priorities for recreation programs and special events.
 - Continue to support music, arts and culture as recreation.
 - Encourage community events which target families.
 - Consider opportunities to bring back one or more music festivals.
 - Identify opportunities to support the development of local program leaders (e.g. access a Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon program which funds training and honoraria for fitness and other program leaders).
7. Develop and implement a community recreation communication strategy. Address community priorities such as an online calendar of events and a community bulletin board.
8. Identify the human resources available and those required for implementation of the community recreation plan.
 - Consider that a lower priority was placed on hiring a recreation director. Ask whether the need is for a recreation specialist or a community building generalist.
 - Identify the pros and cons of staffing a position.
 - Identify the essential skills and experience required for such a position.
 - Consider that a generalist with community building experience could also support economic development, tourism, etc.

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Appendix A: Survey

Please respond before September 30th.

The Village of Haines Junction appreciates your opinions and suggestions. By completing this survey, your input will contribute to the development of our community recreation plan.

At the end of the survey, you can choose to enter your name and phone number into a draw for a \$100 pre-paid Visa gift card. The draw will take place on October 14th.

A summary report with recommendations from all survey responses will be prepared in October and presented to the community before the end of the year. The recreation plan will build on information gathered at a community meeting in March 2013; connect to our Official Community Plan; reflect changing trends in recreation across Canada; include priorities that are realistic for the size and budget of our municipality; and identify potential ways of achieving some of our recreation priorities.

Participation is voluntary and responses are confidential. Your responses will only be seen by a consultant and your personal information will not be shared.

- 1) **To begin the survey, please enter your physical address (house number and street).**

If you do not know this, please describe where you live.

- 2) **To help us understand recreation patterns in Haines Junction, please choose one response per statement. Choose the one which describes you BEST. If neither is accurate, you do not need to respond.**

a.	My favourite type of recreation is...	<input type="checkbox"/> passive (crafts, read)	<input type="checkbox"/> active (walk, hike, bike)
b.	In WINTER, I prefer to recreate...	<input type="checkbox"/> indoors	<input type="checkbox"/> outdoors
c.	In SUMMER, I prefer to recreate...	<input type="checkbox"/> indoors	<input type="checkbox"/> outdoors
d.	When I spend time OUTDOORS, I prefer...	<input type="checkbox"/> motorized recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> non-motorized recreation
e.	I prefer to recreate...	<input type="checkbox"/> alone	<input type="checkbox"/> with my dog
		<input type="checkbox"/> with family or friends	<input type="checkbox"/> with an organized group
f.	My favourite place to recreate is...	<input type="checkbox"/> in a community facility (pool, school)	<input type="checkbox"/> around Haines Junction in the outdoors
		<input type="checkbox"/> in my home	<input type="checkbox"/> outside of Haines Junction
g.	I primarily use...	<input type="checkbox"/> paved trails	<input type="checkbox"/> dirt trails
		<input type="checkbox"/> I don't use local trails	
h.	For recreation, I usually choose to...	<input type="checkbox"/> participate in a program or scheduled activity	
		<input type="checkbox"/> attend a special event	
		<input type="checkbox"/> do my own thing on my own schedule	
i.	My recreation usually...	<input type="checkbox"/> costs money each time (I pay to participate)	<input type="checkbox"/> costs very little
j.	My recreation also involves...	<input type="checkbox"/> volunteering regularly	<input type="checkbox"/> volunteering occasionally
		<input type="checkbox"/> I never volunteer	

- 3) **What is the ONE best thing about recreation in Haines Junction?**

4) **In your opinion, how should recreation be funded in Haines Junction?**

- user pays grants from other governments Other
 program fees
 taxes none of these

5) **Are you willing to pay higher taxes for improved or additional recreation services? If so, how much more?**

- No Yes, up to 10% more Yes, up to 20% more Yes, more than 20%

6) **Who should be responsible for making recreation happen in Haines Junction?**

	<i>Most Responsible</i>	<i>Somewhat Responsible</i>	<i>Least Responsible</i>
Individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport Governing Bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Village of Haines Junction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Champagne and Aishihik First Nation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yukon Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7) **List one or more of the community and non-profit groups (such as JAM, hockey) who currently work hard to make recreation happen in Haines Junction.**

8) **In the past year, how many times have you or your family used these facilities?**

	<i>more than 10 times last year</i>	<i>5 to 10 times last year</i>	<i>1 to 5 times last year</i>	<i>never used it last year</i>
Convention Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arena mezzanine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tomlin Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground/Basketball Court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library/Yukon College	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CAFN Cultural Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Gym	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ball Diamond/Soccer Pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Day Use Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rifle Range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rodeo Grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9) **How do you use local trails?**

- I don't use trails
 Hiking
 Skiing/Snowshoeing
 Horseback Riding
 Walking/Jogging
 Biking
 Snowmobiling/ATV
Other:

10) **If you do not use recreation infrastructure, why not?**

- too expensive
 don't have the skill
 don't like the activity
 not accessible
 don't have equipment
Other:

11) **How can Haines Junction make the best use of existing facilities? Please check one or more.**

- maintain existing facilities
 redesign facilities to be more multi-purpose
 upgrade/add to existing facilities
 make buildings more energy efficient
 build new facilities
 coordinate with groups the use of existing facilities
 make it easier to use the facilities
Other:

12) **What facility improvements(s) should be part of the municipal recreation budget?**

	<i>None – keep the facility the way it is now</i>	<i>improve the facility (e.g. renovations)</i>	<i>increase programs in the facility</i>	<i>make the facility more multi-use</i>	<i>build a new facility</i>
Convention Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice Arena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arena mezzanine & kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curling Rink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rodeo Grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13) **List up to 3 wishes for recreation facilities in Haines Junction.**

1)
2)
3)

14) **List up to 3 recreation programs which you participate in the most (e.g. hockey, swimming, yoga, crafts).**

1)
2)
3)

15) **List up to 3 special events you enjoy the most (e.g. Canada Day, bike relay, tournaments).**

1)
2)
3)

16) **Of the following groups, which one MOST needs recreation activities?**

- Pre-schoolers
 Children
 Youth
 Seniors
 Families
 Adults
 Other:

Comments:

17) **List up to 3 wishes for recreation programs and special events in Haines Junction.**

1)
2)
3)

18) **Recreation service delivery involves setting priorities for what we do now and what we want to do in the future. To what extent should each of the following be a municipal priority?**

	<i>top priority</i>	<i>moderate priority</i>	<i>not sure</i>	<i>low priority</i>	<i>not a priority</i>
• hire a recreation director	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• create an online calendar of events for the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• support local non-profits to offer recreation opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• offer more organized programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• improve recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• improve trails and parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19) **What is the BEST way to let people know about recreation?**

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> An online calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Bulletin Board | Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Village webpage | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Local newspaper | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling ads | |

Please answer the remaining questions to help us better understand who has responded to the survey. All answers are confidential.

20) **Are you...** Male Female

21) **What age range best describes you?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 65
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 to 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 66 and better
<input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 44	

22) **How long have you have lived in Haines Junction?**

<input type="checkbox"/> less than 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 to 10 years
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> more than 10 years

23) **Do you identify yourself as a First Nations person?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – a member of Champagne and Aishihik First Nation
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – a member of another First Nation
<input type="checkbox"/> No

24) **At home or for your personal use, do you have:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Computer	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet	<input type="checkbox"/> Face Book
<input type="checkbox"/> Smartphone	<input type="checkbox"/> None of these

25) **Please use this space to share any other comments or opinions regarding recreation in Haines Junction.**

Thank you for completing the Haines Junction Community Recreation Survey. You are invited to enter your name for a draw prize of a \$100 prepaid Visa gift card.

Entering your name and phone number is optional. This information will not be associated with your survey responses.

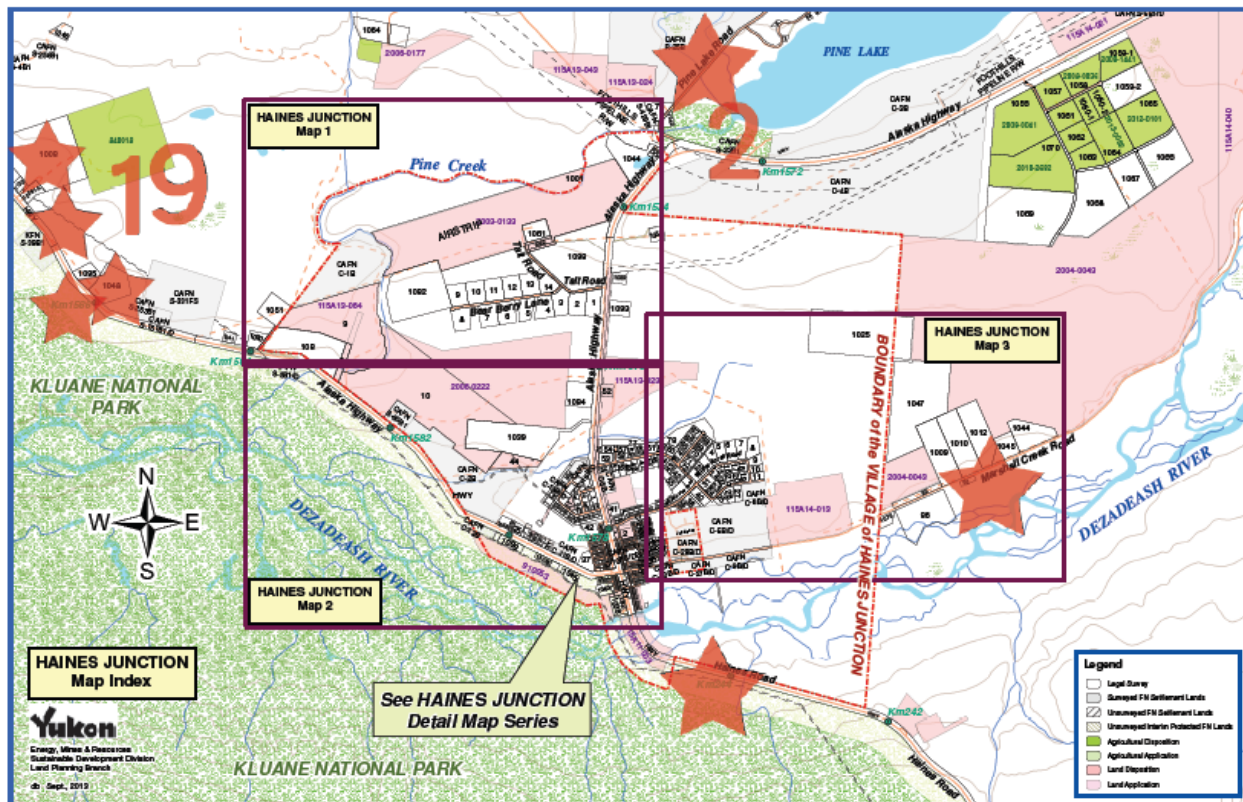
First and Last Name: _____

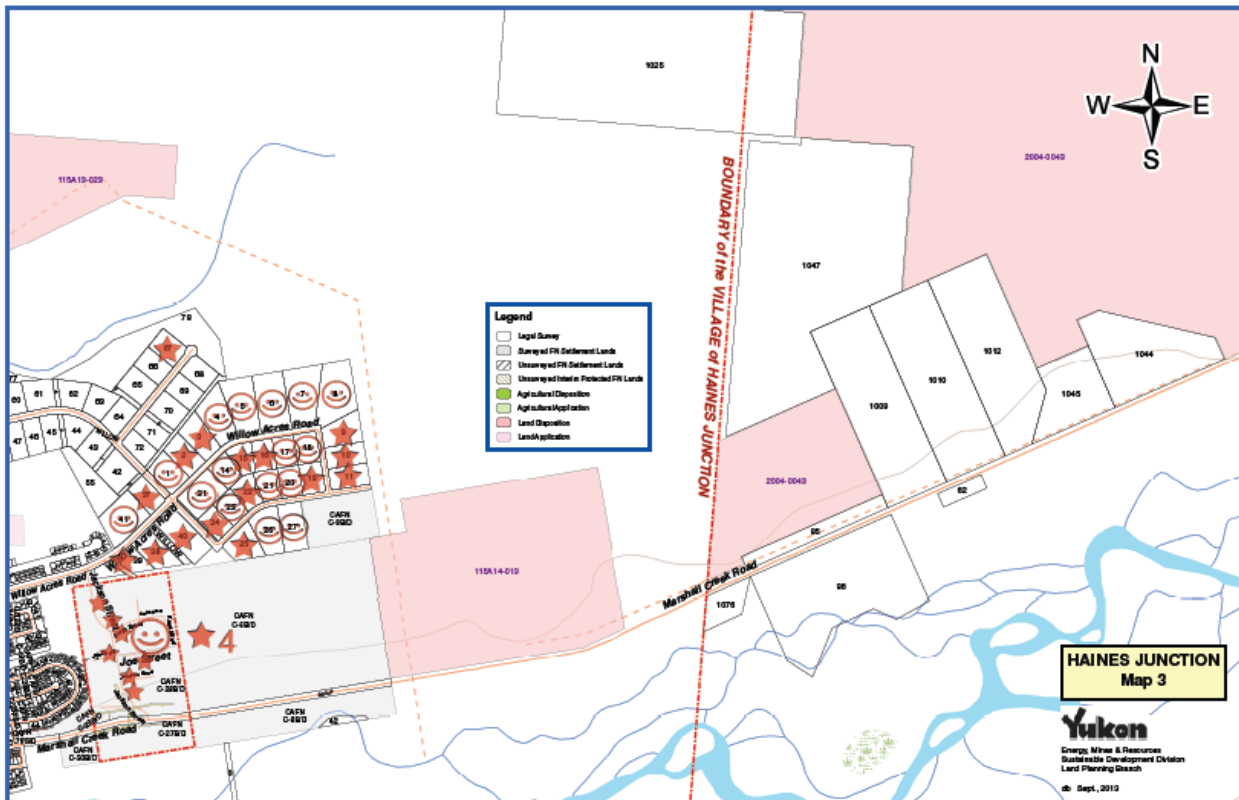
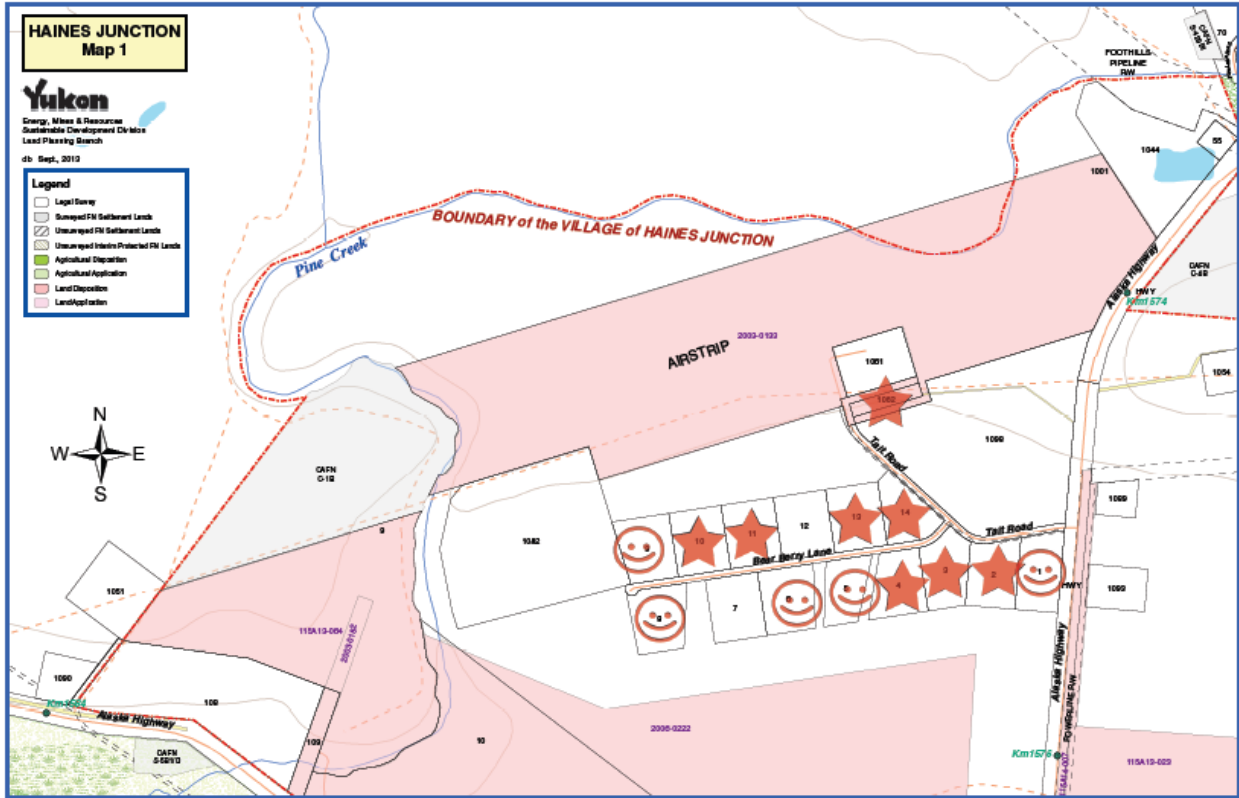
Phone or Email: _____

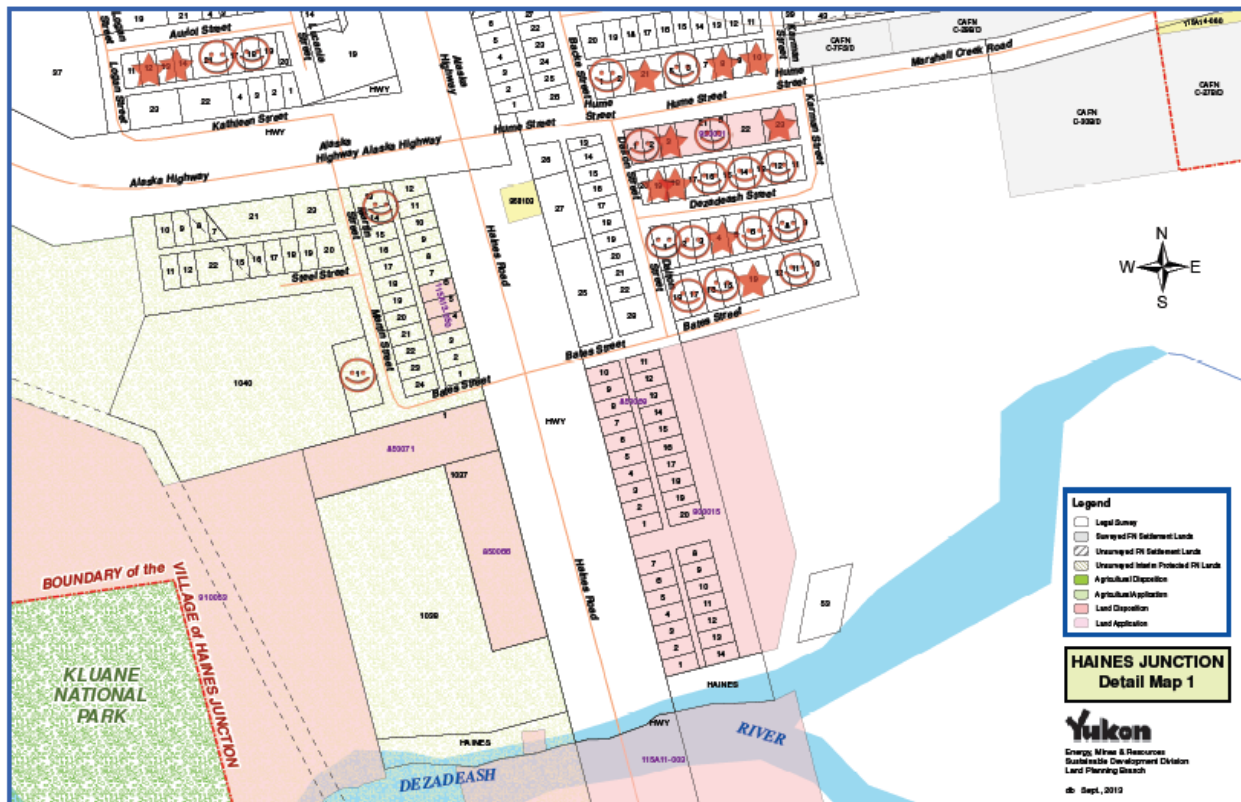
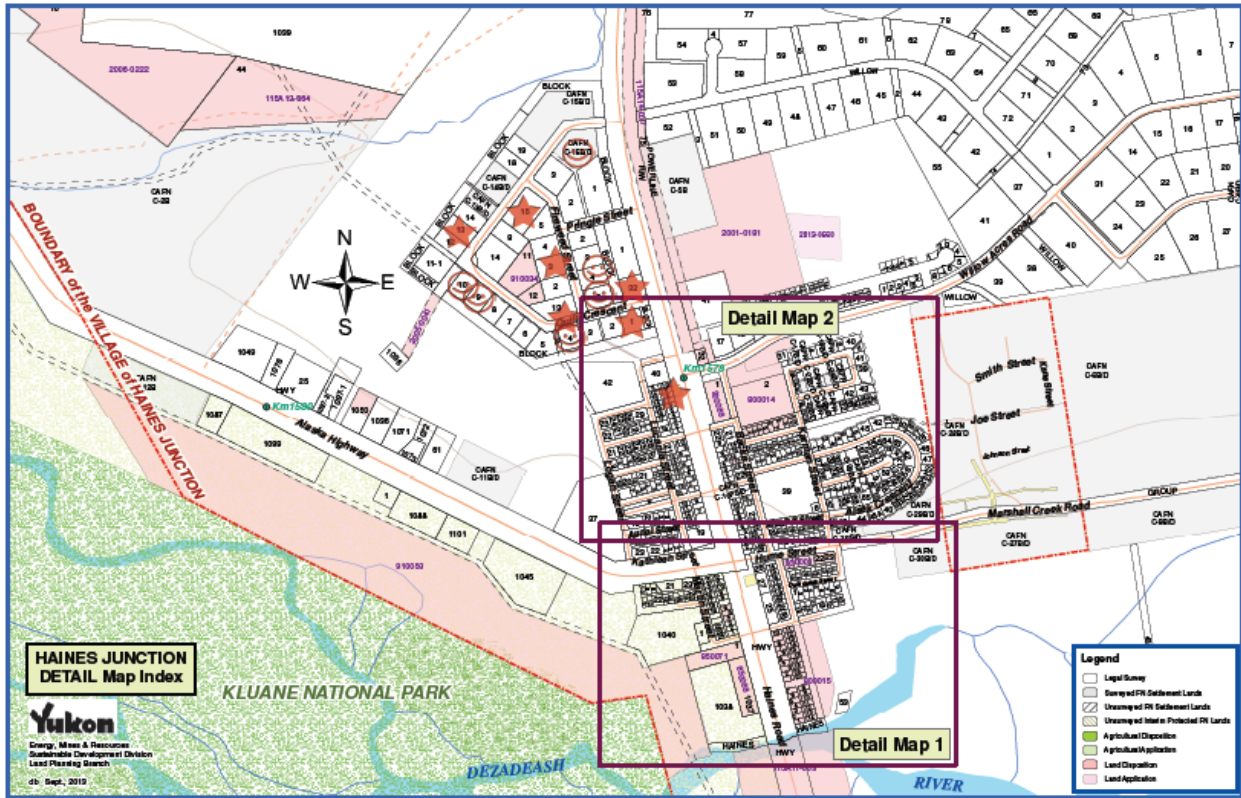
Appendix B: Door-to-door Survey Maps

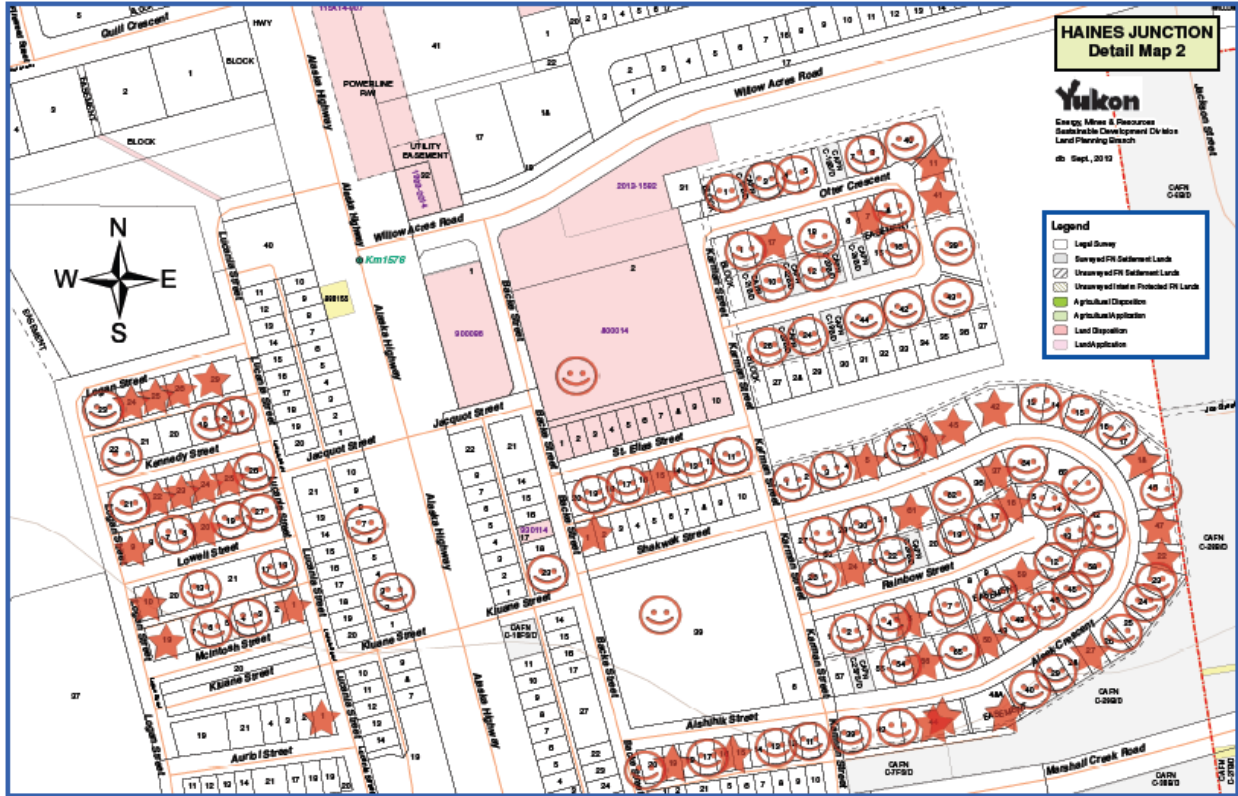
These maps were completed following the door-to-door survey. As it was not always possible to associate a street address with a lot number, the map markings are an estimate rather than an exact account of the households visited.

- Stars indicate completed and returned surveys.
- Happy faces indicate a household was visited during the door-to-door survey but a survey was not completed.

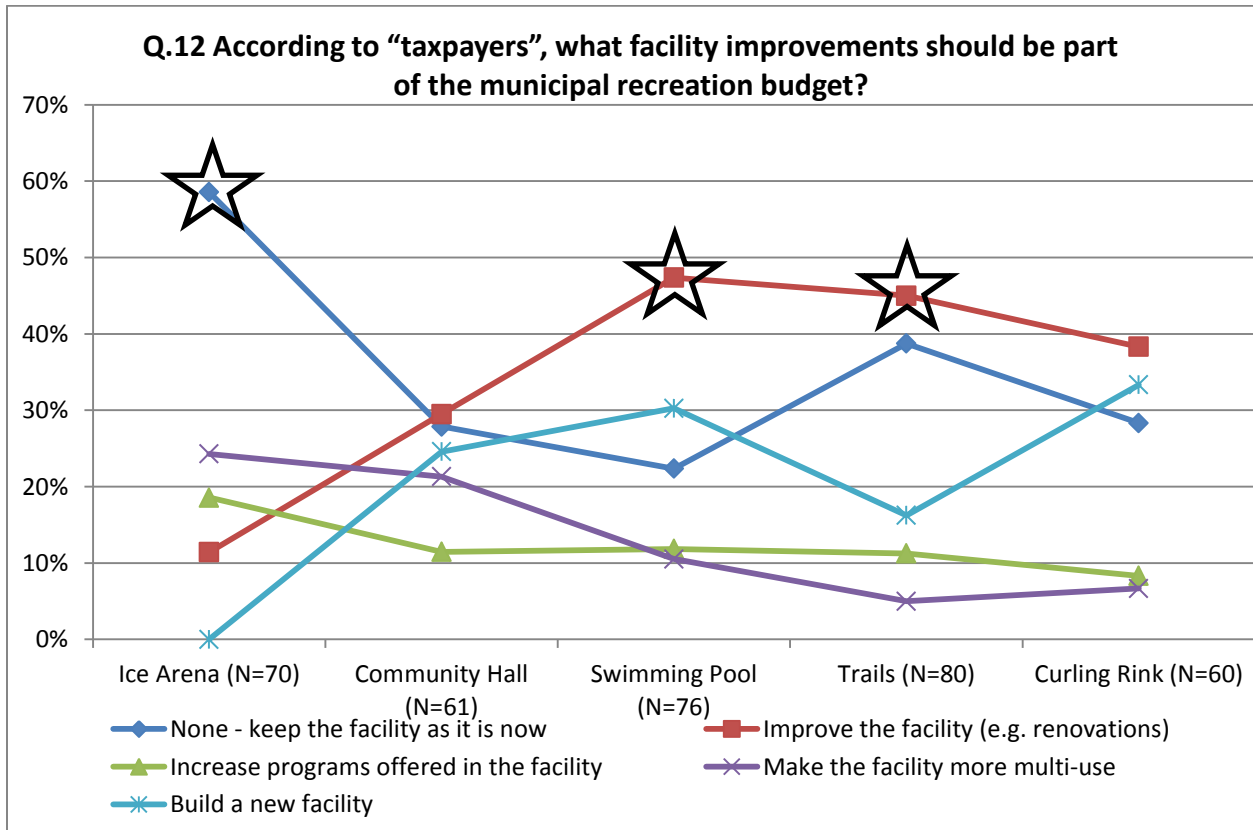
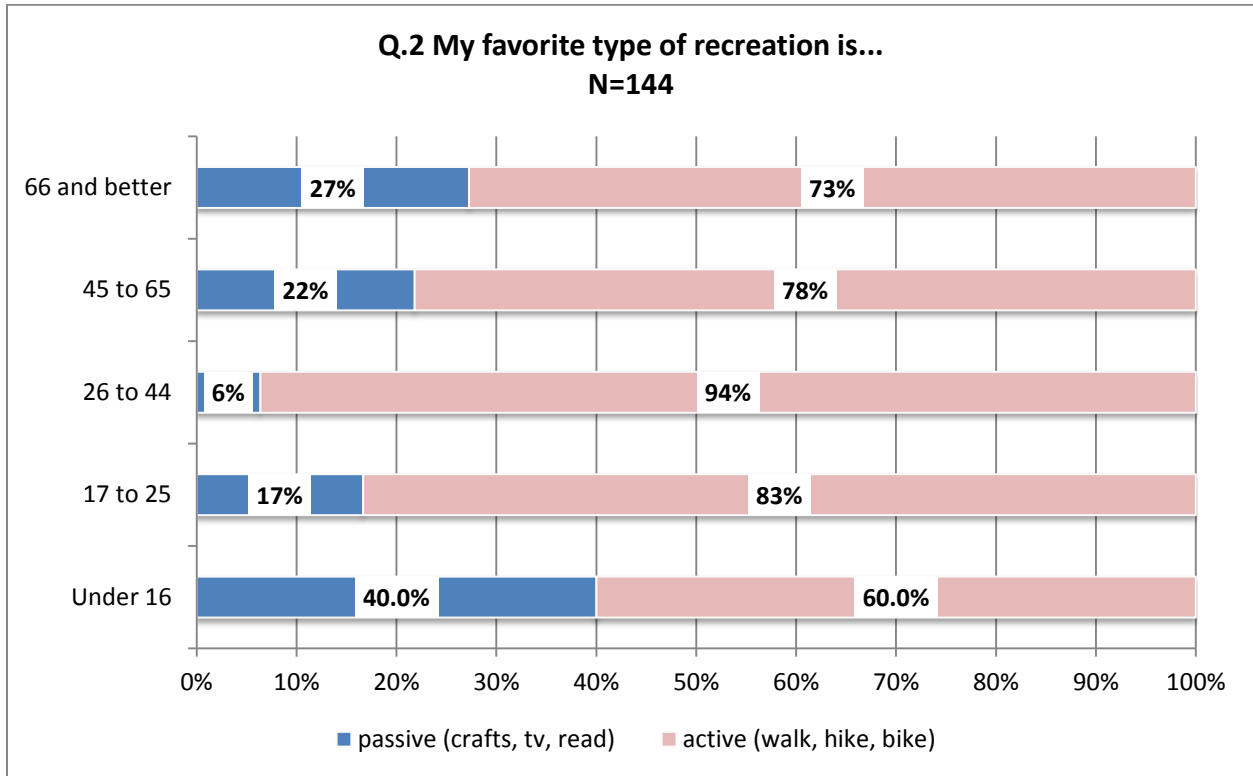


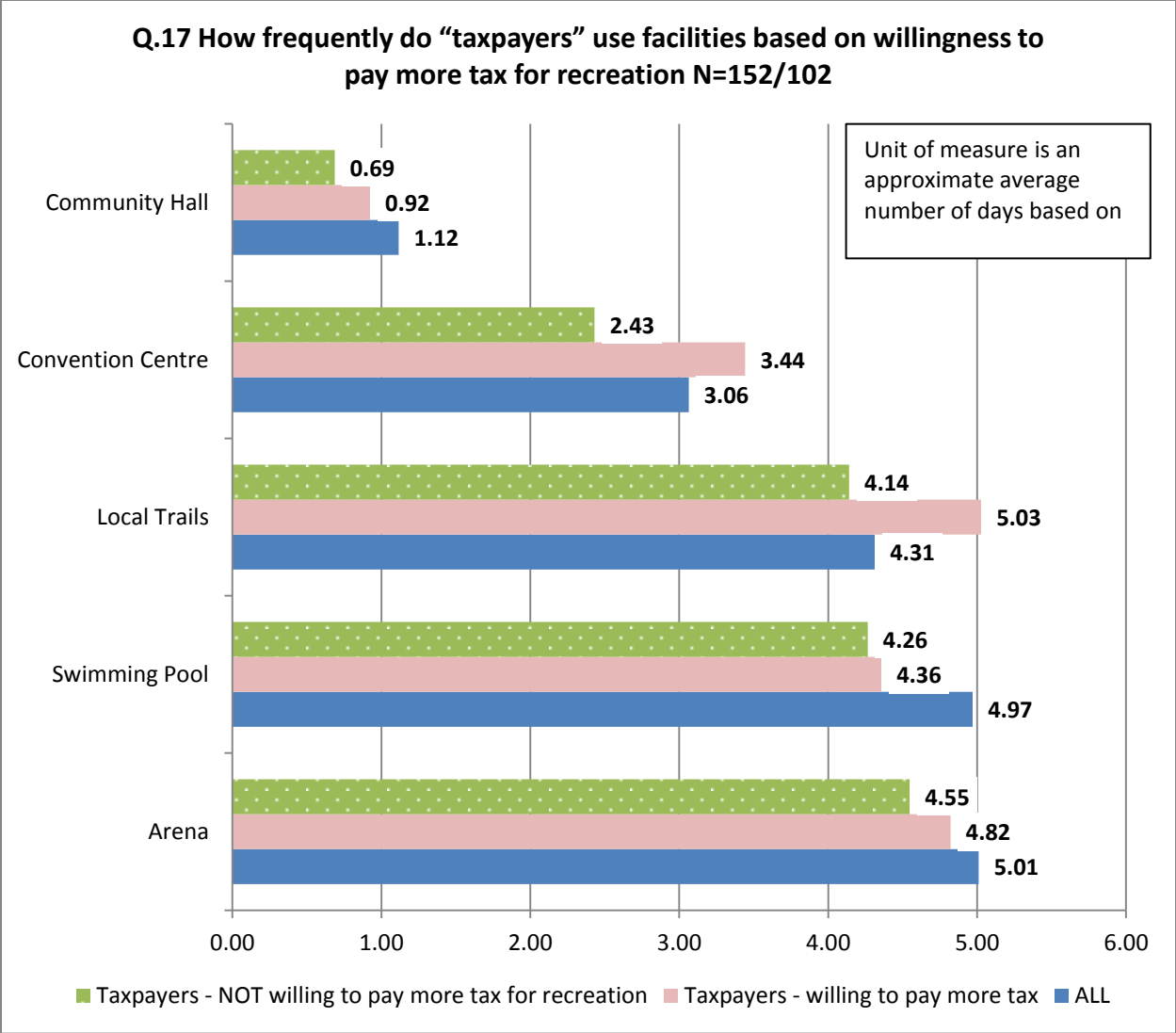






Appendix C: Additional Charts





NOTE: Respondents were invited to answer this question using one of four options. A value was assigned for each category and the average calculated.

- Never used it last year = 0 days
- Used it 1 to 5 times last year = 3 days
- Used it 5 to 10 times last year = 7.5 days
- Used it more than 10 times last year = 11 days

This chart reflects the seasonal nature of facilities. For example, the assumption that trails are used on a year-round basis whereas the arena and pool are used seasonally was made. In order to reflect variations due to seasonal operations, the average use of year-round facility use was divided by two. This does not provide an accurate assessment of facility usage but rather an approximation.

Taxpayer respondents who indicated willingness to pay higher taxes are more likely users of facilities than those not willing to pay more taxes for recreation. The facilities they most likely to use are trails and the Convention Centre. The higher reported use of the Arena and Swimming Pool is indicative of the use of these facilities by youth, CAFN members and people living outside municipal boundaries.

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments

Comments included below were made in response to question 25 which invited any final opinions or comments about recreation in Haines Junction.

- Recreation used to be driven by the community and facilitated by the Village. Residents owned their organizations and facilities. I believe that the demographic of the community has changed and people want more done for them. Perhaps a formal recreation director is needed to satisfy the new community.
- I believe we've got a lot of worthy resources within the community itself. Everyone wants recreation, but it starts with the community people stepping forward and helping. Not by bringing in resources from out of town. Encourage the people in the community to bring forth their knowledge, skills, and abilities to share with one another.
- For the size of our community we have great facilities, they just need to be looked after.
- I think we have great facilities for a community of this size; however we need to take care of what we have. I would really like to see a better trail system (multiuse and respectful use) in the local area both winter and summer.
- Consider building and offering storage lockers for groups to leave supplies in. Think about ways the Convention Centre can be used more often, and more efficiently. It is often a vast space left unused. With dividers, it could be used by more than one group. Encourage people to hold private/for-profit events.
- We have amazing facilities for such a small town; I would like to see coordination to maximize usage of facilities.
- Need to stop adding nice additions to crap buildings
- Support the existing groups better; they already have a wonderful volunteer base. Support and create open to use anytime facilities like trails, Bike Park, Skateboard Park. Set a priority about facilities, i.e. instead of another new curling rink, make swimming pool year around use. Minimize O&M and make arena multi-use for hockey and curling.
- Generally very good, but this is mostly a feature of the great volunteers in the community. We need a recreation coordinator to help reduce burnout...better coordination and agreements with CAFN to avoid duplication of programs would make a lot of sense
- Recreation does not have to involve a large capital expenditure in the form of buildings/infrastructure. I would like to see a well thought out and planned trail system in and around Haines Junction that can be used all seasons; multi-use non-motorized as well as multi-use motorized trails.

- Combined resources so they are available to both First Nation and non-First Nation people to promote a sense of community.
- Though we want more recreation opportunities or organized programs or youth oriented programs we actually have so much going on that there are conflicting events that draw on our small numbers making participation even lower.
- I believe in community-driven planning, and appreciate the opportunity for meetings with other members of the community to discuss ideas and priorities. I prefer qualitative over quantitative planning; in other words, the statistical outcomes of this survey shouldn't be the only source of information for moving forward with planning.
- Good luck balancing everyone's input and ideas!
- I really believe that we need someone who is paid to oversee recreation, to coordinate the various groups, to liaise between First Nations and non-First Nations, to ensure communication from Village to community, to monitor effectiveness of recreation delivery, etc.
- Build a stronger link between recreation and economic development.
- VHJ should find a solution to hire a full time permanent Rec Director that will be responsible for developing the new Community Rec Plan. Not having enough resources is not a good enough reason for the Village to not pursue this option. There are, at times, two municipal workers napping or reading flyers in their truck at the dump nearly every day. That's over \$100,000 in wages for two guys sleeping in their trucks. If one of those positions were removed; this would make enough room in the budget to hire a rec director. Additional funding is available for programming, facilities, youth leaders, etc. from a wide variety of sources. A skilled, knowledgeable, professional, educated Rec Director will be able to fundraiser for all the expected costs of the proposed recreation programming.
- HJ is a vibrant community and there are many arts, music and recreation going on. We miss the bakery and the music programs offered there. Let's focus on things other than hockey and increase self-directed activities.
- This survey does not define what "recreation" is and it should.
- I would pay a bit more in taxes, but only for a recreation director and better trails. NOT for more buildings that I don't use. I would like to see non-VHJ tax payers using VHJ tax payer funded facilities paying a higher rate for use rather than free riding on village tax payers.
- The issue of cost between village members, CAFN members, and people living outside of the village should be discussed further.

- I tend not to support raised taxes for facilities that I do not use (hockey, curling, and swimming). Having said that I recognize the vital importance that these facilities offer others in the community.
- If we do hire a director, then that person needs to be more than just a sport oriented professional. They need to be able to fully coordinate events, groups, programs, etc.
- Make visible what is available! Support people and groups who are engaged in recreation activities.
- It is important for the VHJ to make a plan regarding trails that will benefit all users, motorized and non-motorized. It is also important for the village to recognize the resources (time, \$, and energy) that volunteer organizations put into maintaining the trails for the enjoyment of the community.
- Bringing our community together in as many fun ways as possible grows a strong community. Social events like school dinners, dances at the convention center or cultural center; films, scientific lectures, raw food classes, yoga, dance skills, song writing, art classes, language classes, instrument making, jam sessions, coffee house events, talent shows, outdoor skills.... the sky is the limit.
- The simplest and cheapest improvements for users and the Village of Haines Junction is to develop a trail system around the area; no other improvements can match that to benefit the most residents
- I love the activities that go on in HJ but have found it hard to find out about upcoming events other than through my friends. How would I know that Romp and Run is starting or that there is a soccer club starting? I can't seem to find the information anywhere....
- We live in an amazing community but everybody is acting alone. We need a recreation programmer who can help us get coordinated and make the most of all that is already happening here, also, for small adult groups to gather, the cost of using village facilities is prohibitive. I think the convention center could be made to be more multi-use and more efficient space wise. There is a lot of space in the foyer and atrium that isn't utilized.
- I think that there is no need to increase taxes. You can increase taxes for garbage for recreation.
- Recreation planning is extremely important and listening to the needs of the community. There is an incredible amount of tax dollars spent on hockey arenas, curling rinks, etc. in this town. There are so many talented people that can be drawn on here for a very diverse recreation program in a wonderful setting. A recreation director could pull together the many groups and people of this area, solicit more funds via grants and ensure that

communication (two-way) communication was happening regarding recreation in our little town.

- Generally there aren't enough opportunities for children and youth in the Junction, both during the school year but especially during the summer months. Partnering with Parks Canada, YTG and CAFN, the Village could offer summer activities that would be educational and take advantage of our fantastic setting.
- Part of not using the recreation facilities as much as I could is lack of receiving information (I don't pick up the Echo), not committing to a program (I like the flexibility of drop-in, but it's easy not to go) and having to bring children or arrange childcare.