SURVEY OF HOUSING AND SENIOR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN QUEENS COUNTY

BY DR. KAREN FOSTER
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN
SUSTAINABLE RURAL FUTURES FOR ATLANTIC CANADA

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
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Survey of Housing and Senior Transportation Needs in Queens County

To the residents of Queens:

Over the past several months, Queens Care Society and its partners (the Region of Queens, the Victorian Order of Nurses and the RCMP Senior Safety Coordinator to name a few), with the financial participation of Liverpool’s Kinsmen, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, have been working with a number of volunteers to design and deliver a survey on housing and senior transportation needs in Queens.

Three thousand copies of the survey were distributed and collected by dozens of volunteers. More than 600 completed responses were returned, an excellent rate of return, which vouches for the quality and soundness of the findings outlined in this report.

Over the last 12 months, from the survey design to the reporting phase of the project, Dr. Karen Foster from Dalhousie University has donated countless hours of work to produce this excellent document. Her generous contribution is invaluable.

The findings in the report, which reflect the views of our population, will help municipal planners and developers better respond to future housing needs. We will also use the results to design sustainable solutions to improve senior transportation services in Queens.

I encourage you to read the report in its entirety, as it reflects very clearly and accurately what you see as priorities for action for the senior population in our County.

John Murray
Chair, Queens Care Society

Additional thanks to Liam van den Berge for his meticulous work on data entry.
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Background

Queens County, on Nova Scotia’s South Shore, is a mostly rural region with approximately 11,000 inhabitants spread out over 2400 square kilometers in at least twenty distinct, small communities. Its population centre is Liverpool, and the next closest centre for shopping and services is Bridgewater, just less than 50 kilometers northeast of Liverpool. Until its closure in 2012, a major employer in the area was the Bowater Pulp Mill. There is one hospital in Liverpool, with a 24/7 Emergency Room, with more specialists and diagnostic services available at the South Shore Regional Hospital in Bridgewater.

Like many rural communities in Nova Scotia and around the world, the population in Queens County is ageing and shrinking. Communities have to make do with a smaller tax base demanding a different suite of services than a younger population does. With a large proportion of senior citizens already, and many more approaching the age of 65, rural communities like those in Queens County are trying to figure out how to meet the needs of a changing demographic and potentially attract new residents without sacrificing what their existing residents love about the place they call home.

Two of the most pressing challenges are transportation and housing, as older people presumably lose some mobility and independence over time and begin to find household maintenance difficult. In 2016, the Queens Care Society, a non-profit, civil society group whose main mission is to address the needs of seniors in the area, partnered with the Region of Queens Municipality and a number of local non-profit organizations and service clubs, to conduct a mail survey on housing and senior transportation needs in the community. The Society approached Dr. Karen Foster, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Rural Futures for Atlantic Canada, to ask for help to design and conduct the survey. The organizations involved hope the survey results will guide municipal decision makers and community volunteer organizations to plan their activities and make informed decisions.

Methodology

The 24-question, paper-based, self-administered survey was hand-delivered by volunteers to 3,000 households in Queens County in early March 2016. In all, 613 complete surveys were returned by mail or picked up by volunteers, yielding a response rate of 20.4%. The survey responses were entered into a spreadsheet for analysis and analyzed using SPSS. All surveys were checked for quality and all were usable, although some single responses had to be omitted from the analysis (e.g., respondent checked two conflicting options in a multiple choice question).

Not every respondent answered every question; they were directed to skip certain items and sections that did not apply to them on the basis of their answers to
previous questions. In some instances, respondents skipped questions on their own volition. Under each table below, there is a number - the "n=" figure in brackets; "n" refers to a sub-sample in survey reporting – indicating how many responses were actually tallied. Any other minor issues or idiosyncrasies in the data or its interpretation are noted in the text below.

**Demographics**
The survey was *about* seniors’ housing and transportation needs but it was not limited to seniors; however, the majority of respondents were senior citizens, with 72% aged **65 years** or older. Most of the respondents (i.e., over half) lived in **two-person households** where both residents were over age 55. Only 15% of respondents lived with someone aged 18-55, and only 5% lived with someone under the age of 18. This is consistent with the known demographics of the area.

The largest proportion of respondents lived in Liverpool (40%), followed by Brooklyn (15%) and Caledonia (10%).
Nearly half of respondents reported a total annual household income of less than $40,000 for 2015. A further 36% said their household received between $40,000 and $80,000. Just 14% reported receiving over $80,000. For reference, the Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off (the income level below which a household would be considered “low income”) for a 2-person household in a rural community is just over $15,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Household Income (2015)</th>
<th>% of respondents (n=569)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over $100,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$80,001-100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,001-80,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Below $40,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to answer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**HOUSING**

The vast majority of respondents (88%) lived in single detached homes. The next most common housing type was an apartment (5%), followed by a mini-home or moveable dwelling (3%). Only 1% (7 respondents) lived in assisted living facilities. In all likelihood, given that there are no assisted living facilities in the region, these respondents are actually nursing home residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Type</th>
<th>% of sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single detached home</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplex</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row house or town house</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-home or moveable dwelling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisted living facility</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*n=606*
Most respondents (64%) said their home only required regular maintenance, as opposed to minor repairs (23%) or major repairs (10%).

The vast majority of respondents (80%) said they expect to live in their current home permanently. It should be noted that these respondents were instructed to skip a series of questions about relocating, but a substantial proportion chose to answer some or all of the subsequent questions anyway. Their responses have been retained as they give a glimpse into what people might do if they end up in the entirely realistic situation of having to move unexpectedly due to a change in health, relationship or income.

Over half (60%) of the 163 respondents who answered said they expected or could envision having to move more than five years from now, with one-third (34%) reporting that a move would probably happen 5-10 years from now.

The most common reason respondents expected to move (or could imagine having to move) was out of a need for a smaller property to take care of. Over three quarters of respondents answering this question (76% of 158) selected this scenario. They were allowed to select as many reasons as they felt applied to them, and thus 42% said they could see moving to a home with fewer stairs, while 27% said they might move just for a change of location. One in five (17%) thought they might move if and when their income changed (most likely to a more affordable home due to a decrease in income), and 11% either expected to move or could envision doing so if their family got smaller – most likely due to the death of a spouse. Unsurprisingly given the demographics of the sample, none of the respondents said they expected to move to accommodate a growing family.
Respondents were able to add other reasons in a comment box accompanying this question, and many said that declining health would require them to move to some kind of assisted living facility, or to move closer to family that could care for or simply check in on them.

A subsequent question asked respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, “Regardless of what type of housing I may move to, I expect to continue residing in Queens County for the foreseeable future.” Of the 158 respondents who answered this question, 69% agreed, 22% disagreed, and the rest said “maybe.” Recalling that respondents who said they did not expect to leave their current home were instructed to skip this question, we can deduce that the vast majority of respondents do not expect to leave Queens County.

However, the comments on this question are revealing of the frustrations felt by some older residents contemplating their housing needs in the future. One respondent wrote that “growth in the town has slowed since Bowater closed. If this trend continues, the services and amenities I need will close, and I will have to move.” Many others similarly cited disappearing amenities – such as the closure of the Credit Union in Caledonia in 2013, or the more general migration of medical services and retail to Kentville and Bridgewater – as factors pushing them to contemplate moving even if they would prefer to stay in Queens County. Several emphasized that Queens is “quiet, friendly” and “beautiful”, but many more worried about a lack of “suitable” housing, by which most meant apartments and assisted living.

Of the 178 respondents who offered some idea of what kind of housing they might look for in future, 30% said they would want an apartment, 18% would opt for an assisted living facility, and 17% would want a single detached home. One in ten said
they expected or could imagine moving to a nursing home. Fittingly, 70% of respondents answering this series of questions said they expect to pay rent on their next home, as opposed to buying (24%) or leasing (3%) the property.

Of the 108 respondents who said they expect to pay rent for their next home, most said they anticipate paying between $750 and $1000 a month (33%) or between $1000 and $2000 (33%). One in five expect to pay $500-750 per month. Two things should be borne in mind about this data: first, it includes some respondents who expect to live in their current home permanently and are thus answering this question hypothetically. Second, the question asked respondents what they expect to pay and not what they want to pay, although the two may be closely aligned.
TRANSPORTATION

Respondents were, on the whole, a fairly mobile, active group of people, despite reporting some limitations. Most said they leave the house, in a typical week, once (24%) or several times (36%), and a further 32% said they leave the house a few times a week. Only 6% said they leave the house once a week or less often and 2% never leave the house. Respondents from Brooklyn, Liverpool, Milton and Hunts Point were slightly more likely to say they left the house several times a day (40%).

**How Often Do You Leave the House?**

- Never: 2%
- Once a week or less often: 6%
- A few times a week: 32%
- Once a day: 34%
- Several times a day: 30%

(n=600)

A vehicle facilitates most of these outings: the majority of respondents (86%) said they personally own a vehicle, and nearly half (48%) said that someone else in the household owns a vehicle. Only 65 respondents (11%) reported having no vehicle in the household at all. Of those who live in a household with a vehicle, one-third said they ride in or drive the vehicle a few times a week. A further 30% said they do so several times a day and one-quarter do so once a day.

![Graph showing vehicle outings](chart.png)
Outings on foot or by taxi, in contrast, were far more infrequent. Just under half of respondents said they never “run errands, visit people, go to appointments, or other ordinary outings” on foot, but one in five (19%) said they walk to do such things a few times a week, and one in ten (11%) do so at least once a day. Similar proportions reported going out on foot a few times a year (11%) or a few times a month (10%).

Turning to taxi use, 89% of respondents said they never use a taxi for errands, visits, appointments or other outings. Not a single respondent uses a taxi every day.
There was more variation in responses to the question "Can you rely on a friend, relative or neighbour if you need transportation for an outing (shopping, appointment, banking, etc.)?" About one-third said they could sometimes rely on someone for these kinds of help, and one-quarter said they could always do so. One in ten said they could never rely on someone else for transportation and another one in ten weren't sure. Seventeen percent said they never needed help getting somewhere.

Respondents' transportation choices – with most reporting self-reliant practices like driving and walking – reflect their ability to get around outside the home, generally. Over three-quarters (77%) said that their mobility outside the home is not constrained in any way.

**Mobility Outside the Home**

Mobility constrained in some way, 23.0

Mobility not constrained, 77.0

(n=596)
The reported self-reliance of people in this sample may help explain why only a slim majority (55%) were aware that seniors or disabled people could make appointments with the VON (Victoria Order Nurses) or the RCMP Senior Safety Association for free transportation for medical, shopping and other outings. It also helps explain why just over one-third said they would probably not use a seniors’ transportation service if one were offered. However, the majority said they would likely use a seniors’ transportation service for errands and appointments, either a few times a year (25%), a few times a month (19%), a few times a week (15%), or every day (2%). Many also used the comments section to say that while they personally might make infrequent use of such a service, they knew that others in the community needed it and that they would use it more often if their health or mobility deteriorated.

![Graph showing the frequency of transportation service usage](image)

As asked to reflect on how much they would be willing to pay for a seniors’ transportation service, half (50%) said the user cost should be determined by the actual costs of each trip. One third would be prepared to pay two dollars per trip (35%) and 15% would make a voluntary contribution.

![Graph showing the willingness to pay](image)
The wide majority (91%) of respondents felt that transportation should be a priority in Queens County. Reflecting on other priorities for seniors in the area, respondents overwhelmingly endorsed home support, new housing, nursing homes and meals on wheels. It should be noted that respondents were presented with these four items and asked to tick them if they agreed they should be prioritized. However, they were given the opportunity to name some other priorities on their own, and four were commonly identified:

- The area needs more facilities that offer seniors a chance for social interaction and recreation;
- Seniors need help with yard and housework, and with errands and shopping, and would like to be able to call a trusted handyman or helper for these needs; some suggested a roster/database of helpers for those who do not have family or neighbours who fit the bill.
- The area is in desperate need for more assisted living options so that seniors do not have to move to another community when they need help but not so much as a nursing home
APPENDIX

The following are all of the responses to the four open-ended questions in the survey. They have been edited slightly, only for spelling mistakes and confusing grammatical errors (and only where the intent was clear). They are presented in alphabetical order to protect anonymity and group similar responses together.

Q.7. "Why do you anticipate moving to a different house?" (Responses in "other" box)

Most of the people who entered text responses pointed to health reasons – mainly the vague anticipation of declining health with age.

- Advancing age
- Because of illness
- Changing physical needs
- Current duplex is too noisy, currently is basement
- Decrepitude!
- Difficulty maintaining on my own
- Due to my age + abilities
- Getting older
- Health
- Health
- Health concerns
- House and property willed to my son
- I anticipate changes to both my physical and mental health requirement that will [require assistance]
- I need a place with a good bathroom and a good well
- I want need fewer lesser responsibilities for maintenance repair lawn etc.
- If the price is right
- If your spouse passes away some changes may take place
- Impaired physical mobility and or dementia
- Incapability to live on own
- Medical
- Move closer to services
- Moving to lower cost region [and] warmer climate
- My landlords are elderly
- Need others to do driveway maintenance [and] snow removal
- Need smaller home
- No neighbours to communicate with
- Not sure what the future will bring
- Old age
- Property taxes
- Rental
- [desire a] small cottage on a lake :)
- Temporarily living with my parents as I have recently separated
- Too old to take care of place
- Unable to look after ourselves
- Very few friends locally also single 38y/o male and very few [potential] female partners
- We are 91 and 90 years old
- Whenever I am unable to look after myself.
- Will move when we need assisted living
- Will probably be unable to manage upkeep and maintenance
- Would benefit from an assisted living environment

Q.8. “Regardless of what type of housing I may move to, I expect to continue residing in Queens County for the foreseeable future.” (Comments in text box below question)

Responses to this question were mixed. Some common ones included:
- expressing a desire to stay in Queens County because it’s “home”
- wanting to be closer to family
- expecting a lack of affordable, assisted living options in the area

- 1. minimal job opportunities
- 2. very few friends locally
- 3. very few single women my age locally
- 4. minimal leisure activities I am interested in
- 5. expensive cost of living and too far from major shopping available in Halifax or surrounding area
- Always looking for a change in location never stayed anywhere more than 10 years.
- Beautiful and quiet, no really bad crime, friendly people, quality health care.
- [Desire a place] closer to stores walking distance, more to communicate with more things to do, everything handy to you
- Currently discussing; will go where services are available
- Currently there are few no smaller homes to buy, no suitable apartments, no decent geared to income places, at affordable prices, in pleasant locations. I'd have to move to find a place I could (would enjoy) live in and afford. Most elderly people now live rent free in their old family homes, have a more limited fixed income such that rental prices are frighteningly high if affordable at all.
- Depends on separation or if I become a widow
- Depends on services available
- Depends on whether I can access stores or services I need
- Desire a different location
- Do not find Queens County offers what I enjoy.
- Family group may change. Currently living here because parent lives in county. May not stay if circumstances regarding parent change.
• Growth in the town has slowed since Bowater closed. If this trend continues, the services and amenities I need will close, and I will have to move. Also would like to be closer to waterfront land.
• Handier [to] family.
• I cannot imagine living in Queens except in my current location.
• I don’t want to move out of Liverpool NS. My home is here.
• I hope that the type of housing that we require WILL be available within Queens when the need arises.
• I plan to relocate to Ontario to be nearer family.
• I presently have a residence in Lunenburg County.
• I want to stay in Queens Co. if there is accommodation suitable to my needs available.
• I would like to live in a place where I don’t need my car and I can rent a car if I need to go out of town.
• I would like to stay in Queens Co. so long as there would be suitable housing for an affordable price.
• If I can find decent housing I would prefer to stay in my community.
• If I have to leave my home I will not be remaining in Queens Co - due to convenience for my family who will be caring for me.
• If possible
• If suitable housing is available, other than my home. Suggest that assisted living be established in Caledonia possibly in conjunction with N.Q.N. way home.
• If suitable housing is available. Not much available to rent.
• If there are no decent apartments here to move to we may have to move out of Queens Co. For instance a nice building with 2 bedroom/ 2 bathroom - Not Subsidized.
• If we can’t find suitable housing w will have to live somewhere else.
• It depends if what I could get for housing plus transportation would be a problem when get too old to drive. Also doctor is in Bridgewater.
• It depends on facilities available.
• Lack of amenities.
• Likely wont get the type of housing required in this area.
• May want to move closer to family.
• More closer to family.
• Move closer to family out west.
• My children + grand children live in the Halifax area + I wish to be closer to them.
• My daughter is planning to move elsewhere for work commitments and would like me to move with her. However I am not sure that I will make the move.
• My home is mine till we pass, then inherited by my children.
• Need apartment building in Queens county maybe this would keep people here.
- No appropriate senior rental available
- No suitable housing as yet.
- Not enough senior housing.
- Not much to choose from in Queens Co!
- Not sure what I will be doing. Not originally from Queens County.
- Nothing available in Queens co.
- Nothing here for jobs, or for kids / teenagers to do for work or fun.
- Nothing worth staying for in Caledonia.
- Only one senior apartment building in Caledonia and no bank - must bank, go to dentist, hospital appointments (CT scans, etc.) outside community, usually Bridgewater. No immediate family in Queens Co.
- Plan to move to Bridgewater; apartment or assisted living when unable to live at current location.
- Queens Co. is my home and has been for a very long time. It’s quiet, friendly and in has everything to suit my wants and needs.
- Suitable accommodation may not be available here.
- The housing here is not so plentiful.
- The nursing homes are better in other counties.
- The type of housing is not available in Queens.
- There currently is nothing available that fills our requirements.
- There is not proper apt. for seniors in North Queens.
- Too far away from hospitals, malls etc.
- Want to live part time in a foreign country, less expensive + warmer
- Warmer climes?
- Will depend on our ability to maintain our home / property; once unable to do so, will probably need to move to larger centre where transportation, housing more senior/ disabled friendly
- Will stay if there is assisted living available in Queens

Q.23. “Do you think transportation should be a priority in our community?”
(Comments after question)

Most popular supporting comments:
- many seniors do not have cars
- many seniors cannot drive
- many seniors do not have family to help
- many seniors should not be driving
- seniors fixed incomes mean they have different needs
- seniors health and mobility problems mean they have different needs
- Taxis are too expensive

Dissenting comments:
- It would be too expensive
- people should rely on family and friends (rural ethos of helping each other)
- There are existing options
• [Yes, because of the] # of seniors people in our area
• At this time do not need assistance but in the future it would + might be necessity
• [Yes, ]1. [to] keep our seniors involved 2. some cannot afford automobiles 3. safety of seniors driving who shouldn't be.
• A lot of elderly can't drive, have no vehicle and therefore by using a bus service they could gain back some of their independence.
• A lot of people can't drive.
• A lot of people can't afford cars
• A lot of people need this
• A lot of people need help like older people that can't walk and sometimes taxis are too expensive.
• A lot of seniors do not have a vehicle and may be some of the older ones should not be driving; let's reduce emissions if we can - not just for seniors.
• A lot of seniors do not have any type of transportation.
• A lot of seniors do not have own transportation and are physically incapable of doing so. Many have to rely on others to achieve basic needs.
• A lot of seniors don't drive
• A lot of seniors have no one to help them to get out of their home and in a car. They can't walk fine and not all taxis will help.
• A lot of seniors have no transportation or no family to help out
• A lot of seniors have no vehicle and have to rely on someone else. Especially to get to appointments get prescriptions and groceries and to get out for entertainment.
• A lot of seniors have trouble getting around and they are on a fixed income
• A lot of seniors need transportation because no relatives around and some seniors unable to drive
• A lot of seniors no longer drive
• A number of seniors can only count on taxi, and on a seniors' income this is hard.
• A steadily increasing number of seniors every year with baby boomers saving to have money for retirement
• A vast majority of the people living in the area are seniors; our stores are spread out and a lot of people don't have vehicles, or family to take them.
• Access to services is important for everyone. Priority should be given to access within the community to help maintain the viability of these services.
• Affordability!
• Aging Communities
• Aging population Isolation of Seniors; especially those with mobility disabilities
• Aging Population Seniors Needs
• Aging population will need assistance to travel in the future
• Almost all household own one or two vehicles
• A lot of seniors have no transportation at all
• A lot of times they have no one and need help.
• Although useful to some, I don’t believe there is enough of a population base to support such an endeavor.
• An ageing population and probably a good half of the population live outside the town.
• Anyone who lives in Queens County must have a vehicle to live, get groceries, etc.
• Appropriate for so many people.
• As a disabled person I see the need for accessible transportation. There are times when it isn’t a thing of convenience but of necessity. It would be an important service to have.
• As a car owner who can’t drive because of eye problems and to leave where time are no signal yourself people away allow people very fair of them (illegible)
• As long as people are willing to pay for it - not the government!
• As people age they can lose their car license driving or health may prevent their driving.
• As people get older they either can’t drive or should not.
• As the community we live in is getting older that would be a very good idea.
• As we age we may not be able or want to drive our selves. A service to get around has no end of uses and improves social and economic value to Liverpool
• As we age, we lose a lot of mobility.
• As we get older our needs change + there is a large community of seniors in the area.
• As we get older we may not be able to keep our license and require transportation from others.
• At least $5. Aging population
• At present I do not need it, but there are those who need it now.
• At the present - I live in my own home and have a car but being 80 it could change due to some health issues. Now I can walk to the post office and down to Liverpool but not across the bridge for groceries. There are many people who could use transportation.
• At the present time I do not require senior transportation. If and when my circumstances change, I would definitely use it. Many seniors in my community are dependent on others to get groceries, go to appointments etc.
• Because of age of many residents; more seniors have to give up their vehicles because of financial reasons; safety of seniors as well as non-seniors on roads; sometimes seniors are curtailed for travel because of no way getting out.
• Because a lot of seniors do not drive or cannot afford to have a vehicle. Also there are a lot of seniors who have mobility issues. Some seniors in our county do not have any mode of transportation.
• Because as you get older you don’t drive as much. There should be transportation, especially for trips to Bridgewater.
• Because at one point we won’t be able to drive safely, putting ourselves and others at risk.
• [No,] because I don’t think it would be used enough to break even.
• Because I like to go to Bridgewater to shop at the malls like Canadian Tire, No Frills and all of the malls, and I miss the bus senior service we used to have here! We should have a bus service from here to Halifax and back at least 2 times a week.
• Because I pay people $20 when I need groceries. I can’t leave whenever I want; someone has to be here to stay with hubby, then another $10 or $20 having someone to drive me when car is here would be nice.
• Because if you need to get to blood work, or Doctor, sometimes its hard to get to that destination.
• Because it will be too costly to maintain a vehicle or buy one. Seniors incomes do not get larger.
• Because living in rural areas don’t always have a vehicle due to finances, health, etc. and a taxi would be cost-prohibitive.
• Because many seniors do not own reliable transportation or cannot drive, or have the money to pay for car insurance and gas!
• Because of amount of seniors in Queens County.
• Because of necessity.
• Because our town is moving away from the Centre of Liverpool towards Bristol.
• Because some seniors have no means of transportation and family / close friends aren’t always available.
• Because there are a lot of seniors that don’t have cars.
• Because there are a number of seniors who do not have suitable transportation to get to their appointments, etc.
• Because there are lots of seniors that need transportation to and from.
• Because there are many seniors who do not have anyone to rely on for transportation
• Because there are many seniors who do not own a car and find taxi fees high
• Because there are seniors who do not drive or do not have a car and a taxi can be expensive.
• Because there is no means of transportation at present and I don’t like to bother other people.
• Because there is some people that cannot drive. Once their spouse is gone you can’t always depend on family because most of them work.
• Because there is no bank.
• Because this community is mostly seniors who need assistance to do errands.
• Because transportation should be made available, so seniors can remain in their own home.
• Because way too many seniors (especially those with disabilities) (also those on severely restricted income) are house bound because of lack of available transport.
• [No.] because we don't know if there are enough seniors to support that venture.
• Can't drive - age / blindness / no car.
• Can't always get family.
• Considering the success and ridership of similar efforts in other areas of West Nova, and the greater number of seniors/unemployed/low income/special needs individuals in our area, in my opinion this service would be a boon.
• Convenient transportation for seniors at a reasonable price would help town income.
• Costs of car insurance and licensing keep going up but seniors incomes don't.
• [It would] create social independence for Seniors
• Currently seniors' housing and many seniors living independently are on the west side of the river while grocery stores (Queens place etc.) are on the East side of the river - too far to carry groceries for example.
• Depends on survey
• Do not need now but may in the future.
• Don't feel county could afford it
• During life almost positive that all will need assistance in later years!
• [It would] enable seniors to stay in county rather than having to move to larger counties that have existing transportation.
• Especially in North Queens where there is no public transport (e.g. taxis) but also in Queens because there is no bus service. I know that some seniors depend on friends and neighbours to help them get around (I help in this way).
• Especially in winter when it would be unsafe for seniors to drive.
• Especially since the loss of the Credit Union there are no banking facilities in the North Queens area.
• Even though I have family and a friend I can count on, I know others are not as fortunate as I am.
• Everybody in the county is getting older
• Everyone should have the opportunity to access services (dr's office, grocery store, shopping) without having to rely on friends or family to take them there.
• Family members are not always available.
• Folks need the ability to remain independent in their own home as long as possible.
• For people who have no way of getting around.
• For people without a vehicle.
• For seniors living on Main St. Side of the bridge, the grocery stores may be too far to walk, the hospital or doctor may be too far as well. Even senior exercise classes at Queens Place, or the walking track [might be too far].
• For seniors who have no transportation, it's a must
• For those unable to do regular errands or don't own a vehicle.
• For those who cannot get to appointments, etc. on their own, I feel it’s a very necessary priority.
• For those who have no other way to get around.
• Friends, family or taxis are available also, VON does some transportation.
• Getting seniors out of their homes is vital to community growth and health.
• Governments have allowed the private car to dominate our way of life. Urban planners do not have the "teeth" to focus development and control sprawl. Public transportation is just as important as building highways
• Grocery stores are not easily accessible in winter/stormy weather. As [a person] ages, they may not be able to walk to appointments.
• Have to look to the future when individuals (not only seniors) may not be able to drive
• Helps seniors to remain independent and enables them to get to more social activities for seniors.
• Helps them get the necessities required to live.
• I am a senior who doesn’t drive - why not [make this a priority]? Other communities [regions] have one - why not us?
• I am lucky because I have a spouse or friend who have taken me to medical appts etc. I know there are a lot who are not as lucky as I am.
• I am not sure; in this community there is usually someone that is ready to help
• I am very fortunate to have a van (old one) but I know when mine breaks down and I can’t afford the parts right away it feels like I am stuck. I can’t imagine how it feels to have no one to take you anywhere all the time. Too be cooped up all the time is not healthy.
• I believe it would help to allow people to remain in their own homes longer, to remain independent
• I believe senior housing is most important. Seniors need to be moved from big homes to small locations close to stores and medical services. Like other small towns, this town needs a senior complex for those who are healthy and want to live in a community of seniors.
• I do not drive, [so it is a priority].
• I do not know personally of people who are struggling in that area (transportation).
• I do not see any use for it now.
• I do not see this need in my village at this time, perhaps in adjoining villages depending on seniors’ immediate needs.
• I don’t drive, so I need transportation for grocery shopping, and frequently, for medical appointments to Bridgewater. To visit family throughout the province, there is no bus on the South Shore and I have to either have someone or ask friends to drive me.
• I don’t know how much it would be used.
• I don’t need it at this time.
• I expect to need it one day. Lived through my mom’s mobility being constrained by lack of senior transportation. She had to leave her home due to this.
• I feel any type of public transportation is needed for all people that do not have access to a vehicle for any reason.
• I feel housing is #1.
• I feel housing is a priority.
• I feel housing is priority #1. Transportation in rural Queens is different from town needs but should also be considered. Lists of credible handyperson services should be available. Many seniors wish to pay for their services. Accessibility to [hospital?] should be reviewed.
• I feel it is important that as people age they can be secure in knowing they can still get to medical appointments, do banking, grocery shopping even attend social events - it allows seniors to be connected with their community.
• I feel that our community has lots of people willing to provide transport to neighbours. Of course this might change as these people themselves age.
• I feel there already exist some options for transportation.
• I feel this way because as we age a lot of us lose mobility and [have] eye sight problems.
• I feel this way because I chose to come live in Liverpool because P10, employment, schools, medical offices were within walking distance. Now half the town is across the bridge and I don’t have a car.
• I fell there are many seniors in our community who need transportation to make their lives easier and not have to rely on others. Many don’t leave their homes because of this.
• I have family that takes or does my errands but there are other seniors in the surrounding area that has no one to help with errands and it is too costly to hire someone.
• I have NO form or transportation
• I have observed quite a few seniors walking with grocery bags and I know I never have enough money to last a month.
• I have only sons and they work, [with only] sat and sun off and [doctors’] app’s are not available then. I am legally blind.
• I know some seniors who don’t have folks to help them.
• I like the idea of neighbours helping neighbours; perhaps in smaller communities there could be a pair of interested drivers [with] a centre calling list.
• I live in a rural area (White Point) by choice, and would not expect regular senior transportation services to be available here. However, in the Liverpool-Brooklyn-Milton area, I would think such services would be valuable, given the number of seniors and otherwise needy people who would be able to access them.
• I most certainly do, as many people do not have a family or relatives to help them, so for them to hire a taxi is costly when living on a fixed income.
• I personally don’t need this service but a lot of seniors in our community don’t have vehicles.
• I see a lot of seniors struggling with parcels.
• I still can drive to Queens, so it makes no difference to me. But it’s a lot that can’t drive. I suppose it will be used. (If it doesn’t cost too much for the seniors.)
• I think Housing SHOULD COME FIRST at least in my case.
• I think the need for seniors’ housing is more important. Elderly people should not have to move to Bridgewater to find appropriate accommodation. However this survey may show that there is an urgent need for transportation also.
• I think there are many older seniors who need the service.
• I think there’s a lot of seniors could use it.
• I walk everywhere myself but others do not have very good mobility and need transportation.
• I would not like to feel isolated or dependent if I could not drive.
• I’m not sure if it is something that would work in our small town.
• I feel that way because there are a lot of seniors that do not drive and have to take taxis, which cuts into money that they could use elsewhere.
• If not a priority at the present, it will be in approximately 5 - 10 years, which may dovetail nicely with "Queens Care Society’s" timeline?
• If one’s driveway is not cleared, very rainy weather, not feeling well enough to make an appointment and etc. Age has a lot to do with this question.
• If senior transportation were available, I’m sure they would feel more independent and improve their lifestyle.
• If the expectation is that seniors remain isolated in country homes and the roads are to be safe they need assistance for travel.
• If there is no transportation, we are forced to move, if we are incapable of driving.
• If there was senior transportation more of the older or even just people that need help or can’t drive could get out around. I think it would be good for this community.
• If they have an appointment with doctor or have to buy groceries.
• IF you cannot drive or [don’t] know other homeowners in winter.
• If you don’t have a car or can’t walk you cannot ask friends to drive.
• In a few years the majority of citizens in Queens will be seniors and they need help.
• In Liverpool? Yes.
• In North Queens area we have no type of transportation except the VON, which costs too much.
• In our area it is too far to Bridgewater or Liverpool for transport to be viable.
• In small communities we help each other out!
• In this senior complex there are people who need a drive to get groceries etc. and have a low income.
In winter seniors should not be confined to home due to inclement weather.
Increasing numbers of seniors with increasing challenges to perform daily activities and to maintain social interactions.
It appears the population seems to be more seniors than non. Those who drive will one day not be able to.
It is a priority for some and not so far, for others.
It is expensive to keep a vehicle on the road. Also health problems keep from driving.
It is hard for some people to get out. They don’t have money for taxis.
It is needed for people who need help to paid bills, get groceries and appointment!
It is needed here, lots of older people, who can no longer drive.
It is time for transportation in our area.
It seems unattainable with such a small population - Cost prohibitive.
It will allow our seniors more access to do their shopping without relying on family / friend; will give them their independence back.
It would be a good idea to have it available.
It would be a good service for people who do not have family or friends available to help.
It would be convenient for seniors on fixed incomes who need to rely on others to take them for groceries dr. appts, etc.
It would be useful in getting seniors and others out to visit family and friends, get us to appointments and other events.
It would help shut-in seniors get out and at a reasonable cost. Once a senior has lost driving privileges, it would still be possible to have a social life and meet other people.
It would need to operate on a "by appointment" bases to be viable.
It’s key to a full in-contact life.
It’s healthy for people/seniors to get out and move around.
It’s needed.
Limited resources in our community. Our town has a lot of seniors who find it very challenging to find transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping etc. [It would] reduce isolation.
Live a long way away and no sure how long we will be driving.
Live too far out of town.
Long distances to stores and hospital etc. Needs to be cost effective.
Long medical trips to Kentville and Halifax are stressful for seniors.
Many outside of Liverpool as well in Liverpool have a long walk to stores hospital, banks etc. and It gets expensive to hire taxis for every trip.
Many cannot afford transportation, vehicle upkeep or are too disabled to drive or walk.
Many do not have a way to get to grocery store or doctors appt.
Many do not have their own cars so this is a needed facility.
• Many older people have no way of getting around if you have no car you are stuck; also many older people are on fixed income so taxis are out.
• Many people cannot afford a car with their other costs; you can only walk so far, or carry so much. Many use the trestle trail for groceries and errands; it’s too far around town and not safe over highway bridge.
• Many people may need this service including myself in the future.
• Many seniors are disabled and not able to walk at all.
• Many seniors are unable to drive and need help for everyday shopping.
  (groceries, appointments etc.).
• Many seniors are unable to drive; or have no access to transportation to shopping or medical appointments. For many, the cost of owning and running a car is a financial impossibility.
• Many seniors are unable to get out easily if family is not in the area or work schedules conflict.
• Many seniors can no longer drive or own a vehicle. Many do not have the finances to use a taxi on a regular basis. Mobility is an issue for many. Some live in sparsely populated areas.
• Many seniors cannot drive, as they no longer have drivers license or a vehicle.
• Many seniors currently living in our community would be happy to continue living here especially in their own homes. A reliable system of transportation for seniors would allow these without local family to continue residing here, hopefully reducing the need to move to Bridgewater or beyond.
• Many seniors do not have their own means of transportation.
• Many seniors do not have vehicles.
• Many seniors do not want to be ‘a bother’. Some will stay home rather than ask someone to take them for a non-essential outing such as going to a seniors meeting or a card game.
• Many seniors get to a point where they can no longer drive or have someone to drive them. They need to get to appointments, get groceries etc. On a fixed income you cannot afford taxis all the time and some people do not have family living near to help them.
• Many seniors have a far distance to travel, and many don’t drive to do errands.
• Many seniors have friends/relatives that support them!
• Many seniors have no family members to help them or family members that are also infirm or unable to drive to Bridgewater or Halifax.
• Many seniors have no vehicle and rely on others to get around. This is often impractical and stressful for them to make arrangements.
• Many seniors have no way to get around to do errands, or go to appointments.
• Many seniors must stop driving because of age related issues.
• Many seniors need transportation for medical reasons, groceries etc.
• Many seniors need transportation to grocery shops, dr. appt., hospital
• Many seniors pay way too much to travel or choose to miss appointments, as they cannot afford to do so.
• Many seniors wish to avoid increased expense responsibility and lifestyle complexity of owning a vehicle. Dwindling eyesight and reaction times can also make driving a stressful chore.
• Many seniors do not drive and are unable to get to appts in Kentville, Halifax Bridgewater.
• Many seniors cannot walk to the grocery stores or the rec center.
• Maybe - not sure
• More efficient, a bus into Greenfield from Liverpool once or twice a week would be very helpful for shipping medical and errands
• More flexibility, safety.
• Most of us people can’t get anyone to drive us if we are having a bad day.
• Most older people in this area have relatives or friends that are able to help look after us if help is needed at the present time.
• Most people are not as mobile as I am.
• Most seniors and disabled people can’t afford a vehicle + not able, physical to drive and don’t have family to help.
• Most seniors have family, relatives or friends willing to take them to appointments.
• Most seniors I know either have their own vehicle or know some one close by that does - I am talking about a town senior now.
• Most seniors in this community don’t have their own vehicle; some of them like to travel to Bridgewater or Liverpool due to no access to a bank in our community.
• Mostly because of weather and road conditions and any out of town appointment.
• Much needed in our community.
• My caregiver drives a truck [illegible]
• Necessary at a reasonable cost to allow seniors in rural communities to stay in their own homes once they are unable to drive.
• Need
• Need away to shopping and [illegible]
• Need is need. Having not should be no obstacle to any senior, or other person, who lacks the means to provide for themselves.
• Needed by many residents - a lot of seniors -
• Needed service
• Needed worse
• No bank, everything has closed down as you get older don’t have a license to transport yourself.
• No bank in Caledonia; Hospitals in Bridgewater, Liverpool. No other way of getting there
• No public transport
• Not all have access to vehicles or are able to drive.
• Not all people have transportation options that are available and affordable.
• Not all seniors have someone to rely on to help them.
• Not convinced our low population could support a viable service.
• Not enough concentration of population.
• Not enough taxis around when it comes to the end of the month, which is cheque day for our seniors.
• Not everyone has a car and with our aging population the problem will only get worse!
• Not everyone has a car or can drive; relying on relatives wears them after a while.
• Not everyone has someone who can drive them. It would give a person some independence.
• Not necessary for me personally.
• Not only for seniors there are plenty of people who do not have transportation to/from appointments, shopping, hospital, visiting, etc.
• Not sure the population (small) could support it.
• Numerous seniors lose their independence
• Obvious reasons such as being unable to drive or one does not own a vehicle.
• Older folks sometimes cannot drive themselves and they wish to stay at home as long as possible.
• Older people cannot get around that well and a lot shouldn’t be driving.
• Older population with health issues that would make driving dangerous or not practical
• One way of keeping an aging population at home
• Other more pressing needs as health care.
• Others may need it
• Our community consists of a large senior population with no means of transportation. As a result these seniors are isolated.
• Our community is aging and requires more help to continue living at home.
• Our community is an elderly population, we now have no bank so a lot of our seniors need transportation as they don’t drive.
• Our population is aged such that issues are of mobility and community areas away from the commercial centre make it necessary to be transported
• Our population is aging in this area.
• Peace of mind - cost of things now - may not be able to afford a car.
• People in our community tend to look out for each other and right now, there are very few people who need this service.
• People need it when one can’t not drive
• People who live in town and have no transportation must have to hire a taxi to go to Sobeys or Superstore.
• Personally, transportation is not an issue
• Physical impairment, grocery shopping is all on one side of town. Can’t afford taxi.
• Place is spread out; I live near hospital, but grocery stores are way on the other end of town.
• Poverty many seniors are poor. The community takes poor people's money but keeps them out by charging high prices to use recreation facilities! Benefits rich people and retired government workers who have good pensions. Very unfair!
• Presently I can drive to church activities of the area and appointments; however, many cannot, thus, it must be a priority.
• It would provide at least one job, if not 2, and older people would take advantage of the transportation, especially from our rural area.
• Public transportation, not just senior transportation. However, this town needs to look at finding an industry as well to support seniors by people working and paying taxes. I think that it is becoming a growing problem for some seniors on fixed income to find affordable anything, and not just seniors - anyone really. Something has to give.
• Queens County has a large number of seniors living here. Transportation and social isolation are huge concerns issues that our senior population are experiencing. It would be wonderful to have a transportation volunteer program that works with the VON and Senior Safety Coordinator. As well I would like to see a friendly visitor program for those who live socially-isolated in our communities.
• Queens County has an aging population.
• Question unclear - whose priority? Government, individual, service groups?
• Rapid aging pop - many med appts are done in Bridgewater and or Lunenburg and or Halifax or Kentville. Old drivers on our highways will become more + more problematic - as will vehicle costs + maintenance for older people on fixed (and shrinking) incomes - will necessitate moving but there is no suitable housing for seniors!
• Relatives + friends help those who can't afford a taxi.
• Right now seniors are the majority of the population. The many seniors currently sustain the communities. Without appropriate transportation we may lose some of the dwindling revenues.
• Right now we are mobile but as I lose mine, I'm seeing difficulties in the future. If my mate was to be unavailable, for whatever reason, then I'm stuck. I see so many seniors struggling to get to appointments - losing their independence. That independence is very important. On the other hand to pay for it... I have no idea.
• Seniors could get out they would be happy and would not end up in government nursing homes so quick.
• Senior transportation a consideration, yes, but a priority, no. There are too many geographic and demographic constraints to support senior transportation in lieu of doing without other priorities mentioned in this survey especially question #24. For seniors living in their own house at present a very important amount of information is to be excluded from this survey from question 7a to 12 inclusive.
- Senior transportation especially needed for appointments outside area to Halifax, since many seniors are not comfortable driving in the city.
- Senior transportation is costly for those who require it
- Seniors - those with mobility issues may need help but people who need it - not for non - emergency use.
- Seniors and younger people don’t all own cars.
- Seniors are in large numbers and it seems there are not many options.
- Seniors are living longer many can no longer drive, they are isolated in their own homes!
- Seniors are losing eyesight and strength, so they need someone to drive them and sometimes family members are not available due to work.
- Seniors are often isolated; this will give them more access to people and programs.
- Seniors can have access to get where they need to go.
- Seniors can stay safely in their homes longer if they wish; perhaps some seniors should not be driving. Many seniors live outside of town, without neighbours to help.
- Seniors have never needed this service before why do they need it now.
- Seniors in rural communities could remain in their homes longer. Ability to attend senior social events and medical services would be increased.
- Seniors need to get out for many reasons and do not always have access to transportation.
- Seniors need a way to get out of their homes for social interaction.
- Seniors need access to appointments, shopping.
- Seniors need help in all ways; some are widows being alone on a fixed income trying to stay in their homes. Struggling to do so every day alone so any help available to them is a big plus.
- Seniors need transportation for important things or just to get out. [Those who have] trouble walking could count on it if it was [...] there to use.
- Seniors and handicapped people need a reliable, affordable method of transportation. It needs to be accessible to wheelchairs.
- Seniors [need] help getting around - can’t walk, lungs bad etc.
- Seniors should have the same opportunities to be able to get out in the community to do their errands and to socialize as well as anybody else.
- Seniors who can no longer drive, can become house bound and lonely, maybe even depressed
- Several seniors are unable to get to various functions, etc.
- Shuttle from Yarmouth – Halifax is $180. This gives about 2-3 hours in HFX, or one must stay at a hotel and get home the next day.
- So many do not drive a car.
- So many have no way to get around for their needs
- So many senior citizens and hurting seniors
- So many seniors either do not drive or have no vehicle
- So senior can stay in their own homes
• So seniors can go where they feel up to going and not have to wait until a friend or neighbor decides to go.
• So seniors won’t be stuck in their home all the time.
• So that when in need of a drive, wouldn’t have to depend on a family member or friend for transportations.
• So we wouldn’t have to depend on our family.
• Social isolation contributes to poor health; transportation is a barrier for many. Available transportation should assist in decreasing isolation and increase participation in social and other activities.
• Some are needed
• Some elderly people do not drive.
• Some older members of the community may have no other way to get around.
• Some people are not as fortunate as we are and we do not know what our medical future is.
• Some people cannot drive and have no family to turn to for assistance.
• Some people have trouble finding transportation.
• Some people need transportation to get around for shopping and appointments etc.
• Some senior person would prefer to travel independently, without calling on others to drive them.
• Some seniors are now too old to operate a vehicle: It’s wonderful they now have transportation vehicle so they can still enjoy getting out to shop.
• Some seniors are widows and widowers who have reached an age where they are unable to drive anymore. I am a senior still driving but I do not like to drive at night.
• Some seniors cannot afford a vehicle, or are able to drive one.
• Some seniors have no transportation at all, no car, etc.
• Some seniors have no vehicle. Have handicaps or they are unable to drive - no license.
• Sometimes if it is stormy its hard to get to an appointment.
• Sometimes in the future could be a necessary part of life.
• Soon I will be too old to drive safely.
• Soon Queens County will have a majority of seniors and must respond to their needs or lose them to other more senior-friendly counties.
• Speaking only for myself - grocery shopping and doctor appts are really difficult.
• Taxi fares are quite expensive in this area.
• Taxis are expensive and inadequate.
• The business district is moving away from the central core.
• The goal should be to keep seniors in their own homes as long as possible. Transportation would enable seniors this option.
• The percentage of seniors in our community is growing rapidly. Many on fixed incomes who can't afford the cost of a cab and are too proud to ask for assistance.
• The population is getting older and there isn't many options in my community
• The VON service is very limited in terms of the number of days the car is available. Not wheelchair accessible. We live in an area with a lot of seniors who are unable to drive and rely on others to help them out.
• There are a fair number of people using taxis.
• There are a lot of seniors in our community.
• There are a lot of seniors in Queens County that have no way of getting around. Some can no longer drive; others can no longer afford a vehicle.
• There are a lot of seniors that do not have a car, can't afford a taxi and does not have family or friends to help them.
• There are a lot of seniors that have appointments, goods [?] etc.
• There are a lot of seniors that no way of getting around
• There are a lot of seniors who cannot drive and need to get to appointments.
• There are a lot of seniors who cannot drive any more they have no means of transportation
• There are a lot of seniors who have had their licenses taken from them and have no way to go for errands.
• There are a number of people who do not have family that could help them if needed, so then they have to hire a taxi, or possibly pay someone else to take them and on a fixed income that is a lot.
• There are a number of seniors who do not have care and are not able to drive anymore so we as seniors need to be able to get out of our homes for a change of air and meet people
• There are a lot of seniors in our town who take taxis to shop in town who cannot afford it. I live in Brooklyn and it costs me $20 to go to town and back. It's too expensive.
• There are a lot of seniors that don't go out because they have no way or no one to take them anywhere.
• There are a lot of seniors with no wheels
• There are a lot of the elderly people who don't have transportation of their own.
• There are a lot of things the elderly need that they can't get in town and are unable to get to Bridgewater for.
• There are many couples who do not have a vehicle and perhaps their spouse is deceased and "getting-out" becomes a challenge
• There are many in our community that do not have a means of transportation.
• There are many people not as fortunate as us. Transportation is vital for seniors to meet their needs.
• There are many people that don’t have a vehicle or family in the area to provide transportation.
• There are many people who have no vehicle or who are unable to drive due to a disability.
• There are many retired/aging members in this community who need this support now or will certainly require it in the future.
• There are many seniors and people with disabilities that do not have access to their own mode of transportation.
• There are many seniors here who do not drive or should not be driving, but have to go to one place or another and need drives.
• There are many seniors in our community
• There are many seniors in our community that would benefit from this service.
• There are many seniors in Queens County that have no other way of doing their errands or attending medical appointments.
• There are many seniors in the Caledonia area without transportation who have to go to Liverpool or Bridgewater for banking, shopping, appointments, etc.
• There are many seniors requiring this service.
• There are many seniors that are living solitary lives as they have no one or no money to provide outings and or necessary appointments.
• There are many seniors that do not drive and don’t have anyone to take them.
• There are many seniors who are unable to drive that still attend functions and do errands.
• There are many seniors who depend on someone else to drive them and it’s not always easy to get them.
• There are many seniors who no longer drive and need reliable transportation.
• There are no other forms of transportation.
• There are no other options available for seniors without their own transportation.
• There are other people that may need the services!
• There are people in the community that have no one to help.
• There are people who cannot drive themselves and have no family to drive them.
• There are seniors in Caledonia who depend on others to transport them to appointments and have to pay $20.00 or more for gas every time they call for a drive.
• There are so many times that can’t get help. People at times are too busy to help others. That should never be.
• There are some seniors that don’t have any means of transportation besides a taxi, which can be costly.
• There are some who need it especially in winter.
• There are times when a short trip to town is necessary and use of vehicles could be lessened if a public transportation system was in place. Purchases of vehicles are costly insurance etc, so if another option was available, that would not be so bad.
• There is a growing aging population; a good portion are widows: female, on pension, and need cheap transportation.
• There is a lot of seniors do not have transportation and on a fixed low income cannot afford taxis.
• There is a need for it.
• There is a need for seniors living on their own. As the baby boomers age, there will be even more need.
• There is a need.
• There is a strong need but few seniors are aware of the service or are too proud to use.
• There is no bus service at all on the south shore! This is not right! Most provinces have bus service to small towns I would like to go to Halifax etc. but there is no way to get there.
• There is no reliable reasonable transportation system in Queens.
• There will come a time when I will require this service. Remaining in my home is very important to me. Isolation and depression caused by not being able to "get out" are a concern for me.
• They need to leave the community if they need to do any banking, shopping, blood work etc.
• This community is very much made up of a large population of seniors and most are on fixed incomes. Any help would be welcomed.
• This is an ageing community; most seniors will want to stay and shop in their own community.
• This survey does not apply to me because I'm not a senior. But aware of these issues in our community.
• This would provide seniors with a safe, economical way to access medical and general appointments.
• Those who are not fortunate enough to own a vehicle need some type of affordable transportation.
• To attend medical appointments and shopping.
• To enable seniors to get around if they aren't able to drive
• To enable seniors to get out of their residence and go shopping or to appointments.
• To enable seniors without a vehicle to access necessary venues.
• To get to a Dr's appointment or shopping. Just to get out and visit. Go out to different functions in the community.
• To help seniors who do not live right in town or who are not readily mobile be able to get to appointments etc.
• To help those who don't have, can't afford or can't operate their own transportation.
• To maintain independence
• To meet needs of a growing segment of population.
• Too expensive to rely on taxis! Trips to Halifax are not affordable and very hard to get someone to even take you!
• Too many older people will need transportation once they are too old to drive and to save on the cost of a car.
• Too many people are forced to stay home.
• Too many seniors are driving that should not be driving so if other transportation was available, some seniors would take advantage of it.
• Too many seniors do not have access to transportation that’s affordable for them therefore do not get to appointments, etc. necessary for their health.
• Too much stress on family.
• Transportation outside of area when needed perhaps more [?] support
• Unable to drive
• Vehicles are expensive, but essential without a good option. Many seniors, and more in future, should not be driving.
• Very important for seniors independence and ability to stay in their own homes.
• We and most of our friends are still able to drive, when that ceases to be the case transportation will become a priority if we don’t want to move to a new location.
• We are an aging community and more and more people will require assistance.
• We are fortunate enough to be self sufficient but there are many who are not
• We are not in need of it yet. However my mother would definitely benefit from such a service.
• We are very rural so transport likely would not benefit us directly. However, many other seniors would probably use it (esp. those in Liverpool, Brooklyn etc.).
• We don’t need it now but may in future. And I know people in our community that it could benefit very much
• We have a great need for affordable housing for seniors and [with] a high end apartment ranging from $900 to $1200 are seniors are moving to Bridgewater and paying for that comforts
• We have a great need for new apartments and assisted living in queens. Our seniors are moving to Bridgewater.
• We have a growing senior population.
• We have an aging demographic who will be giving up driving within the next decade or so. Convenience of transportation at a fair price and good accessibility perhaps would encourage people to give up their vehicles sooner for safety’s sake.
• We have an ageing population and I’d like to think that this could be an option when we require it.
• We have an ageing population and no public transportation for shopping, appointments etc. for Queens and also to Bridgewater or Kentville when needed for Dr. appointments. There should also be vans equipped to take wheelchairs and scooters for those unable to walk.
• We have an aging population living in rural area.
• We have an aging population, driving skills decrease with age. The need for seniors’ transportation will only get greater over the years and services become more controlled. Some type of senior transportation will allow seniors to remain in their home longer.
• We have many seniors in our community that don’t drive and I may be in that boat some day myself, so having a public transportation would be much appreciated.
• We have many seniors who need this service. Also it may prevent seniors from having to leave our community because of the lack of available supports.
• We have no bank in Caledonia.
• We have seen people lose the right to drive and have to depend on others and some people do not have family to turn to.
• We have taxis.
• We live in a very rural area and with many retired people who may not be able to drive themselves in the near future and would like to remain in their own homes, so some means of public transportation is necessary.
• We live in the woods on a road that is very lumpy and full of potholes. My husband will be 80 in November. I will be 76 this month.
• When [hard to read] requires more seniors housing (rental) a loan assisted living center there will be a need for a "seniors wheels" project. Currently seniors are leaving Queens County to find the next level of housing/care.
• When I had my sight replaced I couldn’t drive and I used the VON car to take me to physio. It was a great way to get there, always on time and very pleasant drivers.
• When living in Calgary using a wheelchair I used the handy bus up to five times a week. Without the bus I would not have been able to leave the house.
• When there is no family member or friend to help, then my way of getting to appointments grocery shopping would be difficult and costly.
• While at present I enjoy the convenience of using my own vehicle I know others would benefit from having senior transportation and I anticipate that in the future I and my wife will need such a service.
• With qualifications: only if the need is demonstrable in fact, not just belief.
• With seniors living longer in their own homes there is a more frequent need to have additional transportation options available for health appointments, etc.
• Within our community I don’t believe it is a huge issue, but perhaps transport to appts in Bridgewater / Halifax would be needed.
• Would be one way to encourage people who are no longer able to drive or shouldn’t be driving to remain in area and have access to shopping and social activities, all of which contribute to a healthier life style.
• Yes, but the VON transportation is already in effect and may not be used as much as it could be.
• Yes because there are seniors that live alone without a vehicle or maybe they don’t want to depend on family or friends to take them. Very important!
• Yes I think there should be transportation for seniors for Dr. appointments and other things as well.
• Yes, especially for medical use.
• Yes, seniors can’t afford a taxi all the time. They need to get around too.
• Yesterday I found out my car was no longer fixable. My income as a pensioner does not allow me to fix my car or to purchase another used vehicle. I have celiac, diabetes, COPD, arthritis and have had open-heart surgery. I have a special diet for celiac and diabetes which has increased my grocery bill substantially. I need to get to town (Liverpool) for my doctor’s appointments, prescriptions and groceries, as do many seniors. My family has to work so I will have to make appointments around their schedules. We all know sometimes we have to wait several weeks.

**Q.24. “What do you think are other priorities for seniors in Queens County?”**
(Comments in “other” category)

*Most common:*
- Help with errands and handyman
- Recreation and social opportunities
- Assisted living

• Pick up groceries, mail and prescriptions etc.
• Upgrade to Queens Manor - we all deserve our own washroom and room! (Especially in regard to infection control)
• 1 person to a room
• 1. Support for indoor swimming pool in Liverpool 2. Maintain walkways, trails for public access 3. Assist local community centres in developing programs for seniors
• A "buddy" system so that seniors have regular contact with others. Possibly match up volunteer groups of visiting etc.
• A community place for getting together w/others, book discussions, crafts and the like.
• A daily cheap shuttle or bus service between Liverpool and Halifax
• A drop in centre during the day for a coffee and a chat.
• A facility such as Ryan Hall in Bridgewater would be a welcome addition to Queens Co. Presently seniors wishing this type of accommodation have to move from family and friends which would be stressful.
• A roster of persons available (fee) for small jobs, snow removal etc. for seniors living alone.
• A seniors’ discount at Queen’s Place? Whether it is for a year, month, weekly
• Ability to get drugs and medical supplies
• Accessibility
• Activities + support system (friends) people who are friends or act as friends to exercise
• Activities to promote social interaction
• A department store!
• Adequate space - private rooms - respite care rooms
• Affordable apartments or units like they are building now, except not many people can afford to pay $1100-$1200 a month rent besides utilities.
• Always be kind.
• Another large nursing home.
• Appropriate recreational facilities (i.e. swimming pool)
• Assistance in getting to appts.
• Assistance in paper work i.e. available [unclear]
• Assisted living
• Assisted living
• Assisted living - a step between home living and nursing home.
• Assisted living facility
• Assisted living for seniors and people with physical disability, not mental
• Assisted living is priority - wow - as Queens does not have service
• Assisted living priority at present
• Better accessibility for elderly and handicapped people, public buildings, parks, museums, kids parks, etc.
• Better recreational facilities that are both accessible and affordable
• Checking in on people who live alone!
• Cleaning
• Daily contact with older people who are alone
• Dog run; squash courts
• End of life navigation
• Expanded VON services
• Financial abuse by relatives
• [Services] for older people
• For some all of the above are needed.
• Grocery delivery for seniors, more space for nursing home clients, and respite room in nursing home.
• Handyman service at a reasonable rate so more seniors can stay in their homes.
• Help in repairs to own home.
• Help to fix up homes so we can live in
• Home maintenance assistance for those still in their homes
• Hope to maintain my home with daily care when needed
• Housing needs to be senior friendly - enough room for unrestricted use of mobility aids, no thresholds/sills good contrast for visual discrimination - forgiving flooring (not concrete covered with carpet).
• I also believe there should be places for younger disabled people instead of being put in seniors’ homes. Nothing against seniors, I’ll soon be one.
• I don’t get the advance; I have a cleaner once every 2 weeks!!
• I think seniors should be allowed small animal in senior apartments if they are able to care for the animal. The importance of an animal has been proven for seniors.
• I went back into Queens Manor after not going for quite some time and I had to turn around and leave. Something needs to be put up for assisted living - a nice place for seniors to get help before a nursing home.
• If you want people to stay in Queens County these are very necessary!!!! [Talking about housing].
• Isolated seniors in their own homes need personal shoppers to run errands for them!
• Like the 4-plex
• Living accommodations that do not involve stairs. More decent affordable living spaces such as those on Payzant St. and Old Port Mouton Rd.
• Local home maintenance program i.e. snow removal and lawn care
• Lower ambulance fees, more affordable dental, glasses, physio, chiro, massage, oxygen rental, heavy house work, shopping, banking, mail for those with no family help.
• Maybe an occasional errand
• Maybe grocery deliveries
• More home care. This is a wonderful thing; older people just don't understand they need the help. I didn’t, and now I don’t know how I did it all myself.
• More nursing homes for seniors etc.
• More of all 3
• More respect for seniors
• More senior-friendly planned outings to events and gatherings with transportation
• More seniors’ apartments.
• Need both.
• Need more manors for seniors that are coming up in age.
• Nice apartments for seniors – modern, up to date - not subsidized housing.
• Nice minihome park! (like Bridgewater)
• Not sure
• Not sure what we already have!
• Not the hospital taking away from needed sick and emergency patients. Our hospital should not be a waiting spot for seniors before going into Manors etc.
• Opportunities to socialize
• Palliative care homes/ hospice
• Palliative care workers to check up on people who are dying
• People that cannot live by themselves, people who live in same building should check in on them.
• People to help seniors maneuver all the paperwork involved in applying for grant, tax forms.
• Private care supplement
• Private rooms in nursing homes
• Programs that involve people in keeping their minds active. For example: SCANS.
• Programs that promote and support mental and physical health for seniors
• Proper maintenance of existing government housing - for seniors
• Provincial bus service
• Recreation programs for seniors with early dementia.
• Reliable commercial home and yard maintenance
• Senior apartment building with common room exercise area etc. Senior apartment building and nursing beds a must to keep people here.
• Senior shoppers.
• Seniors come in pairs sometimes so there needs to be some 2 bedroom affordable housing units that are fully subsided.
• Seniors health care. Social activities. Be informed on EPOA and personal directives. Many people do not have EPOA/PD. There is a waiting list for home support in Queens County.
• Short term help when necessary
• Snow removal and yard work
• Social events. Or visits to shut ins
• Socialization/ recreation
• Some method needs to be used to enable poor people to use community assets. The Rec Centre is prime example not being used by poor even though they help pay for it!! They cannot afford it!!!
• Some new residences for seniors at different levels of health but prior to nursing homes.
• Some one to stay while caregiver has to go out.
• Subdivide homes of single seniors and create duplexes
• Supplying emergency beepers to seniors with health problems. Thankfully my mother had one of these.
• Swimming pool
• There are many single people living in a large home, those homes could be designed into two living quarters and reduce the expenses of two singles.
• Their own home if affordable; if not affordable, housin
• These items are not needed by all seniors but it should be for those seniors who do need the extra help
• Think there should be apartments along side our nursing Home in North Queens
• This county will probably need more nursing home accommodation in the near future.
• Transportation
• Transportation for appointments in Halifax and Lunenburg is essential.
• Transportation to various events, Tattoo, Neptune, LCLC by bus pick-up in Caledonia.
• Transportation, especially at the end of the month, so they can get to their monthly banking needs
• Trustworthy people to hire, at reasonable rate, to assist with property maintenance.
• Upgrade our existing nursing home
• Very difficult to get help for yard work and keeping your property tidy when unable to do so.
• We need snow removal and grass cutting; it is hard for seniors to do these things.
• Wheelchair accessible transportation services to hospitals in Bridgewater, Kentville, Yarmouth, and Halifax.