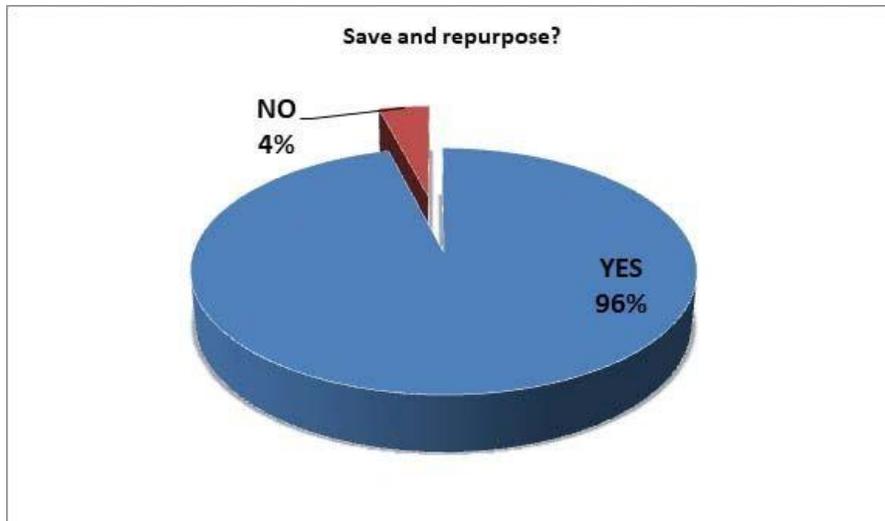


"The Count is in!"

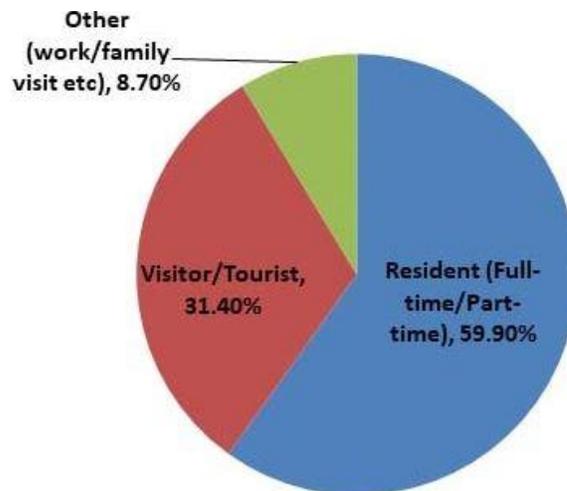
August 22, 2021 - Updates – Save Heritage Sandbanks Homes



As of August 20, an analysis of the results of the more than 425 surveys submitted brought forward interesting insights, most specifically the **overwhelming 96% of participants who stated YES, these heritage homes should be saved and repurposed!** This response was what we hoped for, but never fully anticipated such a resounding positive outpouring.

The first week in July, Save Heritage Sandbanks Homes (SHSH) launched a survey to gather public opinion regarding the future of the heritage Hyatt/MacDonald Sandbanks homes –should they be saved and repurposed or demolished? In order to obtain a fair sampling of opinions the survey was offered on line though SHSH’s website and in paper version at pop up tables located during 5 weeks in July and August in Wellington, Bloomfield and Picton.

Demographics



About **60% of the survey submissions were made by full-time and part-time residents. Almost 32% were submitted by visitors/tourists**, with the balance of surveys being submitted by “Others” (County workers living elsewhere, parents or children returning home to see family etc.)

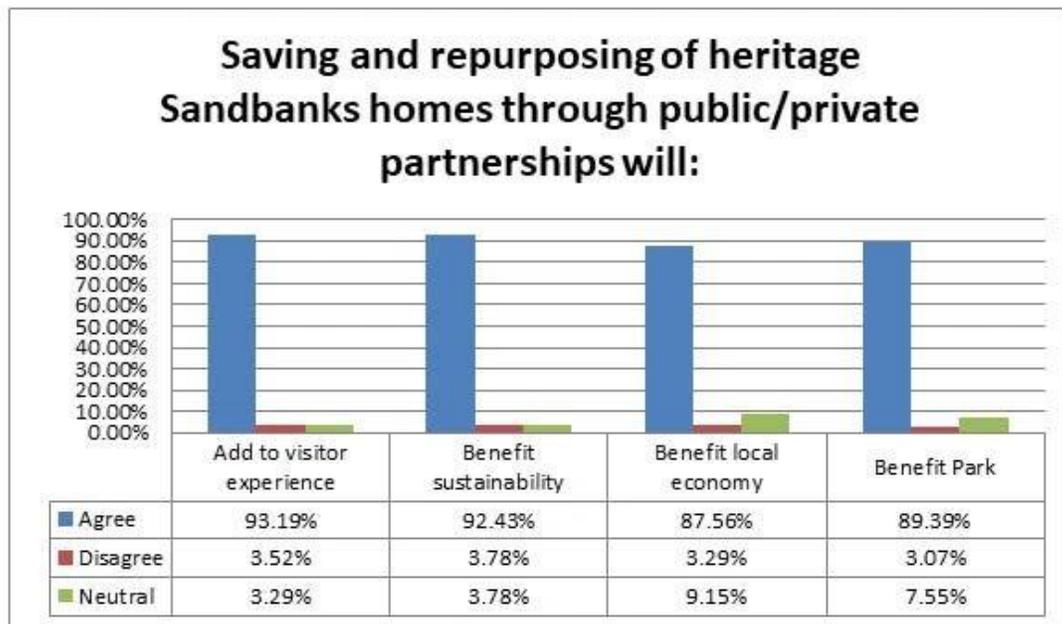
We had the opportunity to speak to participants at the pop up survey tables and one **key observation** made there and in tabulating the results was that **100% of the visitor/tourists said YES to saving and repurposing the heritage properties**. This is a significant indicator that visitors want heritage experiences at the Park.

Through discussion we discovered a majority of visitors claimed the County’s heritage, natural and cultural landscapes and pastoral setting was a major attraction that made them continue to return, enhanced by the added attractions of farmers markets, arts and food scene, shopping and the winery/brewery industry.

As one visitor put it,” The first time you drive through the County, you’re stricken by the landscape with its patches of different coloured fields, the fencerows and heritage homes and barns scattered throughout the island and bordered by lake views. That is what makes you so unique. There is also lot to do - different activities. I love the wineries and businesses that are located in historic buildings. The historic architecture on the main streets in Bloomfield, Picton and Wellington and the other small villages like Milford really make the County feel different than other regions in Ontario.”

One common comment made by visitors and locals alike, was that they are tired of seeing heritage sites demolished, removing what makes an area interesting, only to be replaced by modern common construction, or not replaced at all.

What else did survey participants say?

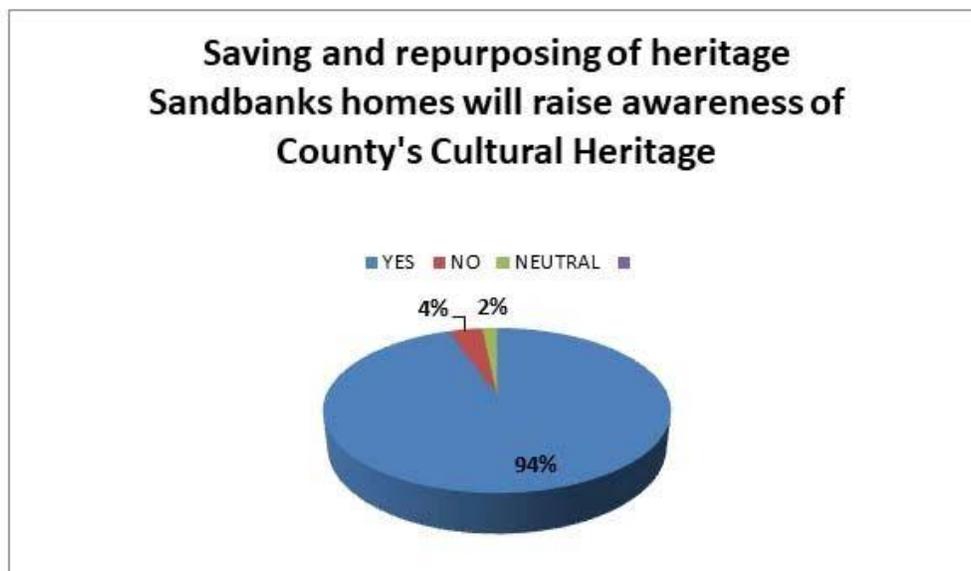


Ninety-three percent of those surveyed believe the repurposing of the Hyatt/MacDonald properties will add to the experience of the Park, and to the County as a whole. Comments were: *“It will provide other activities for people who do not want to just line up for the beach...It will provide some options to tourists at the Park...Repurposing these homes will open up the Park to new visitors interested in more than trail walking and beach going”*.

In a letter to Minister David Piccini of Environment, Conservation and Parks one supporter stated, *” The cultural heritage value of these assets is critical to augment the natural values of the park - these farmhouses are precious artifacts of the fundamental relationship that the people of Prince Edward County (both before and after settlement) have had with the natural landscape - that of agriculture.*

It is a relationship that continues to sustain us, and one whose past we need to revisit for its lessons to ensure that relationship has a sustainable future. There is a wealth of educational and recreational/economic opportunities to be found with the protection and restoration of these assets... “

This is a watershed moment



Developer Greg Sorbara said it well when he indicated there is a renaissance of thinking, where repurposing of heritage properties is replacing demolition – **94% of those surveyed believe that it will raise awareness of the County’s cultural heritage** The timeliness of the effort to save the two last standing heritage Sandbanks homes that represent the birth of tourism in Prince Edward County, has brought to the forefront the public’s desire to retain our heritage assets, learn from them and develop a sustainable future through them. **It is a watershed moment where we can effect a change of direction.**

Save Heritage Sandbanks Homes

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