



2019 FOCA ROAD ASSOCIATION SURVEY

JUNE 15TH ROADS SUMMIT PRESENTATION BY:

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BACKGROUND & INTENDED USE OF THIS SURVEY



- This is the second road survey that FOCA has administered – Last done in 2010
- Designed to generate useful data for the June 15th 2019 road summit, and to provide benchmark information to road associations who are FOCA members
- Survey highlights will be posted in the roads section of the FOCA website:
<https://foca.on.ca/cottage-roads/>
- Today, we will cover some preliminary highlights, and get your thoughts on what information you would like to see in the final FOCA report?

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS



- A total of 132 fully completed surveys were used in this summary
- Partially completed surveys were flagged for follow-up, which is ongoing
- A final report will be published by the Fall, and be available from FOCA for members
- There were 89 different lakes represented, and surveys were received from 76 different townships/municipalities
- 61% of the associations are road-only, while 39% are combined road & lake associations
- Less than 1/3 (31%) of respondents' associations are incorporated

HIGHLIGHTS: ASSOCIATION PRACTICES



93% have an
email contact list



82% hold an Annual
General Meeting



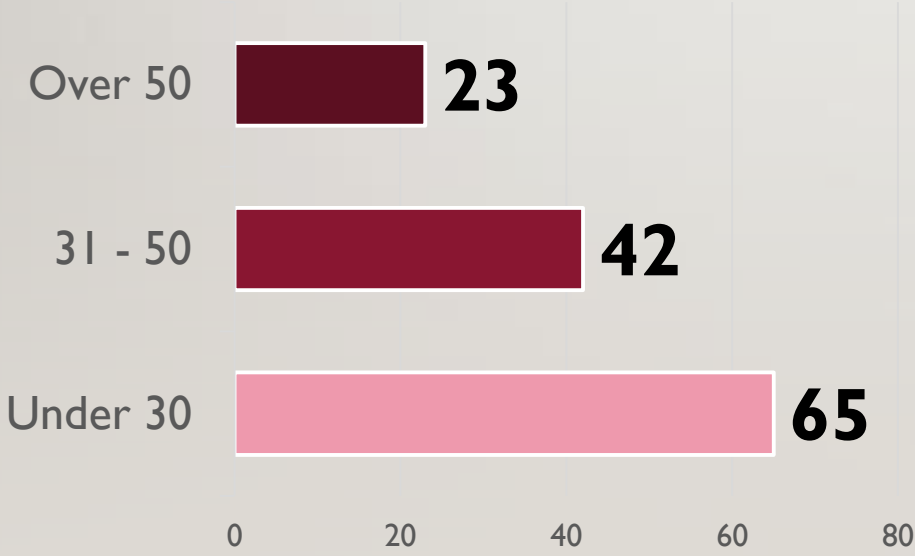
3/4 have an
elected executive



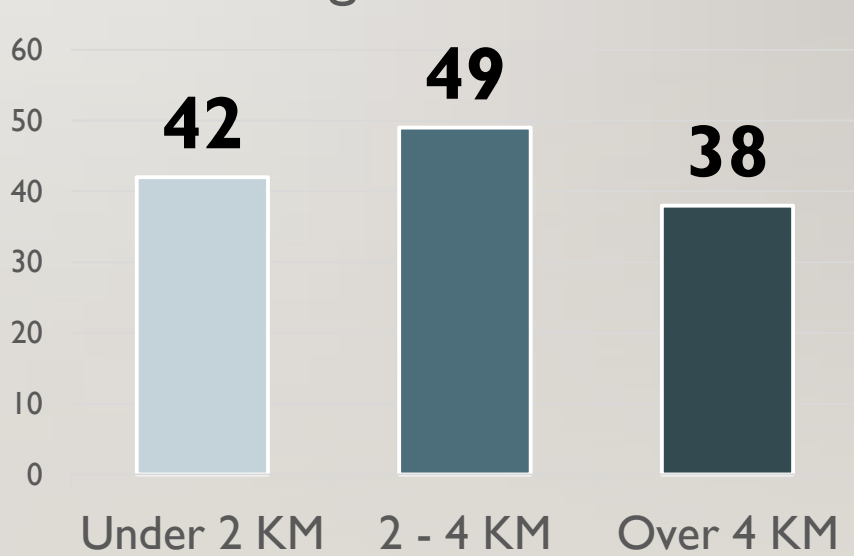
29% have an unwritten
or “handshake agreement” only!

SIZE SEGMENTATION AVAILABLE IN THE SURVEY

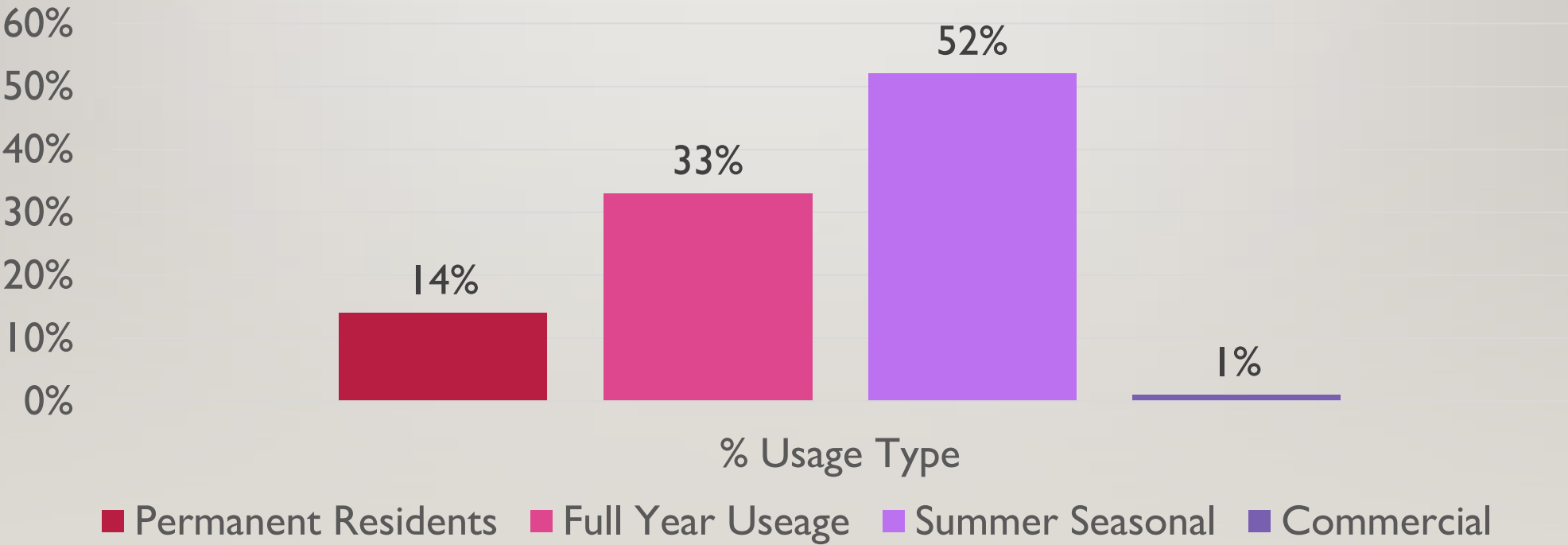
Of Properties



Length of Road



HOW ROADS ARE UTILIZED



ANNUAL DUES STRUCTURE AND AMOUNTS

*THESE PRELIMINARY RESULTS NEED FURTHER FILTERING, BEFORE FINAL REPORT:

Lowest reported: **\$50** (Flat vs. Hilly) (Culverts, or not)
(Seasonal vs. Year Round)
(Short vs. Long) (Drainage issues, or not) Highest reported: **\$1,700**



ONE FILTERED EXAMPLE:

averages for a dozen roads that are **2-4km long** with **31-50 properties**

Seasonal use only: range **\$265-300** **Permanent residents:** range **\$500-900**

SOME AVERAGES & ROAD CHARACTERISTICS

Less than 10%

of responding associations own
their full road

the most common situation:

55% have deeded access over
property owned by another entity



85% experience
occasional to severe
seasonal **drainage** issues

the most common surface type is
3/8 granular



56% say their road is either **NOT** in
compliance with local standards for emergency
vehicles, or **THEY DON'T KNOW!**

DUES – PAYMENT RATES & ACTIONS TAKEN

8 in 10 respondents reported
90% or better were **paid up**

only 10%
went to **SMALL CLAIMS COURT** to recover dues
(up to 2 years, principle of Unjust Enrichment)



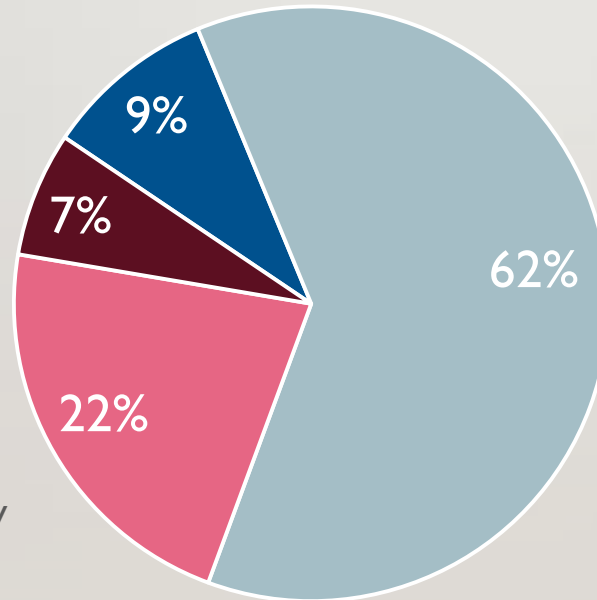
OTHER COLLECTION TACTICS:

- Inform property owner that they may lose eligibility for association liability insurance coverage
- Letters by e-mail and or post
- Phone calls
- Personal visits to the property owner
- Listing of payers vs. non-payers **!!! Warning – this could lead to liability issues!**

GROWTH IN OPERATING EXPENSES OVER 5 YEARS

Growth Rate

- Costs have reduced
- Costs have grown by inflation
- Costs have grown significantly (10% - 30%)
- Costs have grown substantially (more than 30%)



costs **REDUCED** or around **INFLATION**:

“improvements to the road over time have resulted in less annual maintenance costs”

UP SIGNIFICANTLY or **SUBSTANTIALLY**:

“long-overdue upgrades for drainage...”

“more winter usage expectations...”

MUNICIPAL GRANTS & SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

16 Associations reported that they have received

one-time municipal grants ranging from **\$400-\$1900** per grant

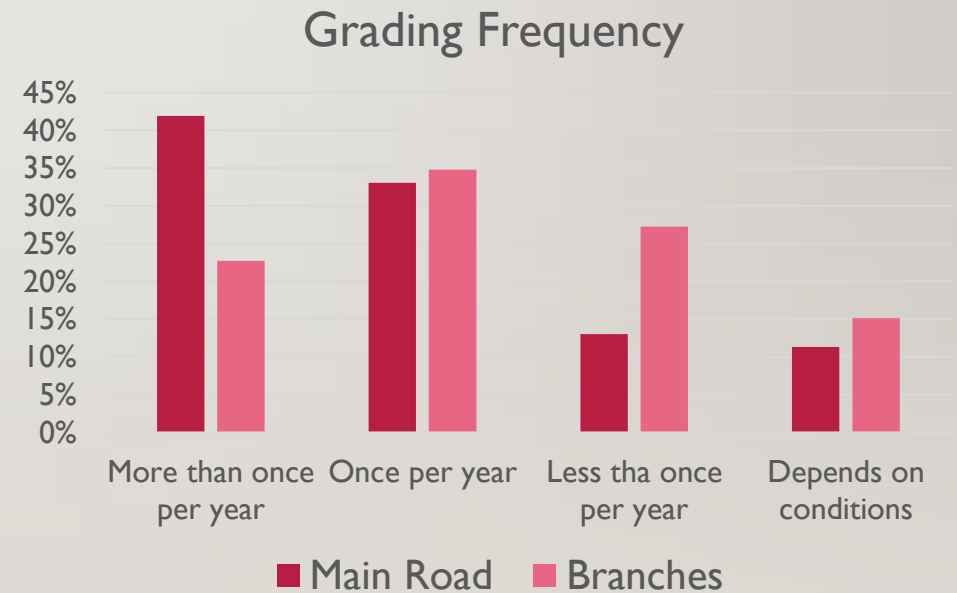
OR have some municipal **limited service arrangements** (e.g., for grading, gravel...)

- Madawaska Valley (\$)
- Seguin (limited seasonal service)
- Georgian Bay (\$/service)
- Bracebridge (limited service)
- Grey Highlands (some matching \$, limited service)
- City of Kawartha Lakes (gravel, limited service)
- Rideau Lakes (\$)
- Whitestone (\$)
- Magnetawan (\$)
- Highlands East (\$)
- South Frontenac (\$)
- Algoma (\$)

BUT some grants have been eliminated recently (e.g., Wollaston Twp 2019; CKL after 2020?)

OTHER ROAD MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS

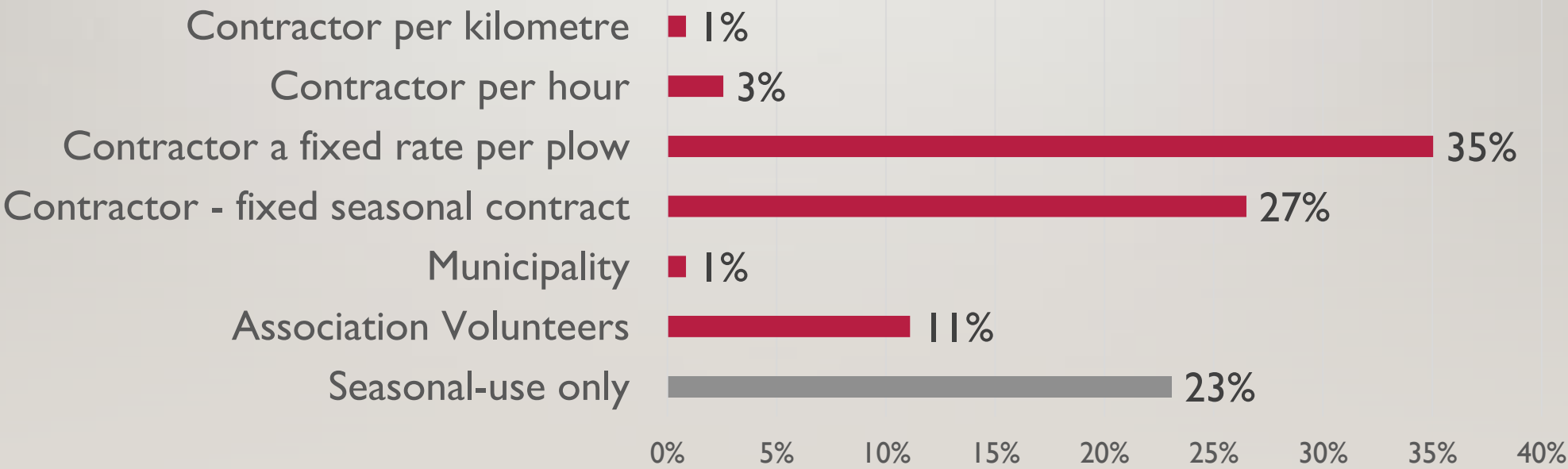
- **only 10%** have made arrangements to share expenses with other, roads
- **almost 3/4** of respondent associations pay a contractor to do road maintenance work
- most pay for **grading** per hour (**32%**) or under a fixed contract (**26%**), but most pay for **aggregate** by the truckload (**87%**)



Note: Only about half of the respondent Associations have branch roads

WINTER PLOWING AND SANDING

Snow Clearing Arrangements



OTHER POLICY AREAS

- **75%** of respondent Road Associations carry liability Insurance (CGL and/or D+O)
- **56%** of Associations that use a Contractor have received proof of insurance
- **3/4** use signage to suggest speed and mark areas of caution, but there is limited “policing” of speed
- The OPP only visit **7%-8%** of the Associations surveyed with any regularity, while nearly 75% say the OPP rarely or never visit

EXAMPLES OF SOME FINAL COMMENTS FROM SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- “It would be beneficial to create an informal buying group to secure better pricing from contractors.”
- “Would like to know how we can get the municipality to either assume our road, contribute to our maintenance costs, or reduce our taxes.”
- “We would appreciate FOCA's influence on municipalities to take on roads...it would create jobs and it could be applied to our taxes.”

NEXT STEPS

- Get on the FOCA EAlert list, to receive notification when the Final Survey Summary Report is released by FOCA to member Associations, later this year:

http://bit.ly/FOCA_EAlert

- Contact FOCA for Association membership information:

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