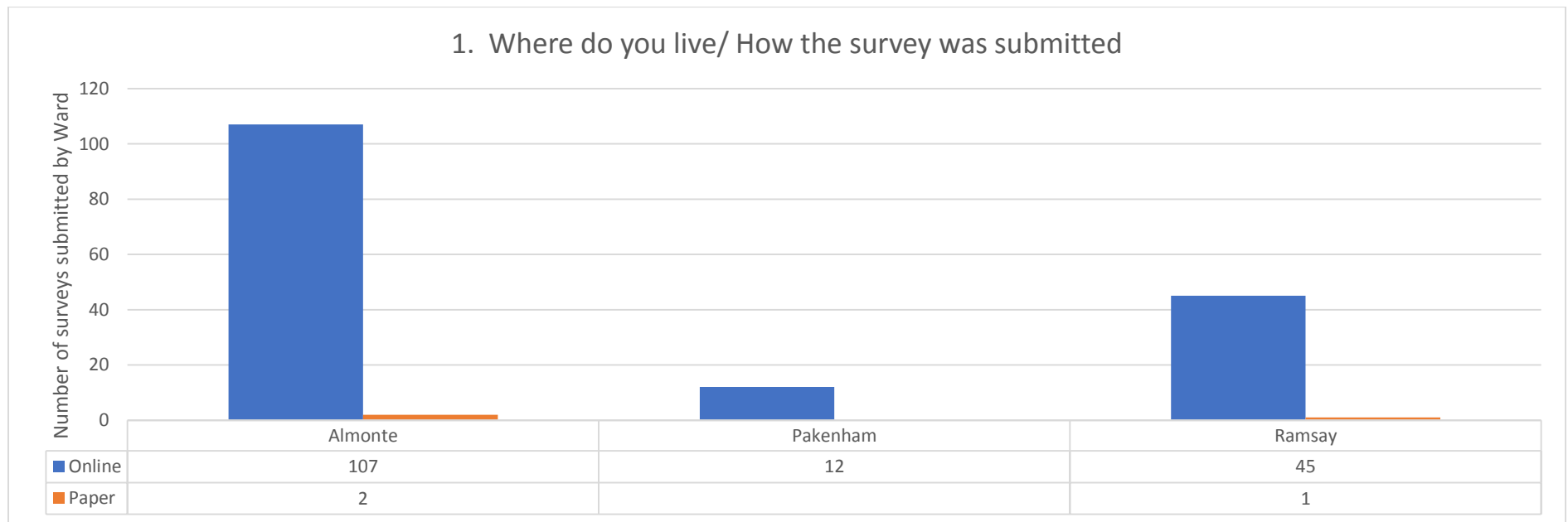


# 2023 Budget Survey Summary

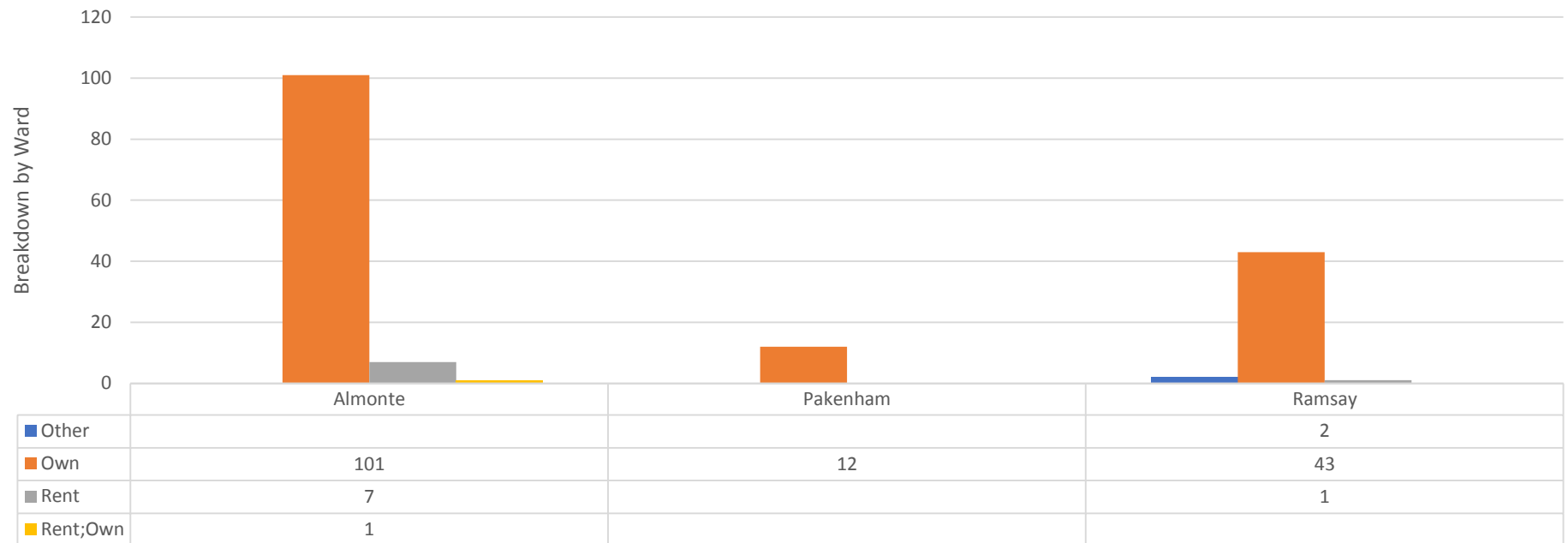
The 2023 Budget Survey went live to the public on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 and closed on February 10<sup>th</sup>. It was promoted twice on the municipal newsfeed and remained a feature on the landing page of the municipal website for three weeks. The survey was promoted in the municipal section of the Carleton Place-Almonte Canadian Gazette the week of January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Budget Survey was promoted five times on Facebook, reaching nearly 2,800 accounts and garnered approximately 120 clicks.

The Budget Survey was available online via Google Forms, and paper copies were available at the Municipal Office and at the Pakenham Library. Three paper copies were returned and 164 responses were received online.

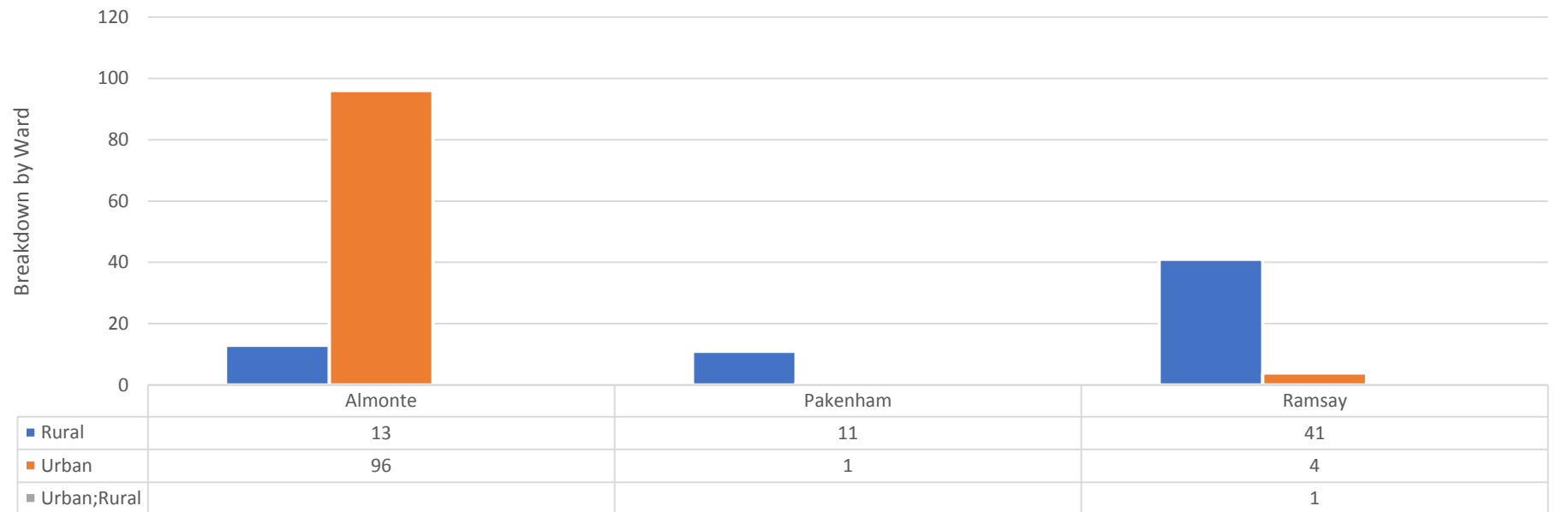
Included over the next few pages are a summary of the responses received per question. The responses are broken out by ward as well.



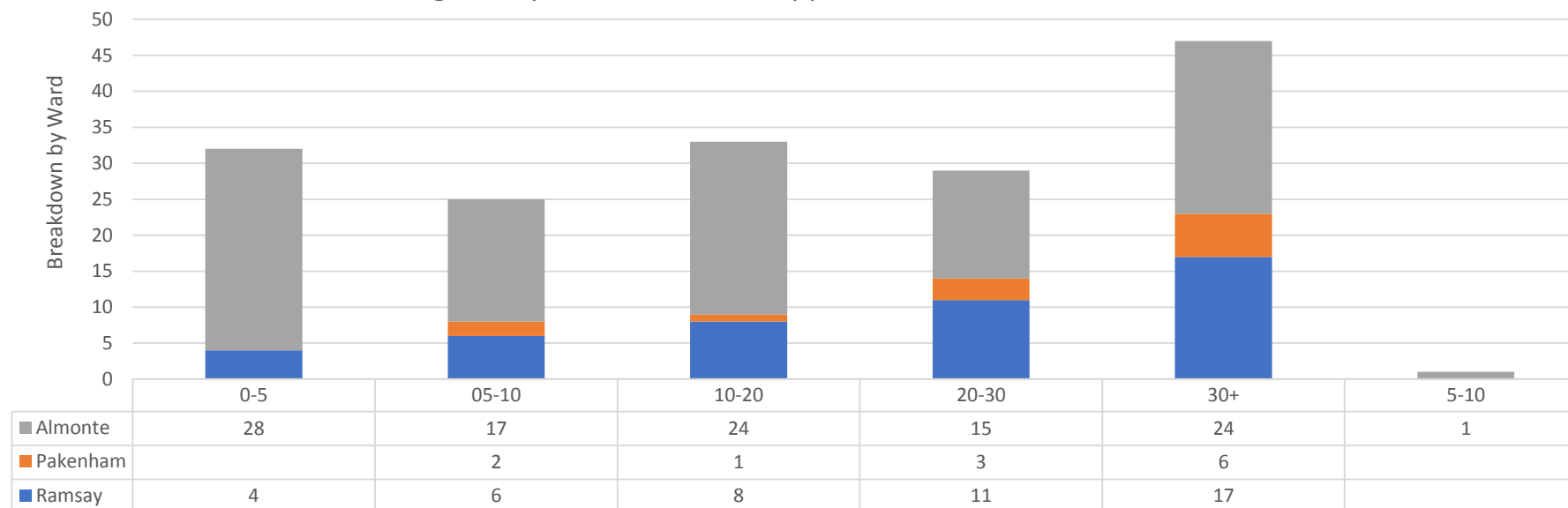
## 2. Do you rent/own your home?



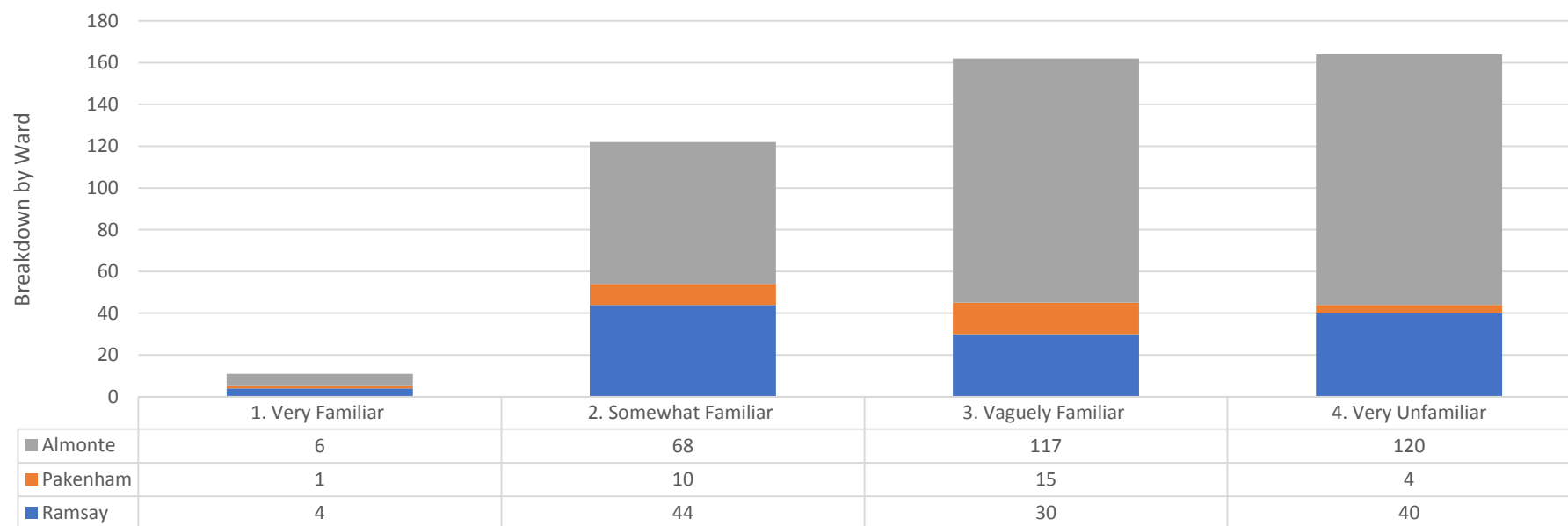
## 3. Urban/Rural Setting



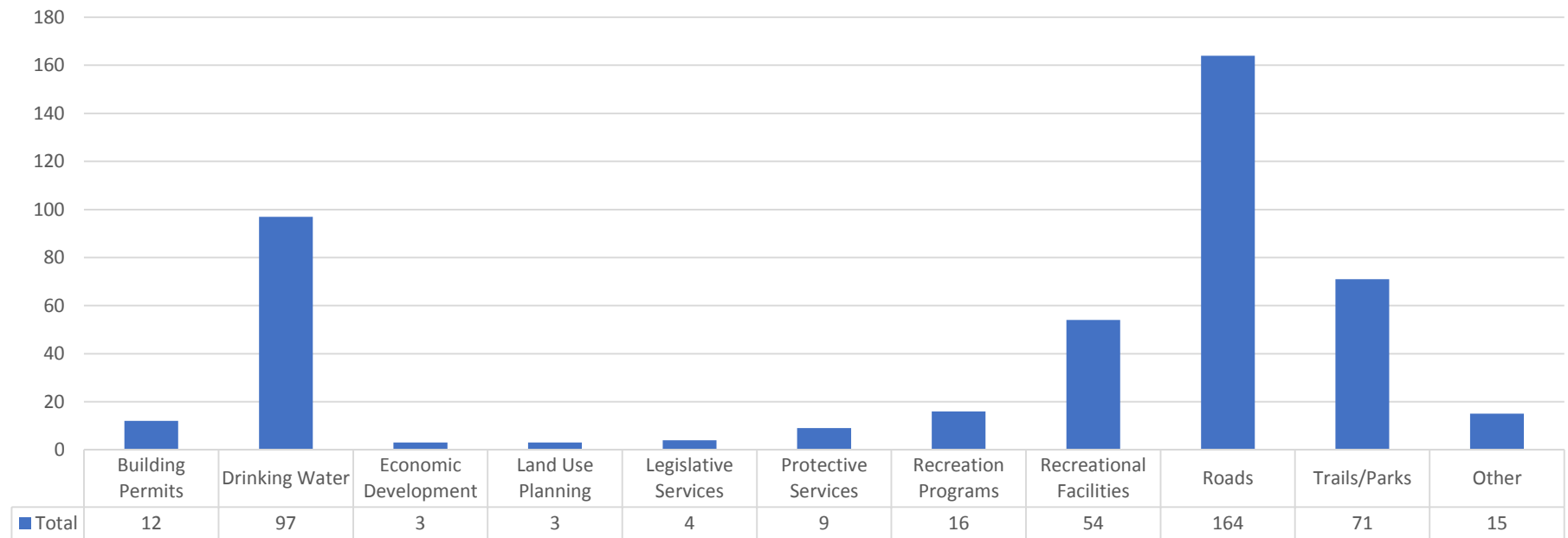
#### 4. How long Have you lived in Mississippi Mills?



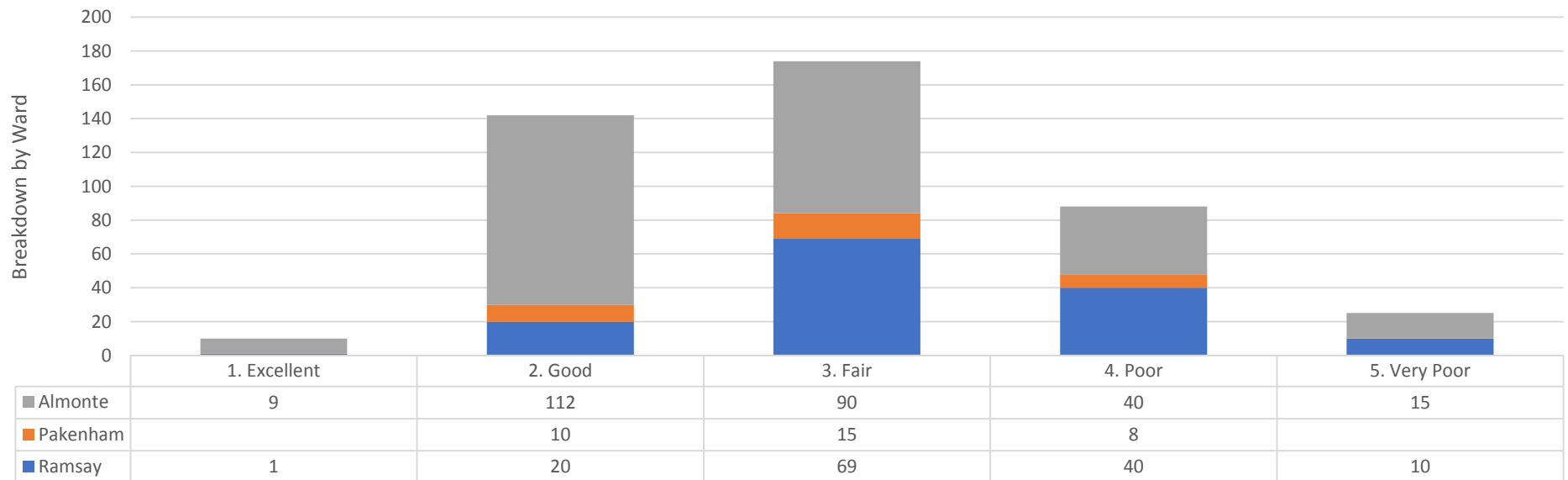
#### 5. How familiar are you with how the Municipality develops the annual budget?



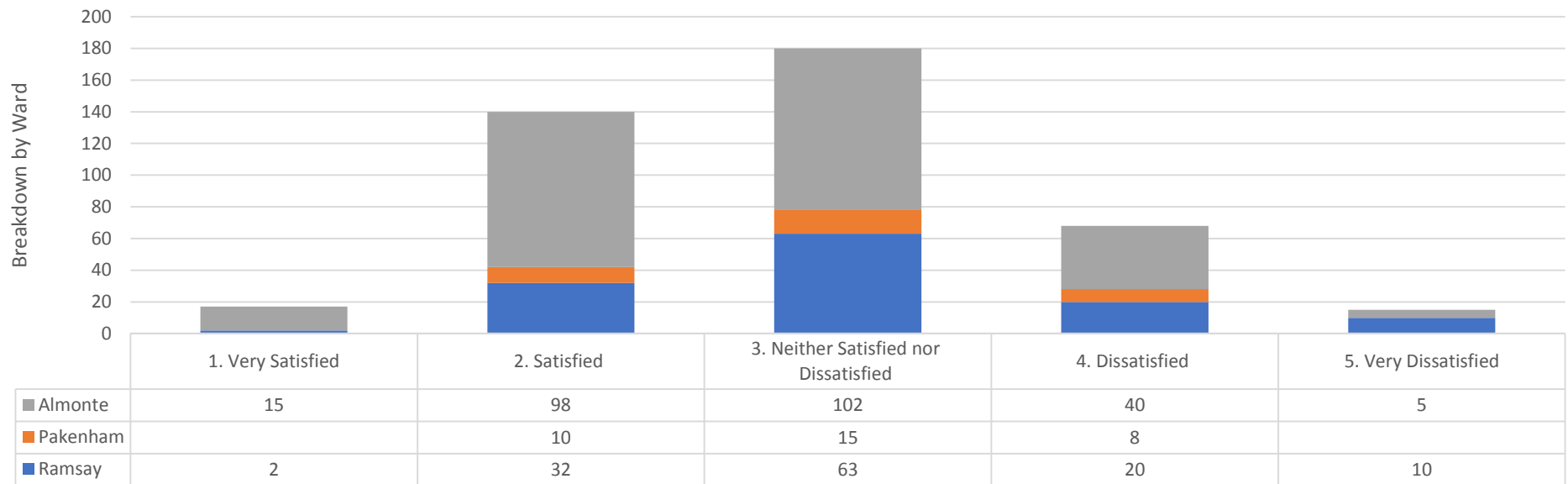
## Types of Services Accessed Recently



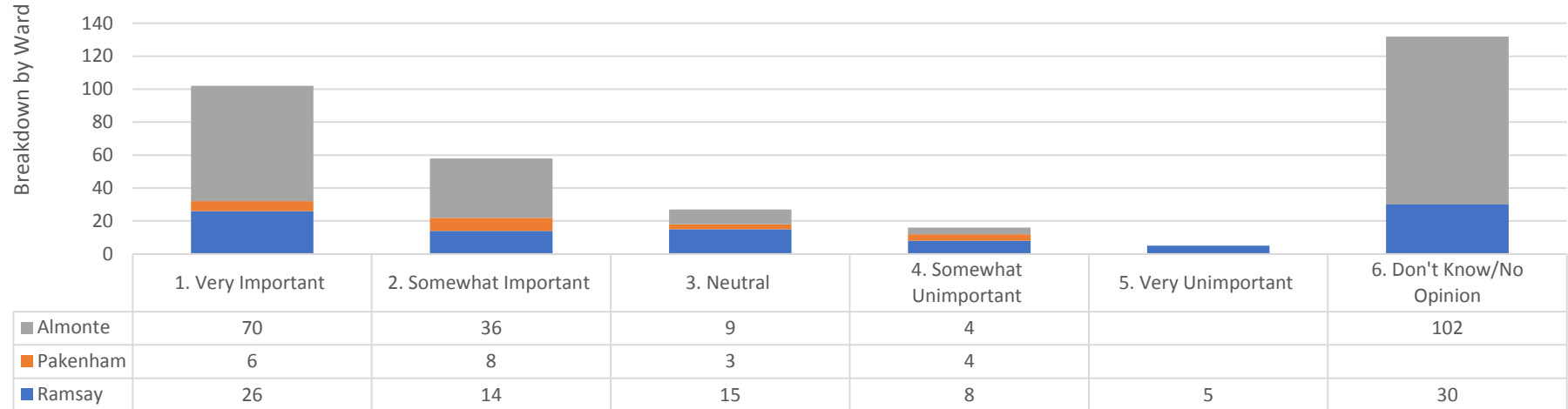
## 7. Thinking about the part of your taxes that go to Mississippi Mills, how would you rate the overall value you received for your tax dollars?



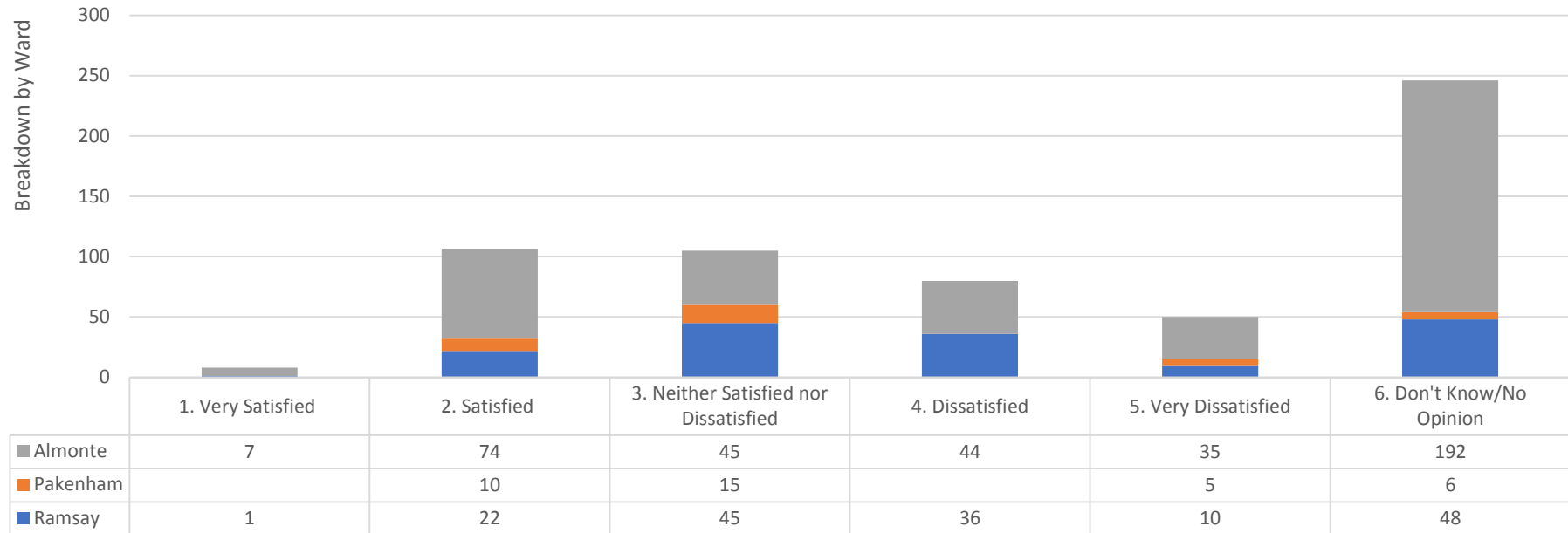
### 8. Overall, how satisfied are you with the delivery of ALL the services provided by Mississippi Mills?



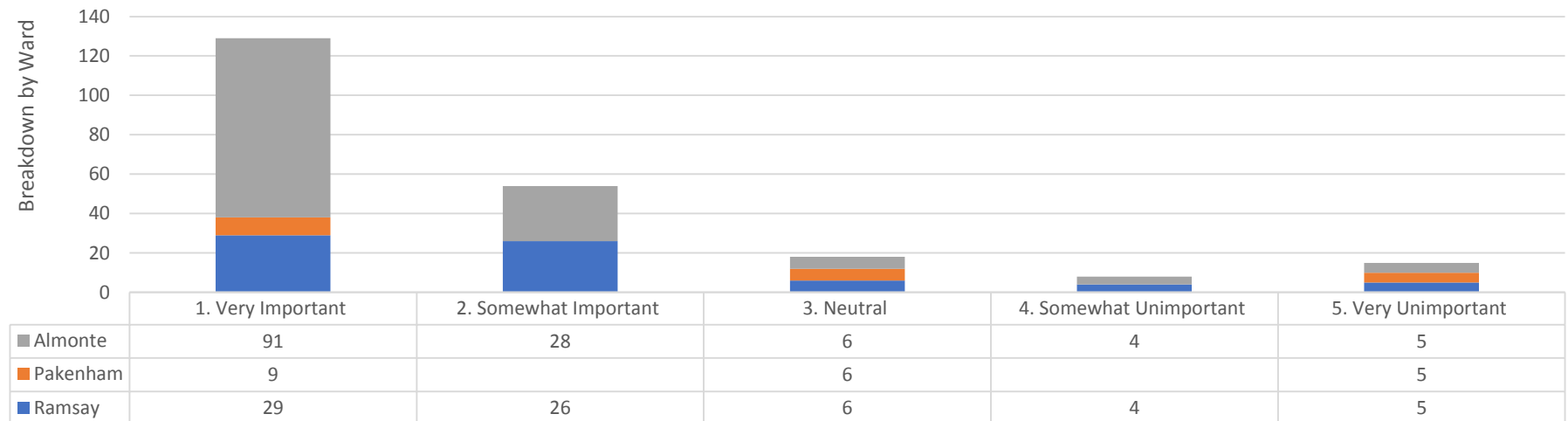
### 9. How IMPORTANT are the following services and programs provided by Mississippi Mills; Building Permits, By-law, Fire Services, Economic/Community Development, OPP



### 10. How SATISFIED are you with Building Permits, By-law, Fire Services, Economic/Community Development, OPP

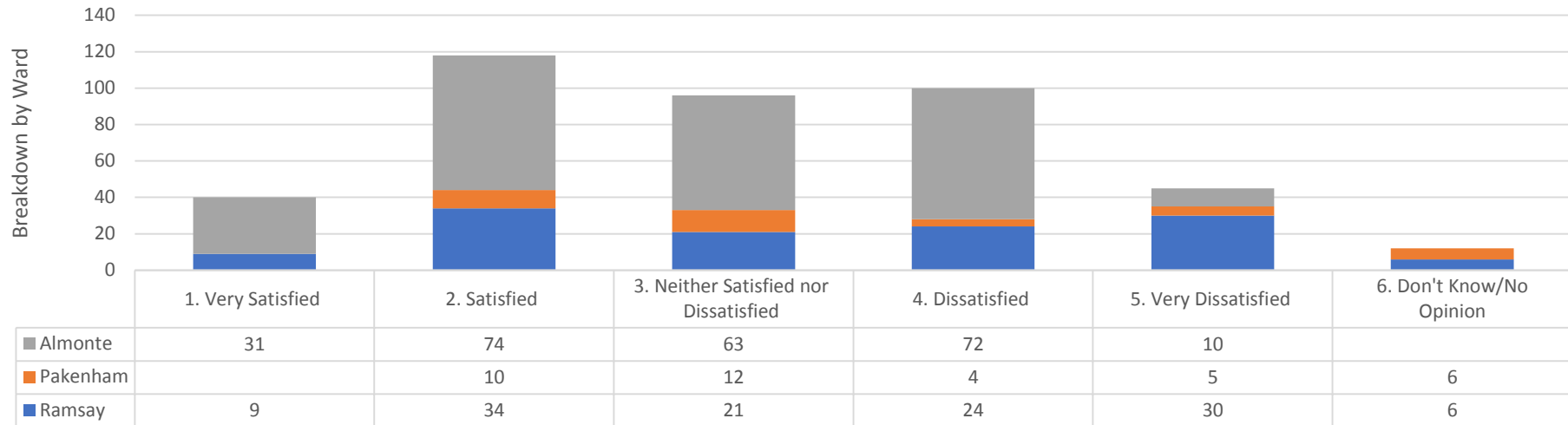


### 11. How IMPORTANT are the following services and programs provided by Mississippi Mills? Sidewalk maintenance, road maintenance, traffic management (signals, signs), traffic/pedestrian safety, winter maintenance (snow and ice control)



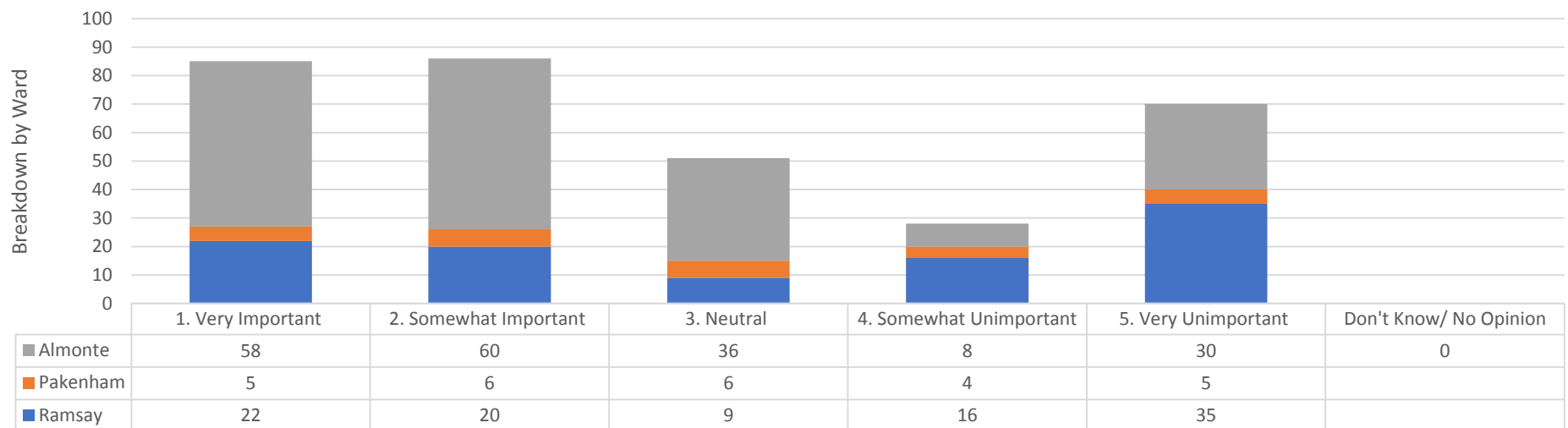
## 12. How SATISFIED are you with the following services and programs provided by Mississippi Mills?

Sidewalk maintenance, road maintenance, traffic management (signals, signs), traffic/pedestrian safety, winter maintenance (snow and ice control)

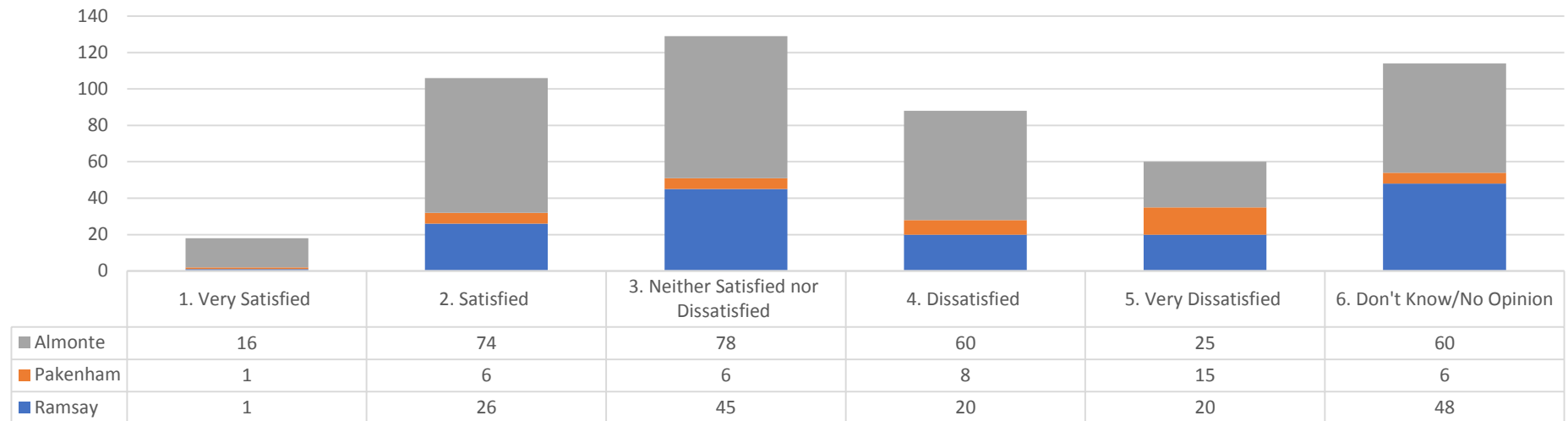


## 13. How IMPORTANT are the following services and programs provided by Mississippi Mills?

Community Partnerships, Recreation Facilities, Recreation, Sports and Leisure Programs, Parks, Playgrounds



14. How SATISFIED are you with the following services and programs provided by Mississippi Mills?  
Community Partnerships, Recreation Facilities, Recreation, Sports and Leisure Programs, Parks,  
Playgrounds



15. Municipal water and sewer services are fully paid by user fees. Only properties that are connected to the system pay for these services. Do you feel that you receive good value for the water and sewer rates you pay?





16. If the most important issue to you was not listed in this survey that you think the municipality should allocate municipal taxes to, please tell us what it is.

- Do not make non-users subsidize Carleton Place library and recreation.
- People move to Mississippi Mills because they value the natural beauty of our surroundings. Continue to support projects like Riverwalk & invest in parks, the Upper Canada Trail, the Mill of Kintail, cycling paths etc. I'm so glad that you have limited the high density housing to a few areas & haven't allowed the extreme sprawl of high density housing that we see in Carleton Place.
- I feel that the multiuse trail could be better adapted with pedestrians, cyclist, cross country skiers in mind. The surface at times is very unfriendly to cyclists if when loose gravel is added in the summer. Having groomed x-ski trails in Almonte area would be of benefit to Almonte residents, encouraging physical fitness all year round without having to get in the car and travel to nearby communities.
- Planning Department
- Pool supplement . Especially for seniors. I hope the current council in MM and CP can 1, see the importance of exercise mentally and physically and 2 The value of having us use the facilities in CP vs driving into the city. Our local communities need to be one with each other and work together.
- I think that if tax dollars are allocated to the tennis courts they should be open to all rather than just members of tennis club. I would like to see an indoor year round pool. I do not want to see New pickle ball courts in The Almonte Lawn Bowling Club area. It is too close to residential. The noise from the ball hitting the racquet is very loud. Many pending law suits in other communities regarding noise bylaw. Much better suited to Gemill Park area. Thank You.
- The swimming pool agreement
- Designated off leash areas for dogs
- Stable funding of arts and culture ie. museums, theatre, art installations, cultural events, green spaces, the library, allotment gardens, the farmers market.  
Increased support to help residents adhere to property standards ie. repairing sub standard fences, sheds.  
More emphasis on safety zones around Naismith School and Country Haven. More sidewalks. Better traffic control. No ATVs on streets.  
Less development of single-family homes in subdivided land. More in-fill. Mixed use residential. Conservation of wetland, agricultural land, preservation of farmland for food production. Better protection of wildlife habitats by maintaining hedgerows on farm fields. This requires careful planning for future growth. Once it's gone, it's gone.
- Of the 6 messages sent to "contact us" on the website only 2 have been answered. A third answer came back from Lanark Township (??)telling me my photos of the road condition problem exceeded the allowable size. Communication with residents should be a priority - even if the answer is negative. Resolution of problems should not be a one line negative response, but a positive willingness to move the problem to the relevant Councilor for contact and discussion.
- More affordable housing for seniors, encouraging another grocery store to open in Almonte.

- 1. Waste management - green bin programme 2. Re-negotiate the recreation agreement with Carleton Place
- Re-negotiate and re-enter into the agreement with CP for use of the pool facility. This is so important for those of us who have been accessing the programs there, who now have to pay double. More expense for us means a decrease in well-being, particularly for seniors and families and those on fixed incomes.
- An important issue for me and others is the re-establishment of a joint community partnership with the town of Carleton Place for recreation facilities such as the swimming pool, sports and leisure programs. The cancellation of this joint partnership resulted in many activities being cancelled or limited access and revised excessive fees that affected many people (eg. children, adults and seniors). Participants in these programs who can no longer afford the revised fees have had to cancel memberships that were very beneficial to their mental and physical health. During the election campaign this issue was raised by many residents and we were assured by candidates seeking votes that this Council would work on our behalf to re-establish a revised partnership with favorable results for all.
- Emergency and front line services, mental health and addictions, homeless, legal services, a community hub & wrap around services
- Cost effective access to community pool in Carleton Place or build an indoor community pool in Almonte
- Partner with Carleton Place re use of pool
- Traffic control is important with the growing population and visitors it is great to see the crosswalk lights installed on Main St, Mill St. Sidewalk concrete maintenance is important too. Paving of older roads in older areas is needed (Coleman St for example)
- Value for money for rural Ramsay Taxpayers; there is an extreme issue compared to urban residents' value for money. Even assistance by our tax paying dollars for use of the pool in Carleton Place has been discontinued and no one knows how the balance of the money was used. The taxes are way too high for rural properties both because of MPAC valuations and the lack of services.
- Taxes are too high
- Cultural services; concerts, museums, etc.
- Health care and hospitals
- Garbage drop off locations. Driving to Carleton Place from North Pakenham is too far. Why can't we have a dumpster available twice a year in our area? Gas prices and the weekend schedule for Carleton Place doesn't work for us. We can't take advantage of our dump passes. At least allow us to use the dump on Calabogie Road. It will also help reduce CO2 emissions by saving the drive time.
- Multi-purpose recreational facility
- Sewer and water for Pakenham
- Public engagement, service standards (response time to emails, phone calls)
- Education, daycare
- Accessibility
- I would like to see a municipal run not for profit LTC facility. Choices are limited in the area and the demand is going to be great with the number of seniors in the area. I would also like to see municipal owned and run affordable housing. We also

need public transit between the local communities -Almonte, CP, Lanark , pakenham,SF , Perth. Imagine a bus from Almonte to Perth Algonquin campus would be a game changer for many students! As an example.

- 1. Increase funding to the library and heritage as many studies have shown that there is a substantial return on investment to the community.  
However, efficiencies could be realized in the heritage sector. Having three heritage organizations in a municipality as small as Mississippi Mills is not sustainable in this fiscal environment. Most municipalities struggle to support one museum. Fund only one umbrella heritage organization. The umbrella group would include representation from the Council and would determine priorities for the distribution of funds from all levels of government to specific heritage activities. The outcome would be a more collaborative and efficient approach to developing collections, facilities, interpretive programs and public engagement. Further efficiencies could be realized by coordinating heritage facilities and collections with the municipal library and by developing a Lanark County wide approach to managing heritage.
- 2. There have been many reports of traffic speeding, which are backed up by county traffic studies. Fund the development and implementation of traffic calming throughout the municipality, ensuring that roads outside Almonte Ward are included.
- 3. Fund the development and implementation of improvements to parks throughout the municipality, ensuring that parks outside Almonte Ward are included.
- Finding competent people to work in the Building department.
- Swimming pool in Carleton Place
- 1) I would like to see renewed interest in the historic district in Almonte. My Confederation-era house is within that district. The area includes many beautiful structures that should be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. 2) Programs to promote the hiring of persons over 65. Perhaps tax incentives to businesses who hire older workers would be a good idea. There is so much talk about "who's going to take care of our aging population." Well, a large percentage of us are quite able to take care of ourselves. If one is well enough to volunteer, one is well enough to get paid! By the way, I LOVE Almonte-- and Canada!
- You should separate the OPP and fire services from economic development. While the former are a safety matter and the latter pays for the former, the linkage should be separate as feelings/opinions in the two different.
- The pandemic has made it clear that mental health is supported by access to open space / parks/ green space. (There are various studies which describe this). This access needs to be easy and equitable, so distributed green spaces should be preserved and not centralized.
- Public transportation
- New Dog Park - I was told by a campaigning counsellor that a new dog park was in the budget and was disappointed that I did not see it in the draft budget. I'd really like to see some forward motion on this issue.
- I'm very upset that MM opted out of the shared agreement with CP for pool use.
- Library,, packer for grader

- Reciprocal agreement for pool in C. P.  
Would rather have had services listed separately rather than lumped together so that different answers could be given separately.  
There are several roads in Almonte proper that are not, in my opinion, in satisfactory shape. They may be serviceable, but not necessarily main roads, that need attending to. King Street and Naismith Dr. for example.  
New signage at Levi Centre is difficult to read coming from Mill St. direction. The tree is in the sight lines and it may as well be a one way sign.
- Adequate access to planners
- I have to leave my water running in the winter months because the lines coming to my house will freeze. I know we are not the only home that needs to do so. This should be discussed.  
The water is terrible quality.  
Farm St is very dangerous, needs some rethinking.  
Composting services  
Dog Park dedicated space
- Affordable housing. My brother and his wife really want to move their family here but there is no affordable rentals, and with housing prices so high they're priced out of the home buyers market.
- Garbage and Recycling collection is not listed. Is this a part of our municipal taxes?
- Childcare
- OVRT ATV and Snowmobile accessibility.
- Community engagement in longterm planning for culture and recreation facilities/multipurpose complex
- Fixing Old Perth Road near Rae Road. Patching holes have been ongoing for years. Hard to walk, cycle and even drive. It's just a short section. Can't it be properly fixed?
- I was disappointed when the municipality terminated the cost sharing agreement re the CP Pool
- A dog park, please
- Road improvements. Majority of the streets around the high school and busy streets like Tatra street needs to be milled and repaved.
- Internet service
- Expansion of public parks to include dog park(s)
- I think we could spend less on snow removal. It's really good right now, but probably better than it needs to be.
- The water smells like chlorine. That can't be good for us .
- Road safety. People need to slow down!
- Community-building things like music/arts/puppet festivals that draw people to town & up our reputation
- AFFORDABLE housing rentals not only high end rental. Mix up the community. Be a leader in this department by adding mixed housing and co op housing. Us 50 plus people are in serious trouble for rentals being up to our current salaries.

- Responses to questions regarding traffic, road condition, noise, speeding, policing are evasive and non responsive .Police responses when required were late and non cooperative. Questions using the "contact us" on the Website were largely ignored. & requests got 2 answers, only one was helpful.
- Feedback for future surveys - these departments are so broad, they should be reviewed for satisfaction and importance separately: Building Permits, By-law, Fire Services, Economic/Community Development, OPP

For example I have had mixed success with the building permit department, some inspectors and staff are very helpful, others less so. Would like to see the municipality incentivize more intensification to reduce sprawl with respect to the burgeoning developments in farmers fields surrounding the town. This strains our resources and makes the neighbourhoods more vehicle dependent. Also, how can we incentivize building and renovating greener homes? With our hydro dams sustaining most of our energy use - could MM position ourselves as a carbon neutral place to live? Could we become a local leader in passive / net zero homes?

No need for interaction with Fire Services fortunately but happy to see them active in the community.

Economic and community development – I'm happy to see this as a priority. Would like to see more cottage industry, small production and local jobs that pay a livable wage in MM, again not an easy nut to crack.

My opinion is that Mississippi Mills pays too much for policing for what we get, although I realize that there are limited options. In general I agree with the approach that funds should be reduced from policing and allocated to housing and social services to prevent police services from providing mental health supports for which they are not qualified.

Another area the survey did not cover is libraries - I support maintaining their funding and supporting their valuable work in the community. Also transit options for those who do not drive - our municipality is very car dependent.

Sorry for the novel - good luck with the budget!

- Please please PLEASE pave Panmure Road. It's an embarrassment to our municipality. It's obvious where the Ottawa portion ends and Mississippi Mills starts. Thank you!
- I find the cost of water very high. I do not think it is a good value.
- Amount of debt and cost of that debt. Allocation of capital. Break down of costs compared with other municipalities. Simplified version of the budget for people unfamiliar with budgets.
- Building Department for the love of God.
- Building Department for the love of God.
- Adding a sidewalk to Houston Drive as it is used by many, many people, from young to seniors heading to the 50 + businesses in that area. People come from Orchardview, the 2 schools, Gale & Riverfront Estates subdivisions. It is extremely dangerous at all times but especially in winter, for drivers as well as pedestrians.
- Road repair, care & maintenance, particularly Irish Town (Maude St for example)

- Arts and culture - this may be included in your Item 13 (Community Partnerships, etc.) but it deserves to be mentioned specifically.
- This survey lumps too many things together as it forces you to choose dissatisfied if one area is disappointing but the rest are satisfactory so to be clear the two main areas we are dissatisfied are building inspection, and community partnerships and the rest is satisfied.
- We need an agreement with the CP pool once again so MM residents can utilize this very important resource at a reasonable cost or MM needs to build an appropriate rec area for our ever growing population.
- The water smells like chlorine. That can't be good for us .
- Replace sewer/water infrastructure in the areas of Adelaide, Marshall etc. Has not been done in over 40 years and new homes have been built in the area. Basements typically flooded in the spring or heavy rains. City is well aware of this.
- Sidewalk needs to be added to Houston drive. Seniors and children at high risk of injury with this not present.
- Public transit system of some kind
- road Repair, panmure rd  
Permits in relation to building, etc - the general comment I hear from people that are building say that the process takes longer than to build a house or structure, why can this process not be streamlined. This would free up building department staff to get more requests processed and in turn may not have to hire these people to process these requests, and then putting those dollars into roads etc.
- MM is in extreme need of a Green Bin service. The amount of kitchen waste going into land fill is serious. Food waste causes more pollution! Residents could use biodegradable bags for these items..
- More childcare spaces
- More parks in rural areas
- Reestablish cost sharing with CP for use of the pool. So important for senior's health.
- Preserve/ develop natural resources / beauty / green spaces. Riverwalk is a good example. Avoid urban sprawl as seen in other towns around us (Arnprior, Carleton Place)
- paving Clayton Lake Road.....
- Municipal compost collection with local processing
- Fix Rae Road! Surprise that there has been no accident with drivers avoiding thousand potholes! Only a matter of time!