



Orchard Heights
Homeowners' Association

What We Heard

Orchard Heights Community Engagement Survey

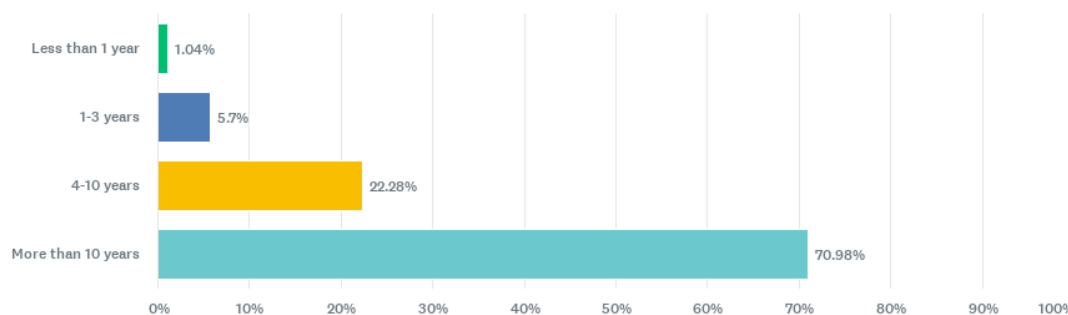
Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Orchard Heights Community Engagement Survey. The responses provide a clear picture of who we are as a neighbourhood, what residents value most, and where there are shared priorities — as well as areas where views differ.

Below is a summary of what we heard.

Our Community

- Orchard Heights is a **long-established neighbourhood**. Nearly **71%** of respondents have lived here for **more than 10 years**, and over **93%** have lived here **four years or longer**.

Q1 How long have you lived in Orchard Heights?



- The community is overwhelmingly **homeowner-occupied (98% homeowners)**, which shapes many of the priorities raised in the survey.
- Households are largely **family-based and multi-generational**, with strong representation from:
 - Families with children and teens
 - Adults aged 45–64
 - Seniors aged 65+



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- Work situations vary:
 - About **40%** have someone working mostly outside the home
 - **35%** have someone working mostly from home
 - **38%** include retired residents

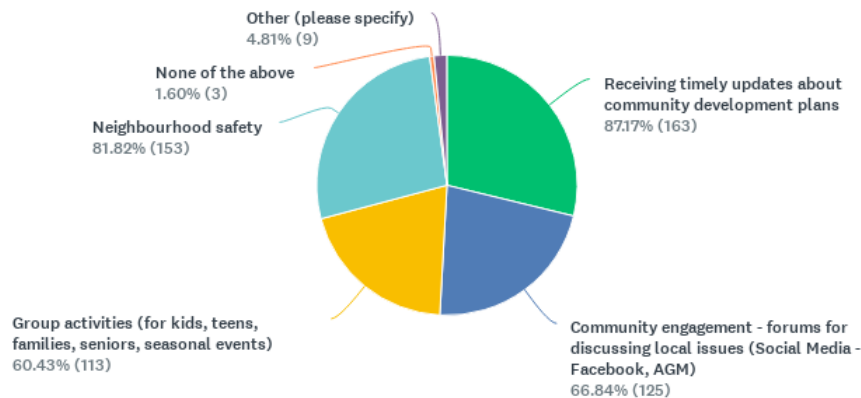
This mix helps explain the need for **flexible timing, daytime and evening options,** and **virtual participation** for some activities.

What Residents Expect from OHHA

Residents were very clear about the role they expect OHHA to play.

Top expectations of paid membership:

Q6 What best describes your expectation of paid membership to OHHA (please select all that apply)?



What this tells us:

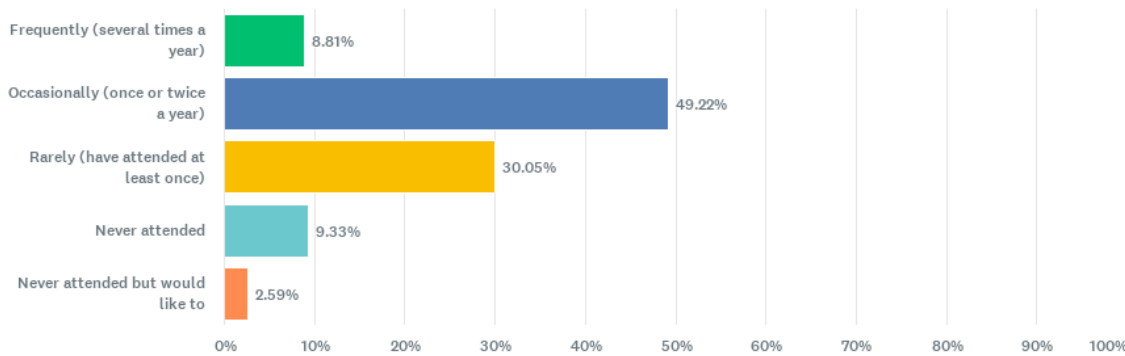
Residents see OHHA first and foremost as a **trusted source of information**, a **voice on safety and neighbourhood issues**, and a **connector for the community**. Social events are valued, but they are not the only — or primary — expectation.

Several comments emphasized the importance of **transparency and consultation**, particularly when OHHA engages in advocacy.



Participation and Events

Q7 How often have you attended an OHHA activity or event in the past?



Events residents most enjoyed in the past include:

- **Picnic in the Park**
- **AGM**
- **Family Movie Night**
- **Pumpkin Walk**

Overall, residents tend to favour **events** that are social, outdoors, or information-focused.

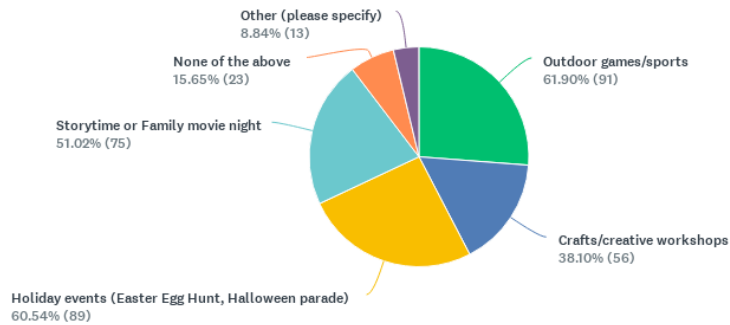


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Programming Interests by Life Stage

Children

Q9 For kids...



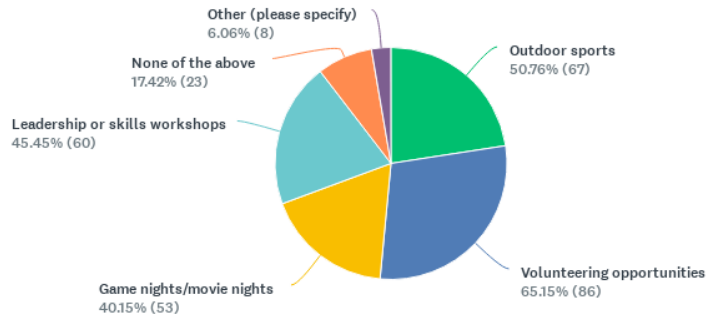
Strong interest in outdoor games and sports, holiday events, and family movie nights

Even respondents without children often expressed support for children's activities as part of a vibrant neighbourhood.

Teens

Top interests include volunteering opportunities, outdoor sports, leadership or skill-building activities

Q10 For Teens...

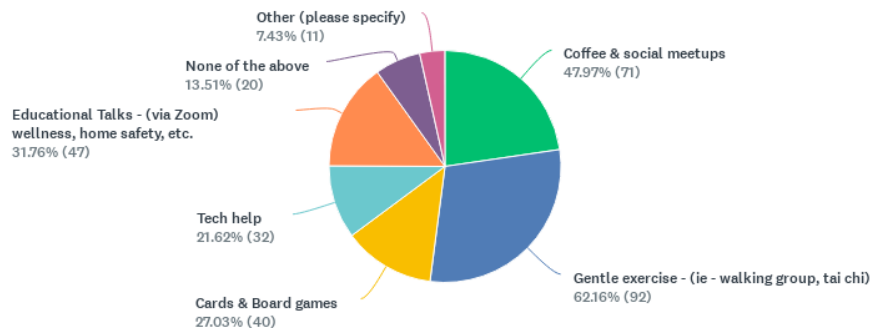


This suggests teens are seen not just as participants, but as **potential contributors** to community life.

Seniors (55+)

Top interests include gentle exercise such as walking or tai chi and coffee and social meetups

Q11 For seniors (55+)...



Some respondents noted that seniors have **diverse abilities and interests**, and programming should be **optional and accessible**, not one-size-fits-all.



Activities for All Ages

The strongest overall support was for:

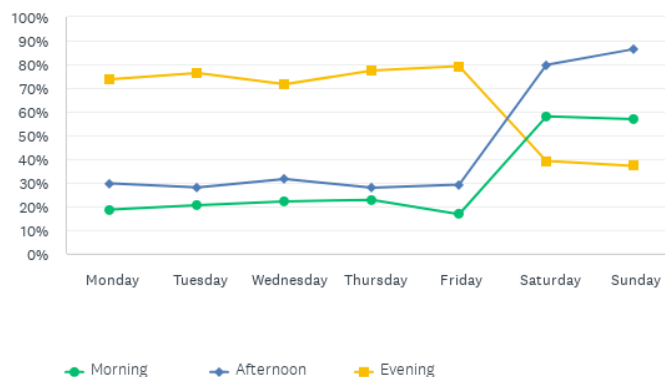
- **BBQs (66%)**
- **Seasonal or holiday events (60%)**
- **Fitness or walking groups (53%)**
- **Neighbourhood cleanup days (51%)**
- **Community garage sales (49%)**

These activities were consistently described as inclusive and community-building.

When and Where Events Work Best

Timing

Q13 Which days/times work best for neighbourhood events (please select all that apply)?



What this means:

Residents prefer **daytime events on weekends** and **evening meetings during the week**, with virtual options where possible.



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Locations

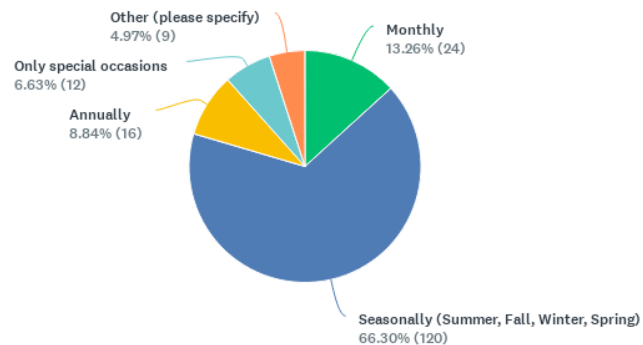
Preferred locations include:

- **Ron Searle Park**
- **Orchard Heights Park**
- **Street or block gatherings**
- **Community rooms or churches**

Some respondents also emphasized the value of **online or virtual options**, especially for meetings.

Frequency

Q15 How often would you like events to be held?



This suggests a strong desire for seasonal events at **sustainable pace**, rather than frequent programming.



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Volunteering

- **29%** said they would volunteer
- **44%** said they might volunteer

This indicates a **large potential volunteer pool**, especially if opportunities are **well-defined, time-limited, and clearly communicated**.

How Residents Want to Hear from OHHA

Communication preferences are clear:

1. **Email** (strongly preferred)
2. **OHHA Facebook Group**
3. **Community bulletin board**
4. Printed flyers
5. OHHA website

Email is seen as the most reliable and official channel, while Facebook is valued for ongoing conversation. Several respondents noted they were unaware of the website, suggesting an opportunity to improve awareness.



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Traffic, Infrastructure, and City Accountability

Closely tied to safety, many residents raised concerns about **municipal infrastructure and city decision-making**, including:

- Traffic congestion and lane reductions on Dixie Road
- Speeding related to QEW access confusion
- Poor snow removal at crossings
- Lack of street lighting
- Sidewalk gaps and missing pedestrian connections
- Limited response or follow-through from 311
- Desire for clearer signage and better traffic controls

Interpretation:

Residents look to OHHA as an **advocate and watchdog**, helping translate neighbourhood concerns into pressure on City staff, Councillors, and agencies.

Development, Planning, and Neighbourhood Change

Many respondents expressed concern about:

- New builds, renovations, and “overdevelopment”
- Provincial overrides (MZO, Land Tribunal decisions)
- Dixie Mall redevelopment and Lakeshore changes
- Impacts on traffic, density, parks, and neighbourhood “personality”

Interpretation:

Even when residents acknowledge limits to OHHA’s power, they still want **timely updates, interpretation, and advocacy** on planning matters.

Desire for Community Connection—but With Limits

There is meaningful support for community-building, especially:

- Events for kids, teens, seniors
- Seasonal gatherings (BBQ, garage sale, movie night, street party)
- Walking groups, book clubs, exercise programs
- Meet-and-greets for newcomers

However, some respondents explicitly said:

- They prefer **less emphasis on social events**
- Safety, taxes, traffic, and crime matter more to them



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- Pricing of events should remain accessible

Interpretation:

There is support for connection, but **not at the expense of core advocacy issues**. Practical, inclusive, low-barrier activities are preferred.

Strong Appreciation for OHHA Volunteers

Interspersed throughout the responses are:

- Thank-yous
- Recognition of volunteer time and effort
- Acknowledgement that some issues are beyond OHHA's control

Interpretation:

Even critical feedback often comes alongside genuine appreciation and trust in the Board's intentions.

In Summary

What we heard is that Orchard Heights residents:

- Care deeply about their neighbourhood
- Value safety, information, and advocacy
- Appreciate inclusive, seasonal community events
- Prefer weekend daytime activities and weekday evening meetings
- Are open to volunteering when asked clearly
- Want to be informed, consulted, and respected — especially on issues that affect neighbourhood character

Thank you to everyone who participated. Your feedback will help guide OHHA's priorities, planning, and communication going forward.