



SUMMARY OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY RESULTS 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2025, the District of Katepwa Council partnered with Matthewson & Co. to launch a community-wide Quality of Life Survey. Open from October 24 to November 7, the survey received 245 responses and will be one of the components that help guide the Council's Strategic Plan.

What we heard from you:

- Residents are proud to live in Katepwa, valuing the lake, scenery, peaceful atmosphere, and strong recreational amenities.
- Common concerns include traffic and road safety (speeding, golf carts, ATVs), lake water quality, and limited local services such as a convenience store, postal options, and year-round dining.
- Priorities for improvement include the Trans Canada Trail, beach and waterfront areas, community facilities (library and multi-use spaces), and boat launches/docks.

Looking ahead:

- Many residents expressed willingness to contribute more—through taxes or user fees—for improvements that reflect community values.
- The feedback from the survey provides the Council with clear direction on what residents appreciate, where challenges exist, and how to strengthen Katepwa's vitality for the future.

IMPORTANT

This report was developed from input provided by residents through the 2025 Quality of Life (QOL) Survey. The items included reflect perceptions, opinions, and experiences shared during the consultation process. They are not presented as objective facts, and viewpoints may differ—what one respondent considered a challenge, another may have seen as a strength.

It is also important to note that responsibility for certain matters lies with different authorities. Some issues raised fall under the jurisdiction of the District of Katepwa Council, while others are the responsibility of the Katepwa Point Provincial Park, Water Security Agency, Department of Highways, and other governing bodies. The inclusion of these items does not imply accountability by either party.

This report is intended as a summary of community feedback to inform discussion and planning. It highlights the diversity of perspectives within the community and provides a tool to guide future decision-making, rather than a definitive list of issues to address.

TOP INSIGHTS

What residents value most:

- Katepwa's natural beauty, peaceful atmosphere, and recreation amenities stand out as defining strengths. Many residents described the community as a "hidden gem," with the Qu'Appelle Valley and lake access central to its quality of life.

Key concerns:

- Traffic and road safety (speeding, golf carts, ATVs), declining lake water quality, and limited local services (convenience store, postal options, year-round dining) were the most common issues raised.

Priorities for improvement:

- Residents highlighted upgrades to the Trans Canada Trail, beach and waterfront areas, community facilities (library and multi-use spaces), and boat launches/docks as top priorities. These improvements reflect a desire to keep Katepwa safe, accessible, and vibrant year-round.



THINGS YOU VALUE ABOUT KATEPWA

(TOP 5)

#1: THE NATURAL BEAUTY

The Qu'Appelle Valley, lake, wildlife, and scenic views year-round.

#3: COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Friendly, caring atmosphere with strong traditions, events, and volunteer support.

#5: UNIQUE CHARM

Small-community feel, resort-village character, and features like golf cart access and free park entry.

#2: RECREATION

Trails, golf, boating, fishing, playgrounds, and a wide range of amenities.

#4: SAFETY & AFFORDABILITY

Low crime, clean environment, and affordable living with reasonable taxes.



AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

(TOP 5)

#1: TRAFFIC & ROAD SAFETY

Safer streets, less speeding, and better rules around golf carts and ATVs.

#3: LOCAL SERVICES

More everyday conveniences like a store, postal options, and year-round dining.

#5: COMMUNITY SPACES & BOAT ACCESS

Expanded facilities (like a larger library or multi-use centre) and improved boat launches and docks.

#2: LAKE HEALTH

Cleaner, healthier water to protect the lake for recreation and the environment.

#4: TRAILS & WATERFRONT

Better maintenance and upgrades to the Trans Canada Trail, beaches, and waterfront access.

OPPORTUNITIES YOU SEE FOR KATEPWA

(TOP 5)

#1: MORE LOCAL SERVICES & BUSINESSES

- Everyday conveniences like a year-round store, postal outlet, coffee shop, gas station, and restaurants with longer hours.
- Expanded options such as a laundromat, general store, taxi service, and senior housing.

#2: EXPANDED RECREATION & COMMUNITY SPACES

- New or upgraded facilities: trails, dog park, outdoor rink, playgrounds, fitness spaces, and a larger library/community centre.
- Better lake access with more docks, boat launches, and even marina development.
- Family-friendly additions like mini golf, paddle boats, and seasonal rentals.

#3: YEAR-ROUND EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

- More cultural, recreational, and family activities beyond summer.
- Organized events like concerts, tournaments, pop-up markets, and winter activities.
- Stronger communication through newsletters and social media.

OPPORTUNITIES YOU SEE FOR KATEPWA

(TOP 5)

#4: TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

- Promote Katepwa's natural beauty, resort lifestyle, and unique small-community identity.
- Develop eco-tourism and sustainability initiatives, including unified lake cleanup efforts.
- Celebrate local history and traditions through cultural tourism and community events.

#5: INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESSIBILITY

- Upgraded water/sewer systems, trail paving, drainage, and parking improvements.
- Better lighting, signage, and beautification of public spaces.
- Expanded public parking, safer speed zones near the shore, and consistent rules across the District.

THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE THE DISTRICT TO CONSIDER

(TOP 5)

#1: BALANCING DEVELOPMENT

- Avoiding over-commercialization that could threaten green spaces, community character, or turn Katepwa into an RV-style destination.
- Ensuring growth doesn't erode the small-community identity residents value.

#2: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Addressing ongoing lake water quality concerns and safeguarding valley habitats.
- Preventing pollution and habitat loss that could deter families and weaken wildlife refuge areas.

#3: MAINTAINING COMMUNITY BALANCE

- Managing demographic shifts and seasonal surges to keep Katepwa vibrant year-round.
- Avoiding tensions between seasonal and permanent residents, and ensuring bylaws are respected.

THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE THE DISTRICT TO CONSIDER

(TOP 5)

#4: SUSTAINING SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Ensuring local amenities evolve to meet residents' needs without losing affordability.
- Tackling issues like cell service gaps, road safety, and upkeep of public spaces.

#5: PRESERVING IDENTITY & COHESION

- Protecting Katepwa's unique, peaceful character while still attracting newcomers.
- Avoiding social divisions, financial pressures, or loss of pride that could weaken community unity.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

*(Things Residents do to
Support the Community)*

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

91.5% of residents actively use restaurants, gas stations, and seasonal services.

PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS & RECREATION

Attendance at local activities and facility usage is high.

GIVE BACK

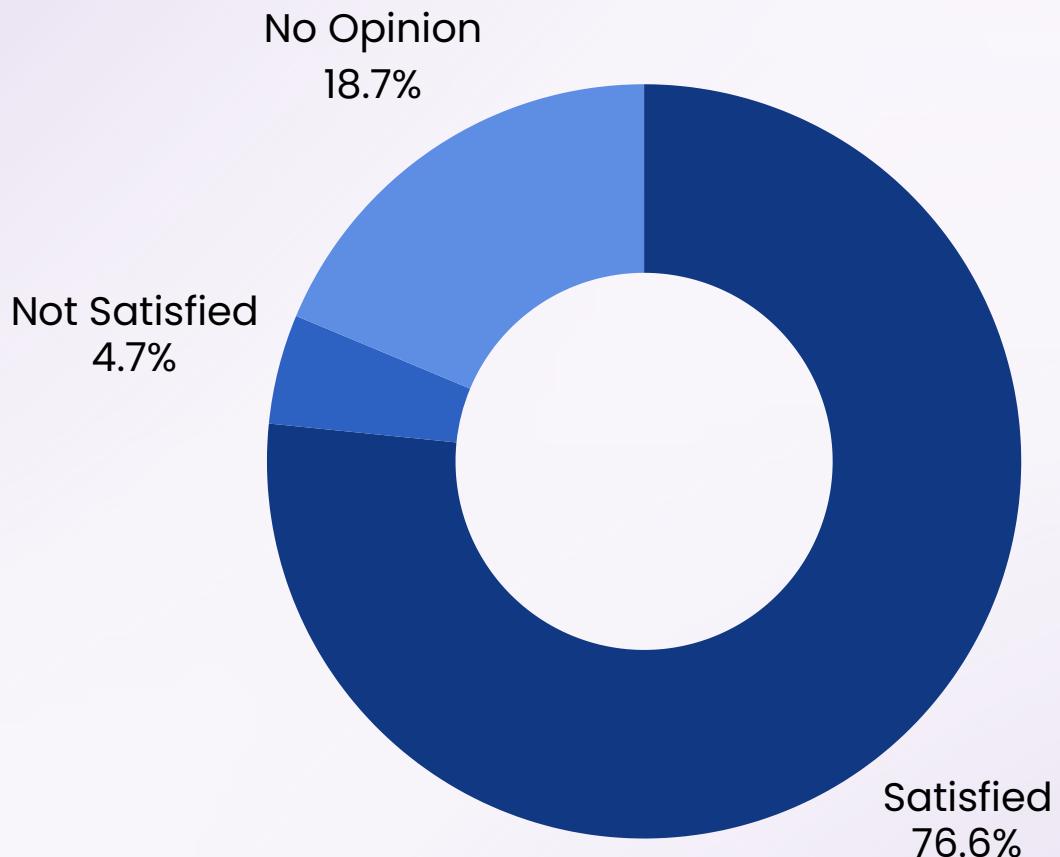
61.5% of residents contribute to fundraisers, 38.5% volunteer, and 22.2% serve on boards/clubs.

MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ONLINE PRESENCE

30.3% of residents post supportive messages on social media.

COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

Residents Opinions on the Communications Methods used by the District:



Respondents prefer to read/receive communications via:

- Emailed newsletters (93.6%)
- The District website (55.9%)
- The District social media pages (Facebook, Instagram) (51.3%)
- Text message alerts (33.9%)
- Community bulletin boards (22.5%)
- Public meetings/town halls (20.8%)

BUDGET & ROAD MAINTENANCE

DISTRICT BUDGET

- Awareness Gap – Nearly half of respondents have never seen the District budget.
- Access Issue – 16.3% said they could not find it; this is likely because it isn't posted online.
- Available Info – Audited financial statements exist, but those are a backward look rather than guiding future planning.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- High Satisfaction – 95.7% of residents believe roads are well maintained.
- Minor Concerns – Only 4.3% expressed dissatisfaction, suggesting upkeep generally meets expectations.

RESIDENT CONCERNS

#1: SPEEDING & TRAFFIC SAFETY:

Residents raised concerns about speeding vehicles (including quads, ATVs, and golf carts driven by minors) on local roads and suggested measures such as speed bumps, RCMP patrols, cameras, and stricter golf cart bylaw enforcement.

#2: TAXES & FEES:

Residents expressed frustration over rising property taxes without added services and concerns about septic pump-out fees.

#3: LAKE & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

Residents voiced concerns about lake water quality issues—including algae, pollution, sewage, odours, and noise from watercraft—as well as flooding and runoff risks linked to rapid development.

#4: BEACH, PARK & SUMMER CROWDING:

Residents highlighted parking challenges at Katepwa Beach/District, particularly on long weekends, along with issues of overcrowding and disrespectful visitors, suggesting entry fees as a way to manage crowds.

#5: POSTAL & LOCAL SERVICES:

Residents noted the absence of postal services and expressed a desire for improved local amenities such as a convenience store, gas station, year-round groceries, food trucks, and a fish cleaning station.

ARTS & CULTURE AND RECREATION

The Community Values Arts and Culture:

- 37.8% said arts & culture are important for a thriving community.
- 27.5% were neutral on the topic.
- Fewer than 5% disagreed.
- Most respondents (65.5%) indicated that the District should invest in arts and culture only when projects are well-targeted and make sense.

The Community also Values Recreation:

The following were the most mentioned (as favourites) by respondents in the QOL survey:

- Trans Canada Trail
- Katepwa Beach provincial park (swimming lessons, boating, fishing)
- Katepwa Golf Course
- The Library
- Lions Park
- Family 9 golf course
- Pickleball
- Kids' programs
- Playgrounds
- Holiday celebrations

FUTURE RECREATION

Residents provided several ideas for future recreation programs/facilities they would like to see in Katepwa.

WATER BASED ACTIVITIES

- Swimming pool, lessons, and water playground/floating obstacle course.
- Marina/boat facilities, docks, and seasonal rentals (canoes, kayaks, pontoons, Seadoos).
- Sailing and water sports programs (kayak, canoe, windsurf, parasailing).
- Fish filleting shack and improved water quality.

SPORTS & FITNESS

- Fitness centre, gym, and group fitness classes (yoga, Zumba, Tai Chi, aqua size).
- Golf facilities (lessons, clubhouse, practice green).
- Pickleball and tennis courts, mini golf, and other sports (slow pitch, bowling, crokicurl, lawn bowling).
- Trail etiquette and safe outdoor recreation.

TRAILS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Cross-country ski trails, nature walks, and promoted hiking/biking trails.
- ATV/quadding trails and toboggan hill.

FUTURE RECREATION

CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAMS

- Kids' summer programs, playgrounds, spray park, and family movie nights.
- Community events: bands in the park, parades, street dances, Canada Day celebrations, farmers' market.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

- Snowmobile trails and warm-up shack, outdoor skating/ice rink, winter festival, curling.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SOCIAL SPACES

- Larger, year-round community centre, recreation hall, multipurpose rooms.
- Coffee shop/meeting place and extended washroom access.

ARTS, CULTURE & SOCIAL EVENTS

- Live performances, concerts, and creative/art classes.
- Guest speakers, book clubs, and social gatherings.

TOP AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR UPGRADES

TRAILS & PATHS (TRANS CANADA TRAIL)

- Paving, drainage, and weed control. Safety considerations—like sight lines and trail width—were also mentioned.

LIBRARY & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- The current library space is limited for larger gatherings and community functions. Residents expressed interest in expanded facilities—such as a larger library, town hall, or recreation centre—with dedicated areas for exercise classes, meetings, and events.

BEACH & WATERFRONT

- Residents expressed interest in improved maintenance—such as addressing grass, weeds, showers, and docks—as well as ensuring public access and adding more picnic areas and seating.

PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

- Residents expressed interest in expanding play structures, adding shade to splash parks, repairing basketball hoops, and improving irrigation and grass quality in Breese Park. Lions Park was also noted for safety and comfort enhancements, such as addressing slippery concrete and planting shade trees.

TOP AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR UPGRADES

WASHROOMS & UTILITIES

- Survey responses emphasized the importance of year-round amenities at Breese Park and the main beach, with families noting the need for accessible bathrooms. Additional utility-related suggestions included expanding garbage facilities, establishing an RO water plant, and adding a fish cleaning shack.

BOAT LAUNCHES & LAKE ACCESS

- Survey responses frequently mentioned boat ramps and docks, with residents expressing interest in improved maintenance, clearer signage, and additional docks to ease congestion. Suggestions also included secure storage for boats and RVs, alongside attention to lake health and fish stocking.

BUSINESS & OTHER FACILITIES

- Although mentioned less often, some survey responses noted that local businesses—including the hotel, store, and ice cream shop—could benefit from upgrades in service, food quality, or appearance. While these are privately operated, residents suggested the village could play a supportive role in encouraging improvements that reflect community standards and enhance the local experience.

OVERALL, FEEDBACK WAS POSITIVE..

A notable share of survey responses indicated that residents are satisfied with current facilities, often praising the maintenance staff and overall upkeep. This general sense of satisfaction, paired with recurring suggestions for improvement, highlights that while the community is happy with much of what exists, targeted investments could further enhance priority areas.

BUSINESSES RESIDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE

Residents expressed interest in new or expanded local services, including:

- Grocery/convenience store for essentials.
- Coffee shop and year-round dining options to support socializing and food variety.
- Gas station with accessible fuel prices.
- Postal services (post office, community mailboxes, secure courier drop-offs).
- Recreation and rentals, such as marinas, boat/kayak/paddleboard rentals, mini golf, and fitness/wellness services.
- Other small businesses, like handyman services, craft shops, laundromats, cannabis shops, and spas.

TAKEAWAYS

- **Positive sentiment dominates:** Residents are proud of their community and value the efforts of those who support its well-being.
- **Top concerns:** Water quality, environmental protection, and managing growth responsibly.
- **Recurring issues:** Safety on Highway 56, communication from Council, and infrastructure upkeep.
- **Mixed views:** Some want to raise the valley's profile, while others want to avoid commercialization and keep Katepwa quiet and natural.

NEXT STEPS

The Quality-of-Life Survey is the first building block in developing the District of Katepwa's new Strategic Plan. With resident feedback now collected and the foundational research underway, Matthewson & Co. will move into the next steps that further inform the Strategic Plan, including:

- Reviewing census information to understand income levels, age distribution, and cultural diversity.
- Evaluating the District of Katepwa's social media presence to understand how the community presents itself to potential visitors, investors and new residents.
- Reviewing legislative responsibilities to clarify the municipality's obligations to ensure the Strategic Plan aligns with those requirements.

Once the background information is collected, we begin drafting the Strategic Plan.

If you have any questions about this report or the next steps in the District of Katepwa's Strategic Planning process, please email anna@smallplacesrock.com.

THANK YOU!