

REVITALIZATION SURVEY FINAL RESULTS:
97 PERCENT WANT TO GROW MORE LEISURE
AND HOSPITALITY BUSINESSES IN RAYMOND

Raymond, Maine, April 21 – Final results of a survey taken by the Raymond Revitalization Committee show that 97.2 percent of respondents prefer to expand the Town's leisure/hospitality sector. Retail and wholesale operations were second choice at 58 percent. The survey was undertaken to help determine a direction for Raymond's business future, according to the Committee head.

“We will use these results in developing a comprehensive plan; it'll help us decide which businesses to develop internally and which new ones to draw from outside Raymond,” Committee Leader Wayne Holmquist said, adding, “We're also very intent upon nurturing Raymond's existing home – based businesses.”

The survey shows manufacturing as a third choice, and education and health services fourth. Youth and student sector responses were consistent with overall results, Holmquist said. More responses were received from home-based businesses than downtown businesses, he said, noting that 68 percent of respondents were fully-employed while about 14 percent listed their status as unemployed, or retired. Others did not respond to the employment question.

Responses to the section on leisure activities showed consistently that the adult a student responders prefer camping, swimming boating, hiking, walking and running, as well as bowling, skiing, biking, kayaking, beach soccer, football and golf, followed by dance, snowmobiling, outdoor games, and exercising.

Art and culture choices included reading, writing, drawing, painting, crafts, cooking, and activities such as Wii, video, cards, cooking, or just family and friends.

Holmquist said that the survey results will be presented to committee members at an upcoming meeting. “We will begin to draw a short-and-long-term plan at that time,” he said.

The Raymond Revitalization Committee is an independent organization and has no political agenda or ties.