

**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL MEETING**  
**OF THE MEMBERS OF**  
**ONTARIO CLIMBING ACCESS COALITION/**  
**COALITION POUR L'ACCÈS AUX PAROIS D'ESCALADE DE L'ONTARIO**  
**(the "Corporation")**

**HELD** in Etobicoke, Ontario on June 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**Constitution of Meeting**

A quorum of the members of the Corporation being present in person and notice of the meeting having been duly sent, the meeting was declared regularly constituted.

Tony Berlier took the Chair and Patrick Lam acted as Secretary of the meeting. Randy Kielbasiewicz was appointed scrutineer.

**Financial Statements**

The Chair presented to the Meeting draft audited financial statements of the Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2014.

**Election of Directors**

The Chair then stated that it was in order to proceed with the election of directors and declared the meeting open for nominations. The following individuals were nominated:

Laura Banks  
Tony Berlier  
Graeme Taylor

The Chair confirmed that Laura, Tony and Graeme had consented to their election as directors. No member having demanded a ballot, the election of directors was conducted by a show of hands following a motion by Justin Dwyer, seconded by Patrick Lam, and carried unanimously.

The election having been held, the Chair declared Laura, Tony and Graeme to be duly elected A directors of the Corporation to hold office for a term of two years, or until their successors are elected, subject to the provisions of the by-laws of the Corporation.

### **Election of Co-Chairs**

The Chair then introduced the special resolution appointing Tony Berlier and Randy Kielbasiewicz as co-chairs of the Board of Directors. The Chair explained that the by-laws and the *Corporations Act* (Ontario) require that any chair be elected by the members by special resolution.

No member having demanded a ballot, the election of co-chairs was conducted by a show of hands.

On motion duly made by Justin Dwyer, seconded by Tom Valis, and carried unanimously, the special resolution electing Tony Berlier and Randy Kielbasiewicz as co-chairs of the Board of Directors was approved.

### **Appointment of Auditors**

The Chair introduced the next item of business, the appointment of BDO Dunwoody LLP as auditor of the Corporation and authorizing the Board to fix the auditor's remuneration. The Chair explained that BDO Dunwoody LLP had generously agreed to perform OAC's 2015 audit at a substantial discount from its normal rates.

No member having demanded a ballot, the Chair conducted the vote by show of hands.

On motion duly made by Albert Rothenstein, seconded by Laura Banks, and carried, it was resolved that BDO Dunwoody LLP be appointed as the Corporation's auditor for the 2015 financial year, and that the Board be authorized to fix the auditor's remuneration.

### **Termination**

There being no further business, the meeting then terminated, as moved by Laura Banks and seconded by Danylo Darewych.

**Chair**

**Secretary**

# OAC ACCESS SENDS 2014/2015

## CLIMBING AREAS

**Old Baldy** – We're thrilled that the Old Baldy transaction has closed and that the access to Old Baldy will be managed by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, with rock climbing being a permitted activity. This was the culmination of a long fundraising campaign and a complicated land transfer process. The purchase is a significant milestone for the OAC, creating new bonds and strengthening existing ones. Donations came from MEC, the Alpine Club of Canada Toronto Section, the Alpine Club of Canada National, the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, the Nature League, and numerous individual donors, many organized by the [ontarioclimbing.com](http://ontarioclimbing.com) online forum.

**The Swamp** – The joint OAC/Ministry of Natural Resources Environment Study of The Swamp was completed in 2014. The completion of this study gets us closer to a creating a formal access arrangement for The Swamp. The results of the study will also help with negotiations at other areas.

**Niagara Glen** – We remain on good terms with the Niagara Parks Commission and constantly work to improve our connections. We are in communication with them about the future of the Niagara Glen permit system. The NPC encourages boulderers to purchase their 2015 permits if they have not already done so.

**Cape Croker** – Negotiations well underway with the land owners and park superintendent.

## CLIMBING COMMUNITY

**BVCF** - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beaver Valley Climbing Festival took place in August 2014 and raised over \$6000 for the OAC. Organized by Jennie Elmslie (Free Spirit Tours) and Leslie Timms (On The Rocks Climbing) the festival showed significant growth over the inaugural event. Major sponsors of the event included MEC, True North Climbing Gym, Climbers' Corner Climbing Gym, The Alpine Club of Canada, and the Landscape Company, among others. The OAC is helping to organize the 2015 BVCF.

**OAC calendar** - The OAC continues to produce a high quality calendar showcasing the beautiful and diverse climbing areas in the province that we are lucky to call our local spots. All proceeds from the calendars goes to the OAC to support access. Last year saw an exciting new element in the calendar creation process – a photo contest! Our social media outlets were absolutely inundated with submissions: over 50 amazing images vied for a new rope. It was hard for us to narrow it down to the final three who would battle it out in Facebook likes. The public voting phase drew over 550 combined likes, with dozens of shares and comments!

**OAC survey** – A record 213 climbers responded to our annual survey. The results of the survey provide data which inform our ongoing discussions with land managers.

**OAC Facebook group** – We reached 1000 likes as a result of revitalizing the OAC Facebook group and regularly posting updates relevant to the climbing community.

## CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

**Gym rep program** – OAC volunteer coordinator Laura Banks created an OAC Gym Rep program whereby each gym would have at least one volunteer who would work an OAC table on a regular basis. We are always looking for keen volunteers to assist with this program. Email [info@ontarioaccesscoalition.com](mailto:info@ontarioaccesscoalition.com) if interested.

**Gym to Crag** – the OAC partnered with the Access Fund to co-brand our logo onto their Gym To Crag poster. The poster promotes responsible crag practices in a fun way. The poster should be found in most Ontario climbing gyms and MEC locations.

**Crag Status Doc** – We released an up-to-date version of our Crag Status Document which provides a quick reference to the access status of all the commonly asked-about crags in the province. This version also provides more detailed information: links to route information, Google map links, and notes on typical conditions, permits and fees.

**Video** – OAC volunteer Elli Levene created a video and wrote an article about sustainable climbing and bouldering for [alternativesjournal.ca](http://alternativesjournal.ca). The video features OAC volunteer Garrett Hutson and OAC co-chair Tony Berlier. The video and article can be found here:  
<http://www.alternativesjournal.ca/community/blogs/wild-side/climbers-reach-new-heights>

**Niagara Glen** – The OAC contributed a display about bouldering at a Niagara Glen tree planting event on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The reforestation event was the result of a strong partnership between the Niagara Parks Commission, Forests Ontario, and the Friends of the Niagara Glen.

**Conferences** – Garrett Hutson is representing the OAC at Biosphere Reserve Network events led by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Patrick Lam attended a workshop “Building an Effective Board” run by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

**Conservation Halton** – We continued to cooperate with Conservation Halton to run the annual Crag Stewardship Day in early May 2015. OAC volunteers once again helped fight off the invasion of Garlic Mustard. This event improves climbers’ visibility at some of our most popular crags.

## OAC Climbers' Survey 2014: Summary

The OAC survey was back in 2014 and bigger than ever. We had a record 213 responses; we believe that this is due in part to our increased Facebook presence. Many thanks to Laura Duncan for survey design beta and for processing the results.

A majority (60%) of respondents indicated that they were not OAC members, indicating substantial potential membership growth for the OAC. Consider joining the OAC if you are not already a member!

Up-to-date survey information continues to be a key source of facts about the vitality and economic importance of the Ontario climbing community. We always use selected survey results when negotiating with stakeholders.

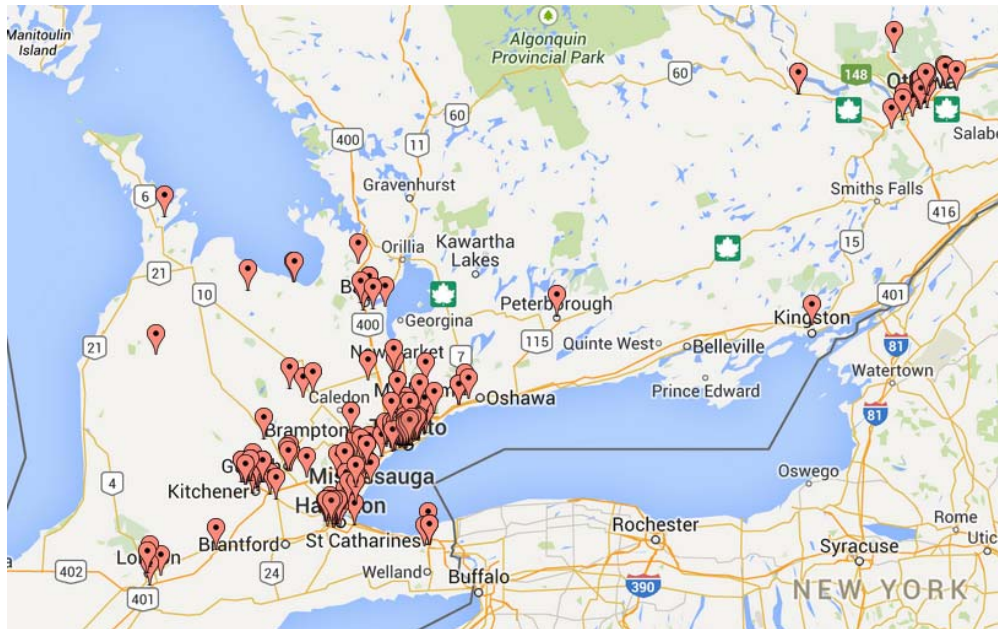
Some highlights:

- survey respondents estimated that they had been out for over 5,000 climber-days in 2014, a quarter of which were in Milton. 75% of the climber-days were on day trips. Spending was over \$15,000.
- almost half of the respondents reported climbing at least three times a week (that's a lot of climbing!)
- the largest cluster of respondents live in the Greater Toronto Area, with a smaller clump in the National Capital Region and communities in Barrie, Kitchener-Waterloo, and London
- a majority (65%) of respondents were in the 18-35 age group
- the most popular occupational grouping (20%) was education, law and social, community and government services.
- Devil's Glen was the favourite Ontario crag, preferred by 16% of respondents, followed by Lion's Head and Bon Echo.
- the vast majority of climbers (80%) practiced sport climbing, while 53% practiced trad climbing, and 33% ice climbing. Bouldering was practiced at 50%.

Thanks again for your participation in the OAC Climbers' Survey. We appreciate your help in carrying out our mission.

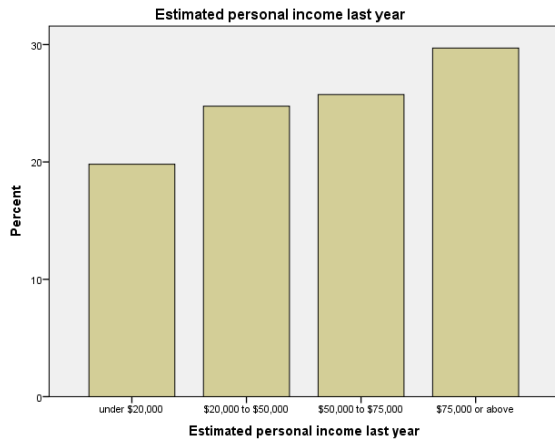
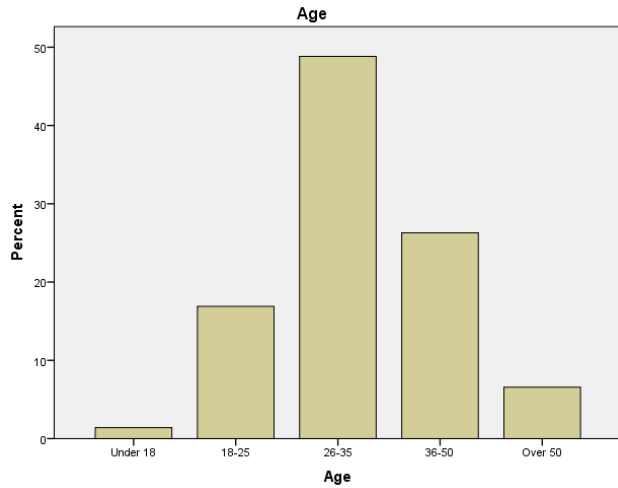
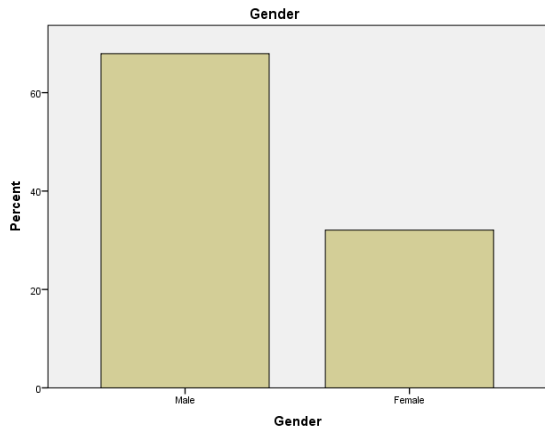
# OAC Member Survey 2014: Summary Statistics

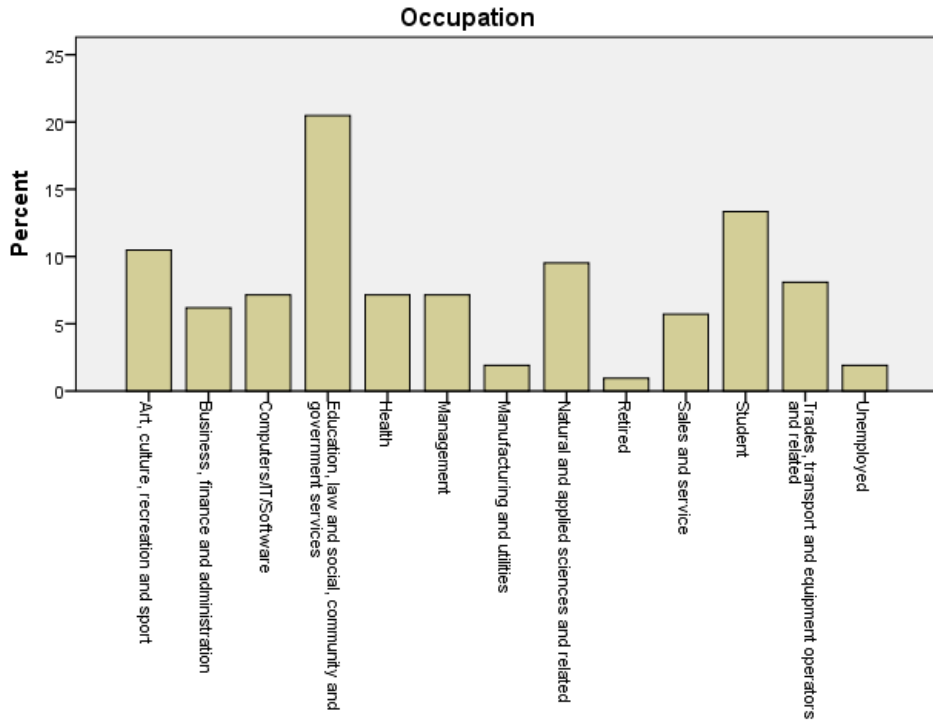
## Distribution of Respondents



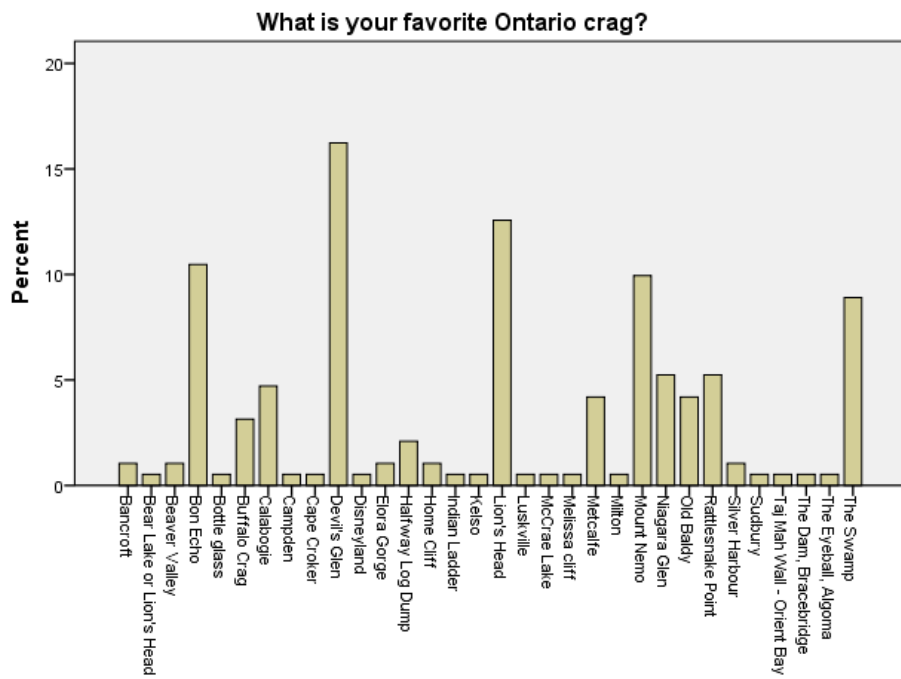
## Characteristics (n=213)

### a) Demographics

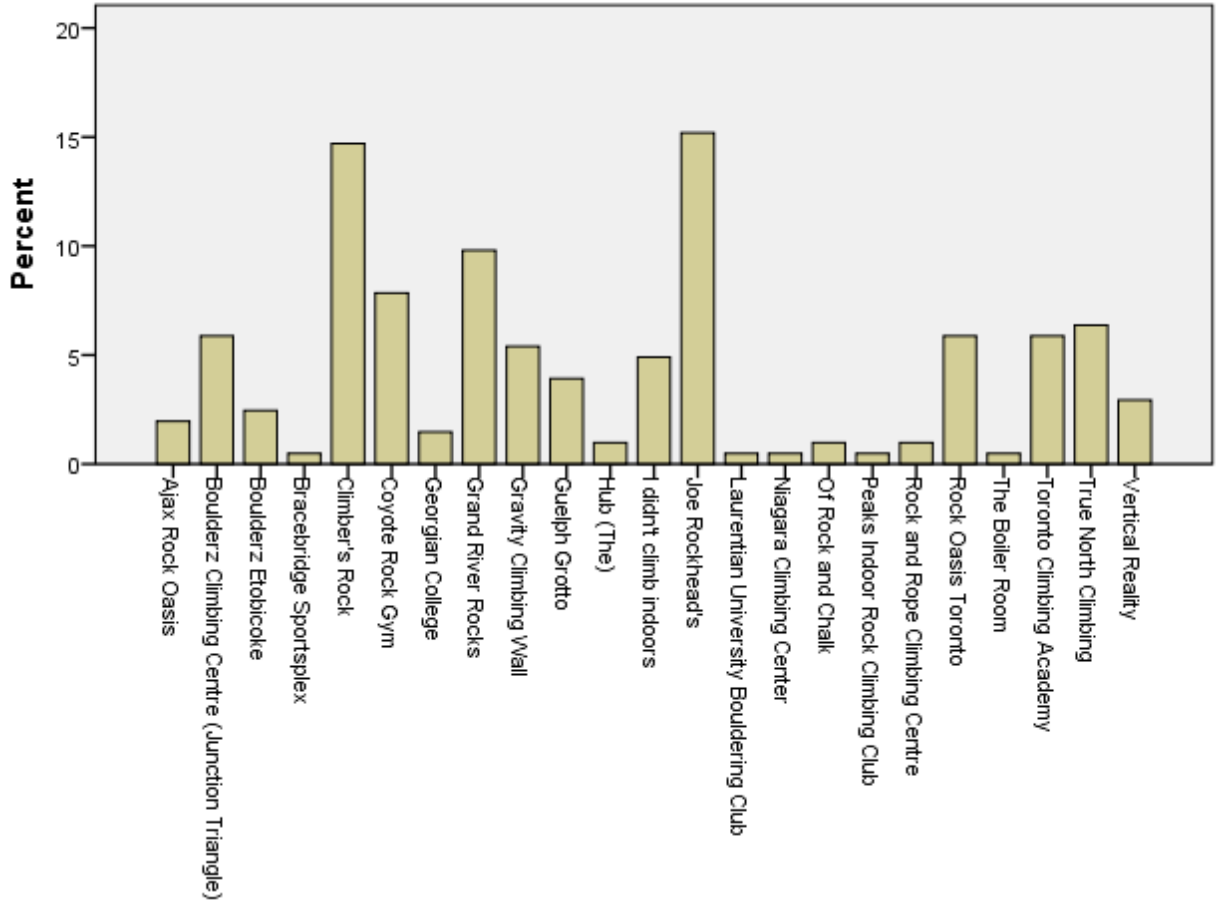




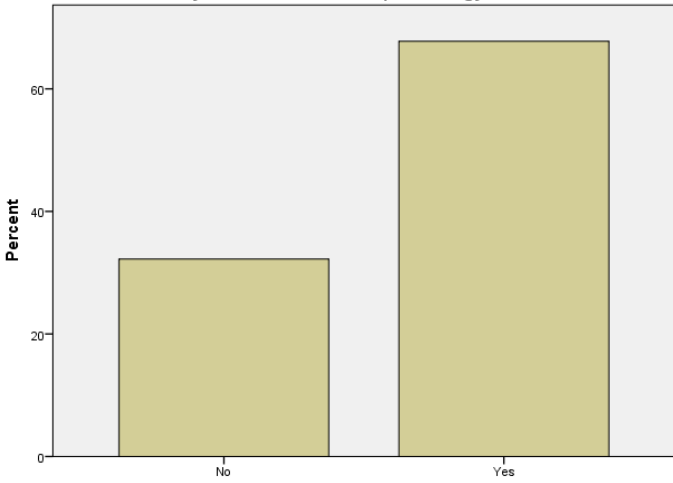
## b) Climbing



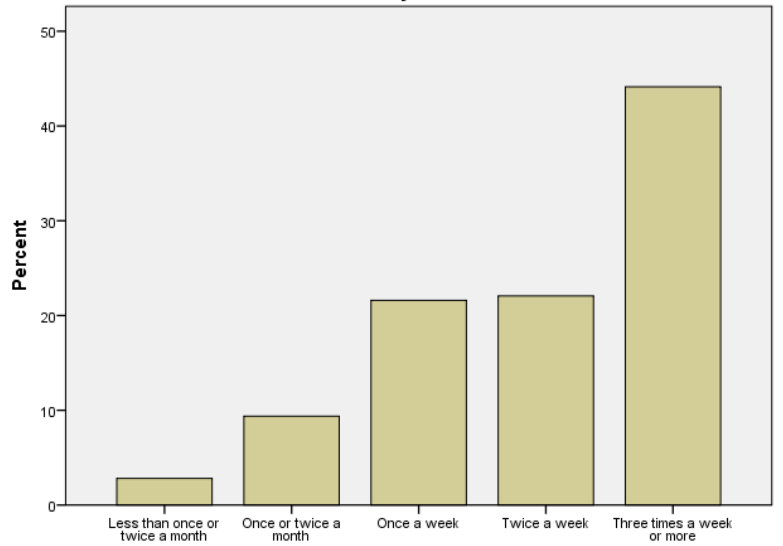
### Which gym did you climb at most often last year?



### Did you have a membership for that gym?



### How often do you climb?





### What types of outdoor climbing did you do in 2014?

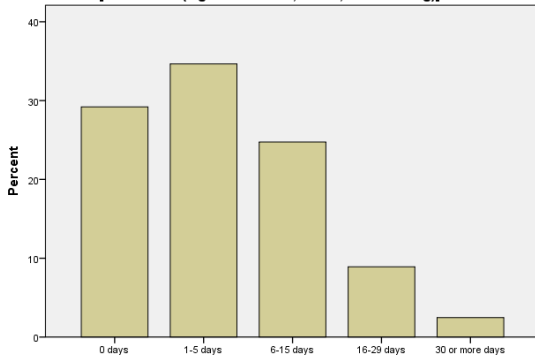
Sport Climbing	80%
Top Roping	69%
Traditional Climbing	53%
Bouldering	50%
Ice Climbing	33%
Mountaineering	18%
Not applicable: Gym/Indoor Climbing only	5%
Aid Climbing	4%
Other Mixed/Drytool	1%
Other Big Wall	1%

### What types of outdoor climbing did you do in 2014?

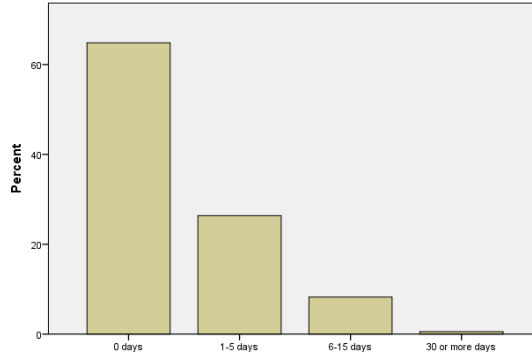
Personal challenge	88%
Physical fitness	79%
Connection to nature	76%
Travel to new places	59%
Socialize	57%
Other: All of the above	3%
Other: Fun	1%
Other	1%

### Climbing Day Trips

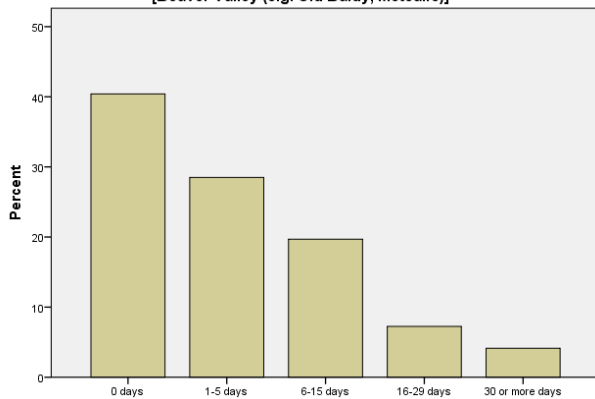
How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year?  
[Milton Area (e.g. Rattlesnake, Nemo, Buffalo Crag)]



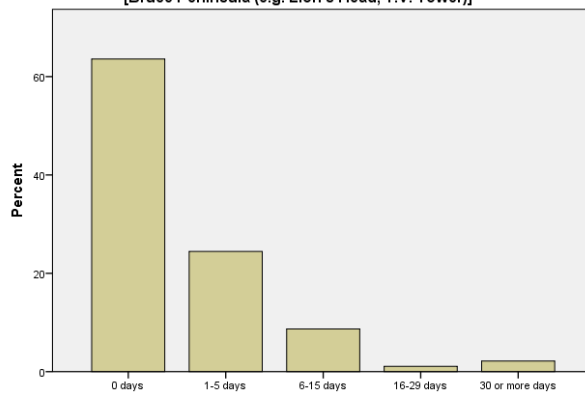
How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year?  
[Niagara Region (e.g. Niagara Glen)]



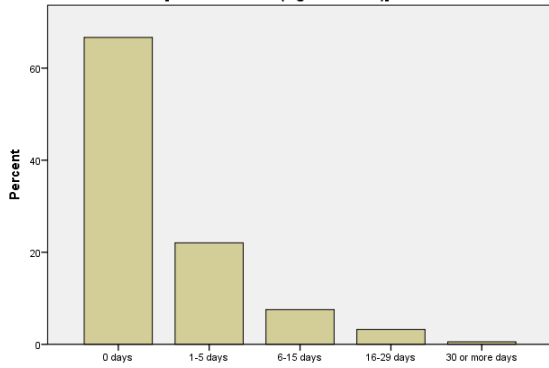
How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year?  
[Beaver Valley (e.g. Old Baldy, Metcalfe)]



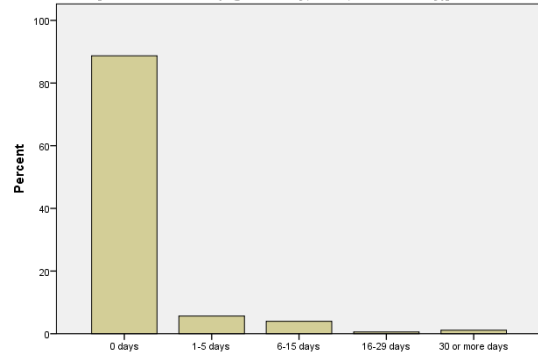
How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year?  
[Bruce Peninsula (e.g. Lion's Head, T.V. Tower)]



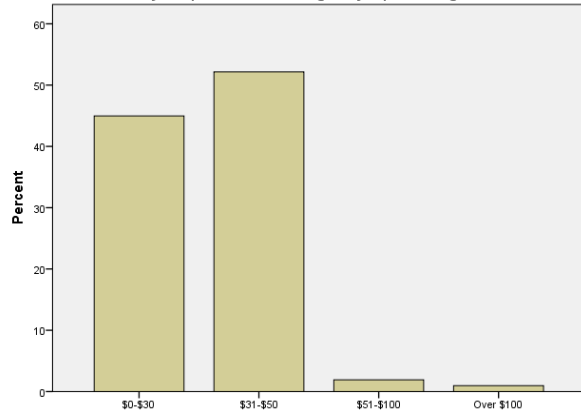
How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year?  
[Eastern Ontario (e.g. Bon Echo)]



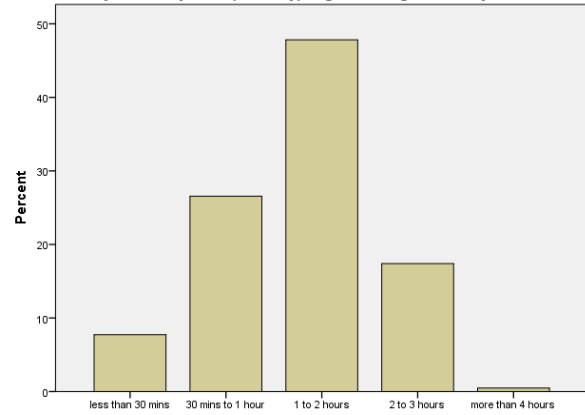
How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year?  
[Northern Ontario (e.g. Sudbury, Sault, Thunder Bay)]



How much do you spend on an average day trip climbing in Ontario?

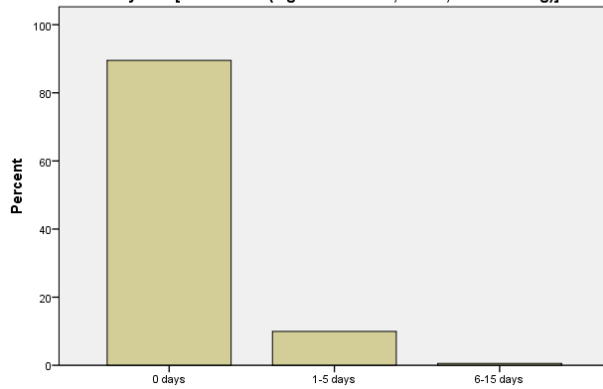


How far do you usually drive (one-way) to go climbing for the day in Ontario?

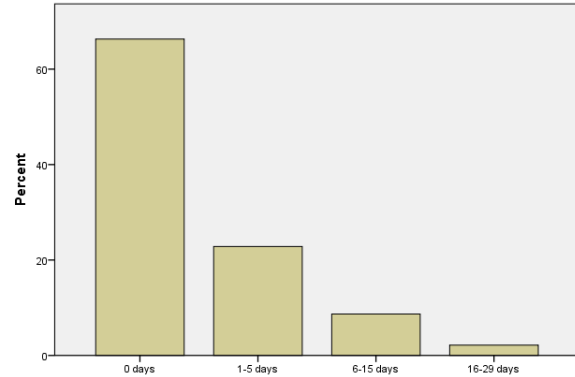


## Climbing Overnight Trips

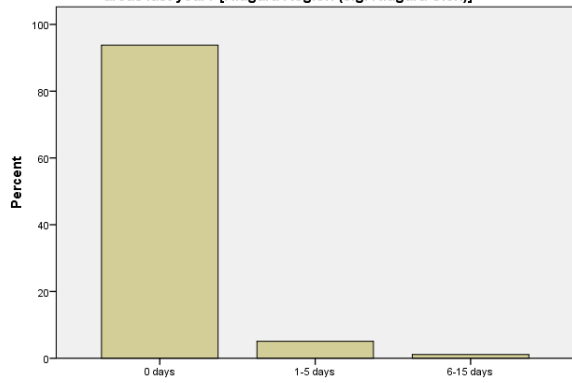
How many days did you spend on ALL overnight trips to each of these climbing areas last year? [Milton Area (e.g. Rattlesnake, Nemo, Buffalo Crag)]



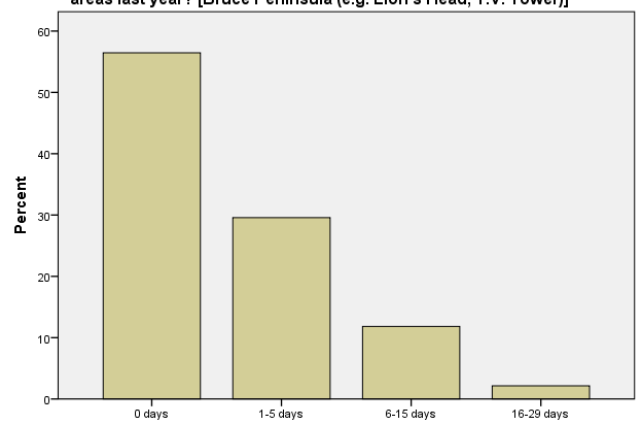
How many days did you spend on ALL overnight trips to each of these climbing areas last year? [Beaver Valley (e.g. Old Baldy, Metcalfe)]



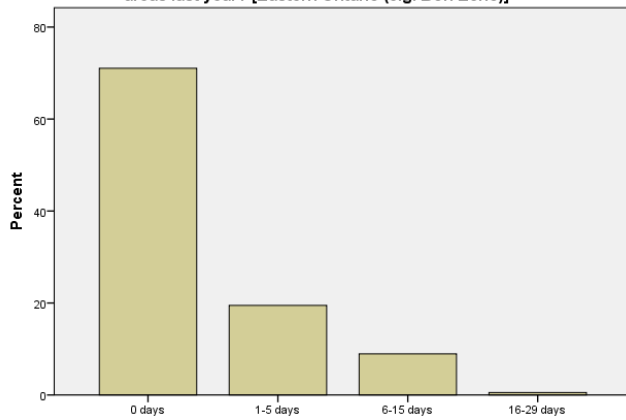
How many days did you spend on ALL overnight trips to each of these climbing areas last year? [Niagara Region (e.g. Niagara Glen)]



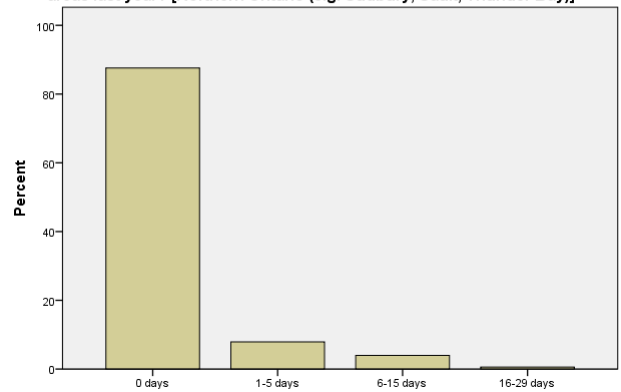
How many days did you spend on ALL overnight trips to each of these climbing areas last year? [Bruce Peninsula (e.g. Lion's Head, T.V. Tower)]



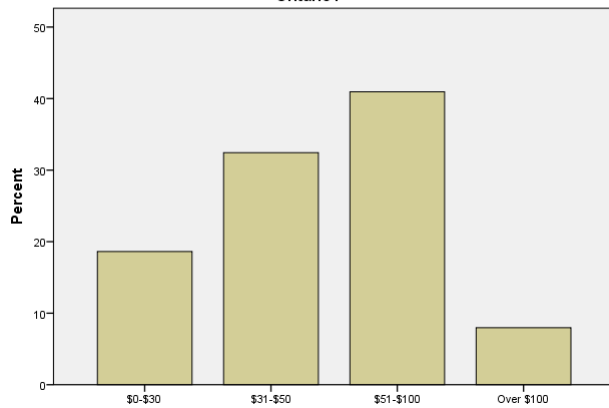
How many days did you spend on ALL overnight trips to each of these climbing areas last year? [Eastern Ontario (e.g. Bon Echo)]



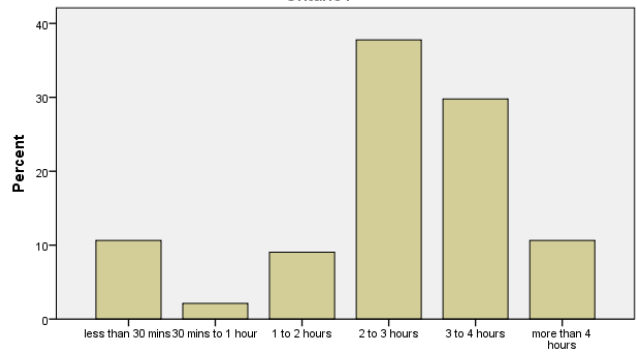
How many days did you spend on ALL overnight trips to each of these climbing areas last year? [Northern Ontario (e.g. Sudbury, Sault, Thunder Bay)]

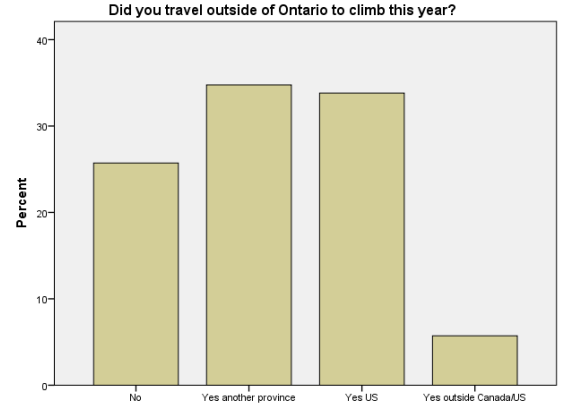
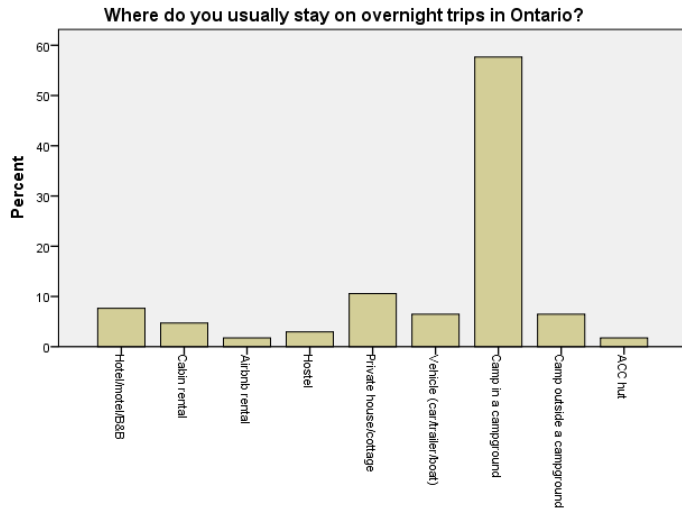


How much do you spend on an average day of an overnight trip climbing in Ontario?

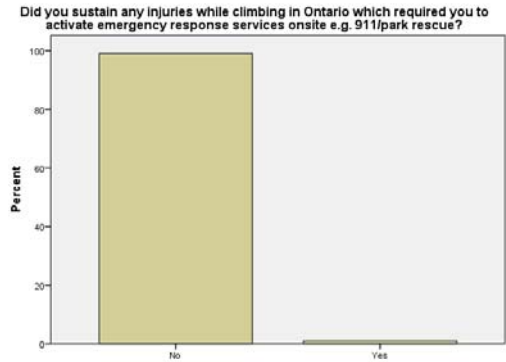
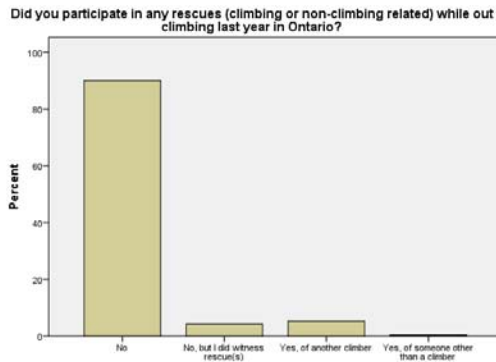


How far do you usually drive (one-way) to go climbing on an overnight trip in Ontario?

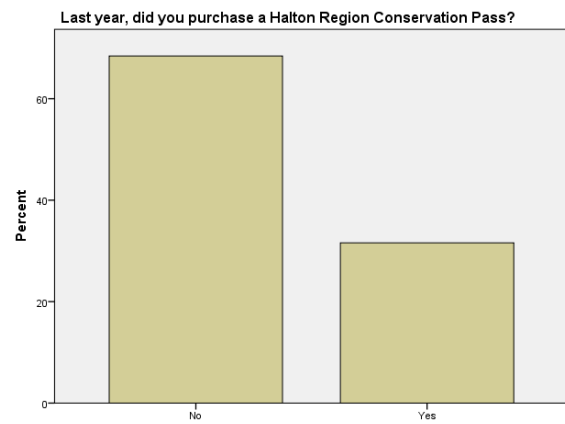
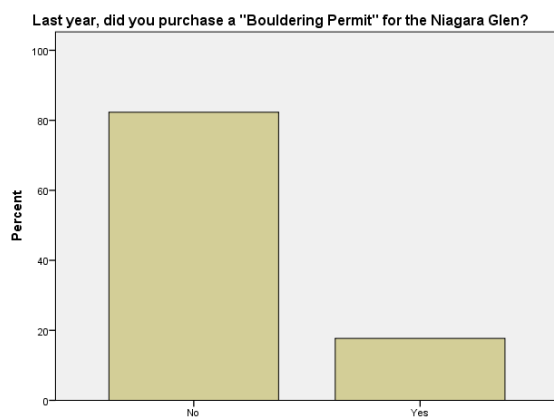


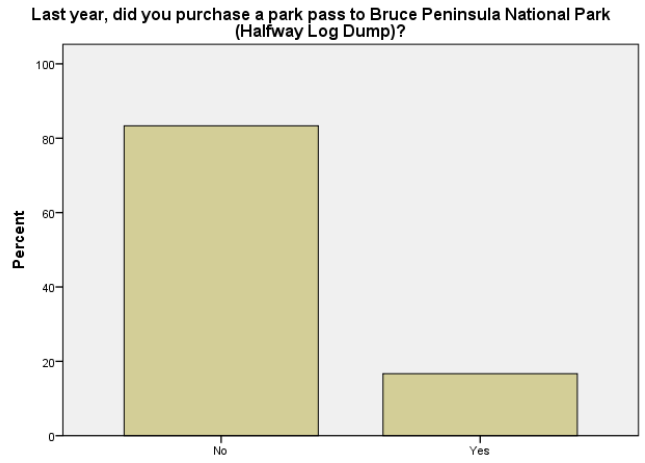
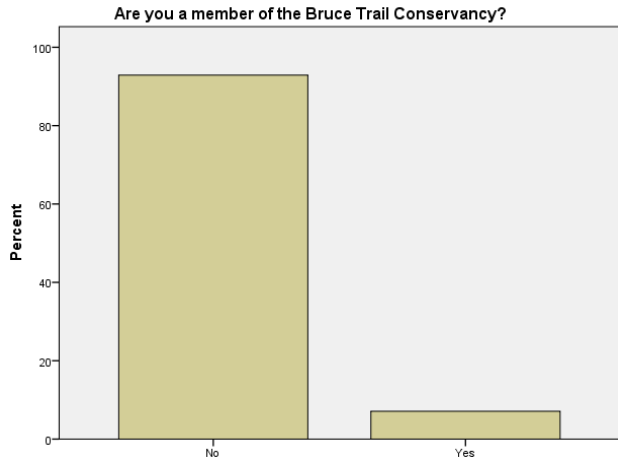


## Emergency & Rescues

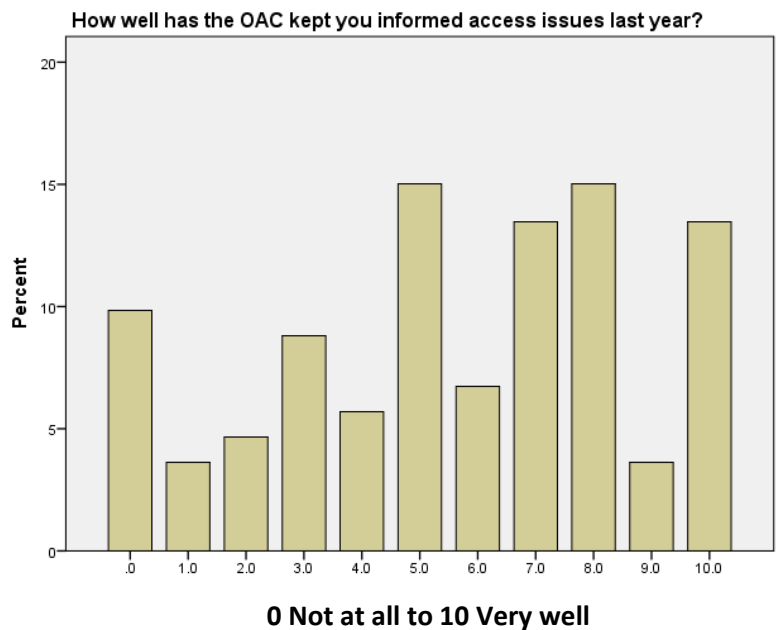
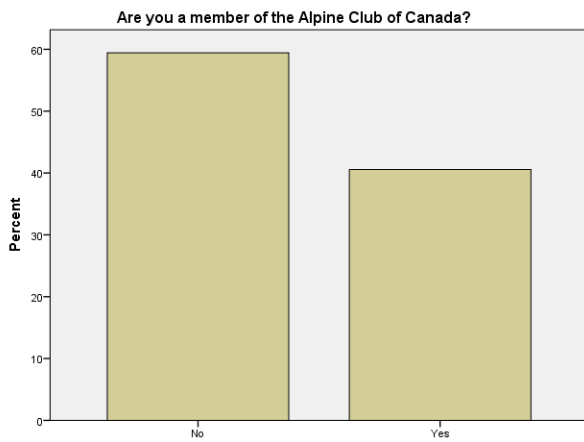
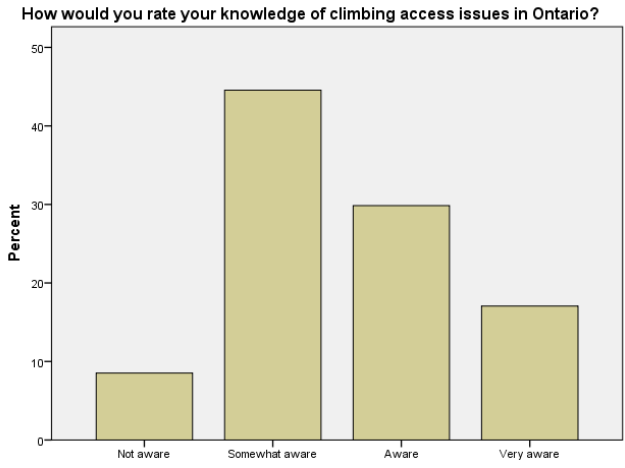
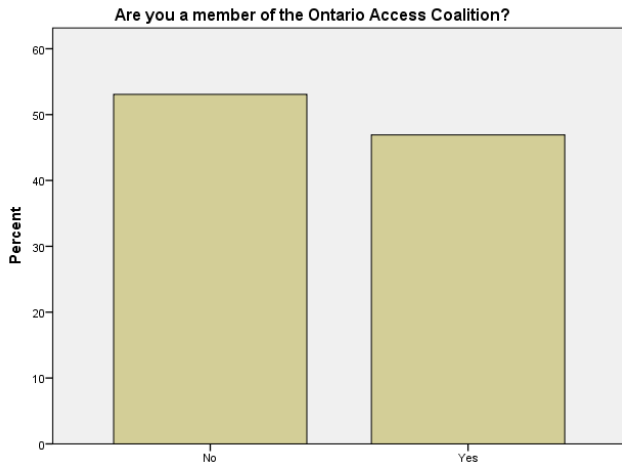


## Passes & Permits

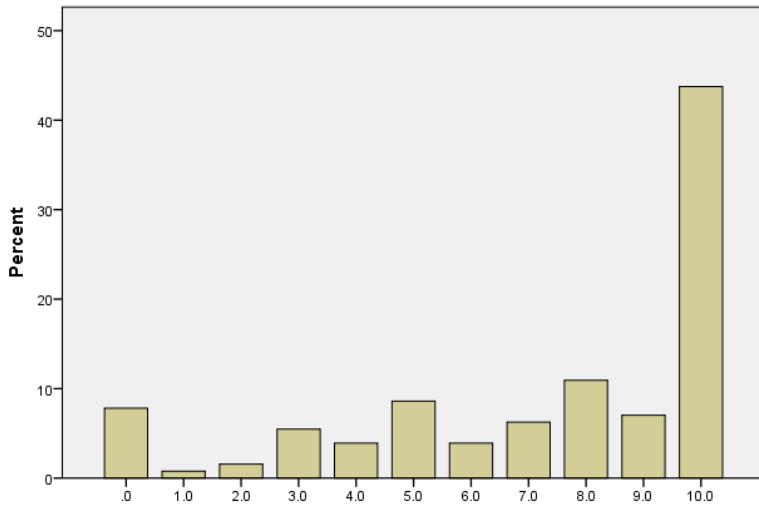




**OAC Membership & Awareness**



If you are an OAC member, how likely are you to recommend joining the Ontario Access Coalition to a fellow climber?



0 Not at all likely to 10 Extremely likely

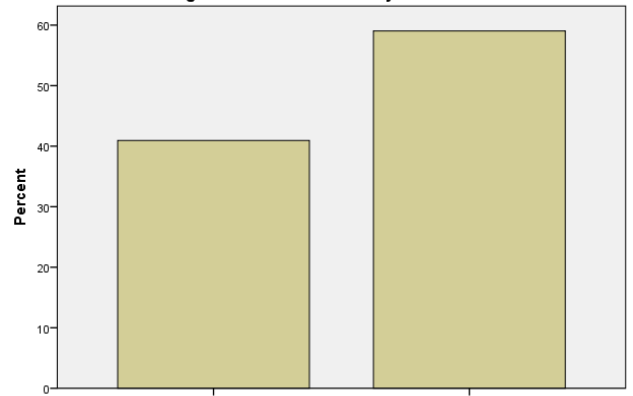
If you are not a member, why not?

- 25 Need more info on benefits/purpose/cost/relevance/
- 17 Not aware
- 11 Laziness
- 8 Not relevant
- 8 Plan to
- 4 Southern ON/Toronto bias
- Not well known in Ottawa
- Unsure of costs
- Not good reason
- Don't know what is involved

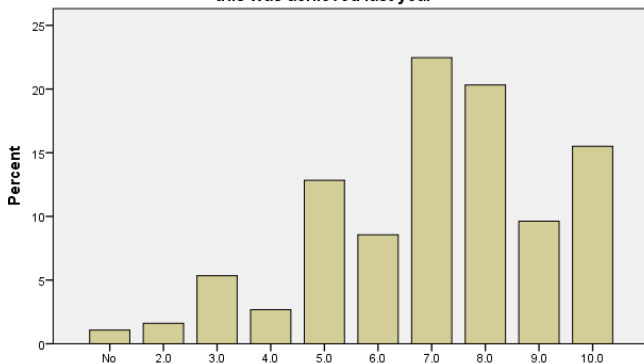
How do you keep informed about climbing access issues in Ontario?

Word of mouth	70%
OAC website	50%
OAC Facebook page	42%
Online forums	41%
Magazines	17%
Emailing the OAC	6%
Other	4%
Other: ACC	3%

Were you aware that the OAC obtained access to the Halfway Log Dump bouldering area in 2010 after seven years of closure?

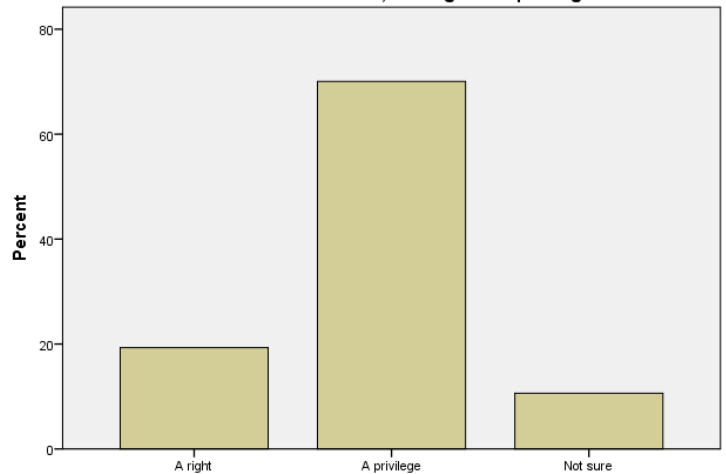


The goal of the OAC is to "work with the climbing community, landowners, conservation authorities and property managers to keep climbing and bouldering areas open in an environmentally responsible manner." How well do you think this was achieved last year

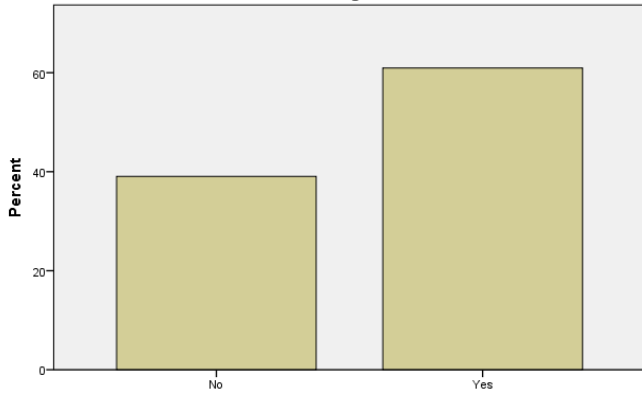


0 Very poorly to 10 Very well

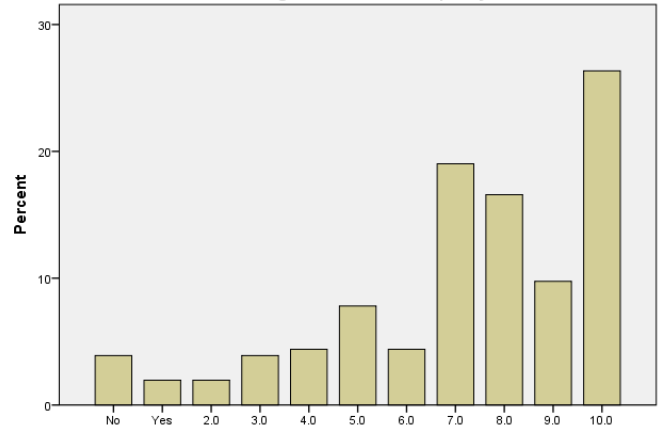
Do you consider climbing on public land (parks, conservation areas, etc) which are set aside for conservation, as a right or a privilege?



Were you aware that in 2009 the OAC successfully convinced the Niagara Parks Commission to reverse the recommendation to close the Niagara Glen to bouldering?

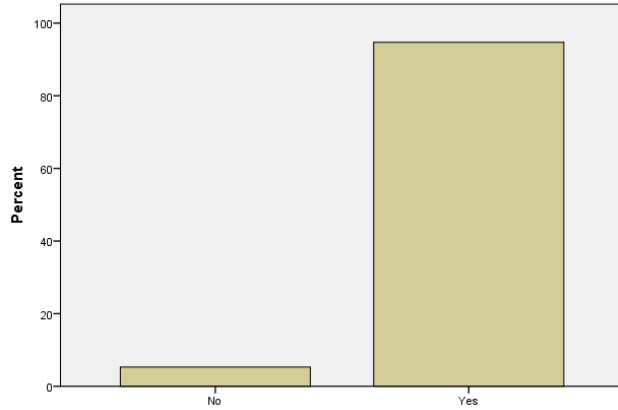


If you were less able to climb outside in Ontario because existing areas became closed to climbing how would this impact you?

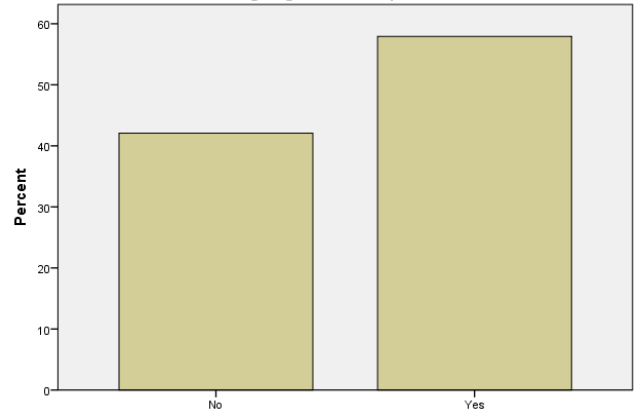


0 Not at all to 10 Life changing

Are you in favour of the OAC facilitating the replacement of aging climbing hardware at Ontario crags?

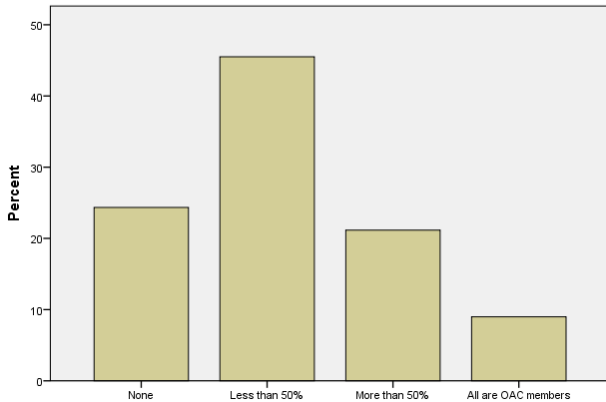


If there was better access to Ontario crags, would you have climbed here more instead of going outside the province?

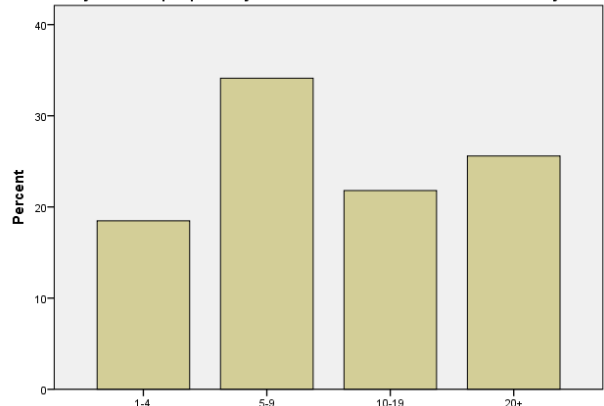


### Climbing Circles

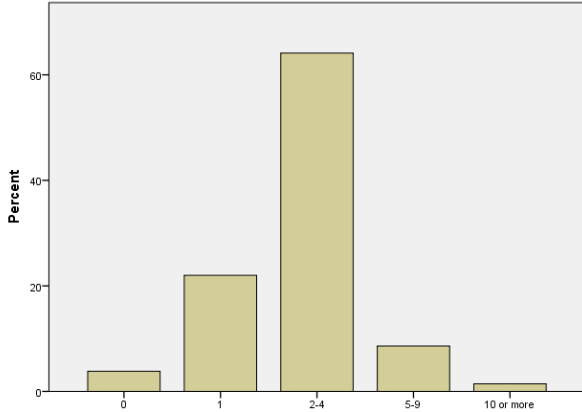
What percentage of your usual outdoors climbing group are members of the OAC?



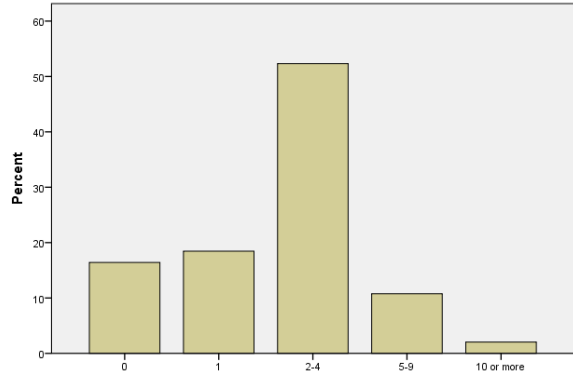
How many different people did you climb with indoors and outdoors last year?



How many people do you usually climb with on average day trips in Ontario?

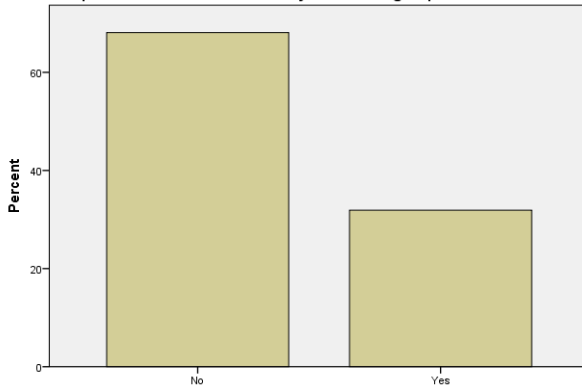


How many people do you usually climb with on average overnight trips in Ontario?

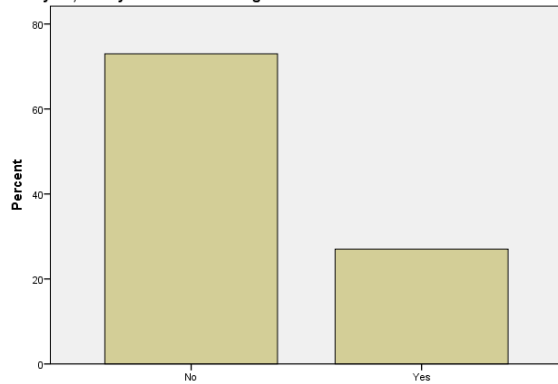


### Trips & Instruction

In the past year, have you participated in or led any formally organized climbing trips with the ACC or a university or outdoor group in Ontario?



Last year, have you taken a climbing instructional course indoors or outdoors?



### Other Activities

Last year, which other activities did you do?

	At all	On climbing trips or overnight trips in ON
Climbing only	27%	51%
Hiking/snowshoeing (beyond the approach)	63%	32%
Hunting/fishing	15%	6%
Mountain biking/Cycling	31%	9%
Canoeing/kayaking/SUP	51%	21%
Skiing(cross-country or downhill)/Snowboarding	48%	9%
Snowmobiling	2%	0%
Shopping	0%	9%
Other: caving	0%	1%
Other: running	2%	1%
Other: swimming	1%	4%
Other: Sailing/Scuba/Watersport	2%	1%
Other	5%	1%