

GUELPH & WELLINGTON's

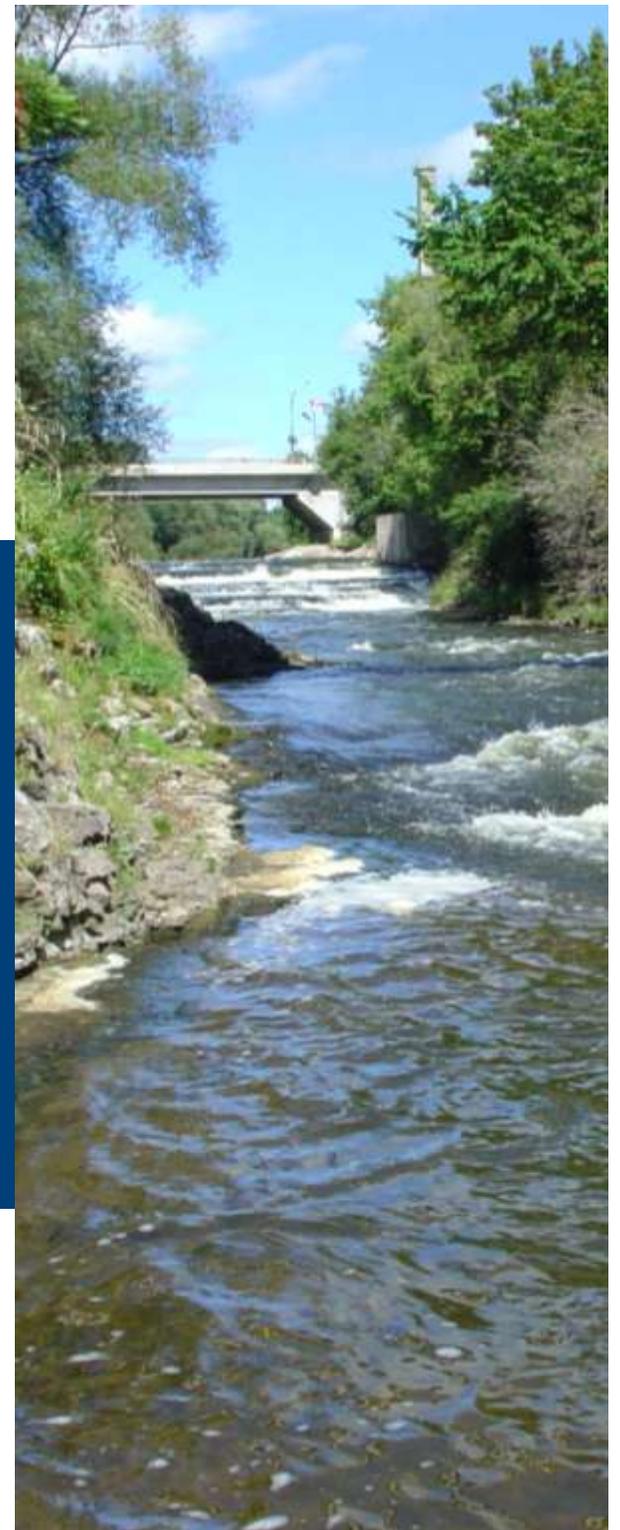
# VitalSigns® 2009

TAKING THE PULSE OF OUR COMMUNITY

**X** Eleven key issues

**X** Hundreds of citizen graders

**X** One snapshot of our community



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## Methodology

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by Community Foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. The Vital Signs trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.

Vital Signs builds on partnerships with a broad range of community members and organizations who contribute to the development and grading of the report.

## Community Engagement

### Goals

- To support donor requests for information on the needs of our community,
- To have our grant making be more effective and proactive, and
- To strengthen our understanding and ties to the community.

### Advisory Committee

11 community leaders provided high level advice and recommendations to ensure that Guelph & Wellington's Vital Signs report is an effective vehicle for highlighting the trends and priorities that are emerging in the community.

### Citizen Graders

Hundreds of community members participated in an anonymous on-line grading exercise, where they assigned a letter grade to each of the indicator statements and 11 key issue areas. The resulting grades, while not statistically significant, are intended to highlight what citizens perceive to be our strengths and weaknesses.

### Index of Grading

- A. I am very pleased. Guelph & Wellington is leading the way.**  
**B. I am satisfied with this situation.**  
**C. This situation is mediocre.**  
**D. I am concerned. This situation needs attention.**  
**F. This situation is unacceptable.**

The grades in this report reflect the median scores. Median is the middle point – 50% of the respondents to each question chose an answer above or below it.

## Research

### Research Partners

Information included in the report was gathered in cooperation with research experts at a variety of organizations, both local and national, that are researching and collecting data on quality of life issues.

Community Foundations of Canada retained the Centre for the Study of Living Standards to undertake national research and provide additional expertise.

### Indicator Selection

As part of a national initiative, all Community Foundations across Canada publishing Vital Signs reports agree to publish 10 common indicators for cross-country comparison.

The remaining indicators were identified at community consultation sessions held in 2008, and were prioritized based on the following guidelines:

#### Indicator Characteristics:

- Measures outcomes versus inputs
- Has implications on quality of life
- Has relevance to the whole population

#### Overall Indicator Set:

- Reveals both strengths and weaknesses of Guelph and Wellington
- Tells a story - reflects a balance of focus on people, the economy and the environment

#### Data Specifications:

- Reliability of source
- Geographic availability for the City of Guelph, Wellington County and provincial comparators
- Currency of information and frequency of collection for future use
- Ease and cost of collection

### References

An expanded version of this report that includes endnotes with definitions and links to source information is available at [www.guelphpcf.ca](http://www.guelphpcf.ca).



# 2009 Report Highlights

## Learning

Guelph and Wellington has one of the highest Composite Learning Index scores in the country, and youth literacy test results and aboriginal education attainment are above the provincial average. The challenge is that half of the population does not have any post secondary qualifications.

## Safety

Guelph and Wellington enjoys low violent crime rates, and Guelph is considered to be the safest city in Canada.

## Health & Wellness

Guelph and Wellington residents are more physically active than the provincial average. The problem is that this rate is falling. On the other hand, the obesity rate, which experienced a dramatic increase in 2007, has returned to the provincial average.

## Arts & Culture

The encouraging news is that Guelph and Wellington possesses a vibrant arts scene. The discouraging news is that individuals who hold professional occupations in arts and culture earn less than their provincial counterparts.

## Gap Between Rich & Poor

Given the current economic climate, many residents of Guelph and Wellington are suddenly finding themselves at the bottom of the income scale, relying on Social Assistance and Employment Insurance to cover their basic needs.

## Getting Started

The cultural diversity of Guelph and Wellington is changing, albeit at a slower pace than the provincial average. Newcomers are accessing a variety of language and settlement services offered by local community agencies.

## Work

Given the high concentration of manufacturing in Guelph and Wellington, the economic downturn is negatively affecting the community's labour force. This impact is evident in the current employment and unemployment rates.

## Housing

The lack of affordable housing options continues to present major challenges for our community. Without spending more than 30% of gross income, 40% of renters cannot afford the monthly rent for an apartment in Guelph. Discouraged by the long waiting lists, many potential applicants do not bother applying for social housing.

## Environment

Conservation measures are continuing to improve – the majority of households recycle, the waste diversion rate has gone up, and residential water use is better than the provincial average.

## Belonging & Leadership

Guelph and Wellington residents' sense of community belonging and charitable donation patterns are currently on par with the provincial average. However, recent figures show these trends are on the decline.

## Getting Around

Transportation systems are important for the environment and for the economic and social life of our community. The indicators in this area – accessible transportation, cycling lanes, and number of vehicles on the road - give positive signals on the state of transportation in Guelph and Wellington.



# A Canadian Initiative with a Guelph & Wellington Focus

Welcome to the Guelph Community Foundation's 2009 Vital Signs, a regular check up on our community. Vital Signs provides a compilation of existing research in eleven areas critical to Guelph and Wellington's quality of life. Hundreds of community members have graded these findings to provide a snapshot of their view on our city and county's wellness and live-ability.

By taking the pulse of our community, we highlight both areas of concern and areas of celebration. Whether you agree or disagree with some of the perceptions of the graders, we hope you can use Vital Signs to start a conversation, ask questions, and learn more about our community.

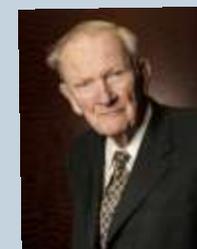
As one of 16 communities publishing Vital Signs, the Guelph Community Foundation's report informs us in our grant making, highlights issues and opportunities for donors, and serves as a guidepost for a variety of community conversations and plans. And as part of a national initiative, we commit to publish 10 common indicators for cross country comparisons.

Our sincere thanks to the many people and organizations who gave their time to this project by participating in discussions, sharing information, acting as community graders or offering advice on key issues. The collective goodwill of these individuals is the foundation of this report. A special thank you is extended to the project advisory committee and the Board of Directors for their leadership and insight.

Read and share the report. Let us know what you think and give us feedback on how you will use this year's report by sending a message to [guelphcf@bellnet.ca](mailto:guelphcf@bellnet.ca). We look forward to hearing from you.

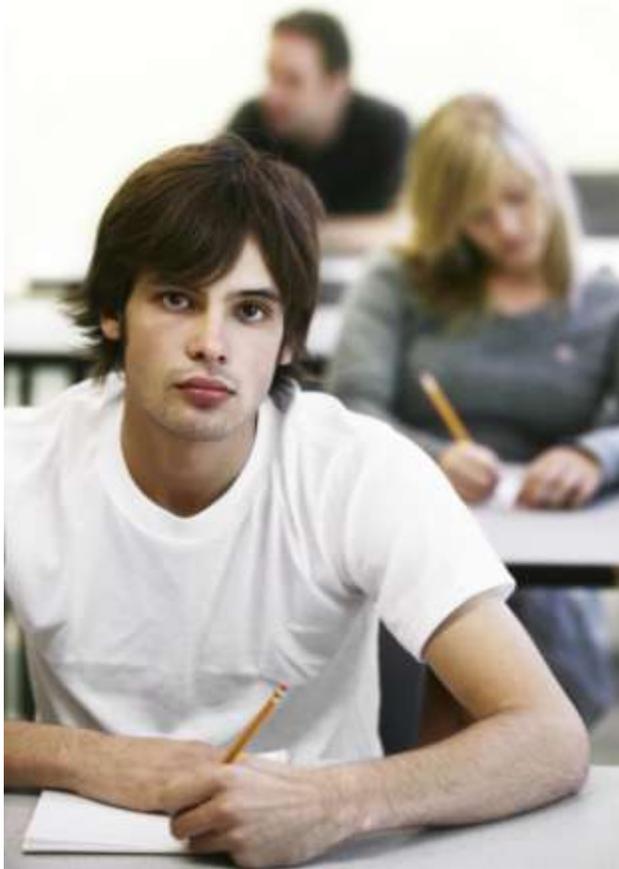


*Andrea Olson, Executive Director*



*Hugh Guthrie, Chair*

# Learning



**According to the Canadian Council on Learning, Guelph is the 4th smartest community in Canada.**

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

## Aboriginal High School Completion

The importance of Aboriginal learning to community well-being is important as First Nations, Inuit and Métis people continue to experience poorer health and higher rates of unemployment, incarceration, and youth suicide than non-Aboriginal people.

In 2006, 67.4% of the aboriginal population (15 years and over) living in Guelph and Wellington had completed high school. This figure is 9.2 percentage points less than the high school completion rate for the total population. In Ontario, the aboriginal high school completion rate is 62.4%; 15.4 percentage points less than the total population.

## Youth Literacy

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

In April 2009, 86% of fully participating students in the Upper Grand District School Board who wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test were successful. The success rate for the Wellington Catholic District School Board is 91%. In comparison, the provincial rate is 85%. Since 2008, the achievement results has remained constant for the public board, and increased 1% for the Catholic board.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | C          |

## Composite Learning

The Composite Learning Index (CLI) is a national indicator that measures Canada's progress in lifelong learning. It is based on a combination of statistics that assess the state of learning in schools, homes, workplaces and other places in our communities. A high CLI score means the community has learning conditions that support social and economic success.

In 2009, the CLI for Guelph is 85. In comparison, the provincial average is 78. Since 2008, Guelph's CLI has dropped 2.3%.

## Educational Attainment (15 years and over), 2006

| Highest Level of Schooling                                 | Wellington County | City of Guelph | Ontario |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------|
| No certificate or diploma or degree                        | 27.5%             | 20.4%          | 22.2%   |
| High school certificate or diploma                         | 28.5%             | 27.5%          | 26.8%   |
| Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma            | 9.5%              | 7.2%           | 8.0%    |
| College or other non-university certificate or diploma     | 18.0%             | 17.1%          | 18.4%   |
| University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level | 3.3%              | 3.5%           | 4.1%    |
| University certificate, diploma or degree                  | 13.2%             | 24.3%          | 20.5%   |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

## Building Vital Communities ...

Encouraging lifelong learning and skills training is central to the work of community foundations. Through 15 scholarship funds, the Guelph Community Foundation is able to help with the financial challenges of education. In 2009 alone, The Foundation granted over \$20,000 to students pursuing post-secondary education.

Many factors beyond academics are taken into consideration. For instance, the Angelo & Rina Longo Fund and Ray Scapinello Foundation Fund provide awards to youth that require financial support for post secondary education, work place training, apprenticeship or college programs.

# Getting Started

**2.4% of Guelph and Wellington's population are recent immigrants.**



| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Settlement Services

Immigrant Services Guelph-Wellington (formerly known as the Guelph & District Multicultural Centre) is the agency responsible for the delivery of Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP) in Guelph and Wellington. This program helps newcomers to integrate and settle in the community.

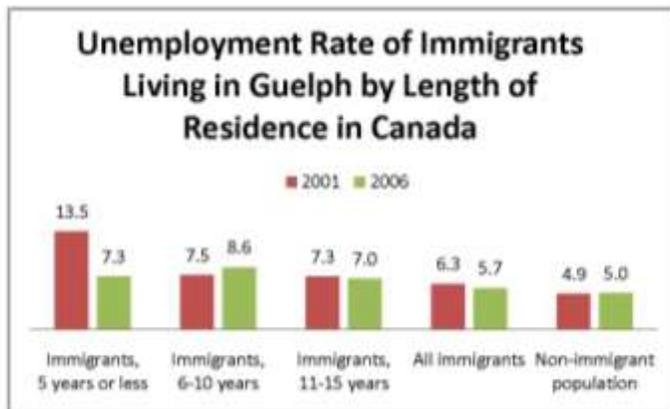
Between April 2008 and March 2009, 477 new clients registered in ISAP in Guelph and Wellington – up 14.7% over the previous year.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Language Instruction for Newcomers

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) assists newcomers (17 years and over) to acquire the necessary language skills to integrate into Canadian society. Assessments for placement in LINC classes are provided by Immigrant Services Guelph-Wellington. Language classes are offered by Naylor-McLeod Group and St. George's Centre for Adult ESL.

Between April 2008 and March 2009, 371 assessments for LINC classes in Guelph and Wellington were completed – up 24.9% over the previous year.



## Building Vital Communities ...

Immigrating and becoming a new Canadian is a huge change and many women feel isolated as they begin a new life in a completely different culture. The Guelph Community Health Centre's 'Helping Hands for Arts and Culture' program supports women from different backgrounds by providing opportunities to meet others in a safe space where, through sewing, cooking and group discussion they share their skills and experiences as immigrants.

With the help of many interpreters, they talk about issues that affect them, their families and communities. The women develop strong relationships and create a vital support system for themselves and their families. They become more aware of their rights and responsibilities and have access to important community information. The program also allows the Guelph Community Health Centre to collaborate further with English as a Second Language programs. Everyone should have a successful start in life as a child, an adult, or a newcomer to Guelph and Wellington. This program has created an everlasting impact for these women in our community.



# Environment

**Residents of Guelph and Wellington are highly engaged in supporting conservation efforts like recycling and composting.**

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | A          |

## Household Recycling Rate

In 2007, 95% of the households in the Guelph area indicated on a national survey that they have access to a recycling program. All of those households (100%) reported participating in the recycling program. In comparison, 96% of Ontario households have access to a recycling program, and 99% of them recycle.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Waste Diversion

The Diversion Rate refers to the percentage of waste materials diverted from traditional disposal such as landfills to be recycled, composted, or re-used. In 2007, 43.8% of residential waste was diverted in the City of Guelph. In the County of Wellington, the diversion rate is 42.1%. In comparison, the provincial average is 39.2%. Since 2006, the residential diversion rate has increased 11.7% in Guelph and 3.4% in Wellington.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Residential Water Use

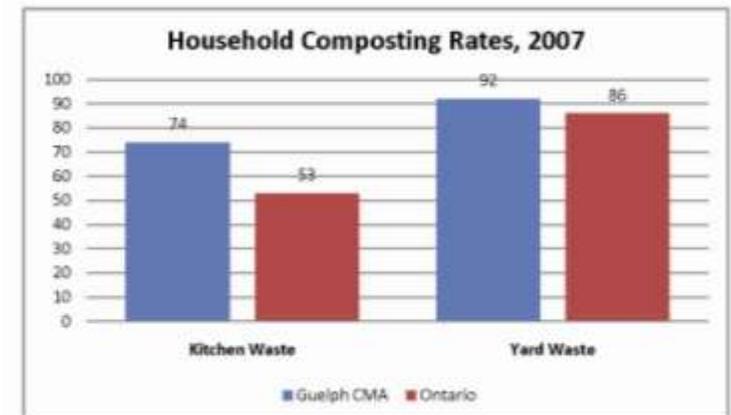
In 2007, the per capita consumption of water in the City of Guelph was 230 litres/person/day in single family residences and 153 litres/person/day in multi-family residences. In comparison, the provincial average was 278 litres/person/day in single family residences and 186 litres/person/day in multi-family residences.

## Building Vital Communities ...

Today's engaged students are tomorrow's empowered stewards, better equipped to live in a sustainable way. Scientists in School is an organization that places young people in direct contact with our natural world. By seeing and touching bugs, handling rocks and soil, or creating experiments with energy, scientific curiosity is ignited in the classroom.

Although many Scientists in School sessions are offered in our community every year, funding from the Guelph Community Foundation supported 10 environmental workshops for children from kindergarten to grade eight in Guelph and Wellington County.

Stimulating interest and enthusiasm in children, as well as building a relationship with our natural environment, benefits our community and makes a more environmentally conscious society.



Source: Statistics Canada, Households and the Environment Survey, 2007

# Health & Wellness

**1 in 6 residents are considered to be obese, however obesity rates are declining.**

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | D          |

## Low Birth Weight

Low birth weight is a term used to describe babies who are born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces). A baby with a low birth weight is often at increased risk for complications.

In 2007-08, 5.9% of babies born in the Waterloo-Wellington health region weighed less than 2,500 grams. In comparison, 6.4% of the babies born in Ontario were of low birth weight. Since 2006-07, the number of babies with low birth weight has increased 9.3% in Waterloo-Wellington.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Obesity

In 2008, 17.1% of the adults living in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph health region were considered obese. The provincial average is also 17.1%. Since 2007, the obesity rate has decreased by 16.5% in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

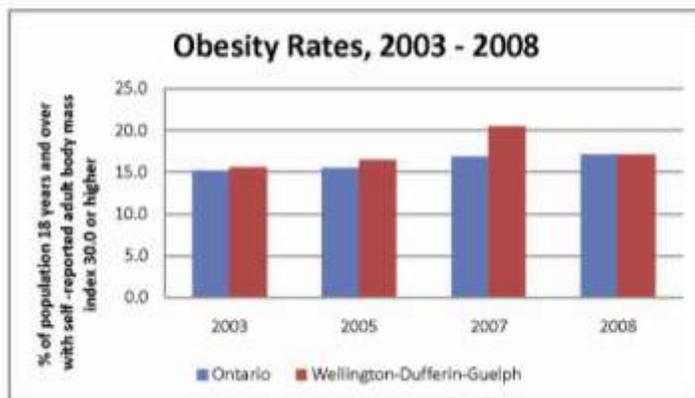
| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

## Physical Activity

In 2008, 58.9% of individuals (12 years and over) living in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph health region were considered moderately active or physically active. In comparison, the provincial average is 49.5%. Since 2007, the physical activity rate has gone down 2.0% in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.



Photo: Krystal and baby Dalihla participate in the Young Parents Program



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008

## Building Vital Communities ...

Twelve parents (ages 15-24) and ten children (ages 6 & under) gather in Fergus for the Young Parents Resource Night offered by the Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington. This weekly program provides young moms and dads with opportunities to develop skills in parenting, health and safety, nutrition, relationships, positive lifestyle choices, and community resource support.

The program consists of three components: a nutritious meal for each family, a young mother's group, and a young father's group. The children are cared for by early childhood educators that are experts in modelling positive adult/child interaction skills for teen parents and their children.

Young parents are most likely to experience the greatest number of challenges and barriers to accessing traditional parenting resources. With few programs geared to the unique needs of young parents in North and Centre Wellington, this program is the only one that supports young fathers and helps them with the many issues they face. Given the success of the pilot project, the Community Resource Centre will continue to offer the Young Parents Program.



# Housing

**On any given day, 80-85 emergency shelter beds are in use in Guelph and Wellington.**

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| D      | D          |

## At Risk of Homelessness

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, homeowners and renters who spend more than 30% of their before-tax income are considered to be at risk of becoming homeless.

In 2005, 12% of homeowners and 40% of renters living in the Guelph and Wellington were paying more than 30% or more of their income on housing. In comparison, 21% of homeowners and 45% of renters in Ontario pay more than 30% of income on housing costs. Since 2000, there has been a 35% increase in the number of homeowners and an 8% increase in the number of renters who are at risk of homelessness in Guelph and Wellington.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

## Housing Starts

Housing Starts refer to the number of residential housing construction projects begun in a particular time period.

Between January and June of 2009, there were 183 housing starts in the Guelph area. Since the first half of 2008, housing starts are down 42.6% in Ontario. In comparison, housing starts are down 66.8% in the Guelph area.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

## Waiting List for Social Housing

The waiting list for social housing is one measure for the need of affordable housing. As of December 31, 2008, there were 1,280 households on the waiting list for social housing in Guelph and Wellington. Between December 2007 and December 2008, the waiting list increased 4.2% in Ontario. In comparison, the waiting list decreased 6.5% in Guelph and Wellington.

## Building Vital Communities ...

Wyndham House provides safe, stable cooperative living environments for youth ages 16-21 who would otherwise be homeless. Through educational programs and life skills training, their goal is to help residents be self-respecting, contributing, and responsible members of society. Their clients have typically had few opportunities to become positively involved in their community - the largest barriers being a lack of financial resources and stable housing.

Research shows that youth involved in extra-curricular recreational programs have greater academic success and are less likely to become involved in drugs, alcohol, or criminal behavior. The 'Community Involvement Program' at Wyndham House assists residents with costs associated with team sports and sports equipment, school activity fees and trips, 'Y' memberships, music and dance lessons, or arts and craft supplies. The young people at Wyndham House face more than their share of adversity. This program provides them with the opportunity to participate in the community from which they have often felt isolated. It increases their self esteem, makes them feel better about their future, develops leadership skills and leads to healthier lifestyles.



### Did You Know?

A recent survey of 79 Ontario municipalities showed that, compared to cities in the area offering the same services per capita, people living in Guelph pay lower property taxes than the average.

# Arts & Culture

Established in 1883, the Guelph Public Library is the oldest public library in the province of Ontario.

## Earnings for Professional Occupations in Arts & Culture

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

In 2005, the median earnings for individuals holding professional occupations in the arts and culture sector were \$42,513 in the Guelph area. In comparison, the median earnings in Ontario were \$46,717. Since 2000, the median earnings for arts and culture professionals have decreased 11.0% in the Guelph area.

## Library Usage

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

In 2008, library users borrowed 1,736,233 items from the Guelph Public Library. The Wellington County Library circulated a total of 900,564 items. This equates to 38.8 items per Guelph household (15.1 per person) and 30.0 items per Wellington household (11.1 per person). Since, 2007 the number of items borrowed has increased 7.4% in Guelph and 6.8% in Wellington.

## Heritage Sites

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

Heritage Guelph maintains an inventory containing approximately 4,000 structures of cultural heritage interest. As of July 2009, 87 properties (2.2%) have been designated as heritage sites - 86 under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and one under *The Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act*. Between 2005 and 2008, there was an average of 2.3 designations a year.



## Building Vital Communities ...

"It's like trying to put a square peg in a round hole", explained a frustrated mother of a beautiful young daughter with autism, "Our kids just don't fit".

'KidZCreate', a Spark of Brilliance initiative, provides unique programming for children and youth with special needs. The program encourages and builds upon each child's imagination and innate love of play. In what is presented as 'play' for the children, new skills are taught and socialization is developed. Children are empowered and discover true joy and a sense of accomplishment through creative experiences.

Being introduced to and interacting with dogs, pretending to be clowns, working a ball of clay into a mask, or learning about fairies and pixies in the 'enchanted forest', are the stages for creative discovery and self-expression of 'KidZCreate', which launched earlier this year.

Photo left: Children at 'KidZCreate' program.





# Gap Between Rich & Poor

**The weekly cost of a Food Basket to feed a family of four in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph health region is \$167.02.**

## Income Distribution

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| D      | C          |

In 2006, the average (pre-tax) income of the richest 10% of census families living in the Guelph area was \$161,000, while the average income for the poorest 10% was \$26,100. This means that the richest 10% earned 6.2 times the income of the poorest 10%. Since 2001, the difference between the richest and poorest incomes has grown by 3.1%.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| D      | D          |

## Social Assistance

Ontario Works provides financial and employment assistance to people who are in temporary financial need. The amount of money individuals receive depends on their family size, income, assets and housing costs.

As of April 2009, there are 1,687 Ontario Works cases in Guelph and Wellington. Between April 2008 and April 2009, the caseload increased 12.8% in Ontario. In comparison, it increased 34.1% in Guelph and Wellington.

## Employment Insurance

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| D      | D          |

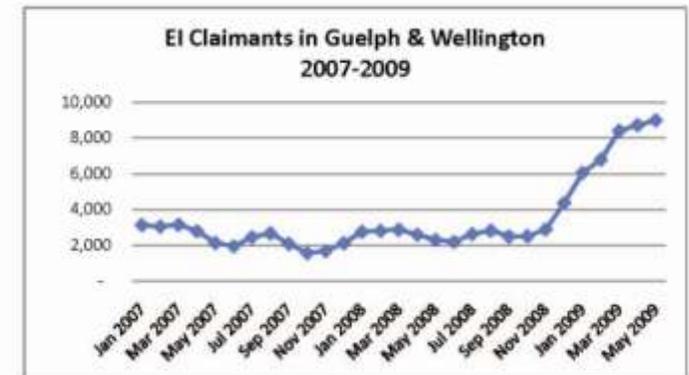
Employment Insurance (EI) provides temporary financial help to unemployed Canadians while they look for work or upgrade their skills. It is also available for individuals while they are sick, pregnant or caring for a newborn or adopted child, or caring for a family member who is seriously ill with a significant risk of death. The basic benefit is presently 55% of averaged insured earnings, up to a maximum of \$42,300 per year (\$447 per week). EI is a taxable income, meaning federal and provincial taxes are deducted. Regular EI benefits last up to 45 weeks.

As of April 2009, 8,719 people in Guelph and Wellington were receiving regular EI benefits (3,250 in the Guelph area). Between April 2008 and April 2009, the number of EI beneficiaries increased 78.6% in Ontario. In comparison, it increased 236.5% in Guelph and Wellington (160.0% in the Guelph area).

## Building Vital Communities ...

Evergreen Action Nutrition is a nutrition education program offered to seniors at the Evergreen Seniors Centre. Half of adults aged 55+ continue to be 'at risk' nutritionally. Along with early detection and treatment of disease, adopting healthier diets and more active lifestyles can help to delay the progression of disease and decline in physical health.

In the program, seniors learn about food and nutrition geared to the needs of older adults. A men's cooking group meets monthly for hands-on cooking to increase confidence with food preparation and learn more about planning healthy meals. Plus the men like to have lunch with one another. One-on-one nutritional counselling is available with a Registered Dietitian to address health concerns, physical conditions/diseases and recommended changes in the diet. A Diabetes Support Group meets to share information, recipes, and gain new skills on living with diabetes.



Source: Service Canada, Labour Market and Social Development Programs Branch, 2009

# Safety

## Violent Crime

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

Violent Crimes involve force or threat of force. These include homicide, attempted murder, various forms of sexual and non-sexual assault, robbery and abduction.

In 2008, the violent crime rate in the City of Guelph was 607 occurrences per 100,000 people. The rate for the County of Wellington was 373 occurrences per 100,000 people. In comparison, the provincial average was 732. Since 2007, violent crime offences have increased 3.2% in Guelph and 9.7% in Wellington.

## Crime Severity

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

The Crime Severity Index is a new tool for measuring police-reported crime in Canada that, for the first time, tracks changes in the severity of crime, not just volume. It tells us not only how much crime is coming to the attention of police, but also the seriousness of that crime relative to other offences. The Index is standardized to 100. More serious crimes carry higher weights, implying that safe communities have lower index scores.

In 2008, the Crime Severity index for the Guelph area was 57.7. In comparison, it was 70.6 for Ontario. Since 2007, the severity rate has dropped 2.5% in Guelph.

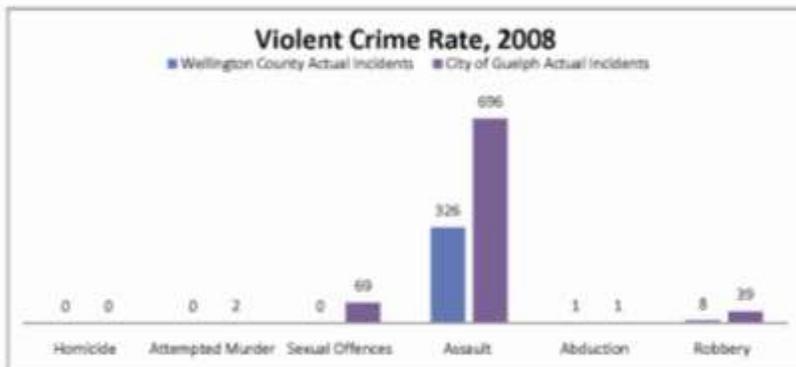
**Guelph has the lowest Crime Severity Index in Canada, meaning it is the safest city in the country.**

## Hate-Motivated Crime

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

Hate crimes refer to criminal offences that are motivated by hate towards an identifiable group. The incident may target race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or any other similar factor, such as profession or political beliefs. These types of offences are unique in that they not only affect those who may be specifically targeted by the perpetrator, but they often indirectly impact entire communities.

In 2008, there were 7 incidents of hate crimes in the City of Guelph and 1 incident in the County of Wellington. In 2007, there were 3 hate-motivated incidents in Guelph and none in Wellington.



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2009

## Building Vital Communities ...

Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis (WIC) works to end violence against women and children by providing services to women who have experienced emotional, physical, sexual and/or financial abuse. In 2008, there were 4,650 domestic abuse calls to the Crisis Line operated by WIC.

'Sharing our Experiences' is a unique program offered by WIC that supports foreign-born women. Most of the participants are new to Canada and face the added challenges of learning a new language and integrating into a new culture. In a safe and welcoming environment, and with the assistance of interpreters, the women share their issues and concerns, and learn about their legal rights in Canada. Participants gain self-esteem, improve their language skills, and learn how to access the services offered in the community - all while going through life changing events such as integrating into a new society, going through the culture shock process and understanding how to parent in a different culture.



# Getting Around

**The total number of commuters travelling to workplaces in the Guelph area is greater than the number travelling to workplaces outside of it.**

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Accessible Transportation

About 4.4 million Canadians have disabilities — 14.3% of the population. Locally that represents over 16,400 people in the City of Guelph and about 11,600 people in the County of Wellington.

In 2008, the City of Guelph's Mobility Service provided accessible transportation services to 1,410 passengers. Since 2007, the number of mobility passengers has increased 2.2%.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Cycling Lanes

The Bicycle-Friendly Guelph Initiative is working to make cycling safer and more convenient, and hopes to triple the number of daily bike trips in Guelph by 2018.

As of July 2009, there are 63.9 km of bike lanes in the City of Guelph. Since 2008, 8.1 km of lanes have been added — an increase of 14.5%.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Vehicles on the Road

In 2006, there were 74,793 registered vehicles on the road in the City of Guelph. This equates to 1.7 vehicles per household. The provincial average is comparable.

## Building Vital Communities ...

The transition from high school to adulthood can be tough for any teen, but represents an even greater challenge for youth with physical disabilities. Guelph Independent Living's 'Youth Transition Program' is available for students age 14-21 who have medical or communication challenges as well as physical disabilities. Participants learn about employment, shopping, cooking, recreation and leisure, transportation, directing their own care, and client rights. Skills are taught to help them make choices, set goals and develop plans for their future while they make new friends and increase their self-esteem.

*"After attending, my son is attempting to problem solve and express his opinion, he seems more confident and is looking ahead to the future with the skills he has learned".*

~ Parent of youth from program~

## Top 5 Commuting Patterns

| Where Guelph Residents Work |                  | Where Commuters to Guelph Live |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Top 5 Places of Work        | Number of People | Top 5 Places of Residence      | Number of People |
| Cambridge                   | 1,920            | Kitchener                      | 4,745            |
| Mississauga                 | 1,820            | Cambridge                      | 3,295            |
| Kitchener                   | 1,650            | Centre Wellington              | 2,855            |
| Toronto                     | 1,305            | Waterloo                       | 1,260            |
| Waterloo                    | 985              | Hamilton                       | 1,105            |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

# Belonging & Leadership

There are over 650 registered charities operating in Guelph and Wellington.



| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

## Charitable Giving

In 2007, 29.3% of residents living in Guelph and Wellington reported making charitable donations on their tax return (28.6% of Guelph tax filers). In comparison, 25.7% of Ontario tax filers reported charitable gifts. Since 2001, the proportion of tax filers making charitable donations has gone down 6.7% in Guelph and Wellington (-7.6% in Guelph).

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

## Sense of Community Belonging

In 2008, 67.9% of individuals (12 years and over) living in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph health region reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. In comparison, the provincial average is 67.3%. Since 2007, residents' sense of community belonging has decreased by 2.9% in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| B      | B          |

## Median Donations

In 2007, the median amount of total charitable gifts that residents living in Guelph and Wellington reported on their tax return was \$320 (\$290 for Guelph tax filers). In comparison, the median donation in Ontario was \$310. Since 2006, median donations have increased 3.2% in Guelph and Wellington (+3.6% in Guelph).

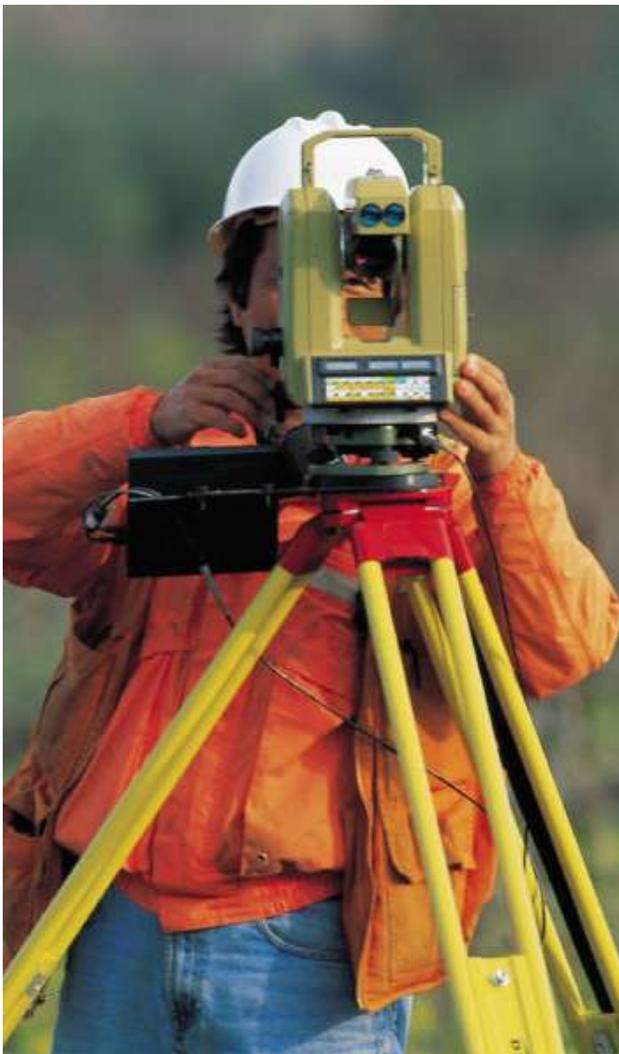
## Building Vital Communities ...

67% of Guelph residents volunteer - that's the highest rate in Canada! Whether it's coaching a child's baseball team or sorting food at the food bank, volunteerism strengthens our community.

The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington's 'Time to Give Challenge' encourages employer supported volunteering. Employees can volunteer during company time or on their own time and the Volunteer Centre supports the company during the implementation process.

The Meridian Credit Union has taken the 'Time to Give Challenge'. Their employees are encouraged to spend at least one of their 'wellness' days volunteering - and most staff agree. At the Fergus branch, employees dedicate their lunch hour to delivering Meals on Wheels a couple of days a week and visiting patients at the Groves Memorial Hospital. Meridian staff reported that they are more engaged with their employer, feel better about themselves, and are happier in their jobs as a result of employer supported volunteerism.





# Work

**Guelph and Wellington has a high concentration of workers in the manufacturing sector - second only to Waterloo Region in Canada.**

## Employment Rate

The employment rate refers to the percentage of working-age people (age 15+) who have jobs (full-time or part-time). In June 2009, the employment rate in the Guelph and Wellington's economic region was 64.2%. In comparison, it was 61.4% in Ontario. Since June 2008, the employment rate has gone down 3.6% in Guelph and Wellington.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

## Youth Unemployment

In 2008, the unemployment rate for youth (15 to 24 years) in Guelph and Wellington's economic region was 11.8%. In Ontario, the youth unemployment rate was 13.8%. These figures are double the unemployment rate for the overall labour force. Since 2007, the youth unemployment rate has gone down 2.5% in Guelph and Wellington.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| C      | C          |

## Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate refers to the percentage of the labour force that actively seeks work but is unable to find work at a given time. Discouraged workers - persons who are not seeking work because they believe the prospects of finding it are extremely poor - are not counted as unemployed or as part of the labour force.

| Guelph | Wellington |
|--------|------------|
| D      | D          |

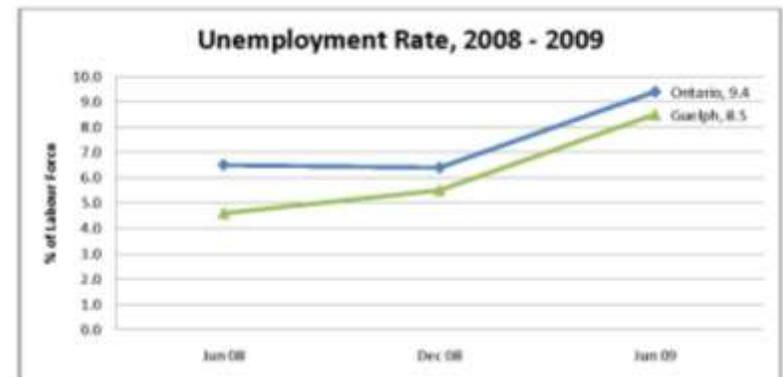
The number of persons unemployed is not the same thing as the number of people receiving Employment Insurance benefits, since not all unemployed people are eligible for those benefits and some people receive EI benefits for social benefits like maternity leave.

In June 2009, the unemployment rate in the Guelph area was 8.5%. In comparison, the provincial rate was 9.4%. Since June 2008, the unemployment rate has increased 84.8% in Guelph.

## Building Vital Communities ...

Blackberry, iPhone, Facebook, Twitter, Google, blogs - for many of us, these words are commonplace. For others, they represent the widening gap between those with and those without basic computer literacy and access to technology.

Anishnabeg Outreach, an organization that supports Aboriginal individuals in our community with their search for employment, training and educational opportunities knows this too well. That's why recent funding was used to replace one older computer with three new ones, and to purchase two desks and a printer. Clients now have unhindered access to a computer for job searches and are able to print their own resumes. Many of the clients are also developing computer literacy skills to enhance employment and education opportunities.



Source: Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin, Statistics Canada special request (Guelph CA) and Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Ontario), 2009

# Acknowledgements

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## 2009 Vital Signs Communities

Boundary Communities, BC  
Calgary, AB  
Central Okanagan, BC  
Greater Saint John, NB  
Greater Sudbury, ON  
Guelph & Wellington, ON  
Kingston & Area, ON  
Medicine Hat, AB  
Oakville, ON  
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## WHAT DOES THE GUELPH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DO?

### DONOR ENGAGEMENT

We work with donors and help them plan and realize their philanthropic goals, matching their interests and concerns with community needs and organizations. We help them find innovative and responsible ways to give their investments lasting impact. We build endowments and create legacies.

### GRANTING

We grant funds to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives. Whether it's sending hundreds of kids to camp, planting trees, awarding our youth for academic achievement, or supporting a program for young parents, the Guelph Community Foundation is here to help good people do great things in our community.

### LEADERSHIP

We bring people together from all parts of our community to stimulate new ideas, build participation, and strengthen community philanthropy. We identify long-term needs and opportunities.

**IN ALL WE DO AND ALL WE SAY, WE'RE ALL FOR COMMUNITY!**



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✓ This year our full report is a paperless publication as part of our sustainability efforts.

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