

GOLDEN & AREA A'S

VitalSigns[®]

2014

Thirteen key issues

Hundreds of citizen graders

One snapshot of our community

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Our Communities

Golden & Area A includes:

Golden	Field	Harrogate
Habart	Donald	Castledale
Nicholson	Blaeberry	Kicking Horse
Parson	Moberly	



A Canadian Initiative with a Community Focus

GOLDEN & AREA A'S

VitalSigns®

The Vital Signs® Report provides a snapshot of Golden & Area A that continues to “tell it like it is” – highlighting areas of concern and reasons for celebration. Vital Signs® 2014 is the 2nd Report (the 1st was published in 2011) of a long-term review initiative and one that this community intends to revisit every 3 years.

In 2011, over 300 citizen survey respondents became graders for Golden & Area A's Vital Signs®. The Report delivered a sobering wakeup call that our authentic adventure community includes challenges that threaten the quality of life for many local residents, businesses and organizations.

Three years later, 400 citizen graders confirm that the Economy and Work are still the community's top priorities. The issue area Getting Started & Staying has moved up to 3rd priority, suggesting that more should be done to help newcomers and long-time locals.

Golden & Area A's Vital Signs® 2014 reveals that after the economic crisis of 2009, the community is still trying to advance and flourish.

How will Kicking Horse Country perform in 2017?

Survey respondents in 2014 expect the community's performance to hold steady on 6 issue areas and improve on the remaining 7. This optimism is encouraging, and the opportunity will be in ensuring that all residents can participate and benefit from the community's success.

This Report was only possible with our volunteer Project Team members who donated their time, their skills and their expertise for the Golden & District Community Foundation. Volunteers are the backbone of our community.

Golden & Area A's Vital Signs® Project Team

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Research Network

We thank the many people and organizations for sharing resources and our many sponsors.

The Team would also like to recognize the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, the Centre for the Study of Living Standards for their contribution to the Report.

Vital Signs® is a community check-up that measures our quality of life in the Town of Golden (Golden) & Columbia Shuswap Regional District Electoral Area 'A' (Area A).

Community Engagement

Vital Sign® builds on partnerships with a broad range of community members who contributed their skills and expertise. In addition, many residents were actively engaged in the development and grading of this report.

Goals

- Highlight areas of need to encourage further dialogue and action from all community stakeholders;
- Encourage cross-sector thinking and collaborative solutions;
- Build community capacity by sharing information.

Community Leadership Group

Many representatives from key Golden & Area A organizations provided high level advice, data and recommendations to ensure that our Vital Signs® Report shows the trends and priorities that are emerging in our community.

Research

Research data used in this report was collected from a variety of sources including local government, non profit organizations, SPARC BC, Statistics Canada, BC Stats, and Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute.

Indicator Selection

Using 4 indicators per issue area, Vital Signs® monitors change, informs needed action and celebrates signs of community health. The report is designed to show the trends and priorities and to encourage ongoing discussion for improving our quality of life. For more info, refer to the issue area Deep Data documents on our website, www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca.

2011 Community Population

Town of Golden: 3,701
CSRD Area A: 3,065

2014 Report Highlights

The issue areas described in this report are placed in order of citizens' priorities.

Economy

Beginning to feel the recovery in the global economy, many local businesses are poised to capitalize on assets and potential. The most immediate challenge for many businesses is attracting & retaining staff to meet demand for products, services and experiences.

Work

The lack of occupational diversity and a livable wage leads to an increasing number of residents underemployed or looking for work in other locations, further straining local support services.

Getting Started & Staying

Golden & Area A's school enrolment fell 6.1% between 2011-13. This combined with the population decline indicates that the community needs to offer quality services, amenities and employment that are desired by families.

Health

We are a youthful community, with a relatively high birthrate, and yet our population continues to decline. The Golden & District Hospital provides day surgery services, which attracts patients and doctors to the community.

Housing

Golden continues to identify housing as an area of need, issuing several multi-unit building permits over the last 3 years, and must stay current in providing housing statistics to assist development enterprises.

Recreation & Leisure

Residents pride themselves on their expansive outdoor recreation opportunities. Challenges lie ahead in sustaining our many amenities and facilities, including the Mt. 7 Rec Plex and Municipal Pool.

Learning

Since 2011, Golden's aboriginal students have been making significant improvement in reading and provincial exams, but children entering kindergarten still have higher levels of vulnerability in at least one area of development compared to the rest of the province.

Environment

Our natural environment continues to be ecologically rich and waste management is improving. However, poor winter air quality in the valley bottom, habitat destruction and fragmentation, and watershed protection are issues that require continued effort.

Getting Around

Residents are very dependent on automobiles to get around due to the local geography and climate. Addressing these challenges will take leadership, collaboration and commitment.

Gap Between Rich & Poor

There are families in Golden who live on incomes below the provincial and federal averages, however the number of people living in poverty has decreased from year to year. However, vacation homeowners' incomes are not included in this gap.

Safety

Ambulance calls are down, Safe Homes numbers are up and new safety equipment increases emergency services and first aiders capacity to save lives.

Arts & Culture

Golden is alive with Arts & Culture, with diversified arts programming year round, various local culture groups and outside recognition of local talent & facilities.

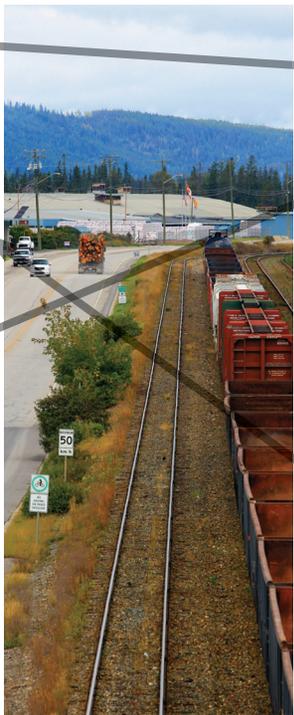
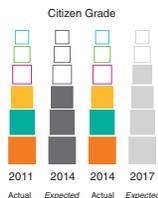
Belonging & Leadership

Residents continue to report a strong sense of community belonging. People that volunteer are often involved with more than one organization, strengthening the community for all.

Economy

Collectively, we must develop a comprehensive approach, utilizing local resources and capital, to enhance sustainable economic opportunities.

Our community has been successful in attracting migrants from within BC & Canada (85%), but lags with attracting migrants from beyond our borders (15%), which is critical to meeting future labour demand and increasing business investment.



36%

increase in hotel room revenues for 2013 over 2012, and 37% ahead of the first recorded year in 2008. Accommodators at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort became members of Tourism Golden in 2013.

\$4.27M

in Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) funding was received by the Town of Golden from 2007-2013. RMI funding provides \$500,000 per year for the implementation of strategic infrastructure projects.

541

Business Licenses were issued by the Town of Golden in 2013; up from 440 in 2011. Business Licenses are required in order to do business within the Town boundaries.

80

employees have been added to Louisiana-Pacific's operation between August 2013 and August 2014.

Celebrate Success

CP Rail invested in our community and built a Diesel Locomotive Engine Repair Shop.

The Chamber of Commerce implemented the "Keepin' it Local" public awareness campaign.

In June 2013, 18 local residents enrolled in Simon Fraser University's Community Economic Development course, integrating CED practices into their organizations.

Take Action

Rebuild the Economic Development function to coordinate priorities for a vibrant and robust socio-economic climate in Golden. This is too important to be delayed.

Join an industry association; use the community calendar; and promote open dialogue and collaboration between businesses.

Citizen Priority Seal

Indicates areas considered most important by survey respondents.



290 Ideas

When asked, "What one change or action will have the most significant positive impact on the quality of life for residents of Golden & Area A?" See pages 19 & 20 for more information and what citizens said and how the community can improve.

Research Findings

The statistics were collected with the assistance of Community Foundations of Canada, the Centre for the Study of Living Standards and many other partners and supporters.

Not all respondents completed every question. Survey grades are not intended to be statistically significant, but rather to give a sense of public opinion on the matter.

How to Use this Report

Issue Areas

This Report covers 13 Issue Areas that must be considered when assessing the overall health and vitality of a community.

Research Findings

The statistics were collected with the assistance of Community Foundations of Canada and the Centre for the Study of Living Standards. Reliable sources such as Statistics Canada were used with an emphasis on the most current and geographically specific data possible. The 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) did not provide certain data for Golden.

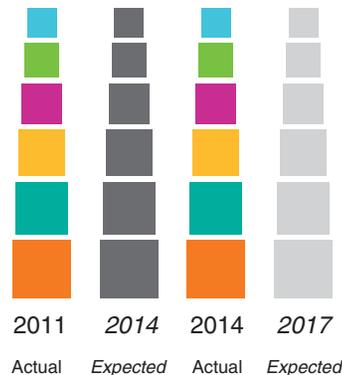
Public Opinion

Hundreds of comments were received from citizens throughout the region. This section provides a sample of those comments.

Survey Grade

Citizens were invited to complete a survey on the health of their community, measuring from 1 to 6 (on a Likert-type scale) to the 13 key issue areas on the following 6 point scale. The mode (occurred most often) of the citizen grade is illustrated in each issue area over time, including perceptions from summer 2011, with both forward-looking (in grey) and actual scores for 2014 (in colour); and expectations for 2017. In general progress is perceived.

Citizen Grade



6 = Awesome! Our community is the tops.

5 = We are doing well and headed in the right direction.

4 = Progress is being made.

3 = Of concern. Needs attention.

2 = In need of corrective action.

1 = Terrible. There is no positive action in the area.

Citizen Graders

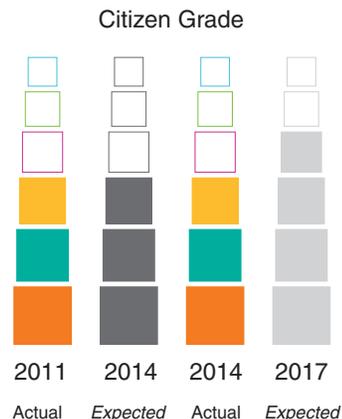
Four hundred residents completed our survey (over 5% of our population), assigning grades from 1 to 6 to the 13 key issue areas, based on their individual perceptions of past, current and expected future performance. Of the respondents:

- 47% lived in Golden & Area A for more than sixteen years
- 67% are female (up from 59% in VS 2011 survey)
- 24% are under the age of 35 (down from 32%)
- 94% are full-time local residents, and
- 290 provided additional comments (up from 246)

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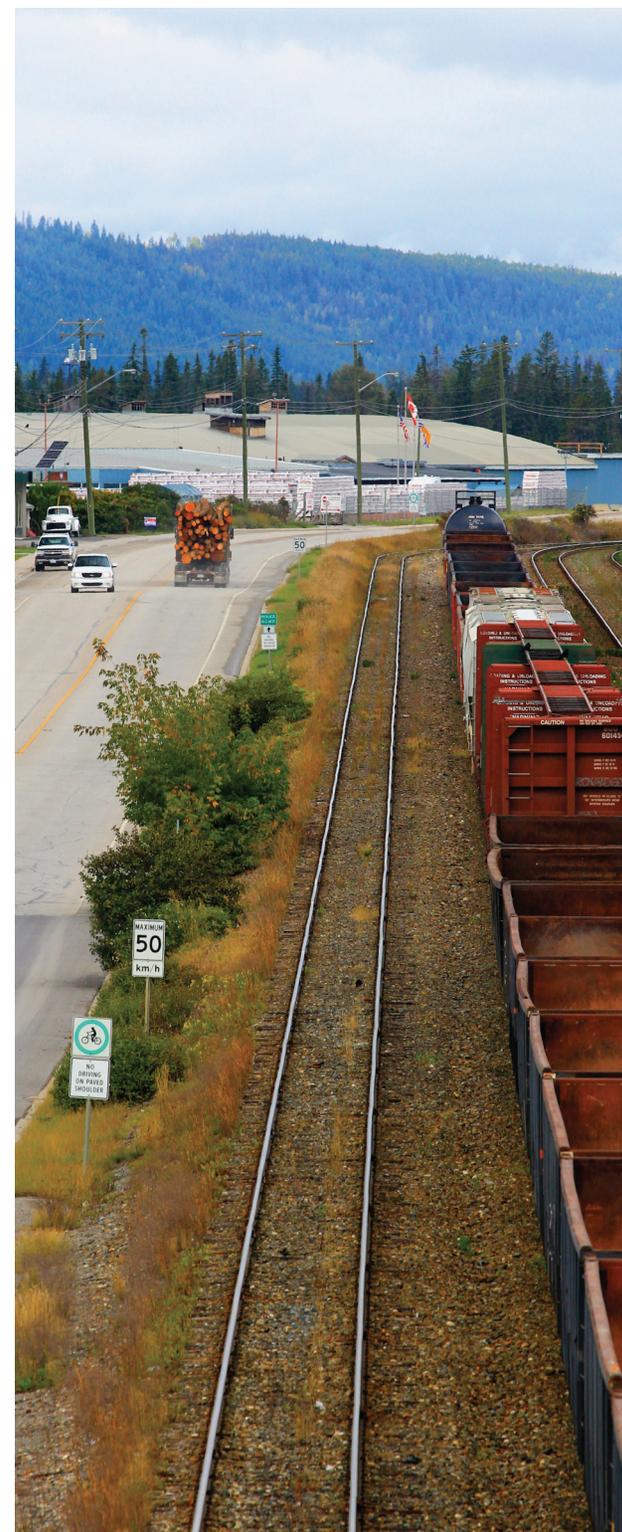
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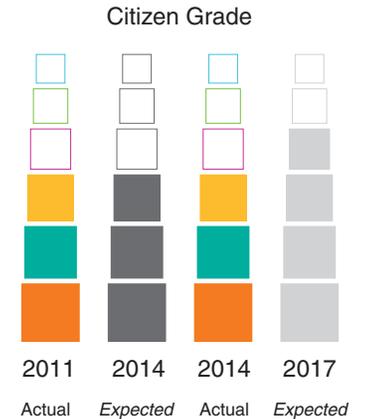




Work

The quality and nature of employment opportunities correlate to the economic prosperity and social fabric of our community.

Golden has a strong entrepreneurial spirit with an assortment of locally-owned businesses. Local employment opportunities, secure work and a livable wage are essential for healthy households and a resilient community.



5.2%

of the Kootenay region labour force was on Employment Insurance, compared to 6.6% across BC (2013). The Kootenay unemployment rate for youth (19-24) was 12.2%, compared to 10.5% in BC.

67%

of the jobs posted on EK Employment website for 2013 were in the service, hospitality, retail and tourism sector.

37%

of jobs in Golden & Area A are part-time, according to the Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) study; 52% are full-time and 11% are temporary positions. By 2016, 42% of businesses expect the number of full-time positions to increase.

31%

of tourism sector industry jobs undergo voluntary turnover in BC; compared to 8.6% in the other private sector industries. Part-time employees are twice as likely to quit their jobs.

Celebrate Success

The Columbia Basin Trust's Training Fee Support Program has helped over 400 local residents acquire new skills.

Resort Municipality status was renewed for a 5-year term (2012-16).

College of the Rockies aligns training with identified community employment needs: Care Aide Certificate, New Faller Program, Haul Truck Operator, Intro to Trades, Oil and Gas Certifications.

Take Action

Build an inviting workplace by creating a fun, flexible and fairly compensated environment for employees.

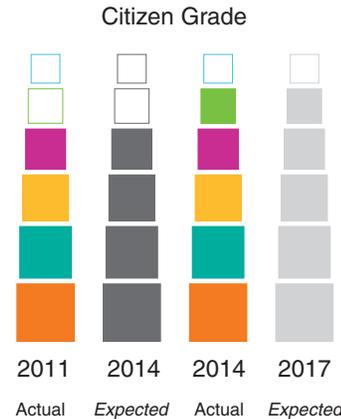
Take advantage of the shoulder season by adding new products such as weekend specials, festivals, events, and other activities.

Be a valuable employee and improve your skills and opportunities with training and courses through the College or other programs.

Getting Started & Staying

Golden & Area A needs to identify and offer opportunities for youth workers and amenities essential to seniors in order to stop the decline in population.

School enrolment, children at risk, changing demographics, migration, immigrant in-flow for quality of life, youth and seniors leaving our community for new opportunities and amenities are all indicators of our ability to maintain a vibrant and welcoming community.



23rd

out of 77 BC Communities on the Composite Index of Children at Risk, 11 points below Revelstoke. We look after children who are at risk.

12.5%

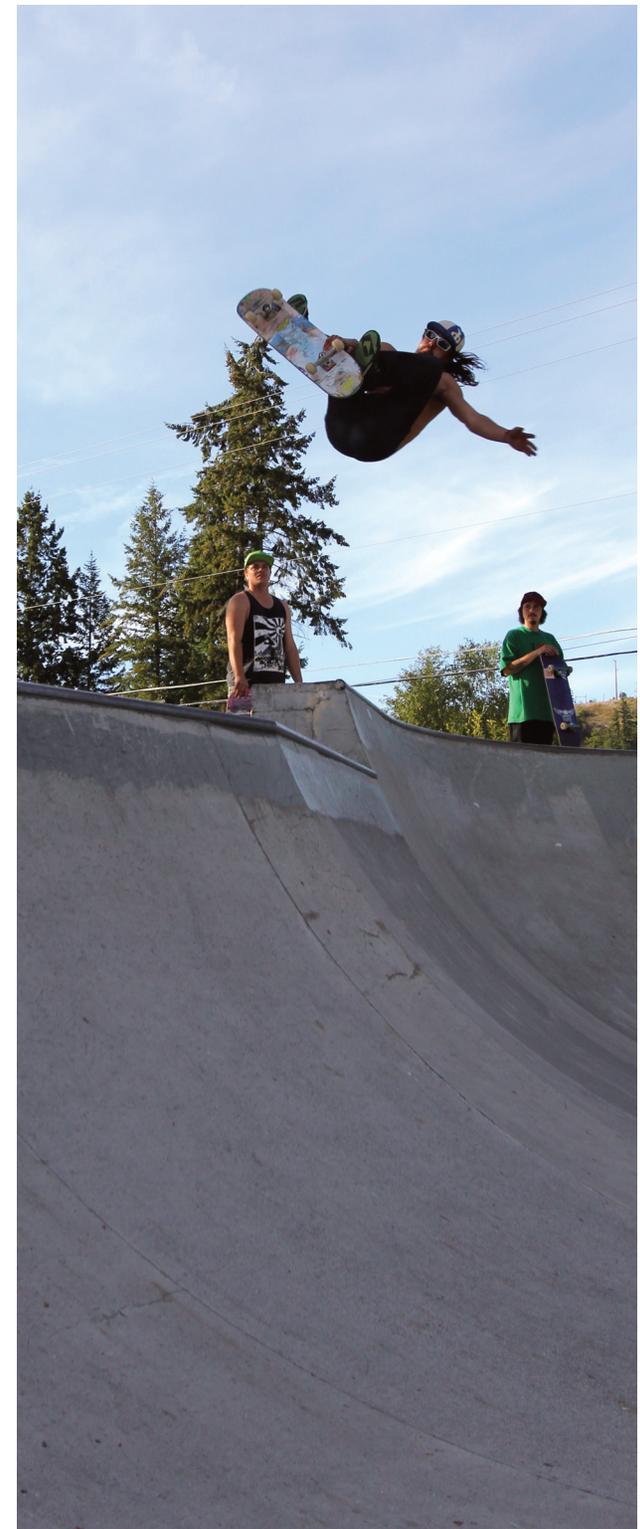
youth unemployment rate (ages 15 to 24 years) for 2013 in the Thompson-Okanagan (of which Golden is included); down slightly compared the 14% rate in 2011.

6.1%

decline in school enrolment between 2011-2013 in Golden & Area A. This was almost twice the decline between 2008-11; 5% greater than the 0.9% decrease for BC.

2.1%

decrease in population between 2006-2011. This is the 3rd greatest decline (a decrease of 142 people) in population in the Columbia Basin.



Celebrate Success

CBT's Youth Employment program provides a wage subsidy for full and part-time.

Golden's new Age Friendly Community Plan has identified tactics to make staying easier for those 50 years of age and older.

LP has grown from 250 employees to 330 in August 2014.

Take Action

Hire a senior or youth.

Consider whether you can contribute to creating an additional, affordable living space for lower income workers or students.

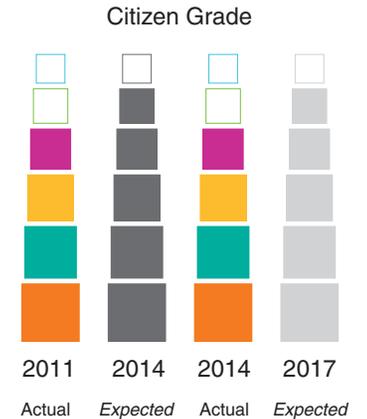
Recognize that all residents are valuable to schools, businesses and government.



Health

Healthy citizens are a vital component of healthy communities. We have young families and the delivery facilities so that most babies are able to be born in Golden.

The social determinants of health include our income, education, housing, access to health services, and the conditions of our early childhood. Investments in these areas produce and maintain healthy citizens. Research consistently shows that people that struggle in these five areas are the least healthy, and most in need of health care services.



82.4 years

life expectancy, if you were born in Golden & Area A, slightly above the BC average of 82 years (2008-2012) and up from 80.4 years, averaged over 2006-10.

41

is the median age of Golden & Area A residents. Compared to Local Health Areas in the Columbia Basin Region, we are younger on average than all except for Fernie.

143

day surgeries are done in Golden; compared to 178 in Fernie; none in Invermere. Of those 143, 77 were knee surgeries. There is capacity in Golden for day surgeries, keeping patients closer to home.

\$1,303

spent on alcohol per year per person over 19 years old in Golden & Area A – 64% above the BC average of \$796 per person. 9% of East Kootenay youth report that their age at first drink was 9 or 10 years, 2 percentage points higher than the provincial average.

Celebrate Success

We have more Assisted Living units per 1,000 population over 75, at 20.5 than the East Kootenays, at 14.5 or the entire Interior Health Authority at 13.4.

Golden & Area A is now ranked 23rd out of 77 BC communities in the Composite Index of Health, with longer life expectancy at birth, and fewer potential years of life lost due to natural and accidental causes.

Services are available for you to age in place.

Take Action

Make one more active choice every day and engage a friend, colleague or family member. Protect your good health and make it fun.

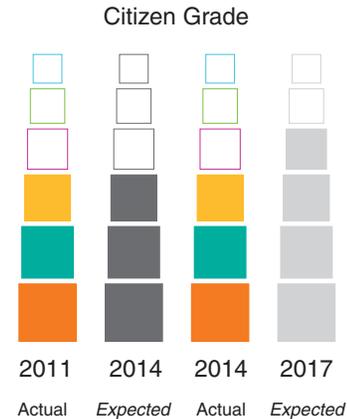
Make sure Interior Health hears your voice about the health care options available – write a letter about the care your elderly parent receives at Durand Manor or the care you received at the Golden Hospital.

Grow some of your own food at home.

Housing

In the Official Community Plan, Golden residents identified affordable housing as a primary obstacle to community health and vitality.

While multiple unit dwellings continue to be built in the Golden and area, the largest increase in affordable housing is in rural area mobile home living. This increase is complicated by issues related to transportation for seasonal workers in the tourism industry.



\$288,100

was the 2013 average home sale price for MLS-listings in Golden; up 6% over 2010. Mobile homes sale prices have fallen 44% in that same period, down to \$30,700. 13.5% of local housing stock are mobile homes, compared to 2.6% in BC.

80

long and short-term rental properties listed with property management company.

12%

off-season vacancy rate for 26 managed properties in town (5% on-season). Comparatively, 50% off-season and 1% on season for out-of-town properties (primarily KHMR).

30

women in need of emergency housing (August 2013 to July 2014).

Celebrate Success

From 2012 to July 2014 17 residential unit permits were issued by the Town of Golden.

36 mobile homes received house numbers between January 2011 and July 2014.

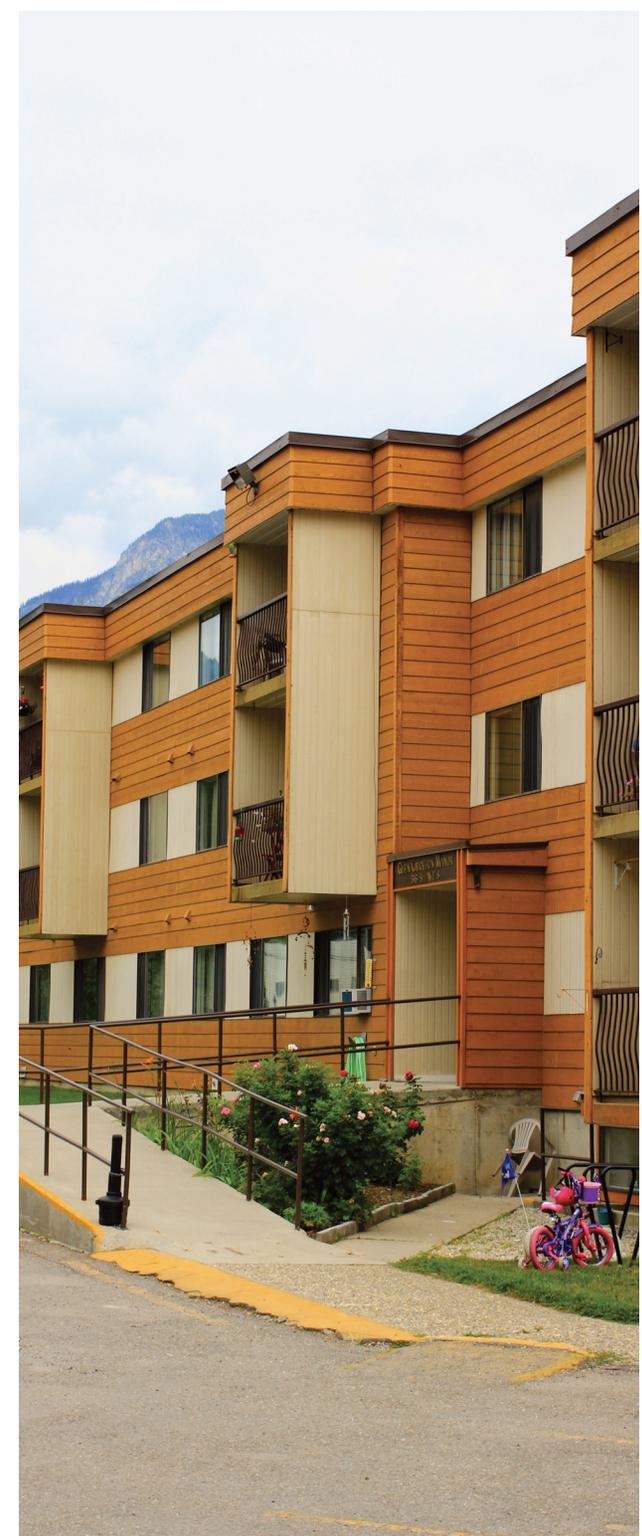
Spaces available for seniors needing assisted living were increased by 8 since 2011.

Take Action

Find out about housing possibilities that may open up from changes in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Build relationships with local First Nation enterprises to share information about housing needs, including staff housing related to the tourism industry.

Track statistics for rental costs and vacancy rates for Golden & Area A.

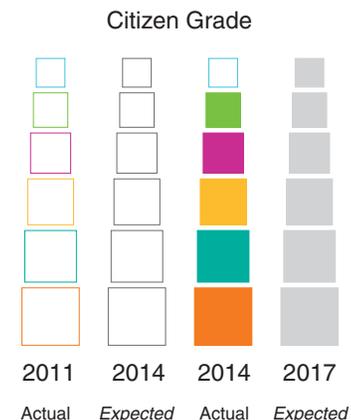




Recreation & Leisure

Outside of work & home, there are many ways to spend our time. From individual & team sports, to hunting & reading, there is a group & space for every interest.

Outside, Golden & Area A has more than 40 organizations focused on recreation and leisure, and 303,028 hectares of parkland. The community is attracting tourists and athletes; retaining more residents because of recreational opportunities; and making lifelong lovers of sports.



19,407

rounds of golf were played and 22,356 cross country mountain bikers passed trail counters. The local economic impact of golf is \$2.5M/year, while visiting mountain bike travellers spend \$87/day.

1543%

increase in assets of the Golden Nordic Ski Club between 2010-14. The Golden Snowmobile Trail Society built the 41km West Bench Trail between 2008-13.

386%

increase in the number of children and youth enrolled in gymnastics. Golden Seniors Centre membership has fallen 10.2% between 2011-14.

24.7%

decrease in library memberships, while circulation has only decreased 10.4%. The library is still the most frequently used public building by older adults (50+ years of age).

Celebrate Success

In 2014, 5 currently unofficial trails were assess and mapped by Golden Outdoor Recreation Association (GORA) - the first step in having them recognized and maintained.

The Cycling Club, Nordic Ski Club and Golden District Rod & Gun Club have developed international-caliber facilities for locals and visitors.

Of Age Friendly survey respondents 50+ years of age, 69% of those are satisfied or very satisfied with community events, like concerts, plays & films.

Take Action

Volunteer with a club, buy a membership and give back. Use the existing facilities and share your stats.

Improvements or expansions are only warranted when assets are being used. (e.g Age Friendly Plan).

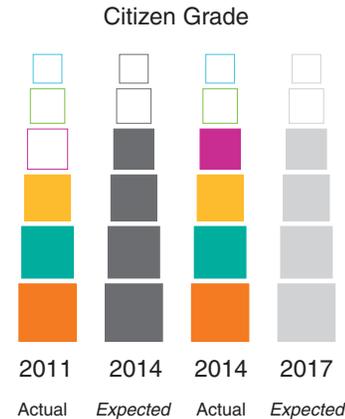
Collaborate with other recreation groups so that resources will stretch further toward a Rec Master Plan.

Participate in Story Time at the library with your children or grandchildren.

Learning

Education and learning are important for the social and economic well-being of individuals and for a vibrant, prosperous community.

Golden offers many formal and informal learning opportunities for people of all ages. The child care issue is being addressed by establishing an Early Learning and Care Centre at Alexander Park Elementary School. Aboriginal graduation rates are increasing, closing the gap with non-aboriginal students. Older adults have identified in a recent survey that lifelong learning is a priority especially with respect to technology and continuing education.



37%

of 2012-13 kindergarten students were vulnerable in at least one area of development, which is the same average since 2009-10 and higher than BC's average of 30%.

86%

of grade 12 Golden Secondary students graduated in 2014, which is a 9 percentage point decrease from 2013. The graduation rate over the last 4 years has fluctuated.

57%

of the population (25-64 years) in Golden have some post-secondary education - 15% more than the average in 2006 and 8% lower than the BC average of 65%.

49%

of adult Canadians scored at the lowest levels (1 – 2 out of 5) for literacy in the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) in 2012.



Celebrate Success

Early Learning and Care Strategic Advisory Group (ELCSAG) has made real gains with developing an Early Learning and Care Centre in Golden.

The Youth Action Group and community members secured funding to implement a youth centre and coordinator for at least 4 years.

Golden has secured funding for the first year of the Leader in Me initiative for all grade schools.

Take Action

Enroll in a class or workshop to keep mentally active, to learn something new and meet new people.

Volunteer at a school or in a literacy program such as the 1 to 1 Children's Reading Program.

Support educational programs such as Rotary Interact and the Leader in Me Program.

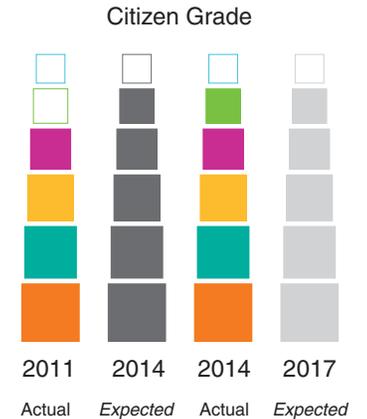
Invest in post-secondary education opportunities to increase job security.



Environment

A healthy and ecologically diverse environment is essential to the social, cultural and economic well-being of our community.

Golden residents are privileged to live in an environment with stunning unspoiled landscapes, abundant natural areas and wildlife. However, air quality in the valley bottom can be problematic at times; habitat destruction and fragmentation are of concern; clean water cannot be taken for granted; and there is a need to manage waste wisely to ensure a healthy environment into the future.



36%

decrease in average ambient particulate matter (PM2.5) during the winter months of 2008 - 2014, as compared to the period between 2002 and 2008; showing an improvement in air quality.

42%

decrease in the quantity of municipal solid waste landfilled at the Golden site in 2013 over 2012.

37%

increase in the tonnage of recyclable materials collected region-wide at depots and at curbside in 2013 over 2010.

12%

increase in the total volume of water used in the Town of Golden in 2013 over 2012.

Celebrate Success

Residents are learning how to burn wood more efficiently to keep air pollution from smoke under control.

Residents are significantly reducing the amount of solid waste landfilled and recycling more materials than ever before.

Composting workshops are helping people to divert and use organic wastes, and the Town is investigating a municipal composting program.

Take Action

Air quality can be further improved if we stop idling our vehicles and avoid smoldering wood fires.

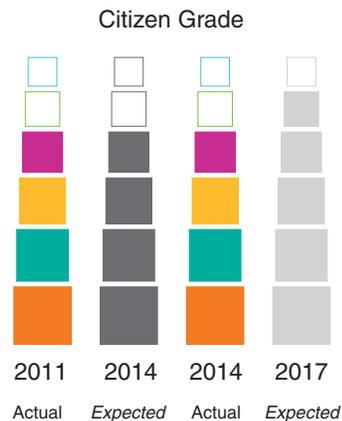
Learn how to use water wisely without waste, and prevent contamination from entering the groundwater system.

Responsible use of wetlands and alpine habitats means staying on hardened, dry trails and avoiding sensitive vegetation.

Getting Around

Our community's rivers, mountains, highways and weather can make travel challenging. But we try to do it safely, while enjoying the journey.

The ability to get around is central to our quality of life and supports business. It impacts our work, health and the environment. The community is making progress in many areas; however our challenging climate and geography require substantial investment of resources.



18

buildings in Golden have button-activated or automatic doors. These devices make getting in and out buildings easier for those with limited mobility.

112

hours was the average annual closure time on the Trans-Canada Highway resulting from avalanche control in Rogers Pass.

32%

of older adults surveyed in Golden's Age Friendly Community Plan were dissatisfied with the snow and ice removal on sidewalks in commercial areas.

16%

depend on others to get them to their destination. This percentage is expected to increase as the population ages.



Celebrate Success

Our World class cycling, walking and hiking trails are attracting National and International events.

Paved shoulders along Highway 95 South have improved cycling for 35.4km. The 3km Golden Hill path and connector benefit all active transportation users.

The building of toilets and washrooms has provided necessary facilities in several locations.

Take Action

Help a senior or person with a disability by shoveling their sidewalk or by offering a ride to their destination. Become more aware of access to facilities.

Offer transportation to neighbours that need rides. Join Golden Rideshares on Facebook.

Keep your sidewalks clear of snow and ice.



Gap Between Rich & Poor

It is the gap between these two groups that requires monitoring: a wide gap between the incomes of the rich and poor is unhealthy for a community.

Golden & Area A has less people living below low income cut-off (LICO) levels compared to BC & Canada. From year to year, the number of people living in poverty has decreased locally as well. Yet, the number of people accessing the local food bank and funding to offset recreation costs are increasing. Women who work full time make an average of \$32,400; while men earn \$51,056.



37%

of people accessing the Golden Food Bank in 2013 were employed, compared to 10% in other BC communities and 11.5% Canada wide. 4% of Golden & Area A residents accessed the GFB in March 2013 compared to 2% in BC.

\$1,227

is the average cost for a family of four per month (2014) in Golden to purchase the items in a Nutritional Food Basket. This is 47% more than the Interior Health Region and 41% over the BC average in 2011.

0.6%

of the Adult population (ages 19-64) in Golden are receiving Basic Income Assistance in Dec 2012, down from 1.1% in March 2012; and compared to 1.7% for the rest of the CSRD.

38%

increase in the number of children and youth enrolled in the Whitetooth Affordable Ski Program between 2007-08 and 2013-14.

Celebrate Success

The Centre for Peace has developed a Community Garden at St. Andrew's United Church allowing anyone to harvest locally grown veggies.

Recreational opportunities have opened up for many youth through the Whitetooth Affordable Ski Program.

The Golden Food Bank's Food Recovery Program is working with local businesses in order to procure and distribute healthy and nutritionally rich food for those struggling to make ends meet.

Take Action

Rich or poor, get involved and make Golden inclusive.

Reexamine your charitable giving strategy and donate to local charities.

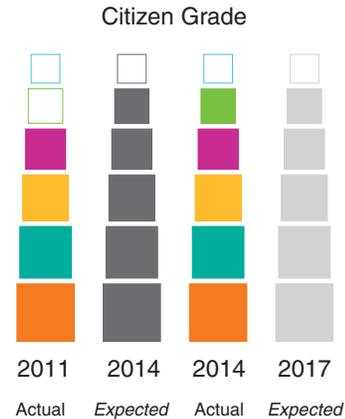
"Grow a Row" in your garden to donate fresh produce or volunteer your time at the Golden Food Bank.

Safety

The safety of men, women and children of all ages and all walks of life who live and visit our community is dependent on a variety of factors.

Safety is an integral part of any community and the emergency services responsible play a very important role. In recent years, police and search and rescue cases have decreased and fire calls are stable.

Emergency services work together to respond to the safety needs of our community, but require people to report incidents. Citizens should learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies and safety concerns.



1,000

BC Ambulance call-outs per year on average. There has been a reduction in the number of call outs and in the number of fatalities as a result of motor vehicle incidents.

497

nights were spent at the Golden Safe Home by women and their children (accessed 765 times) from August 2013 to July 2014.

151

black bear and grizzly complaints in the Town of Golden from April - August 2014. Concerns regarding cougars are on the rise.

267

emergency calls were reported by Golden Fire Rescue with 25 paid, on call members. Each member put in approximately 96 hours of training in 2013.

Celebrate Success

Golden Fire and Rescue will be adding a new road rescue truck to its fleet in Dec 2014.

The recent implementation of a protocol to address high-risk cases of relationship violence helps the RCMP work with local organizations to increase offender accountability and keep victims safe.

We have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at the Mt. 7 Rec Plex, Curling Rink, Arena, and the Civic Centre.

Take Action

Take a course in first aid, backcountry skills or self-defense. Join search and rescue, your local fire department or Citizens on Patrol.

Volunteer, donate and participate in prevention programs and services that work towards ending violence against women and girls, including sexual assault and foster positive male role models for boys and men.

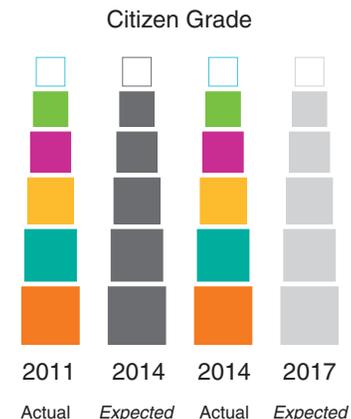




Arts & Culture

Community health, bringing people together, raising cultural awareness and opportunities for youth are benefits of arts and culture.

Over the past three years our community has supported the development of arts and culture, recognizing its importance in crafting our identity, bringing revenue into the community and providing employment and related income.



2

new festivals have started in Golden: a 2-part summer & winter music Block Party focusing on up and coming artists; the other focusing on the lifestyle and mountain culture of Golden.

93

visual artists are represented at The Art Gallery of Golden (AGOG). The AGOG also exhibits installations from both local and visiting artists.

12

languages, other than English, are spoken most often at home, including Punjabi, German, Italian, Czech, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, French and Spanish.

20,000

people annually attend or view an event that Kicking Horse Culture has hosted.

Celebrate Success

Whether it's concerts, conferences, weddings, our Civic Centre is now a hub for the community.

The Museum, Legion and Fire Dept. continue to grow and animate Veterans Way for Canada Day celebrations.

In the Spring of 2014 Golden Tourism ran their 1st annual Mountain Festival, the Culture that defines Golden.

Take Action

Support local Arts & Culture through memberships, participation and volunteering.

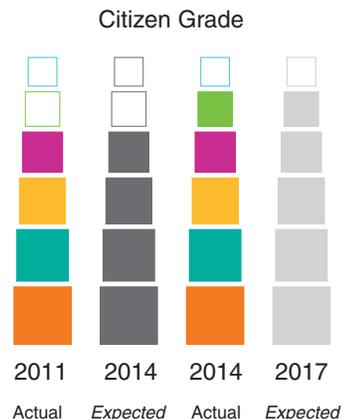
Stay connected to how we became the Community we are, visit the Museum to learn our history.

Harvest a desire for personal growth through learning & sharing.

Belonging & Leadership

Rural communities rely on the energy of volunteers and community spirit to create a strong sense of place. The full social and economic value is immeasurable.

The high level of motivation and commitment in our small community is astounding. Citizens find ways to work together to develop a strong and vibrant community. With 84 locally-registered non-profit and charity organizations, there are plenty of ways for residents of Golden & Area A to lead, follow, and give back.



31

non-profit organizations have a physical footprint in the community and receive a Permissive Tax Exemption from the local government. These organizations are fueled by 882 volunteers that support them.

109

individuals participated in the Community Conversations. These events provided a way to engage in healthy dialogue and debate about local issues.

25%

of eligible voters cast their ballot in the 2011 municipal elections; compared with 24% in Area A. The 2012 by-election and referendum turn out increased to 34%.

6

hours per week, on average, Vital Signs survey respondents provide leadership in the community through volunteer activities. This group donates over \$1,300/person annually.

Celebrate Success

Town Council honours an exceptional individual who contributes to the well-being of Golden through outstanding volunteerism and community commitment. Seventeen awards have been given out since 2006.

In 2014, an Age-Friendly Community Plan was crafted by a task force of 20 volunteers with input from 193 survey participants.

Take Action

Attend and participate in community engagement sessions.

Keep your giving within the community as much as possible.

Run for local government or as a school board trustee.

Vote in the 2014 general election and encourage your friends.



We asked citizens “What one change or action will have the most significant positive impact on the quality of life for residents of Golden & Area A?”

290 responses were received.

What do we do next?

“The return of dedicated Economic Development. An indoor year round aquatic and lifestyle centre.”

“Indoor pool, more day care, more steady jobs, and a wave park.”

“Tap into and attract intellectual capital...”

“Efficient marketing of the lifestyle Golden has to offer.”

“Combining governance for the residents of Area A and Golden.”

“A public indoor pool!!!!!!!!!!!!”

“Better health care resources .”

“Projects such as bridge to bridge.”

“Fire Protection services in the Blaeberry/Donald area.”

“Garbage services to rural residents with bear-proof bins.”

“Beautifying the back alley along the river.”

“Sustainable child care centre.”

“Keeping dads working in Golden.”

“A year round aquatic centre for use by all ages for fitness, rehab and leisure.”

“Another official community plan would help to define our values and the direction in which we want our officials to pursue.”

“Collaboration amongst community partners - working together towards common goals.”

“We need visionary leaders to seek opportunities for continuing to create a vibrant and appealing community.”

“Increase public participation and education of local trends and issues.”

“Attracting & sustaining different businesses & industries to our community.”

“Support existing industry and businesses.”

“Year round diverse employment.”

Economy

Work

What one change or action will you do to help?

"Business façade improvements."

"Year round transportation to KHMR."

"Re-implement public transportation."

"Mosquito control."

"Regular transit service."

"Volunteer Beautification of the town."

"...a coat of clean paint and washed windows does help draw people in..."

"Downtown needs to have at least one biking lane!"

"Turn to face the river."

"We need a dog park!! And a day care:)"

"Multi purpose trail system - not just gravel trails, but paved paths for various user groups."

"Make the downtown area pedestrian only."

"More sidewalks."

"Four-laning the Highway #1 corridor eastbound."

"Keeping the environment healthy and beautiful."

"Protecting the environment for current and future generations. There is no economy without the environment."

"To make Golden more desirable and ultimately, keep it inhabitable, we must get a handle on air quality."

"Having the ability to get safely around this community."

"Better transportation options."

"If there was public transport, more people would be able to go to work, socialize, educate, find a sense of belonging much sooner than now."

Arts & Culture

Belonging & Leadership

GOLDEN & AREA A'S

VitalSigns®



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This report and the accompanying Deep Data documents (detailed background data available online) are all about community engagement. Thank you to the hundreds of interested, involved and informed residents, who attended our community discussion forums, completed the survey and answered our call for data.

Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs® is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

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