GREATER NAPANEE

VITAL SIGNS REPORT

2015

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WELCOME MESSAGE

The Napanee District Community Foundation is pleased to work with our funding partners TransCanada, The Town of Greater Napanee, Napanee Rotary Club and Kawartha Credit Union in completing this Vital Signs Survey. This process has created a snapshot in time of how our community views itself and the services that we as residents think are important. Based on how we collectively answered, there are a number of things we should celebrate as a community: we feel safe, we are generally pleased with our health care services and we believe this is a great community to raise our children. However, there are always areas for improvement and the study raises awareness of these issues and gives us factual and opinion data to work with.

The study was not intended to offer solutions but rather give us the tools to allow us to focus our attention on where improvements could be made. The Foundation hopes that the data collected will be used by a number of agencies, boards and government departments to assist them in the development of programs and setting funding priorities to improve the quality of life in Greater Napanee.

Bruce Cowle,
President of Napanee District Community Foundation

COMMUNITY

The Corporation of the Town of Greater Napanee is an urban/rural municipality located on the north shore of Lake Ontario and includes frontage on Hay Bay, the Bay of Quinte, the Napanee River and Salmon River. With access on Highway 401, the community is halfway between Toronto and Montreal and only twenty minutes to Belleville and Kingston.

The Town is the seat for the County of Lennox and Addington and hosts the County Hospital, Provincial Courts, the regional OPP Detachment and a number of government offices and clinics for the various sectors within health care.

There are approximately 10 industrial and institutional organizations with greater than one hundred employees. The town offers a wide variety of commercial and agricultural businesses and is represented by all five major banks and a number of credit unions.

The Downtown core is predominantly locally owned and operated stores and restaurants with major box retail and food franchises situated along the Highway 401 corridor.

Between 2006 and 2011, the overall population of Greater Napanee increased slightly by 0.7% from 15,400 to 15,511. Lennox and Addington County grew by 3.2% in that time, Ontario grew by 5.7% and Canada grew by 5.9%. Of these, Napanee has a higher median age than the County, the province and the nation.

HIGHLIGHTS

OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

A major aspect of this study was a community survey that welcomed all Greater Napanee residents aged 13 and older to rank the most important issues facing Greater Napanee. They are listed below from most important to least important:

1) **Health and Well-Being**

2) **Personal Safety and Security**

3) **Recreation**

4) **Housing**

5) **Environment and Sustainability**

6) **Arts, Culture and Heritage**

When respondents were asked how well the community is doing in addressing these priority areas a majority said the community is doing either an excellent or good job with all of them. Safety and Health are highly regarded while Arts and Environment take a secondary position followed by Housing and Recreation.

Personal Safety and Security 86%

Health and Well-Being 79%

Arts 71%

Environment 70 %

Housing 67%

Recreation 58%

HIGHLIGHTS

QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE 6 PRIORITY AREAS AND FINDINGS:

1. Health & Well-being: The community ranked this area as the most important of all the priorities and gave it the second highest rating for how well the community is addressing it. In looking at specific health related issues, a number of concerns were identified but there was no singular problem area.

2. Personal Safety & Security: The community places personal safety among it's highest priorities and considers it to be well provided by various agencies. Statistics show a general declining trend in violent crimes which is consistent with provincial averages. Local households, however, told us that they have not done enough on their own to prepare for emergencies and are concerned about loitering and drug use.

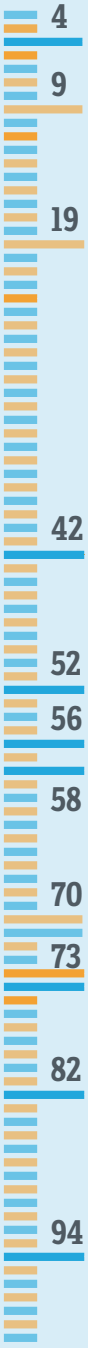
3. Recreation: Survey results clearly show that the community wants improvements in this area. Respondents identified both facilities and programming as requiring attention.

4. Housing: With one of the lowest rental vacancy rates in the country, housing presents many challenges for the community. An aging population, and lower than average family incomes, contribute to affordability, accessibility, and supportive housing challenges.

5. Environment: In a general sense a majority of respondents are satisfied with the level of protection of their local environment. However, several priorities do emerge including protection of water resources, waste diversion and preservation of farmland.

6. Arts: For the most part, the community feels there is a good presence of Arts and Culture available even though the Arts ranks lowest in terms of importance to them. They would support activities held within an Arts Centre and recognize that Arts, Heritage and Culture contribute to the economic growth of the community.

IF GREATER NAPANEE WERE A VILLAGE OF 100 PEOPLE



4 *can't find emergency shelter when needed*

9 *have trouble finding housing because of accessibility needs*

19 *are looking for a doctor in Greater Napanee*

42 *have difficulty accessing after hours non-emergency medical appointments*

52 *want waste reduced through diversion and recycling / organic streams*

56 *think protection of water resources is the top environmental priority*

58 *think a swimming pool is a priority*

70 *see Arts & Culture as an economic benefit*

71 *feel that Arts & Culture are available in the community*

73 *feel safe walking around after dark*

74 *want to attend events at an Arts Centre*

82 *want more youth programming*

94 *think Greater Napanee is a good place to raise children*

FOR THE DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS PLEASE GO TO:

WWW.NDCF.CA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We'd like to thank all of our sponsors and everyone in the community who contributed to this report.

Greater Napanee
GREATER FOR MANY REASONS

Napanee District Community Foundation

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