

CENTRE WELLINGTON'S 2019

VitalSigns.®

“Our community snapshot”



CENTRE
WELLINGTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Welcome to Centre Wellington's 2019 Vital Signs Report

Centre Wellington has always been a special place -- a welcoming and vibrant community, steeped in rich indigenous history blended with modern traditions. Living in the traditional territory of the Attawandaron and Haudenosaunee, in a spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge these traditions and seek to build a better future together for all.

In 2019, our 10th year, Centre Wellington Community Foundation (CWCF), working with partners, seeks to lead, inspire and support change for a smarter, sustainable more caring community. Our continued aspiration for a "smart and caring community" is why CWCF undertook this second Vital Signs report, building on our 2015 report. Recognizing the impact that report had, we doubled the theme areas to six. What better way to celebrate Centre Wellington's 20th Anniversary and our own 10th than to dig deep into what makes us special, and what needs are still unmet.

This year we lost a long-time friend, Benny di Zitti. Benny, and his late wife, Rhoda Lipton, were exceptional community builders. Being part of the founding group of CWCF, and having created our very first fund, the "Cedarcliff Fund", means the loss to the community is also very personal to us. We truly hope that others are inspired by the devotion to community that Benny and Rhoda showed.

This report is the result of over a year of research and consultation, involving a lot of people. Thank you to all who contributed to this effort. We view this report as a step in the community building process and not the final outcome. We send our heartfelt thanks to the countless volunteers whose dedication made this happen. In particular, we wish to thank the Vital Signs Steering Committee, Community Leadership Advisory Council and the Board of CWCF.

The publication of Vital Signs 2019 is just the beginning. We challenge you (and ourselves) to find at least two ideas in this report that will lead you to action. You can share your thoughts by contacting us and by using #CWVitalSigns [on social media].

Feel free to reach out to us (info@cwcfoundation.ca or 1-888-713 -4083) if you'd like to discuss Vital Signs or have us present it to your organization or company.

Randall Howard – Chair
J. Raymond Soucy – Executive Director

LISTENING TO OUR COMMUNITY

To shape VS2019, we consulted experts in our community through stakeholder consultation sessions with 52 local representatives from various organizations, a leadership advisory group of 9 community leaders and additional discussions with key stakeholders. 573 community members responded to our community survey, including 89 who identified as youth.

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COMMUNITY
VOICES SURVEY

YOUTH
FOCUS



CENTRE
WELLINGTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

POPULATION

28,191 Projected Population
52,000 BY 2041

WELCOME TO CENTRE WELLINGTON

IF WE WERE A VILLAGE OF 100

17 ARE
CHILDREN
(0-14)



12 ARE YOUTH
(15-24)



MEDIAN
AGE 44



20 ARE
65+



BIGGEST AGE GROUP
50-54



10 ARE
IMMIGRANTS



3 ARE VISIBLE
MINORITIES



2 ARE
INDIGENOUS

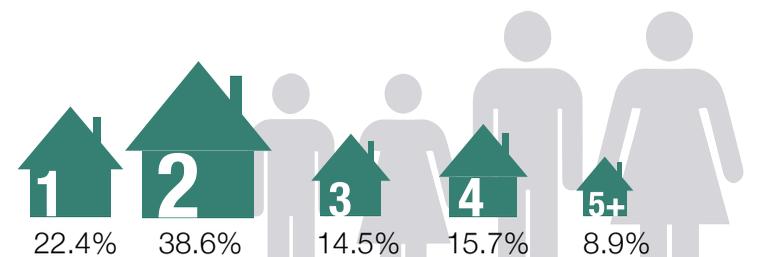
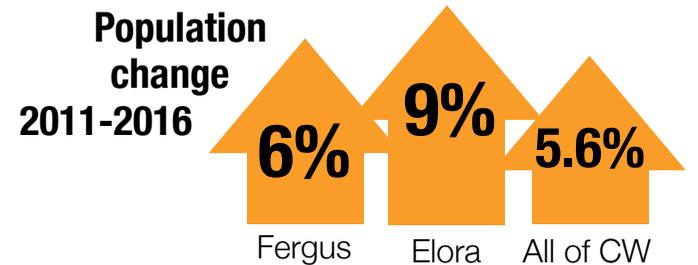


40 WORK IN
CENTRE WELLINGTON

34 WORK IN WELLINGTON COUNTY



25 COMMUTE OUT OF WELLINGTON COUNTY
1 COMMUTES OUT OF PROVINCE



HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE
11,499 HOUSEHOLDS IN CW

\$85,149
MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

Down \$2,154 from 2015.

**1,905 HOUSEHOLDS MAKE
MORE THAN \$150K**

OUR COMMUNITY VOICES SURVEY

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED AS ISSUES

TRANSPORTATION

- Lack of public transportation, leading to difficulties getting to appointments, services, and shopping.
- Limited bike-friendly options from Fergus to Elora on both sides of the river, and residents not feeling safe biking on our roads.
- Lack of parking at peak times in both downtowns.

HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Lack of affordable homes, especially for young residents purchasing for the first time.
- Lack of rental accommodations, and available rentals being used for short-term vacation rentals instead of long-term rentals.
- Concern over new subdivisions being designed as 'bedroom communities', and the loss of natural areas for these developments.

HEALTH

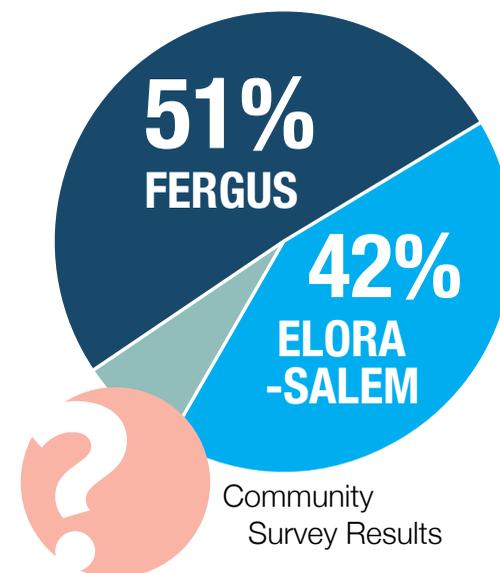
- Lack of access to family physicians, especially for newcomers to the community.
- Need for better mental health care, especially for youth and in emergencies.

OUR COMMUNITY VIEWS ON BELONGING

There are divisions between residents of Elora and Fergus and between long-term residents and newcomers. We need greater physical connection between Fergus and Elora. We also need to create more welcoming spaces for newcomers to participate in our community.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED AS STRENGTHS

- We feel safe, comfortable and at home in Centre Wellington.
- There are a lot of activities and events in our community, and we appreciate the quality and diversity available.
- The cultural offerings in our community are high quality.
- Our natural environment is beautiful, and our parks, natural areas and greenspaces are valued. Residents would like to see more of these areas added and protected.

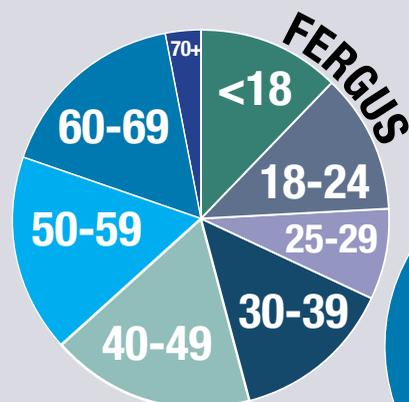
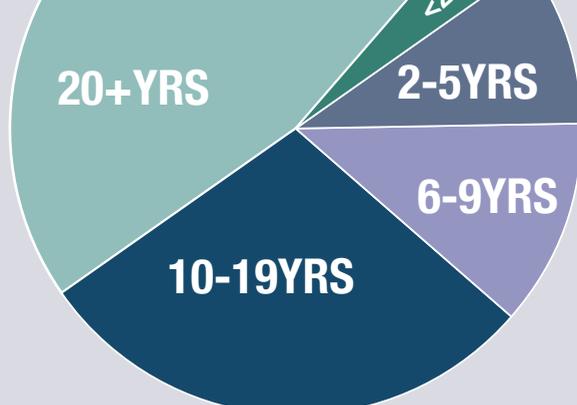


573
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
TOOK PART
*During June, 2019

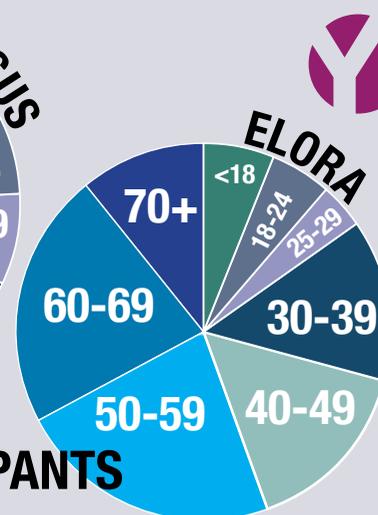
RESPONSES

As well as 7% from our other communities and rural areas.

WHO RESPONDED? LENGTH OF TIME IN THE COMMUNITY



AGE OF PARTICIPANTS BY TOWN



YOUTH FOCUS The 2019 survey included some youth specific questions, and we had 141 youth respond. 89 (63%) of these 141 youth actually identified themselves as youth, with most 25-29 year-olds identifying as adults.

LOOK FOR!



THE GAP BETWEEN RICH + POOR



AN UPDATE We have not made significant strides to reduce poverty in our community since VS2015. Centre Wellington continues to have lower rates of poverty than the province, but our poverty rates have increased. We have a strong network of service providers working together to assist those living in poverty.

“ Every day I make decisions between offering my children opportunities and meeting the basic necessities of life. - Newly independent parent. ”

Those living in poverty carry a greater health burden than the general population, and those in poverty may experience food insecurity.

1 IN 14 SENIORS & 1 IN 12 CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY

Poverty affects our ability to secure and pay for housing, and affordable housing is difficult to find in CW.

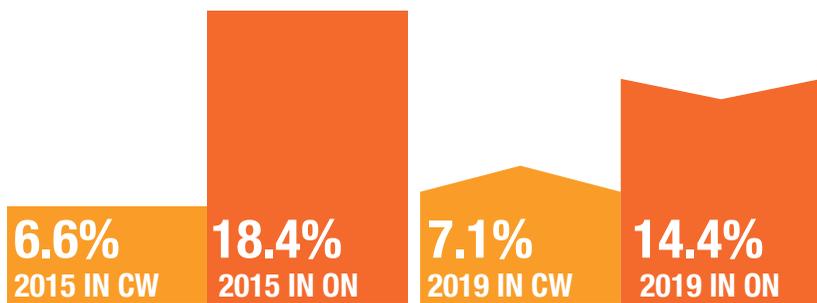
Our ability to participate and belong in our community is impacted by our experiences of poverty.

WORRYING TRENDS

We have not made much progress on child poverty, with 8.5% of children living in poverty (compared to 8.7% in VS2015), and 6.9% of seniors 65+ living in poverty. Overall we have 1,960 low income citizens (an increase from 1,680 in VS 2015), including 505 children and 360 seniors. In 2015, 3.4% of Centre Wellington were working poor (7.1% of Ontario were working poor in 2015).

1,960 LOW INCOME CITIZENS, UP FROM 1,680 IN 2015

“ I personally know individuals struggling to survive in Centre Wellington due to disappearing low-income rentals, lack of a grocery store in Elora and no affordable public transportation. ”

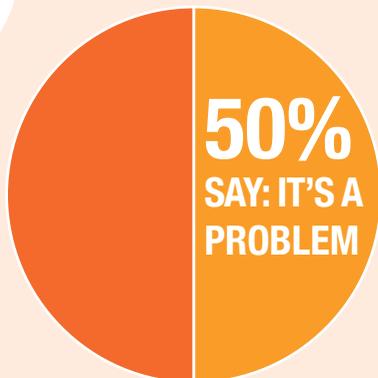


“ Not in the past 12 months but a couple of years ago, my single mom was forced to go to the food bank where they were very kind and supportive. ”

LOW-INCOME CENTRE WELLINGTON VS PROVINCE WIDE

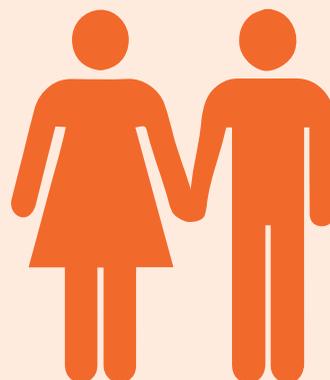
MORE OF US ARE LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2019

YOUTH FOCUS Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has risen from 6.6% in 2006 to 9.2% in 2016 for 15-19 year olds.



IS THE GAP BETWEEN RICH + POOR A PROBLEM IN CENTRE WELLINGTON?

DOES OUR COMMUNITY OFFER SUPPORT FOR THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY?
ONLY 31% OF US THINK SO.



PEOPLE CAN EASILY EARN A LIVABLE WAGE IN OUR COMMUNITY

BELONGING + LEADERSHIP

AN UPDATE We belong in many places in our community, including our libraries, parks, trails, events and activities. We give our time generously and our strong volunteer base is critical to the success of our community activities, services and events.

Compared to provincial and national averages, we have strong civic engagement, but we have room for improvement. Fewer than half of eligible voters voted in the last municipal election. The number of us giving to charities has decreased since VS2015, although the monetary amount per donor has increased. We may be donating in ways not captured by the data, including donating materials, online giving and informal giving.

A sense of belonging is associated with positive health and wellbeing.

Many of our events and activities would not be possible without our volunteers.

“ This community has a lot going on, but admission costs prevent me from attending a lot of things. It adds up quickly if you are trying to do it all. From concerts to fundraisers, sports, it all adds up. ”

VOLUNTEERING

HIGHLAND GAMES 392 VOLUNTEERS 4786 HRS

RIVERFEST 550 VOLUNTERS 9750 HRS

ELORA FESTIVAL 160 VOLUNTERS 786 HRS

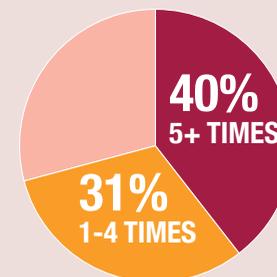
“ I would like to use a bicycle more to get around Fergus but find it is not very friendly to bicycles. ”



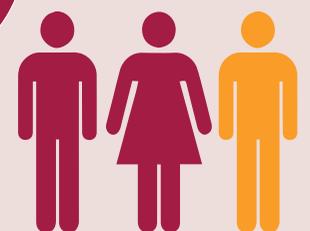
THE TOP 5 PLACES WE FEEL WE BELONG IN CW

ADULTS + YOUTH

60% NEIGHBOURHOOD	CAFES/RESTAURANTS 48%
60% ON TRAILS OR IN PARKS	ON TRAILS OR IN PARKS 47%
59% CAFES/RESTAURANTS	SHOPPING DOWNTOWN 45%
58% SHOPPING DOWNTOWN	NEIGHBOURHOOD 42%
50% COMMUNITY EVENTS	AT SCHOOL 41%



HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED IN THE PAST YEAR?



82% OF ADULTS FEEL THEY BELONG IN CW | 62% OF YOUTH FEEL VALUED IN CW | 2 OF 3 SURVEYED HAD VOLUNTEERED IN THE PAST YEAR. 5

VOTING

42% MUNICIPAL '18 *38% province-wide
61% PROVINCIAL '18 *58% province-wide
71% FEDERAL '15 *68.3% nationally

OUR LIBRARY **284,000**

We visited our libraries over times in 2018. We have three libraries: Elora, Aboyne, and Fergus.

DONATIONS

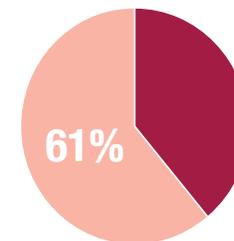
The number of people making charitable donations continues to decrease, but donation/donor amounts are increasing

26.5% gave in 2018, down 2% from 2013 levels

In 2018, we gave an average of \$470/donor, up \$90 from 2013

YOUTH BELONGING + VOLUNTEERING

59% of Gr. 10 youth feel that they live in a caring neighbourhood.



61% of Gr. 10 respondents reported high levels of volunteering.



ARTS + CULTURE

AN UPDATE We continue to have a strong Arts + Culture tradition that spans world-class events to small locally focused programs and informal gatherings. Our larger events draw tourists from Ontario and beyond. The most noted change from VS2015 to VS2019 is the increase in collaboration among organizations and the extent to which they are engaging with broader community issues.

Arts + Culture in our community brings our residents together and creates a sense of belonging for those who participate.

Our natural environment draws in artists, who are inspired by and reflect the natural environment in their work.

The high cost of housing has an impact on those in Arts + Culture and the tourism and hospitality industry who may be living on low-incomes.

**Canadian Council
for the Arts
Funding to
Organizations:
2014-2017
\$195,540
*7 GRANTS**

“ Spreading the culture through Centre Wellington - not just in Elora. ”

3% of us are employed in Arts + Culture as our primary occupation.

“ More for our LGBTQ community is needed. ”



MOST RESPONDENTS FEEL THAT ARTS + CULTURE CONNECTS CENTRE WELLINGTON

ARTS + CULTURE BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY SOCIALLY 89% YES

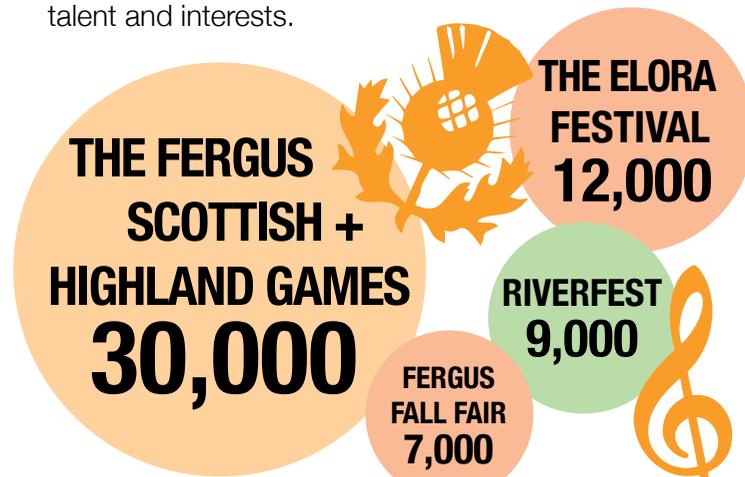
ARTS + CULTURE BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY ECONOMICALLY 83% YES

THERE IS A DIVERSE RANGE OF ARTS + CULTURAL ACTIVITIES 77% YES

ARTS + CULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT 77% YES

ARTS + CULTURE IS AFFORDABLE FOR THEIR FAMILY 61% YES NO 13%

OUR EVENTS The top 4 events by attendance reflect our heritage, talent and interests.



The equivalent of 25,600 plastic bottles were eliminated from the 3 major festivals in 2018 by using a water buggy connected to municipal water.

IN 2018, 30,134 PEOPLE STOPPED @ THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE, UP FROM 14,750 IN 2015

THE TOP 3 REASONS PEOPLE STOPPED AT THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE:

- 1. CONSERVATION AREAS**
- 2. DINING**
- 3. OUR TRAILS**

COMMUNITY ARTS Elora

Centre for the Arts (ECFTA) identified the need to engage with youth in the community around the issues of mental health and wellness. In collaboration with Neighbourwoods, YouthTalk, Upper Grand District School Board and CWCF, 140 local youth artists participated in “See the Forest Through the Trees: an exhibition in support of youth mental health”.

COMMUNITY THOUGHTS ON IMPROVING ARTS + CULTURE

- 1. IMPROVED AWARENESS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING**
- 2. MORE AFFORDABLE OFFERINGS**
- 3. INCREASED DIVERSITY OF CHOICE**



HEALTH + WELLBEING

THE BIG PICTURE We examined health and wellbeing in a holistic way, using the idea of the social determinants of health. The way we live, play and work in Centre Wellington impacts our health and wellbeing. We have a growing and changing population and we need to plan our community with our future wellbeing in mind. This includes thinking about how our aging population will live, access services, get around and recreate. We have identified the areas of healthcare, mental health, healthy food, and active living for our Vital Signs focus.

OUR STRENGTHS We live in a community with a hospital, many primary care physicians, and a new hospital facility to be opened in 2020. We have many amenities, programs and an environment to promote active living, and a strong community of organizations and volunteers that work together to support our most vulnerable and to tackle our challenges.

OUR CHALLENGES We need to travel outside of our community for many healthcare services. Transportation is a barrier to accessing services and amenities within and outside of our community. Mental health is a pressing local issue, with high demand for services. Other challenges include at-home care for our aging population, services for those with chronic diseases and the changing landscape of healthcare.

**IN 2018,
26.8%
OF GROVES
EMERGENCY
VISITS WERE
FROM
RESIDENTS 65+**



HEALTHCARE We are fortunate to have Groves Hospital in Fergus, and the new hospital is scheduled to open in 2020 in Aboyne. Our hospital attracts physicians with over half of the primary care physicians currently in Wellington County in Centre Wellington.

31 OF 60 PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN WELLINGTON COUNTY ARE IN CENTRE WELLINGTON.

FOOD + HEALTH

The cost of a Nutritious Food Basket for an average family of four is \$210.09 per week. Overall, the cost increased 27% since 2009. We currently do not have a major grocery store in Elora, leaving those without car transport vulnerable.

THE FOODBANK

Served **304 FAMILIES** in 2018 at least once (up to 12 times)
259 OF THESE FAMILY MEMBERS WERE CHILDREN

EATING TOGETHER

The new **CANADA FOOD GUIDE** recommends eating together. Communal eating has been shown to reduce social isolation and increase connectedness. Our community of volunteers work hard to have communal meals available in schools and in our community.

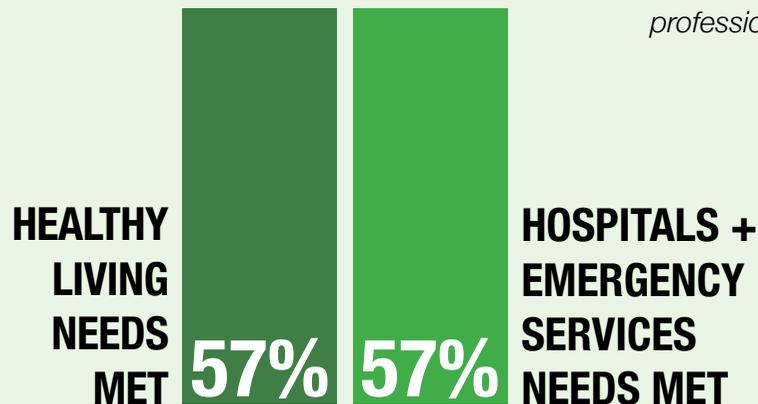
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DEFINES THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AS...
"...the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels."

CAREGIVING Although we don't know the extent of the problem specifically in CW, we do know that in Waterloo-Wellington, **33.6%** of family or friends who are the primary carers for long-term homecare clients experienced continued distress, anger or depression in relation to their caregiving role, the second highest % of all regions of Ontario.



TOP HEALTH STRENGTHS

Meeting the needs of the community.



“ A healthy Centre Wellington to me looks like people being active all the time and have access to medical/professional help when required. **”**

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS NOT MET



ADDICTION NEEDS NOT MET

TOP HEALTH CONCERNS

Meeting the needs of the community. Although 43% weren't sure or didn't have an opinion about addictions services.

**TRANSPORT
+ FOOD
47%**

of households using the food bank don't have a car.

FOOD AND FRIENDS

program at the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington provides **31,000+** healthy snacks, breakfasts or lunches a month, across 9 schools in our community.

ONLY 21.9% OF GR. 10 YOUTH MET THE GUIDELINE OF 60 MIN. OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PER DAY.

“ We should have a better space for youth to stay during a mental health crisis. Currently, they must wait in an empty room with a bed in emergency department. ”

ACTIVE LIVING We are active in organized sports and activities, as well as on our trails, in our parks and downtowns. Accessibility and walkability are issues in some places in our community. We need to consider how we retrofit and design new built environments so that all citizens can enjoy active lifestyles.



TRAILS We are most active on the Elora Cataract Trailway from April to October but we use our trails year-round.

69% OF US ACTIVELY TRAVEL TO PLACES WE CAN REACH USING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION.

“ To me, a healthy Centre Wellington looks like a community. A community where everyone is out and about on a Saturday, downtown or walking around town. A community in which we know one another and are involved. Where we are able to enjoy our community and it isn't bombarded with tourists. Somewhere where you can walk to get just about everything you need. ”



AREAS OF CONCERN

MENTAL HEALTH Mental health is a pressing issue in our community, with youth and seniors identified as particularly vulnerable. Service providers stated that demand for services is high in CW.

ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH CARE People in CW access mental health programs and services in our community, virtually (telephone and web-based) and/or travel outside of our community. For individuals who need mental health programs outside of our community, time and transportation can be barriers. On the other hand, some individuals who access services locally within our community are concerned with anonymity in CW.

PROTECTIVE FACTORS AGAINST SUICIDE

“...the protective factors are being connected to the community, a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose, good coping skills, good problem solving skills, having good relationships, (and) understanding self-care” Cecilia Marie Roberts, CMHA, Here4Hope Initiative. (In the Wellington Advertiser, September 4, 2019)

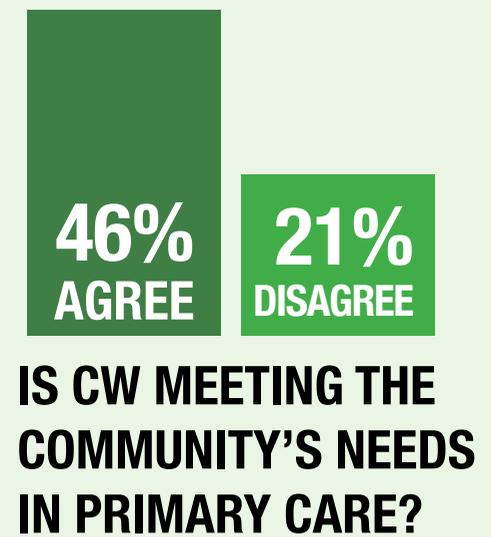
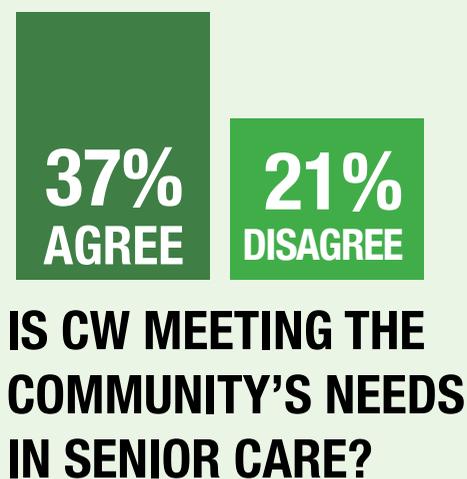
MOBILIZING TO STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

YOUTH COMMUNITY HUB FOR CENTRE WELLINGTON

A group of organizations, led by Big Brothers Big Sisters Centre Wellington, have secured funding and community support to create a local youth services hub. Service providers will come to Centre Wellington rather than youth needing to travel out of our community for services.

SAFE TALK TRAINING Two organizations in our community, CWCF and Canadian Mental Health Association have hosted SafeTalk training in our community to help community members identify those with thoughts of suicide and connect them to resources. In total, 114 community members have been trained, in 5 training sessions in 2018-2019.

HERE4HOPE Here4Hope is a newly launched framework for promoting life and preventing suicide in Wellington. This whole community approach will focus on utilizing best practices in our local context to educate the community and create a web of support for those struggling with or touched by suicide.

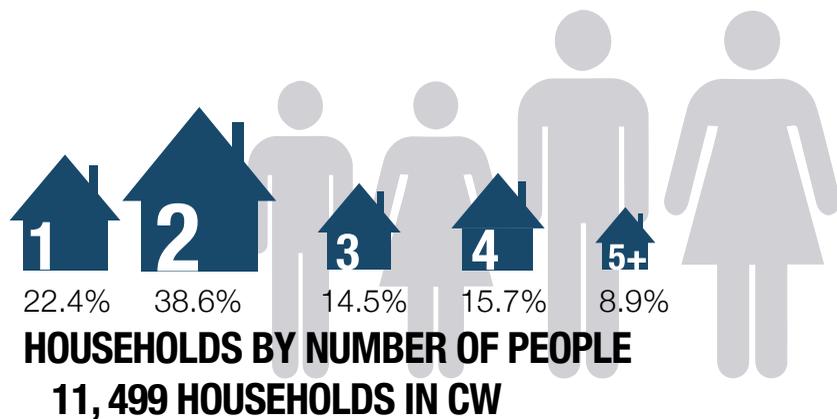


HOUSING

THE BIG PICTURE When we look at our housing in terms of affordability, suitability, adequacy and accessibility, our community is 'out of balance' and faces many challenges. Our community is shaped by decisions we have made around housing in the past, as well as our current preferences for housing, with less thought to the future housing needs in our community. Wellington County is currently working on a housing strategy to shape the future of housing in the county.

OUR STRENGTHS Our community attracts new residents and demand for both rental and ownership housing is high. We have the community wealth and knowledge to build and re-purpose housing to meet our current needs and for our future.

OUR CHALLENGES We do not have enough affordable housing for both rent and purchase. It is a challenge for buyers to purchase in our community, especially first-time buyers. It is also a challenge for renters, due to a shortage of rental properties. The environmental and social impacts of our housing are not fully considered in the design of our developments. We have been slow to embrace change and innovation in the housing sector.



**AVERAGE MONTHLY
\$1,052 SHELTER COSTS
(2016 CENSUS)**

“The cost of renting or owning in Centre Wellington is getting so high that our children who were born and raised in this town can't afford to live here anymore. My grown children are living at home with us because they can't afford to live in their own place.”

HOUSING DENSITY

Dwelling density of CW is 5.0 dwellings/ha.

FERGUS dwelling density:

5.2 dwellings/ha with a maximum dwelling density of 28.0 dwellings/ha.

ELORA/SALEM dwelling density: 4.7 dwellings/ha with a maximum of 13.0 dwellings/ha.

HOUSING STOCK
9,945 (2011) DWELLINGS
TO 10,823 (2016)
CHANGE OF 8.8%

**10,570 HOMES ARE
SUITABLE; 255 ARE NOT**

'Housing suitability' as defined by National Occupancy Standard (NOS) is whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household.

**THE LARGEST
HOME OWNERSHIP
AGE GROUP IS 55-64
THE NEXT LARGEST GROUP 45-54**



DO YOUTH WANT TO CONTINUE TO LIVE LOCALLY?

NOT SURE 52%

NO 25%

YES 25%

“I like the community, community events and there are great trails and outdoor activities to explore. I am however worried about being able to afford to buy a house here in the next ten years as the price of housing has skyrocketed and is no longer realistic for young people.”

TOP 3 WAYS TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO STAY IN CW

1. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

2. INCREASED ENTERTAINMENT

+ SHOPPING OPTIONS

3. INCREASE JOB TRAINING + OPPORTUNITIES

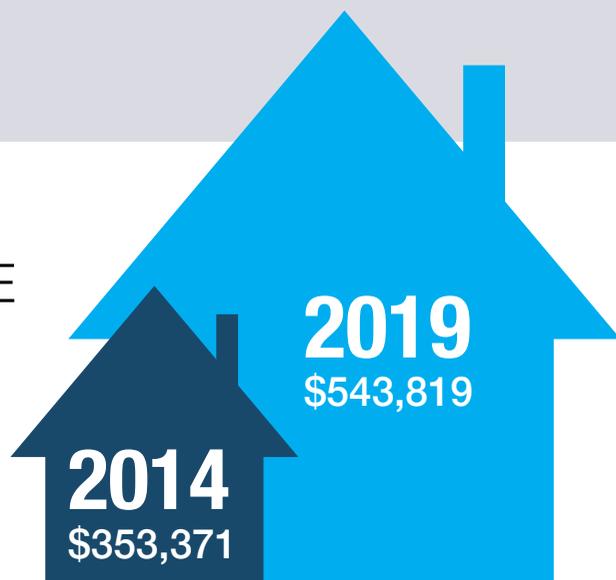


HOUSING OWNERSHIP We have a higher rate of ownership in CW than the Wellington County average, with almost 82% home ownership. This demonstrates the lack of rental stock in our community.

COST OF NEW OWNERSHIP Housing cost in our community has risen significantly in the past five years. This impacts who can afford to purchase housing in our community, and can make home ownership unattainable for our youth.

x7 Average house price in CW is 7.4 times the median annual household income.

HOME PURCHASE
Average sale price in 2014 and 2019 to date.



HOUSING COSTS
To make shelter less than 30% of costs in CW, one needs to make an average of more than **\$42,080** net income.

14% OF HOME OWNERS SPEND MORE THAN 30% ON HOUSING

“ We are a household with two educated professionals working full time jobs with good pay and we could just barely afford a 3-bed house. I worry for the next generation. ”

AFFORDABILITY Housing is considered unaffordable if households are spending over more than 30% on shelter costs (including mortgages, rent, property taxes, condominium fees, electricity and water).

People in households that spend 30% or more of total household income on shelter expenses are defined as having a “housing affordability” problem.

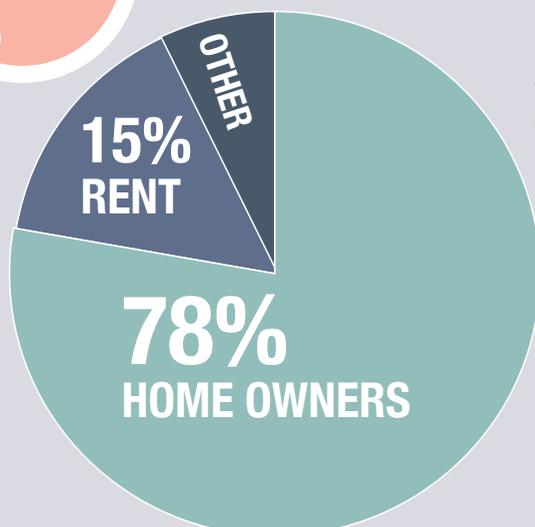
“ For some there isn't enough affordable or subsidized housing. Some have to leave our community to find affordable homes. ”

41% OF RENTERS SPEND MORE THAN 30% ON HOUSING

CW RENTAL VACANCY IS 1.8% A HEALTHY VACANCY RATE IS 3%.

THE LACK of rental housing in CW contributes to higher prices for the limited number of units. It is difficult to attract workers + businesses when there are limited rentals are available.

“ When you own your own home...there becomes a lack of services. There is a stigma that just because you have a mortgage you won't hit hardship; but we have been there and there wasn't a service or place to turn to because we had a house. ”



“ The careers adolescents are going to school for and aspire to have are often not available directly in Centre Wellington - many may need to be located closer to or in a more urban area. ”

DO WE OWN OR RENT OUR HOMES?
78% of community survey respondents owned while 15% rented. 93% of youth lived with parents/guardians/family.

53% ARE CONCERNED WITH THE AFFORDABILITY OF HOUSING
38% ARE CONCERNED THAT THERE ARE TOO FEW OPTIONS FOR THE CURRENT POPULATION

ENVIRONMENT

THE BIG PICTURE Centre Wellington is a community with many environmental amenities. Our environment is a part of our heritage and culture, and we identify strongly through our connections to our local environment. Our natural landscape is a draw for tourism as well as new residents. Centre Wellington is growing and there are concerns in our community about how to balance growth, and how to focus on the triple bottom line of planet, people and profits.

OUR STRENGTHS We have access to nature through our parks, greenspaces, trails, rivers and conservation areas. We live in an area with high quality agricultural land, much of which is protected by zoning to remain in agriculture. As a community, we have an active interest in our environment, and our tourism is strong partially because of the natural beauty of our community.

OUR CHALLENGES We are facing threats to our environment from forces outside of the community, including climate change and the purchase of a local well. The population growth in Centre Wellington stresses our environment and needs to be carefully planned for, from the housing we build, to the ways we get around, the water we use and waste we produce.

POPULATION GROWTH

+ ENVIRONMENT

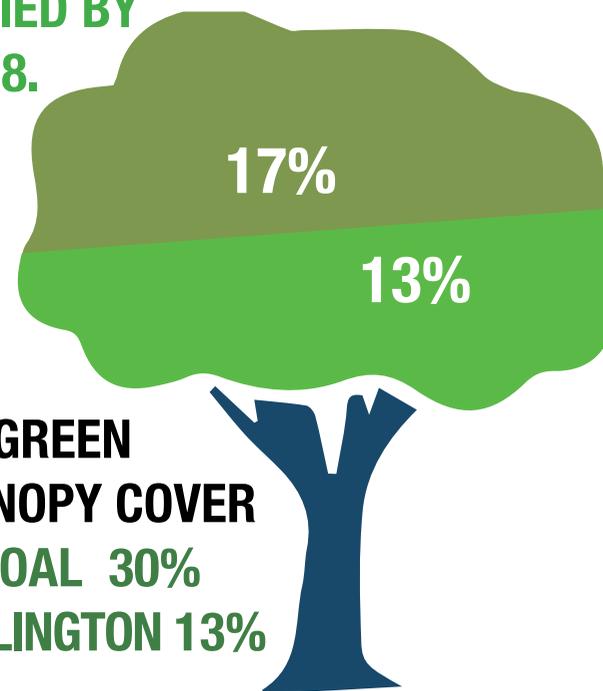
The projected population of CW at over 52,000 by 2041, means more traffic and housing. Survey results show residents are concerned with the environmental impacts associated with the growth of our communities.

“Population growth is currently my main environmental concern in the region. I have seen a significant degradation over the years as the towns expand with strip suburbs and shopping centers around the older town cores, deforestation, intensified traffic, tourist activity and so on. Longer term, climate change is a big concern as modeling suggests it will destabilize many aspects of the local environment...”

ZONED AGRICULTURAL LAND HAS DECREASED SLIGHTLY FROM 38,450ha IN 2000 TO 37,959ha IN 2018, A DECREASE OF JUST OVER 2%.

EMERALD ASH BORER A major concern, an estimated 20% of the current trees in woodlots are ash, and all will be most likely lost in the next 10-15 years.

18,000 PUBLIC TREES INVENTORIED BY CW IN 2018.



OUR GREEN CANOPY COVER
ONTARIO GOAL 30%
CENTRE WELLINGTON 13%



GROUNDWATER CONCERNS

“Save our water!”

“Very concerned about water rights and sale to corporations.”

“Our source water must be protected. It cannot be sold for profit.”

“Keep water public. Do not sell to private companies who will bottle and sell water.”

“Water is not for sale.”

AREAS OF CONCERN

86%
LOSS OF NATURAL LANDSCAPE

80%
LOSS OF FARMLAND

80%
CLIMATE CHANGE

79%
WATER QUANTITY

WHAT ARE WE MOST WORRIED ABOUT?

TOP BARRIERS for accessing the environmental features in CW are transportation and the insufficient amenities (toilets, fountains, etc.) 94% OF RESPONDENTS feel that the environmental features in CW (the gorge, rivers, conservation areas, and trails) are either important or very important to them.



**GREEN LEGACY
DISTRIBUTED 24,020
TREES IN 2019 + PLANTED
ANOTHER 3,375 TREES WITH
LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN**

GREEN LEGACY PROGRAM

+ NEIGHBOURWOODS CW is one of the most active in the County in the GREEN LEGACY PROGRAM. In 2019, 24,020 total (seedlings) trees were distributed (4,480 distributed at municipal tree give-out day). Our youngest citizens are actively engaged with the environment. 83 primary classrooms in CW participated in the 2018-2019 school year, with approximately 3,735 trees planted. Another 22 school visits were made to the Green Legacy Nursery, giving approximately 88 hours of volunteer time at the nursery. In addition, NEIGHBOURWOODS has planted 905 trees, including 400 on trails since 2014.

Our conservation areas get both local and non-local visitors each year, and visits have been steadily increasing. (In 2017, the Elora Quarry initiated a visitor cap impacting the visitor numbers for this Conservation Area).

GROUNDWATER USAGE



Groundwater is a major concern for residents in our community. In the public consultation for the Centre Wellington Water Supply Master Plan, the community noted our opposition to commercial water-taking and our opposition to water bottling companies in our community. We have a low per capita residential demand:

**FERGUS - 155L/PERSON A DAY
ELORA - 144L /PERSON A DAY**

This is low relative to other Canadian communities. Demand by households is decreasing yearly, but, with our population growth, we are still projected to have a shortage of water supply to meet our water demands after 2031. The Township has a plan to secure additional water supply capacity, outlined in the Water Supply Master Plan.

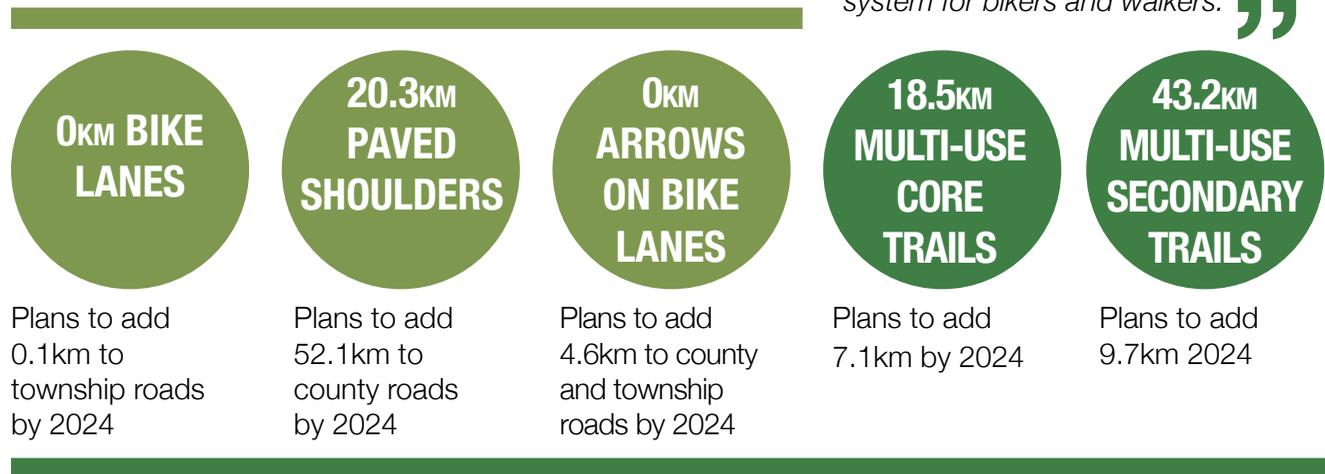
“ Climate change is real. We need to respect our environment, especially water and land. ”

“ The Railway system is excellent and needs to be easily accessible to all new subdivisions and growth. We need a safe and clean transportation system for bikers and walkers. ”



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

in our community is currently car dependent, although there are some plans to build for active transportation in the future.



VISITORS TO CONSERVATION AREAS

BELWOOD	2015	2016	2017	2018
	81,965	91,266	86,123	91,610
ELORA GORGE	2015	2016	2017	2018
	131,972	172,990	152,256	143,119
ELORA QUARRY	2015	2016	2017	2018
	53,928	152,256	66,432	52,619

“ There should be more waste receptacles and there should be recycling options in the more highly trafficked areas. ”

**WASTE - IN 2018:
3,563.83
TONNES COLLECTED
(CURBSIDE),
PER PERSON IS
126.7 KILOS/PER YEAR
(ABOUT 279 LBS)**

Does not include waste sent to transfer stations.

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NOTES: Research has established links between social networks and health outcomes. Social isolation tends to be detrimental to health, while social engagement and attachment are associated with positive health outcomes. Sense of community belonging embodies the social attachment of individuals and reflects social engagement and participation within communities. This type of indicator supports an “upstream” approach to preventing illness and promoting health. Research shows that sense of community belonging is highly correlated with physical and mental health, even when age, socio-economic status and other factors are taken into account. However, because these studies are cross-sectional, causality cannot be inferred—while weak community ties may lead to ill health, illness may also negatively affect sense of community belonging. Well over half of Canadians consistently report a somewhat strong or very strong sense of community belonging. See: (For more information, see: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-229-x/2009001/envir/cob-eng.htm> and the Rural

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THE VITALSIGNS® PROGRAM

Vital Signs® is a national program led by local community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada. By leveraging community knowledge, the Vital Signs report identifies significant trends, and provides in-depth, up-to-date data and information about the people in our communities and the environments in which we live, work and go to school. The report helps us all stay informed so together we can best address the needs of today and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.

For more information, please visit: www.communityfoundations.ca/vitalsigns.

OUR FOUNDATION

Centre Wellington Community Foundation is a charity created by the people of Centre Wellington, dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community now and for generations to come. We enable donors to build community endowment, address needs through grantmaking and provide leadership on key community issues.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Rural Wellington Leadership Table

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Mural Artist: **Marilyn Koop**



SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all using a set of 17 interconnected objectives adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. They are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

Since 2017, Community Foundations of Canada has been incorporating the UN's Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals with Vital Signs. The SDGs provide an opportunity for community foundations to share measurement standards and to track and report on local progress on global goals to ensure no one is left behind. More information on the Sustainable Development Goals is available at www.undp.org/SDGs.



GAP BETWEEN RICH + POOR

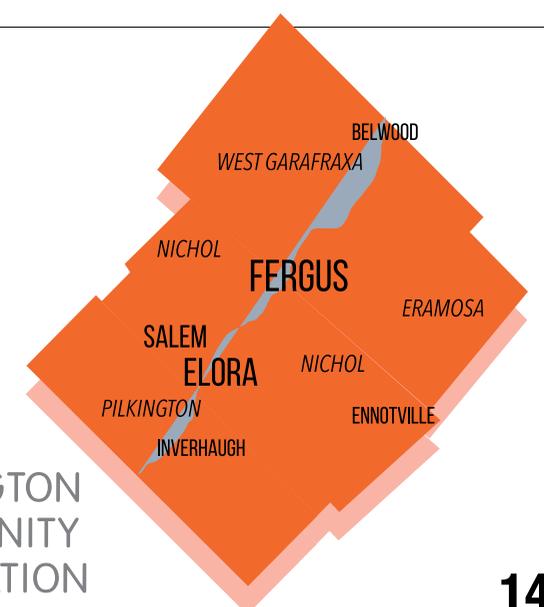
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ARTS + CULTURE

HEALTH

HOUSING

ENVIRONMENT



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