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.
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

$85,149 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME
Down $2,154 from 2015.
1,905 HOUSEHOLDS MAKE MORE THAN $150K

11,499 HOUSEHOLDS IN CW

Population change 2011-2016
Fergus 6%
Elora 9%
All of CW 5.6%

Projected Population 52,000 BY 2041
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.

Community Survey Results
573 Community Members Took Part
*During June, 2019

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.
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.

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

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.

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.

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).

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

LOW-INCOME CENTRE WELLINGTON
6.6% 18.4%
2015 IN CW 2015 IN ON
7.1% 14.4%
2019 IN CW 2019 IN ON

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

IS THE GAP BETWEEN RICH + POOR
A PROBLEM IN CENTRE WELLINGTON?
50% SAY: IT’S A PROBLEM

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

24% AGREE
45% DISAGREE

PEOPLE CAN EASILY EARN A LIVABLE WAGE IN OUR COMMUNITY

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

VOLUNTEERING

YOUTH BELONGING + VOLUNTEERING

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

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

61% of respondents reported high levels of volunteering.

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

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

IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING
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.”

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

HIGHLAND GAMES 392 VOLUNTEERS 4786 HRS
RIVERFEST 550 VOLUNTERS 9750 HRS
ELORA FESTIVAL 160 VOLUNTERS 786 HRS

VOTING

42% MUNICIPAL ’18
61% PROVINCIAL ’18
71% FEDERAL ’15

*38% province-wide
*58% province-wide
*68.3% nationally

OUR LIBRARY
We visited our libraries over 284,000 times in 2018. We have three libraries: Elora, Aboyne, and Fergus.

BELONGING + LEADERSHIP

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED IN THE PAST YEAR?

THE TOP 5 PLACES WE FEEL WE BELONG IN CW

ADULTS + YOUTH

60% NEIGHBOURHOOD
60% ON TRAILS OR IN PARKS
59% CAFES/RESTAURANTS
58% SHOPPING DOWNTOWN
50% COMMUNITY EVENTS

CAFES/RESTAURANTS 48%
ON TRAILS OR IN PARKS 47%
SHOPPING DOWNTOWN 45%
NEIGHBOURHOOD 42%
AT SCHOOL 41%

40% 5+ TIMES
31% 1-4 TIMES

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.

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.

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

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

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

THE FERGUS SCOTTISH + HIGHLAND GAMES 30,000

THE ELORA FESTIVAL 12,000

RIVERFEST 9,000

FERGUS FALL FAIR 7,000

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

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%
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.

HEALTHY LIVING NEEDS MET 57%  HOSPITALS + EMERGENCY SERVICES NEEDS MET 57%

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 41%  ADDICTION NEEDS NOT MET 34%

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.

**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.

**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.

**TO ME, A HEALTHY CENTRE WELLINGTON LOOKS LIKE**

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**

**IS CW MEETING THE COMMUNITY’S NEEDS IN SENIOR CARE?**

37% AGREE 21% DISAGREE

**IS CW MEETING THE COMMUNITY’S NEEDS IN PRIMARY CARE?**

46% AGREE 21% DISAGREE

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

46.3% OF YOUTH IN GR. 10 REPORTED HIGH SELF-ESTEEM, 53.7% REPORTED LOW SELF-ESTEEM

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.

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

Housing Stock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dwellings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>9,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10,823</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change of 8.8%

Housing Density

- Wellington County: 5.0 dwellings/ha
- Fergus: 5.2 dwellings/ha with a maximum density of 28.0 dwellings/ha
- Elora/Salem: 4.7 dwellings/ha with a maximum of 13.0 dwellings/ha

10,570 homes are suitable; 255 are not

Housing Suitability

‘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

Average Monthly Shelter Costs

$1,052 (2016 Census)

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

Do Youth Want to Continue to Live Locally?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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.

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.

2014: $353,371
2019: $543,819

**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.

**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.

**The Lack of Rental Housing**

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 available.

**Homeowners Spend More Than 30% on Housing**

14% of home owners spend more than 30% on housing.

**CW Rental Vacancy is 1.8%**

A healthy vacancy rate is 3%.

**Renters Spend More Than 30% on Housing**

41% of renters spend more than 30% on housing.

**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.**

**Do We Own or Rent Our Homes?**

78% of community survey respondents owned while 15% rented. 93% of youth lived with parents/guardians/family.

**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.**

**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 INVENTORIZED BY CW IN 2018.

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

GROUNDWATER CONCERNS

Save our water!
Our source water must be protected. It cannot be sold for profit.
Water is not for sale.

Very concerned about water rights and sale to corporations.
Keep water public. Do not sell to private companies who will bottle and sell water.

AREAS OF CONCERN

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.
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/PERS A DAY
ELORA - 144L/PERS 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 Trailway 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.

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.

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).

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

0KM BIKE LANES
Plans to add 0.1km to township roads by 2024

20.3KM PAVED SHOULDERS
Plans to add 52.1km to county roads by 2024

0KM ARROWS ON BIKE LANES
Plans to add 4.6km to county and township roads by 2024

18.5KM MULTI-USE CORE TRAILS
Plans to add 7.1km by 2024

43.2KM MULTI-USE SECONDARY TRAILS
Plans to add 9.7km 2024

WATER USE 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.

RAPID TRANSIT IN 2018:
3,375.83 TONNES COLLECTED (CURBSIDE), PER PERSON IS 126.7 KILOS/PER YEAR (ABOUT 279 LBS)

Does not include waste sent to transfer stations.

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

VISITORS TO CONSERVATION AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BELWOOD</td>
<td>81,965</td>
<td>91,266</td>
<td>86,123</td>
<td>91,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELORA GORGE</td>
<td>131,972</td>
<td>172,990</td>
<td>152,256</td>
<td>143,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELORA QUARRY</td>
<td>53,928</td>
<td>152,256</td>
<td>66,432</td>
<td>52,619</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

WELCOME TO CENTRE WELLINGTON


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-x2009001/eng/10700-eng.htm and the Rural ARTS AND CULTURE | Arts Employment: Statistics Canada. 2017. Centre Wellington, TP [Census subdivision], Ontario and Wellington, CTY [Census division], Ontario (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E


Visitors Information Centre data provided by Susan Fitzgerald (Township of Centre Wellington) in an email dated April 29th, 2019.


Visit www.centrewellington.ca for more information.


**WASTE: Data provided by Kelly Vrooman (Wellington County, Solid Waste Services Division) via email on July 4, 2019.**

**REFERENCE FOR OWNERSHIP:** All data were compiled from the Our Community Voices Survey, which ran during the month of June, 2019.


Charitable Donors: 2017. Statistics Canada, Table Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0003-01. Available at: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=111000301

Volunteering Data: provided by Deb Dalziel (Fergus-Elora Tourism) in emails dated July 31 (Riverfest), September 9th (Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games) and September 10th (Elora Festivals).

Library Statistics: provided by Jessica Veldman (Librarian, Wellington County) on July 10th, 2019.

Youth Belonging: Wellinton-Dufferin-Guelph Coalition for
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.

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Jim Wilton
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Susan Thorning
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