



BOARD REPORT

Friday, September 26, 2014



Medical Officer of Health

REPORT TO THE BOARD

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The Canadian Index of Wellbeing

<https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing>

“The Gross National Product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages; the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage; neither our wisdom nor our learning; neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country; it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.” Former U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy

Politicians have known for many years that the measure of success of a society is not found in the Gross Domestic Product. GDP only speaks to economic productivity with an underlying assumption that all growth is good. GDP tells us nothing about our people, our environment, our democracy, or other aspects of life. Indeed the GDP was never intended to be a measure of social progress or overall quality of life.

Many different instruments provide a better measure of the important aspects of our lives:

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) - Better Life index
- Australia - National Development Index
- Europe - National Accounts of Wellbeing Index
- United Kingdom - National Wellbeing Initiative
- Bhutan - Gross National Happiness Index

The development of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) began in 1999 with input from government, academia and community participants. Project manager Linda McKessock states, “It is a tool that has been developed by the people, for the people.” Based on the feedback and technical studies, the CIW research team created the CIW framework: 64 indicators grouped into eight “domains” or quality of life categories.

- **Community Vitality** measures the strength, activity and inclusiveness of relationships between residents, private sector, public sector and civil society organizations that fosters individual and collective wellbeing.

- **Democratic Engagement** measures the participation of citizens in public life and in governance; the functioning of Canadian governments; and the role Canadians and their institutions play as global citizens.
- **Education** measures the literacy and skill levels of the population, including the ability of both children and adults to function in various contexts and plan for and adapt to future situations.
- **Environment** measures the state of and the trends in Canada's environment by looking at the stocks and flows of Canada's environmental goods and services.
- **Healthy Populations** measures the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of the population by looking at different aspects of health status and certain determinants of health.
- **Leisure & Culture** measures activity in the very broad area of culture, which involves all forms of human expression; the more focused area of the arts; and recreational activities.
- **Living Standards** measures the level and distribution of income and wealth, including trends in poverty; income volatility; and economic security, including the security of jobs, food, housing and the social safety net.
- **Time Use** measures the use of time, how people experience time, what controls its use, and how it affects wellbeing.

Ontario released its first report based on the CIW on April 29, 2014. How did we do compared to Canada?

Significant progress was seen in the domains of Education, Community Vitality and Healthy Populations:

- High marks for Education in Ontario (+36.0%)
- Safer and more caring communities (+15.4%)
- Complex signs and symptoms for Healthy Populations (+5.6%)

However, those gains were in stark contrast to the stagnation in Democratic Engagement and Time Use; an overall decline in the Environment; and downward trends in Leisure and Culture and in Living Standards, which lag behind the Canadian average.

- Ontarians are ambivalent about democracy (+1.7%)
- Still caught in the time-crunch (+1.1%)
- No progress for the planet (-1.9%)
- Where have all the good times gone? Less time for Leisure and Culture (-5.9%)
- Ontarians are feeling acute economic anxiety. Ontario's Living Standards fell by almost 23% in three years (from +29.2% in 2007 to +6.5% in 2010)

Writing the next chapter together

- There is nothing inevitable or unavoidable about the challenges we face. This is our municipality, province, our country and we have a role — in fact, a *responsibility* — to define the next chapter of our future.
- Collectively, Ontarians, our communities and our governments require nothing more than imaginative ideas, resolve and public policy that place wellbeing at its very heart.

Hazel Lynn

Program Report September 2014



101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 0A5
519-376-9420 1-800-263-3456

WEBSITE: www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

We work with the Grey Bruce community to protect and promote health.

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CLIENT SERVICES

PLAY in Bruce Grey

The *PLAY in Bruce Grey* physical activity strategy has been promoting increased levels of movement among Grey Bruce residents for the past seven years. This program caters to all ages from walking clubs for older adults to kinder gym for the pre-school age group. The *Family Day of PLAY* and the *Longest Day of PLAY* remain the two marquee events.

Great strides have been made to make *PLAY* sustainable in Owen Sound. Weekly gym nights have been held at St. Basil's for five years with last year's activities organized and facilitated entirely by parent volunteers. Weekly tracking shows an average of 15-20 participants. Special thanks go to volunteers Lisa and Ethan for their leadership, to the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board for providing cost-free space and to Grey County Housing for their support.



HEALTHY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Guys Caring For Kids Photo Contest

Today's fathers spend twice as much time with their children than did fathers in the 1950's. The importance of fathers cannot be understated, as children with involved fathers are less likely to suffer from poverty, become involved in drug and alcohol abuse, drop out of school and suffer from health and emotional problems. Each year around Father's Day, a group of community organizations celebrate positive male role models in Grey Bruce with the Guys Caring for Kids Photo Contest. This year's fifth annual contest received a record 79 entries.

The top three submissions for 2014:

Julia Wells

"Fun and Snuggles with Daddy"



Lindsey Kuglin

"Eyes for Daddy"



Sara Gateman

"Sitting High Behind the Wheel –
Enjoying the Ride of Fatherhood"



Grey Bruce Community Picture - 2014 Supplement

The *Grey Bruce Healthy Community Picture - 2014 Supplement* was released in August. The document updates the community profile; health status and health behaviours data; and determinants of health and health inequities sections of the Grey Bruce Community Picture—2011.

The purpose of the *Supplement* is to continue to inform the work of the Healthy Communities Partnership. It is a resource to assist individuals, partners, municipalities and others. By highlighting the strengths and vulnerabilities of the region, the document will help to:

- Mobilize community partners around a common goal
- Support the preparation of community grant proposals
- Inform the allocation of other local funds or activities
- Assist local organizations to identify strategic and program priorities

The full report *Grey Bruce Community Picture - 2014 Supplement* is available at: http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/HOME/Publications/Reports/General/2014_Grey_Bruce_Healthy_Community_Picture-FINAL-Aug_15_2014.pdf

Grey Bruce Community Picture
Grey Bruce Healthy Communities Partnership
2014 Supplement



August 2014

REGULATORY/ RESEARCH / SURVEILLANCE

Immunization – School coverage rates

Immunization remains the first and best line of defense against infectious diseases. Because of vaccines, which protect the public at relatively low cost, several generations of Ontarians have grown up not knowing the devastation of polio, diphtheria, tetanus, measles and rubella. High immunization coverage rates are essential to avoid outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

In the past ten years, Ontario has almost doubled the number of publicly funded vaccines. The province now provides 21 vaccines against 16 diseases. The *Immunization of School Pupil's Act* requires all students to be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps and rubella, unless they have a valid medical or philosophical exemption on file. Public health maintains a database of immunizations to assess local coverage rates. Despite the excellent coverage in Grey Bruce, all rates fall short of the National Vaccine targets.

Immunization	Ontario (%)	Grey Bruce (%)
Diphtheria	74.6	94.6
Tetanus	74.6	94.6
Pertussis	72.6	94.2
Measles (2 dose)	88.3	95.7
Mumps (2 dose)	87.9	95.7
Rubella	95.2	97.2

Ontario and Grey Bruce immunization coverage rates (%) of children 7 years (2012-13)

School-based Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Meningococcal vaccines are offered to all Grades 7 and 8 children. Provincially, HPV vaccine uptake has increased from 48% to 80% since the vaccine was publicly funded for Grade 8 females in 2007/08.

Immunization	Ontario (%)	Grey Bruce (%)
Hepatitis B (Grade 7 students)	86.9	92.7
Meningococcal Disease	89.4	90.1
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	80.2	80.4

Ontario and Grey Bruce school-based immunization coverage rates (%) Grades 7 and 8 (2012-13)

The Vaccine Preventable Diseases team focus on ensuring that all children enter school with up to date immunization records. The team are constantly assessing student immunization records to ensure accuracy. Recognizing the low-cost and effectiveness of publicly funded vaccines, the team support school-based delivery models.

Radiation Health Response Plan

This past July, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released the *Radiation Health Response Plan*, designed to guide health sector planning at provincial and local levels across Ontario. The plan was developed by the Emergency Management Branch in support of the *Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan*. As Grey Bruce is host to the world's largest nuclear generating facility, the document has particular significance.

Many aspects of the plan are in keeping with previous documents, but the plan helps to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies in the event of an emergency. It also provides tools such as a Potassium Iodide Guideline, a Potassium Iodide fact sheet, and a Health Canada Casualty Assessment Tool for use by hospitals dealing with affected patients.

As a result of this new document, the host municipality (Kincardine), Bruce Power and the Grey Bruce Health Unit are all reviewing their respective emergency response plans. Proposed changes by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission regarding Potassium Iodide will likely have an impact on the methods used for public distribution and education. Potassium Iodide is useful during specific types of nuclear emergencies as it can help protect the thyroid against some of the affects of radiation – it is of most use for those under 40 years of age, particularly children and pregnant or breastfeeding women.

