



Creating and Sustaining Access to Primary Care

Proposed by: Town of The Blue Mountains Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee

Creating and Sustaining Access to Primary Care

A joint Municipal effort for the development, implementation and progress monitoring of a sustainable solution for the recruitment and retention of Primary Care Physicians in the South Georgian Bay Region.



Tackling the Doctor Shortage in Ontario, Canada

Journal of Medical Regulation (2004) 90 (3): 21–27.

<https://doi.org/10.30770/2572-1852-90.3.21>

Headlines say it all!

Doctor shortage in Renfrew County will grow in 2021 and virtual care being explored

Pembroke, ON, Canada / 104.9 Pembroke Today

myFM News/Oldies 107.7 staff

Feb 17, 2021 | 4:10 PM

How a northern Ontario town's summer health-care staffing crisis is a canary in the coal mine



Rural physicians' group calling on federal parties to address inequities

[Logan Turner](#) · CBC News · Posted: Sep 14, 2021 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: September 14

News / Local News

Municipal co-operation suggested to solve doctor shortage

Scott Dunn

Sep 17, 2021 · September 17, 2021 · 4 minute read · [Join the conversation](#)

Gary Sims said the region overall needs more family doctors. His interest as head of the hospital corporation is to ensure some of them will also work in his hospitals.

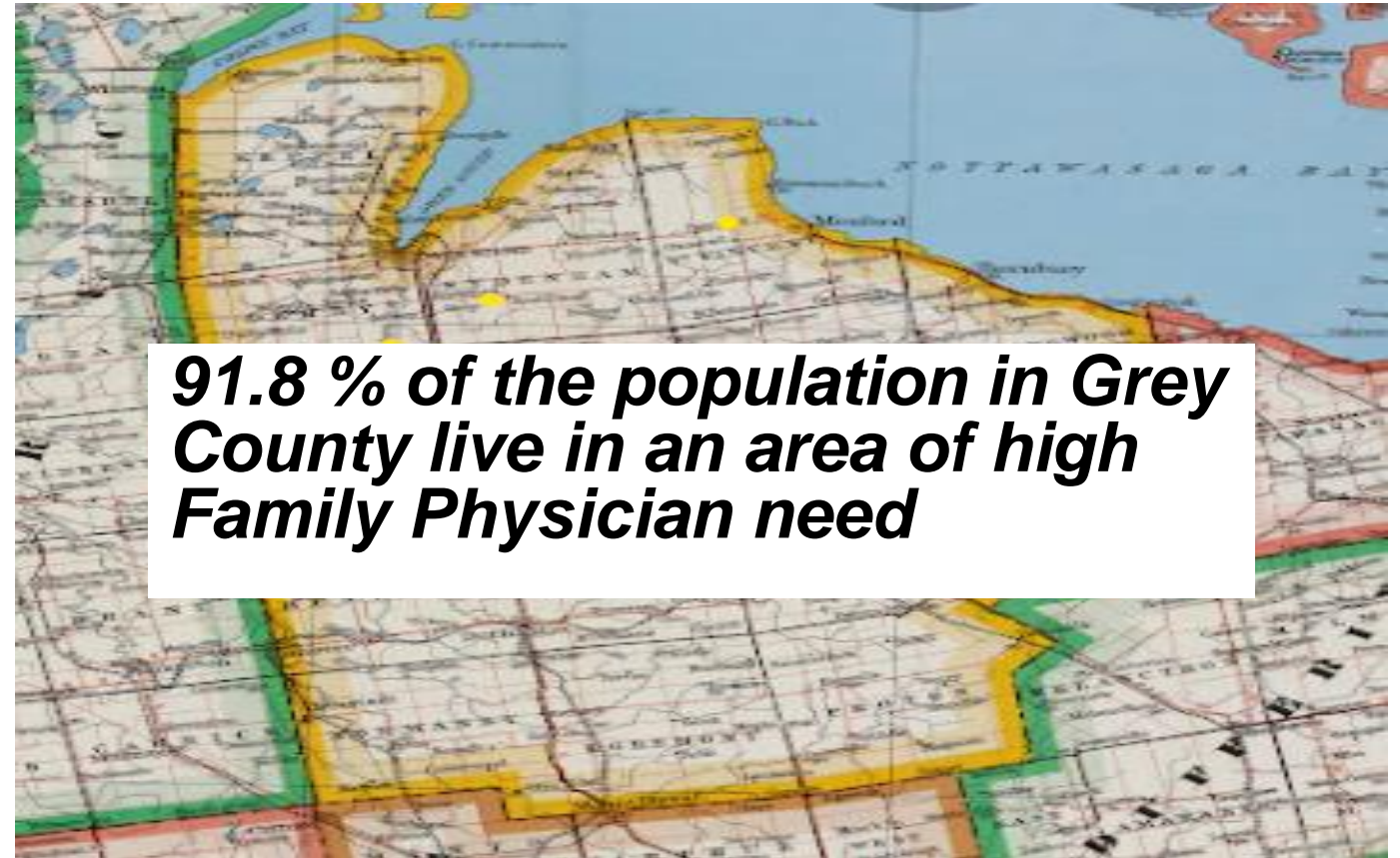
Areas of High Physician Need in Grey County

Yes

- Chatsworth
- Grey Highlands
- Georgian Bluffs
- The Blue Mountains
- Owen Sound
- Meaford
- Southgate

No

- Hanover (8.1% pop of Grey County)



Source: <https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/highneed/>

Areas of High Physician Need

- *It is now **the rule**, not the exception, to live in a community that does not have enough family physicians to care for all its residents.*
- *Communities are **acutely aware** of the need to have access to Primary Care locally and therefore recruit more Family Physicians and or Nurse Practitioners to our area.*

What is the Value Proposition for Your Residents...

Research shows that a strong primary care system, centred on continuous doctor-patient relationships, leads to the best health outcomes for patients which include:

- Improved satisfaction
- Appropriate preventative care, i.e. anticipate and prevent or mitigate future health problems
- Timely and accurate diagnoses
- Appropriate diagnostic tests and prescriptions
- Return to work oversight
- Mental health treatment compliance i.e. medications 8 weeks to realize an impact
- Decreased and/or shorter hospitalization
- Decrease readmission rates, i.e. within 30 days
- Decrease emergency department visits

What is the Value Proposition for our Acute Care Hospitals...

Family Physicians provide key roles in our hospital

- Emergency Medicine
- Surgical Assists
- Anesthesia, at rural hospitals of Grey Bruce Health Services
- Ambulatory Clinics
- OB/Delivery
- Hospitalists

Emergency and Walk-in-Clinics *do not* provide...

- Continuity of care which results from an ongoing therapeutic relationship between a patient and a primary care provider that spans various health care events and results in an accumulated knowledge of the patient and care consistent with the individual's needs
- This is because of the regular and continuous relationship that develops between the Family Physician and the patient. The Family Physician is better able to understand the patient's health issues and circumstances. The patient trusts their Family Physician. This provides the opportunity for the doctor and patient to anticipate and prevent or mitigate future health problems, which can lead to a reduction in both the use of primary care services and hospital days.

Population Growth...

Key Demographic Inputs and Assumptions

- 2016-2020 growth
 - Statistics Canada *Annual Demographic Estimates* now available to 2020
 - County grew by 5,700 people between 2016 Census and mid-2020, with the highest growth year of the four being 2019-2020, just when COVID-19 struck
 - Much faster growth than anticipated under 2018 GMS
- 2020-2021 growth
 - estimates based on local plans of subdivision in the active phase of development and known 2016-2020 population growth
 - there is currently a lot of development activity in Grey
- 2021-2046 growth
 - Fertility/mortality assumptions are consistent with recent Ministry of Finance (MOF) projections
 - County population forecast slightly higher than MOF
 - Higher growth accounts for continued out-migration to the GGH edge areas, a very full “development pipeline” in Grey, both of which may be tied to COVID-19

Growth Forecasts to 2046



How Many Family Physicians will be required...

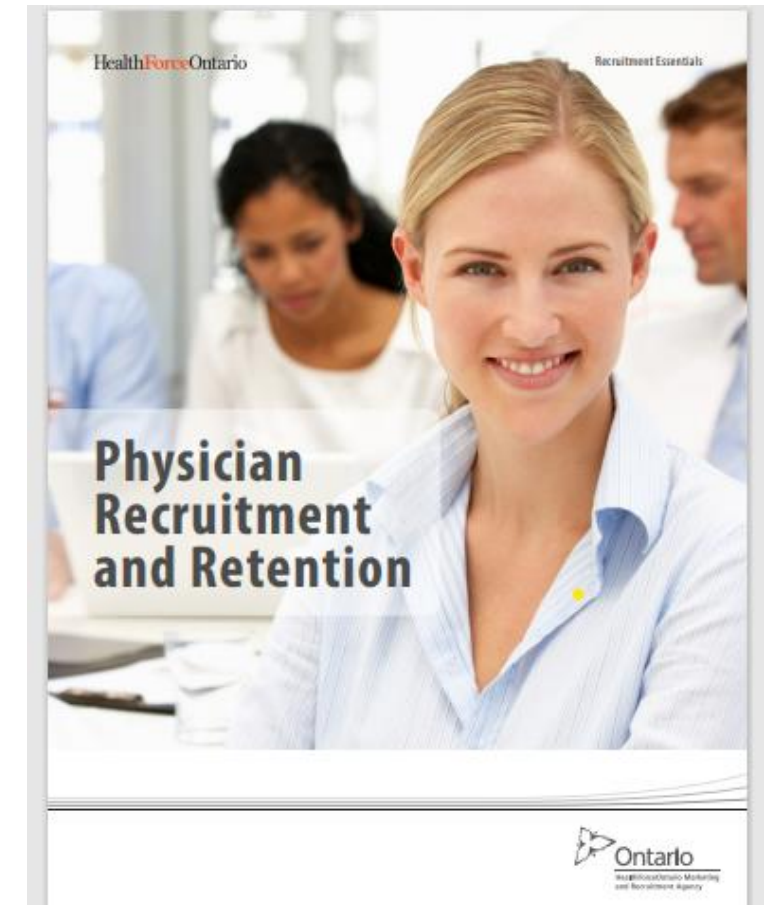
Grey County - Updated Population Forecast by Local Municipality to 2046				
Year	2021	2046	Growth	Share
Town of the Blue Mountains	9,550	16,300	6,750	28.3%
Township of Chatsworth	7,240	7,980	740	3.1%
Township of Georgian Bluffs	11,210	12,780	1,570	6.6%
Municipality of Grey Highlands	10,590	11,920	1,330	5.6%
Town of Hanover	8,450	11,870	3,420	14.4%
Municipality of Meaford	11,800	13,480	1,680	7.1%
Township of Southgate	8,610	12,780	4,170	17.5%
Municipality of West Grey	13,360	15,110	1,750	7.3%
City of Owen Sound	22,510	24,910	2,400	10.1%
Grey County	103,320	127,130	23,810	100.0%

20 plus...

Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.

Ask for Creating and Sustaining Access to Primary Care...

1. Commitment to work with municipally driven recruitment initiatives
2. Financial support of \$250,000 for activities which include:
 1. Dedicated resources to partner with the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP)
 2. Host site visits, tours and special Events including Medical School affiliated Discovery Weeks for 1st year medical students
 3. Medical summer students to work with local Family Physicians and acute care providers to identify opportunities for the Owen Sound and Georgina Bay Family Health Teams to expand community-based services to residents, i.e., for mental health and elderly/carers
 4. Resources for transitional housing
 5. Nurse Practitioner pilot to serve The Blue Mountains, Grey Highlands and Meaford



Questions....