

**SOCIAL PROSPERITY PROJECT
FOR DUFFERIN COUNTY**

Environmental Scan

**Prepared for the Steering Committee for the
Social Prosperity Project**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Purpose

This report was written at the request of the Steering Committee for the Social Prosperity Project for Dufferin. The purpose of this report is to begin a discussion within the project's Steering Committee and the larger community about areas that should be priorities for action.

The Social Prosperity Project for Dufferin has recognized the importance of tapping into and developing the social capital of Dufferin County. Social capital refers to the "features of social organizations such as networks, norms and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit."¹ Social capital is an approach used in many communities to develop strategies to improve the resilience of communities, and to engage citizens, organizations, and businesses in these strategies.

This report approaches available demographic and other data through a social capital "lens" by beginning to identify patterns and trends that are influencing change in Dufferin. However, this data cannot tell the whole picture. It will be by engaging the larger community that these and other themes can be validated and developed.

This report is not the first of its kind. This report is preceded by People of Dufferin: A Resilient Community (Horvath, 1999)², The Community Linkages Project (1999) and At Work in the High County: An Assessment of Human Resource Needs and Supply Strategies in Dufferin County.³ These two profiles come to similar conclusions on many factors affecting the quality of life in Dufferin.

This report offers updated 2001 Census data that was not available for some of the earlier studies. All attempts have been made to detail the similarities and differences that exist within Dufferin County, and to compare results to neighbouring municipalities as well as to provincial and national data, when possible.

1.2 Methodology

This report is based primarily on the following sources:

- demographic data from the 1996 and 2001 Census by Statistics Canada,
- data tables compiled by District Health Councils serving Dufferin and Peel and the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit,
- some administrative data collected by organizations in Dufferin, and
- analysis from published needs assessments, environmental scans and reports.

The section headings/topics chosen for this report include those generally included in environmental scans and community profiles, including that used by the Genuine Progress Indicators (GPI) project of the Pembina Institute (Alberta).

The research for this project was conducted in July through September of 2004.

Thanks go to all members of the Steering Committee for the Social Prosperity project for Dufferin for their guidance on this project, as well as staff with Human Resources Development Canada, The County of Dufferin, The Region of Peel Planning Department, both Orangeville and Shelburne Police services, the Waterloo-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Councils, and the Orangeville and Shelburne Food Banks.

1.3 Summary of Findings

The following are four themes that emerged in several sections of this report.

1. Low socio-economic inequality is one indicator of a community with strong networks, norms and levels of social trust... or social capital. Levels of poverty in Dufferin are lower than neighbouring municipalities and provincial levels. However, it appears that the incidence of poverty is far greater among individuals than among families, and that poverty among families is concentrated in specific parts of the county.
2. Dufferin's demographic growth translates into high numbers of newcomers to the area, and a large proportion of residents who commute to work outside of Dufferin. These two factors reduce the likelihood that people will build strong support networks in the community, and limit awareness of community resources and needs and be a barrier to engaging people in community organizations.
3. Dufferin is becoming an increasingly urban community, with demographic growth concentrated in and around existing urban centres. This is significant because Dufferin has been traditionally viewed as a rural community. It appears that this is changing, and that this change can be

- expected to lead to social pressures that are associated with large cities, including increased economic disparity.
4. Dufferin County is currently at a crossroads. Rapid demographic growth throughout Dufferin has created more wealth and opportunities. This growth has also created new pressures on health and social service providers to deliver services in a coordinated and planned manner. Many organizations delivering health and social services in Dufferin have discussed the benefits of increased planning and coordination of services to enable organizations to better manage services. The risk of not planning may be a diminished quality of life in Dufferin.

2 Population

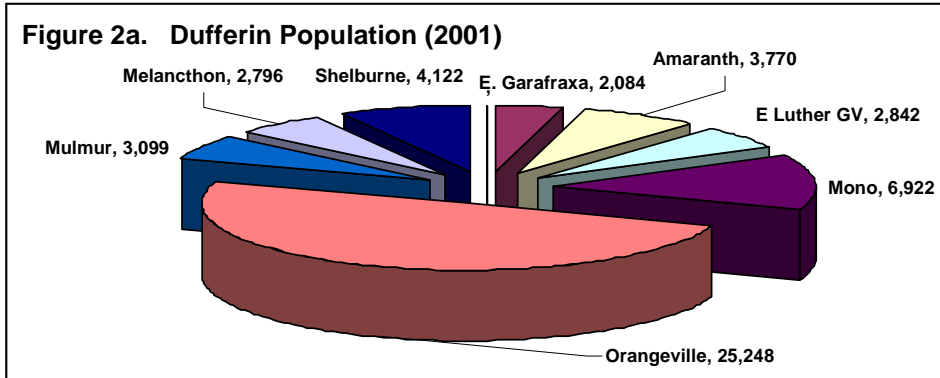
Dufferin County is a relatively small municipality of 51,013 residents (2001) situated on the northern fringe of Ontario's Golden Horseshoe. The County is comprised of two urban municipalities and six rural municipalities, with Orangeville as the regional hub and home to approximately half of Dufferin's total population. Five of Dufferin's rural municipalities had fewer than 4,000 residents.

Strong demographic growth is a significant characteristic of change in Dufferin County. Dufferin County is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Ontario and in Canada, due largely to its proximity to the Greater Toronto Area.

- The rate of growth in Dufferin exceeds that for Ontario, with highest growth occurring in Orangeville. Population growth in Orangeville exceeds that for Peel Region and is almost double that for Wellington County.
- Projected growth for Dufferin County from 1996 to 2016 is 41.5%. This comes between 24.9% for Ontario and 60.9% for Peel Region. Orangeville is eighth fastest growing city in Ontario, and 18th fastest in the nation.⁴
- Dufferin has a lower percentage of immigrants (newcomers to Canada) when compared to provincial and national percentages, and when compared to neighbouring municipalities such as Peel Region and Wellington County.
- When compared to Ontario, Dufferin has a higher percentage of its population under 19 years of age, and a lower percentage of 20-25 year olds.
- Dufferin's percentage of seniors 65+years is below that for Ontario.
- The growth rate in the population of seniors (60+ years) in Dufferin is projected to be above that for Wellington but below that for Peel.

2.1 Size and Growth of the Dufferin Population

Dufferin's population is concentrated in southern municipalities, with the Town's of Mono and Orangeville totaling 32,170 people, 63% of the total population of the Dufferin. Chart 2.a below illustrates this concentration of residents, with the remaining municipalities ranging in size from East Garafraxa (population 2,084) to Shelburne (population 4,122).



Source: Statistics Canada; Community Profiles, 2001

Figure 2.b shows projected population growth rate for Dufferin will by far exceed that for the province, but remaining significantly below that for Peel Region. Figure 2.c shows that population growth from 1996 to 2001 was highest in Orangeville (17.4%) which was above Ontario, Wellington County and even Peel Region. Population growth in Shelburne and Amaranth also appear to be contributing to Dufferin's rapid growth.

This picture of growth suggests that Dufferin is becoming increasingly urban. Population increases in Orangeville and Shelburne will not include the growth of sub-divisions in neighbouring municipalities that border on these towns. While these communities are outside of formal urban areas, residents in these communities draw on these local centres, particularly Orangeville.

Figure 2.b

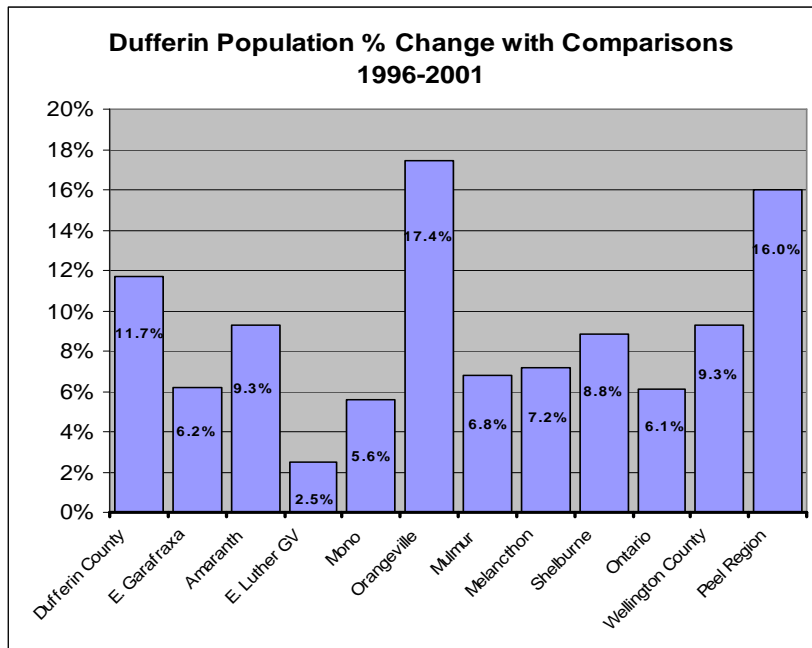


Figure 2.b. Source: Halton-Peel District Health Council Local Health System Monitoring Report, 2002, p.209, and Waterloo Region- Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council Local Health System Monitoring Report, 2001-2002, p16

Figure 2c. Population Growth Projections for Dufferin and Neighbouring Municipalities				
Growth Rate	Dufferin	Peel	Wellington	Ontario
1996-2016	41.5%	60.9%	29.9%	24.9%
Source: Halton-Peel District Health Council <u>Local Health System Monitoring Report</u> , 2002, p.209, and Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health <u>Council Local Health System Monitoring Report</u> , 2001-2002, p16				

2.2 Mobility & Commuting

Dufferin County appears to be a relatively mobile population, particularly when it comes to commuting. Figure 2.d. compares mobility within Dufferin to those of neighbouring municipalities and Ontario. While growth and in-migration into Dufferin has increased, the levels of mobility in Figure 2.d in the past year (2000 to 2001) are only slightly above provincial levels. The percentage of those who remained at the same address as five years ago was slightly lower than Wellington and Ontario. Peel Region is the only region profiled here with higher mobility.

Figure 2.d.				
Mobility Status for Dufferin County	Dufferin	Peel	Wellington	Ontario
% Lived at the same address 1 year ago	87.5	85.4	85.7	86.1
% Lived at the same address 5 years ago	56.1	52.3	56.6	57.2

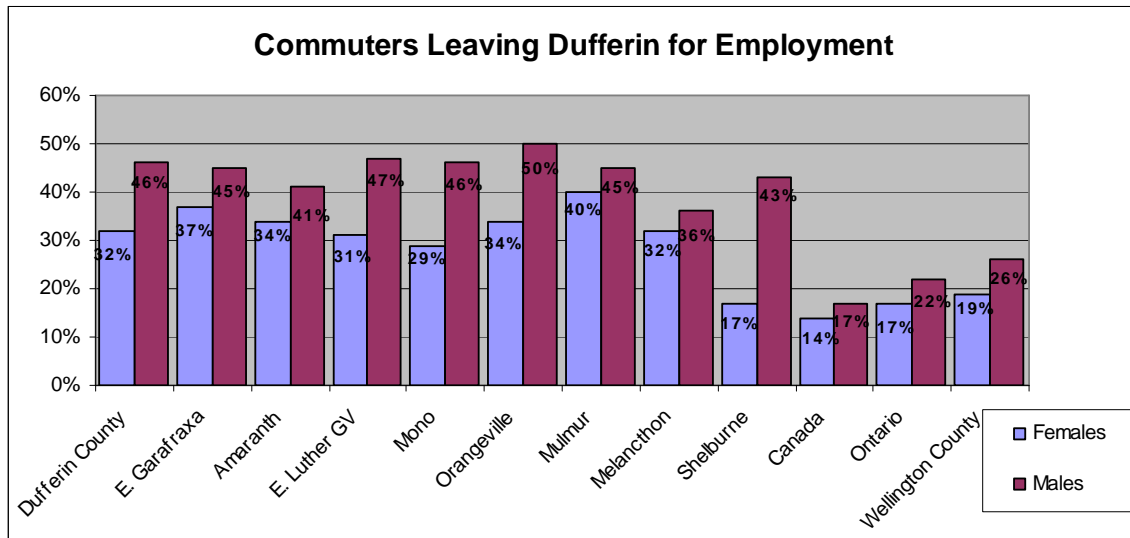
Source: Statistics Canada; Community Profiles, 2001

Living in Dufferin in many cases means commuting to work outside of Dufferin. Figure 2.e. shows that the percentage of the labour force that commutes outside of the census district (Dufferin) is over double the provincial rate and is significantly higher than the rate for Wellington County.

Orangeville appears to have the highest percentage of male commuters and Mono has the highest number of female commuters. Male commuting rates consistently exceed female rates, although the female/male gap is much greater in Dufferin the gap at provincial or federal levels.

Shelburne is notable for having 61% more male than female commuters – far above that in all other areas of Dufferin.

Figure 2.e

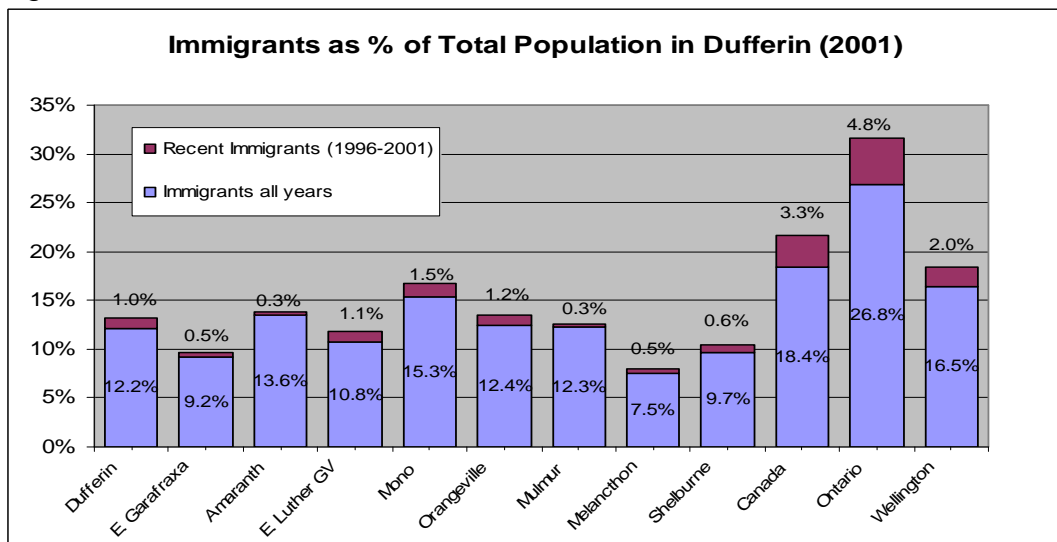


Source: Statistics Canada; Community Profiles, 2001

2.3 Immigration

Immigrants make up a small percentage of Dufferin County's population, particularly when compared to provincial and national levels. Figure 2.f. shows the percentage of immigrants living in Dufferin (all years) at approximately 12%. This falls far below the percentage for Ontario, which is approximately 31%, and neighbouring Wellington County (including Guelph) at 16.5%. The highest percentage of immigrants appear to be in Mono (15.3%) and the lowest percentages are in Melancthon (7.5%). Percentages of recent immigrants (1996-2001) for Dufferin also remain well below percentages for Wellington as well as provincial and national levels.

Figure 2.f.



2.4 Population by Age Group

Dufferin's population appears to be generally younger when compared to provincial data. Figure 2.g. below indicates that Dufferin has a higher percentage of its population in the 5-14 year group (3.4%) above provincial rates, and 1% above provincial rates for the 0-4 year group. However, Dufferin has a smaller percentage of youth in the 20-24 year group and 75-84 year group compared to Ontario figures.

Figure 2.g. Total 2001 Population by Age Group

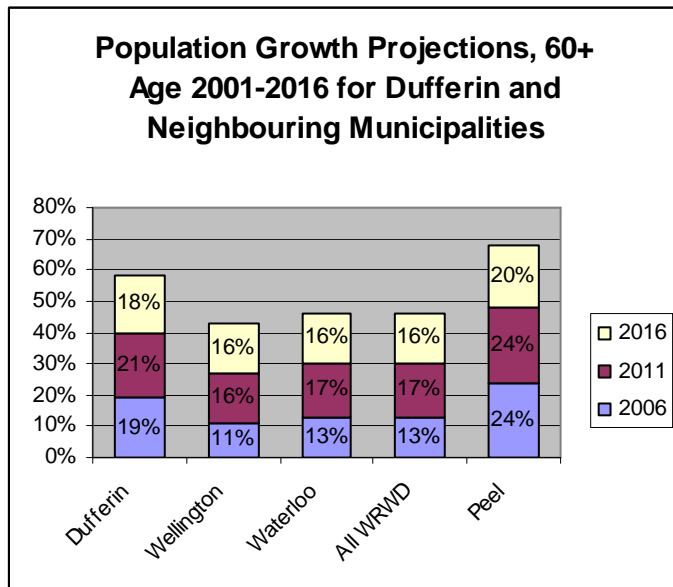
	0-4	5-14	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Dufferin	6.8%	17.0%	7.2%	5.2%	31.4%	13.8%	8.5%	5.4%	3.2%	1.2%
Ontario	5.8%	13.6%	6.7%	6.3%	30.8%	14.3%	9.3%	7.1%	4.4%	1.3%
Difference	+1.0	+3.4	+0.5	-1.1	+0.6	-0.5	-0.8	-0.7	-1.2	-0.1

Source: Statistics Canada; Community Profiles, 2001

2.5 Seniors

Population growth for seniors 60 years and over in Dufferin from 2006 to 2016 appears to exceed that Waterloo Region and Wellington County but is less than that for Peel Region. Figure 2.h. below indicates that the projected growth rate in the seniors population is expected to reach its peak in all regions, including Dufferin around 2011 before beginning to decline.

Figure 2.h.



Source: Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District health Council, A Needs Analysis for Supportive Housing for the Elderly in Waterloo Region, Wellington County and Dufferin County, January 2003.

The high level of past and project growth can be expected to place pressure on the social infrastructure in Dufferin. A growing number of residents will be expecting services to meet needs that have not previously existed in Dufferin. There may also be the expectation by newcomers that services be comparable to those in larger urban centres.

Dufferin retains many of the assets and qualities of a small community. However, this rapid growth suggests that the community is at a crossroads – a unique point in time when the community retains many of the assets (primarily size) that would facilitate planning. A failure to plan and coordinate strategies to adapt to growth could lead to decreased social and economic prosperity overall.

Social capital speaks to the resilience of communities to overcome crisis and to solve problems by employing bonds and bridges that exist between individuals and groups. Migration to Dufferin from the Greater Toronto Area, combined with the high percentage of commuters leaving Dufferin for work outside of the County suggests that it is more difficult for newcomers to develop and benefit from individual networks in the community.

Dufferin's lower percentage of youth 20-24 years likely reflects youth leaving the area for post-secondary education, and for work and other opportunities outside Dufferin. It also likely reflects the relative lack of employment and affordable housing in Dufferin compared to the Greater Toronto Area. This movement away from Dufferin is likely similar to other communities that are in close proximity to large urban areas. Dufferin's proximity to the Greater Toronto Area brings wealth and investment, but it also appears to draw youth away from Dufferin.

3 Household and Family Structure

The purpose of this section is to provide some insight into the size and structure of families and households in Dufferin with comparisons within Dufferin and with neighbouring municipalities and provincial and national data, when available.

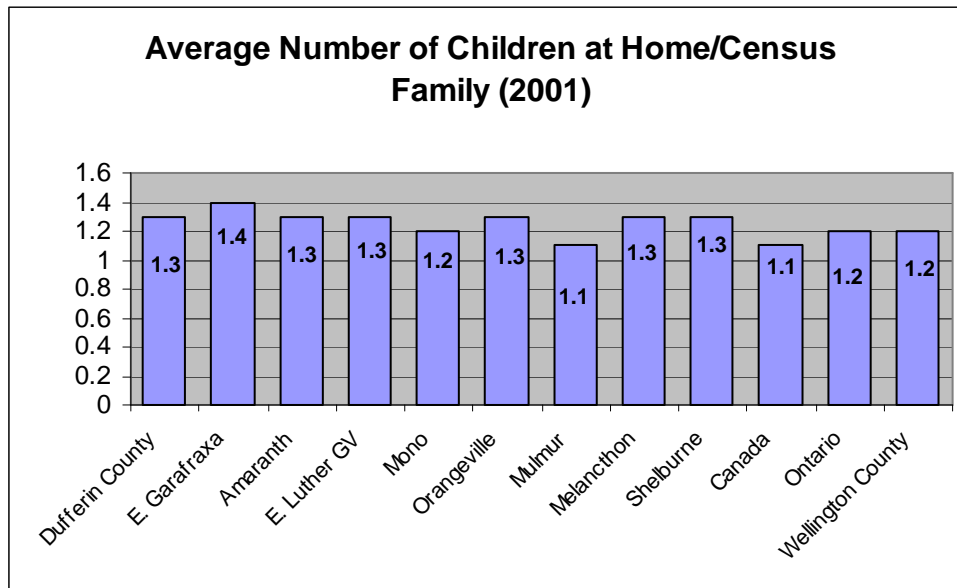
The following subsections indicate that families in Dufferin are generally slightly larger when compared to provincial averages, and that there are overall fewer female-led lone parent families than found provincially. A larger percentage of Dufferin's population is married. There are fewer single individuals compared to provincial rates.

3.1 Size of Households

This subsection focuses on the number of dependent children at home as an indicator of the size of households in Dufferin. This recognizes that current data (2001) discussed in section two identified higher than average numbers of children and youth 19 years and younger in Dufferin, when compared to provincial figures.

Figure 3.a. indicates that Dufferin households average slightly more children at home (1.3), when compared to provincial and national averages, which are 1.2 and 1.1 respectively. Households in East Garafraxa have the highest number of children (averaging 1.4 children/household with children), while Mulmur has the lowest average of 1.1.

Figure 3.a



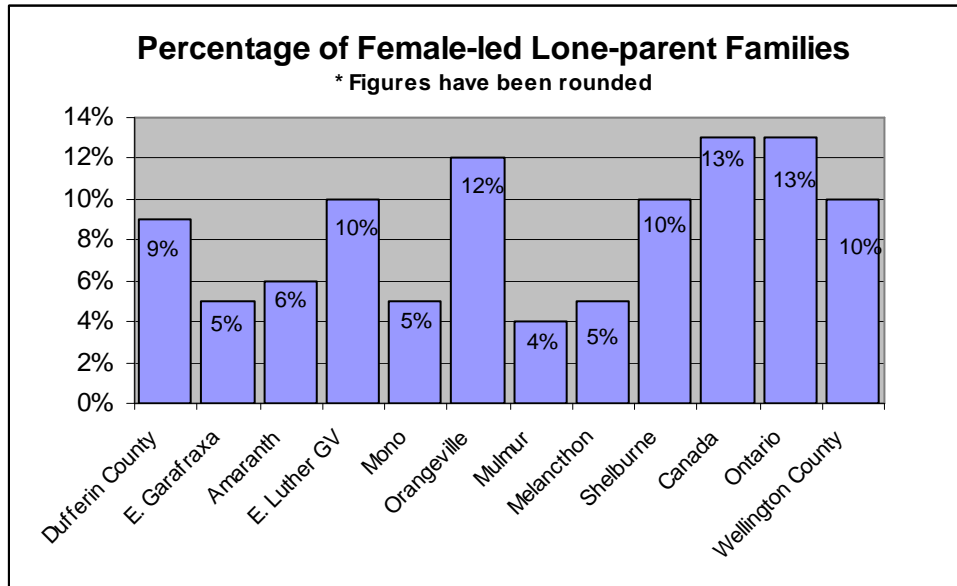
Source: Statistics Canada; Community Profiles, 2001

3.2 Lone Parent Families

It is generally accepted that the incidence of poverty is higher among female lone parent families. Figure 3.b. compares the percentage of female-led lone parent families within Dufferin, and with provincial and national rates.

The percentage of female-led lone parent families appears to be generally lower in Dufferin (9%) when compared to principal and national rates with both 13%. Orangeville has the highest rate (12%), only slightly below provincial and national rates. East Luther Grand Valley and Shelburne also has rates slightly above the Dufferin rate (both at 10%). Mulmur has the lowest rate in Dufferin with 4% of lone parent families led by females.

Figure 3.b.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

3.3 Marital Status

Dufferin County has a higher percentage of married individuals and a lower percentage of single individuals when compared to provincial figures. Figure 3.c. indicates that overall the percentage of married individuals was 4.3% higher than the provincial percentage. The percentage of single individuals in Dufferin is 3.9% below the provincial percentage.

East Garafraxa and Mono have the highest percentage of married individuals (63.1%). This is almost 10% higher than the provincial percentage of 53.3%. Shelburne has the lowest percentage of married individuals (51%).⁵

Figure 3.c.

Marital Status of Population 15 Years and Over	Dufferin	E Garafraxa	Amaranth	E Luther GV	Mono	O'ville	Mulmur	Melancthon	Shelburne	Ontario
Married	57.6	63.1	61	57.7	63.1	55.4	60.6	59.6	51	53.3
Single	26.5	25.1	26.4	27.5	25.6	27.2	24.8	26.9	24.3	30.4
Divorced	6.8	5.9	5.7	7.2	5.1	7.3	7.3	7.2	7	6.5
Widowed	5.5	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.7	5.9	3.9	3.9	12.7	6.3
Separated	3.7	2.1	3.3	3.6	2.5	4.2	3.5	2.6	4.7	3.4

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

Shelburne and Mulmur appear to have the lowest percentage of single individuals (24.3% and 24.8% respectively), approximately 6% below the provincial rates of 30.4%. East Luther Grand Valley and Orangeville have the

highest percentage of single individuals in Dufferin, although both rates in these municipalities are approximately 3% below provincial rates.

4 Ethnocultural Diversity

In all Waterloo Region, Wellington County and Dufferin County, Dufferin has the lowest proportion of residents reporting being other than British, English or Canadian.

Visible minorities make up a relatively small percentage of Dufferin's population when compared to neighbouring municipalities. While census data indicates that the percentage of visible minorities in Dufferin is increasing (from 2.2% of the total population in 1996 to 3.2% in 2001) Dufferin remains far behind Peel (38.5%), Wellington (7.4%), and Ontario (19%). Blacks, South Asians and Chinese appear to make up the majority of visible minorities in Dufferin.

This may mean there are currently fewer barriers to providing health and social services to what appears to be a more homogeneous population. However, a small and growing number of residents from minority cultural groups may eventually affect what services are delivered, and how they are delivered.

5 Education, Employment and Unpaid Work

The purpose of this section is to describe Dufferin using several generally accepted measures of educational achievement and employment activity.

Generally, Dufferin has a higher percentage of its population (20-64 years) with a trades certificate or diploma, and a lower percentage of its population with a university degree or certificate compared to neighbouring municipalities and provincial averages.

The labour force participation rate and the employment rate in Dufferin are both generally above provincial levels and comparable to levels in Peel Region. This reinforces a perception that Dufferin's labour force is integrated into that of Peel. The unemployment rate in Dufferin appears to be generally lower than provincial rate.

Almost 25% of Dufferin's workforce is employed in the manufacturing sector. Dufferin also has a higher percentage of its population providing unpaid childcare compared to Ontario levels.

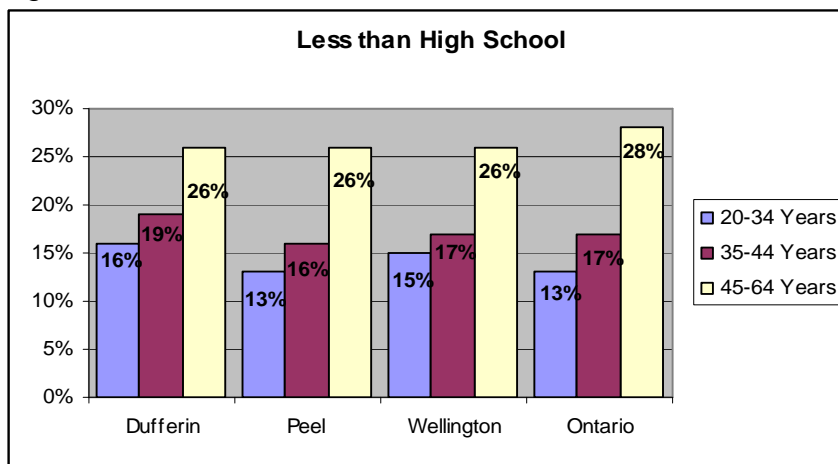
A significant portion of Dufferin's workforce commutes to work outside of Dufferin. The percentage of commuters in Dufferin exceeds that for Wellington County and is over double overall provincial levels.

5.1 Educational Attainment

Figure 5.a. indicates a slightly higher percentage of Dufferin residents in the 20-34 year and 35-44 year age brackets with less than high school when compared to Ontario levels and those of Wellington and Peel. The Peel-Halton-Dufferin Training Board recently reported that Dufferin still has the highest percentage of early leavers within its catchment area.⁶

Shelburne and Melancthon have lowest proportion of residents who have completed high school and highest proportion of residents who have less than a Grade nine education.⁷

Figure 5.a⁸



The percentage of Dufferin's work force over 35 years of age with a trades certificate or diploma is generally above that for Wellington County, Peel Region, and Ontario. Figure 5.b. below also indicates that this pattern does not appear to continue to those in the 20-34 year bracket.

Figure 5.b.

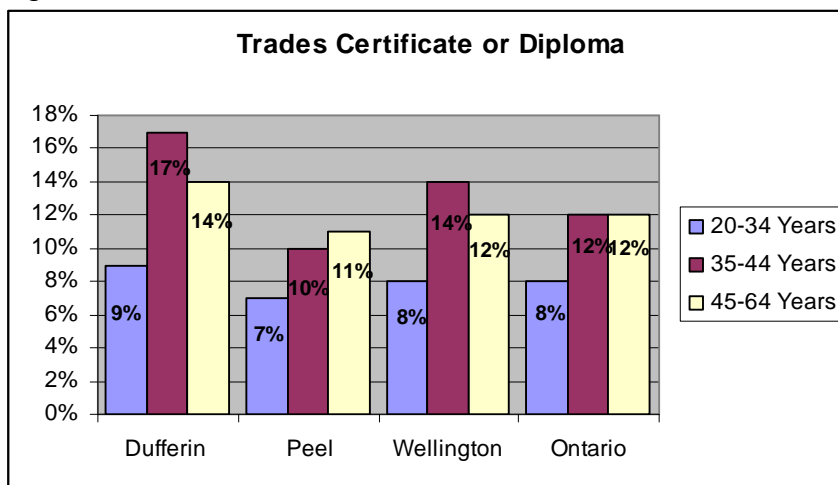
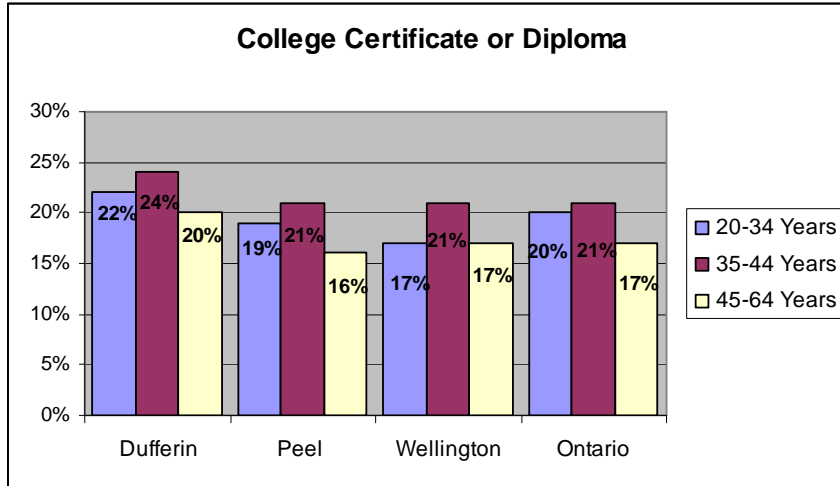


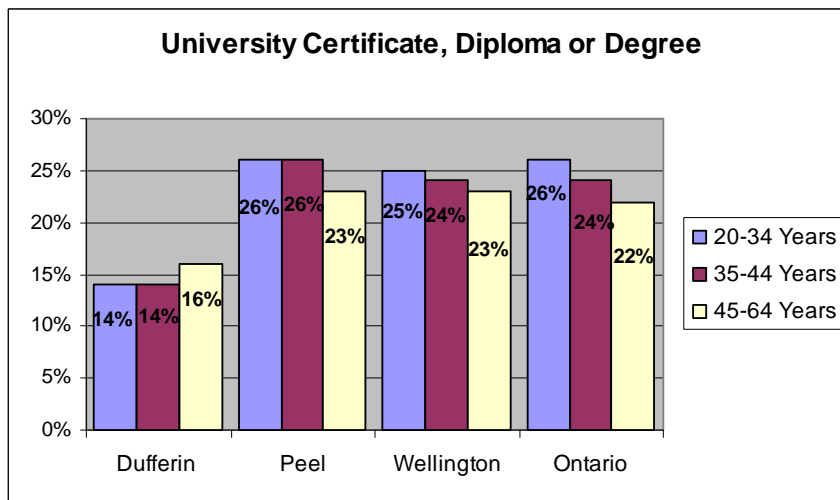
Figure 5.c. shows that a slightly larger percentage of Dufferin’s labour force has a college diploma when compared to Wellington County, Peel Region and Ontario.

Figure 5.c.



A smaller portion of Dufferin’s labour force has a university-level education. Figure 5.d. indicates that completion of university across all age groups in Dufferin is 8-12% lower than those in Peel Region, Wellington County, and Ontario. The widest gap between Dufferin and these other areas is for the 20-34 year and 35-44 year olds.

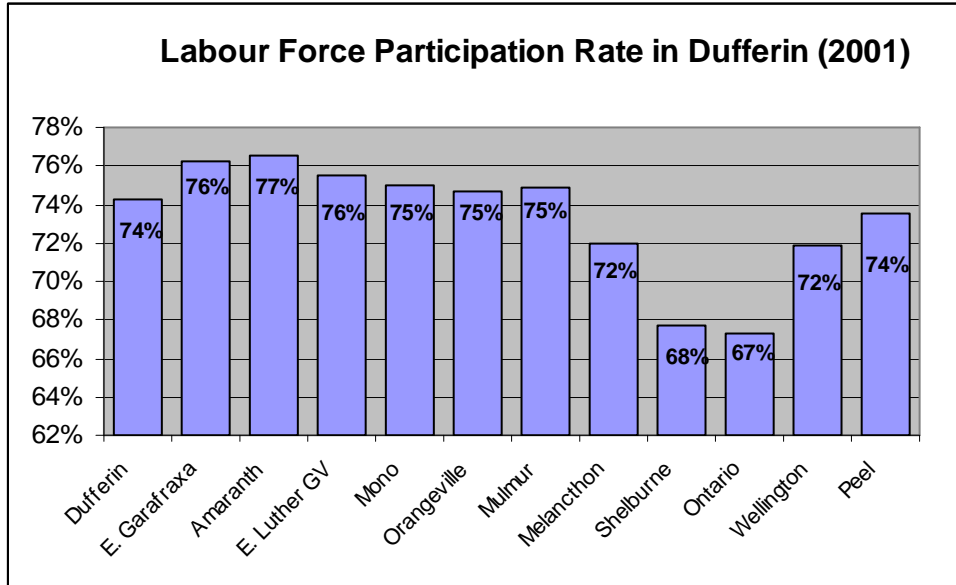
Figure 5.d.



5.2 Labour Force Participation Rates

The labour force participation rate for Dufferin is 7% above that for Ontario but comparable to Peel and Wellington. In figure 5.e. Amaranth and East Garafraxa are shown to have the highest labour force participation rates, while the rate for Shelburne is the lowest in Dufferin.

Figure 5.e.

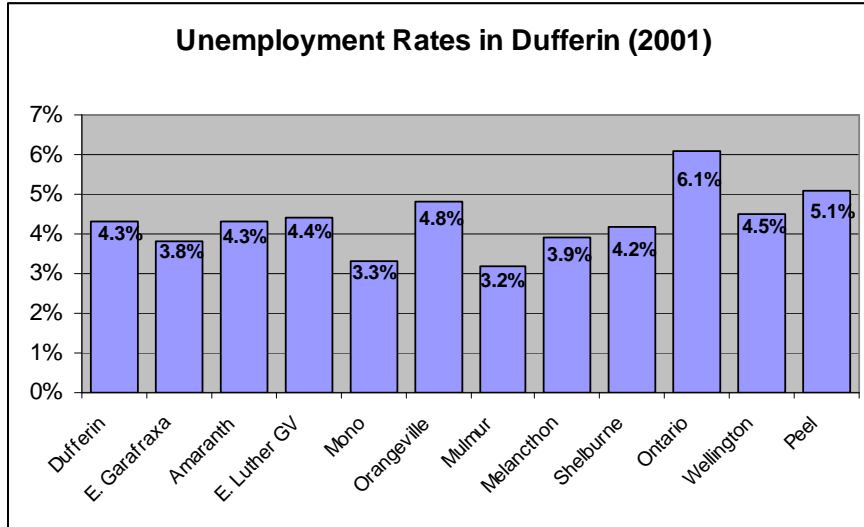


Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

5.3 Employment/ Unemployment Rates

Unemployment rates in Dufferin appear to be generally lower than provincial rates and slightly below rates in Wellington County and Peel Region. Figure 5.f. shows that at the time of the 2001 census, Mono and Mulmur had the lowest unemployment rates (almost half of the provincial rate), and Orangeville had the highest unemployment rate.

Figure 5.f.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

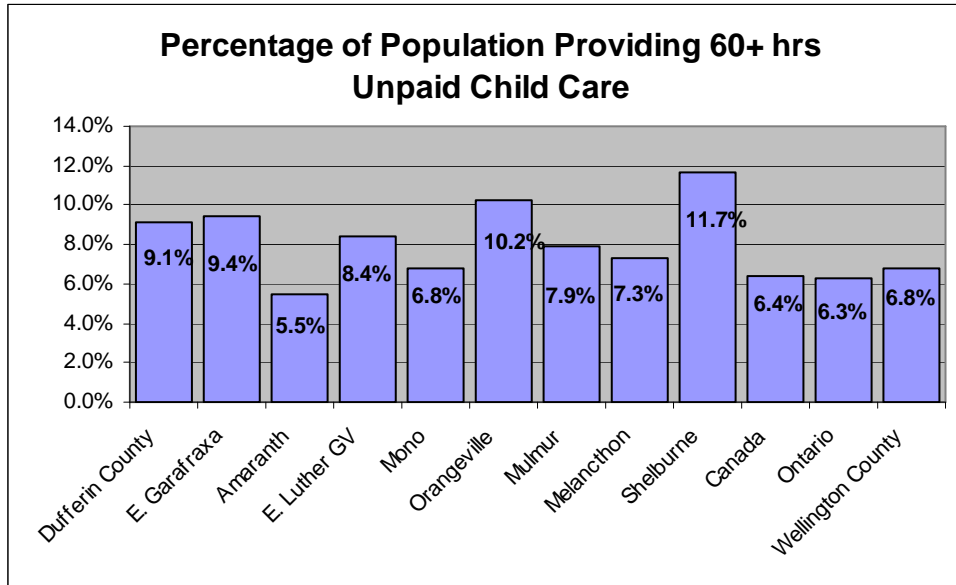
5.4 Self-Employment

In Dufferin, the municipalities of Mulmur, Mono and Amaranth appear to have the lowest percentage of residents who are employees, and the highest percentage residents who are self-employed (incorporated and unincorporated) in 2001.⁹ In these three municipalities, 25.6% of males and 15.4% of females were self-employed, compared to the overall averages for all Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph of 15.6% (males), and 10.9% (females).

5.5 Unpaid Caregivers

Dufferin has a larger percentage of its population providing full-time care to children than reported in Wellington County, and Ontario. Figure 5.g. indicates that the highest percentages are for Shelburne (11.7%) and Orangeville (10.2%), while the Ontario rate is 6.3%. Amaranth has the lowest rate of 5.5%.

Figure 5.g.

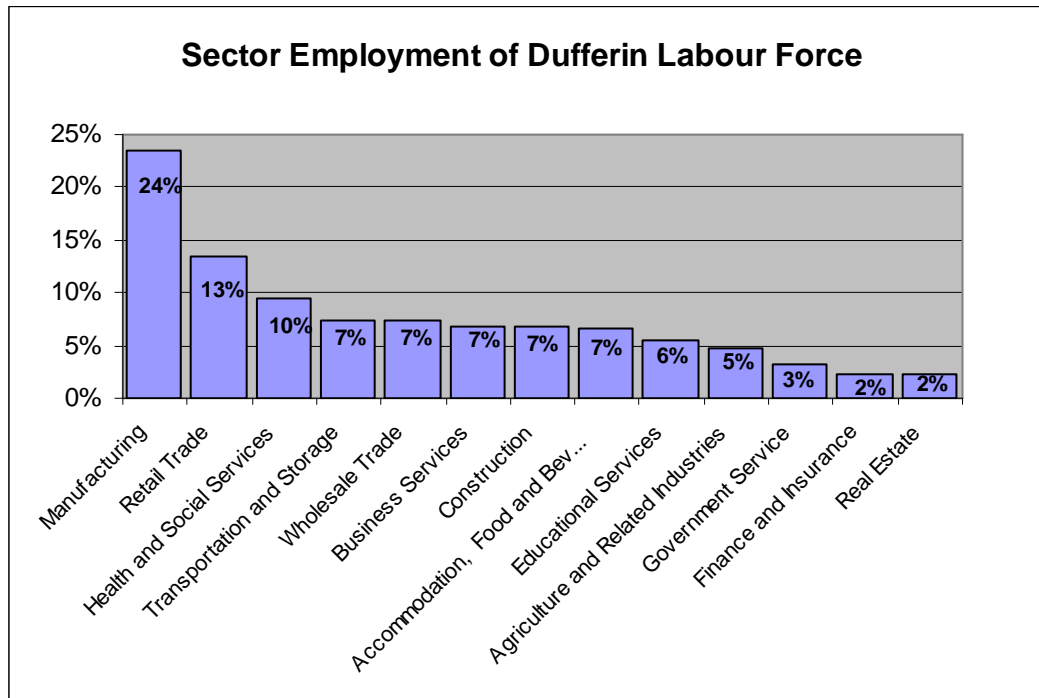


Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

5.6 Employment by Sector and Occupation

Dufferin’s labour force is largely employed in the manufacturing sector, reflecting the size and growth of employers in the auto and plastics industries in both Dufferin and in Peel Region. Figure 5.h. below shows that retail trade and health and social services follow significantly behind manufacturing.¹⁰ The Dufferin employer base is similar to Peel and Halton except that Dufferin has a smaller proportion of employees in finance and insurance, business services and wholesale trade, and more employees in construction, transportation and storage, and health and social services.¹¹

Figure 5.h.



6 Income and Poverty

The purpose of this section is to begin describing Dufferin in terms of household and individual wealth, with a focus on poverty. The prevalence of poverty is considered a proxy measure for the level of social capital in the community. Communities with less economic inequality and less poverty are generally considered to have greater social capital and more social cohesion.

Average earnings all full and part-time workers in Dufferin are generally comparable to those at the provincial level, but average earnings of full-time employees fall short of average earnings at the provincial level. The areas with lowest earnings appear to be in the northern and western parts of County.

The incidence of families living below the Low Income Cut off (LICO) in most parts of Dufferin is half that found at the provincial level and in Peel Region. However, the incidence of low income status among individuals is much higher overall, particularly in Orangeville where low income status among individuals exceeds that of Peel Region. Shelburne and Melancthon have the highest incidence poor families in Dufferin with rates that are comparable to those in Peel Region and Ontario. The larger size of Dufferin families also likely places more pressure on households to earn sufficient income.¹²

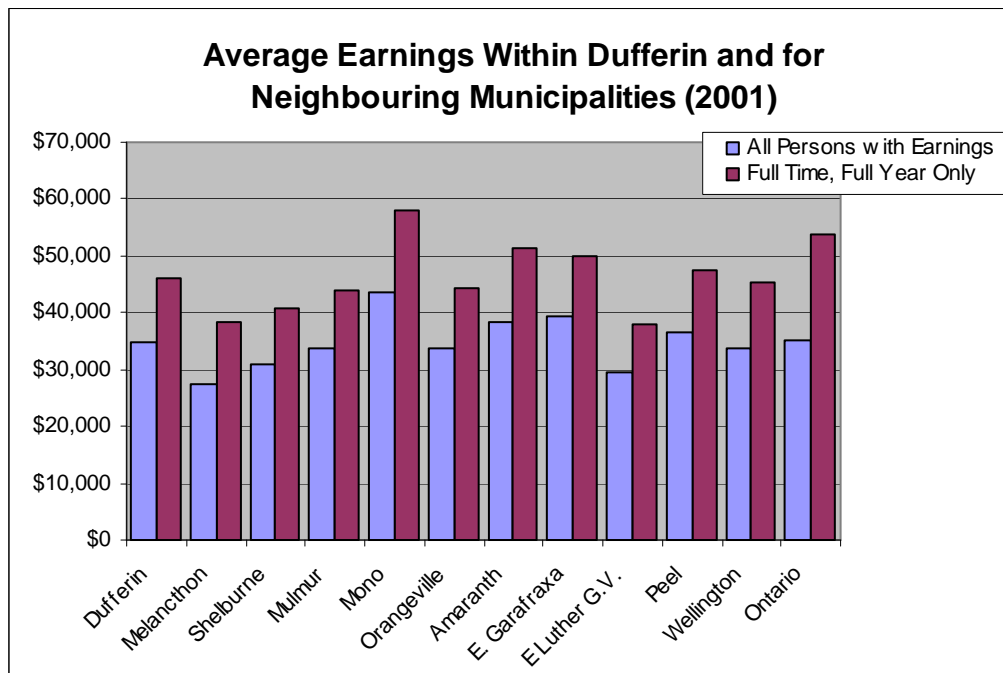
6.1 Earnings

Average earnings for Dufferin are comparable to those at the provincial level, as well as those in Peel Region and Wellington County. Figure 6.a. shows average earnings in 2001 for Dufferin residents working full-time year-round to be \$46,031. This is significantly below the provincial average of \$53,937, but comparable to the average income for Wellington County.

Dufferin’s highest average earnings were in Mono, which were also above the averages for Ontario, Peel Region and Wellington County. The lowest average earnings were in Melancthon and East Luther Grand Valley.

Earnings by females in Dufferin in 2001 was 56% of that for males. This figure is lower than that for Ontario (63%), and Wellington County (59%).

Figure 6.a.

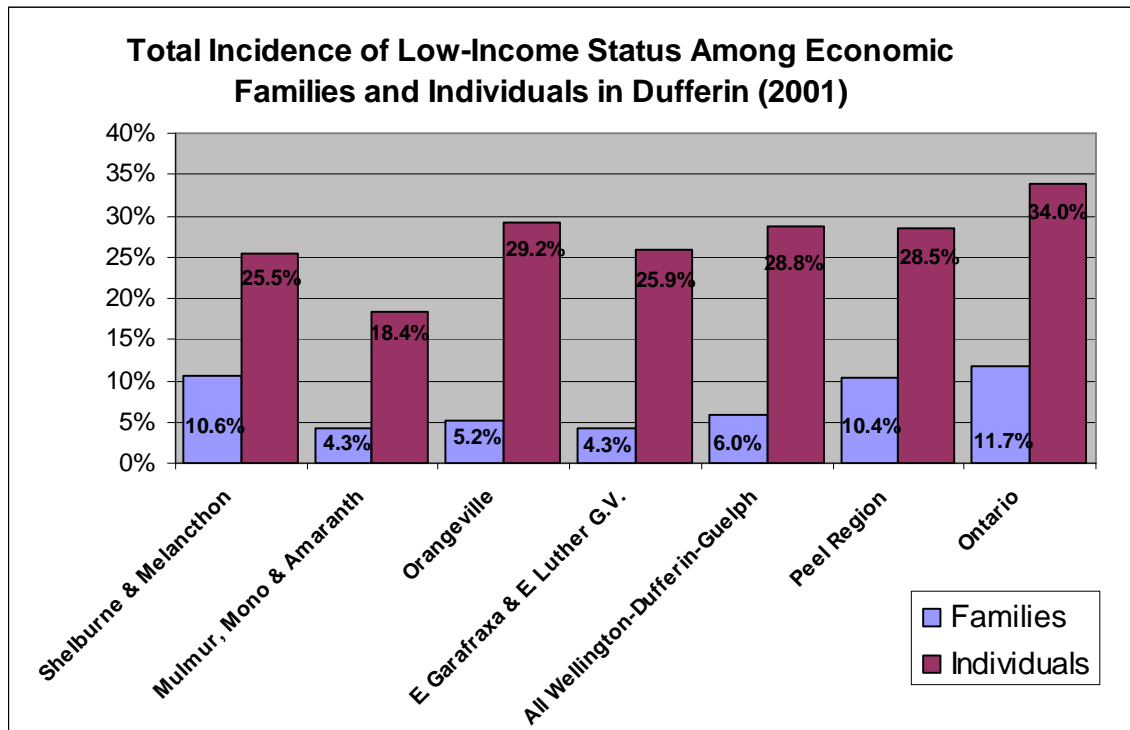


Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

6.2 Incidence of Low Income

Incidence of families and individuals living below the Low Income Cut Off (LICO) appears to be generally lower in Dufferin than at the provincial level, with some exceptions. Figure 6.b. indicates that while the incidence of low income among individuals is generally higher than that for families, this difference is more pronounced in Dufferin than in Peel and Ontario. The incidence of low income among individuals in Orangeville, Shelburne and Melancthon is comparable to that in Peel. Shelburne and Melancthon are the only municipalities in Dufferin where the incidence of low income among families is comparable to Peel Region and Ontario. All other areas in Dufferin report incidence of low income among families to be approximately half that of Peel Region and Ontario overall.

Figure 6.b.



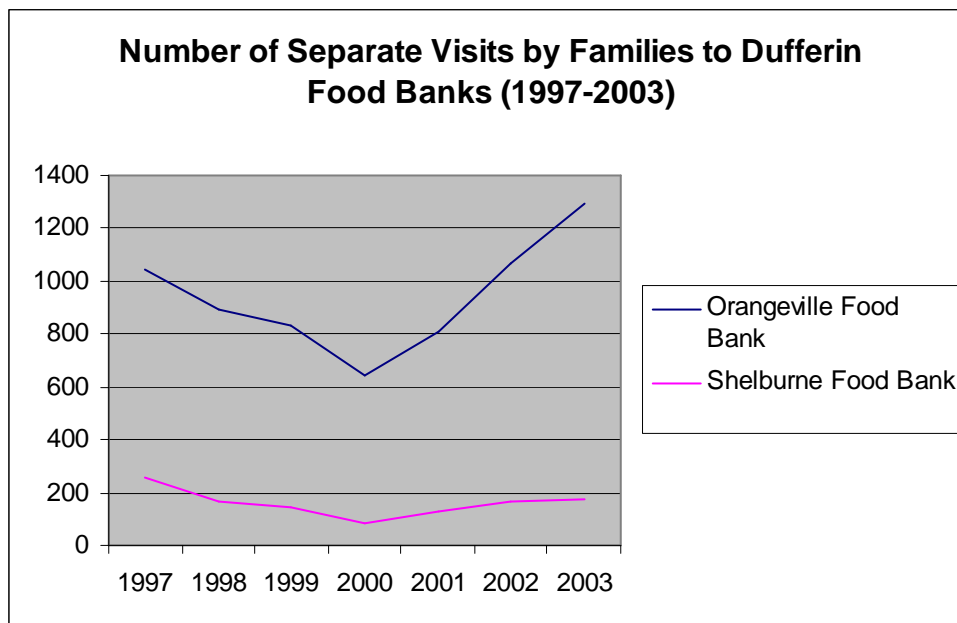
Sources: Wellington Dufferin Guelph Health Unit, A Socio-Demographic Community Health Status Report; Indicators from the 2001 Census of the Population, June 2004, and Region of Peel, Planning Department, July 2004

6.3 Number of Households using Food Banks

There has been an overall increase in use of food banks by families over the past 7 to 10 years in Ontario. This appears to be the case for the Orangeville Food Bank, which serves the largest number of families in Dufferin. The Food Bank for Shelburne and area has experienced a small decline since 1997 but use appears to have increased since 2000.

The Canadian Association of Food Banks reports that Ontario food banks have seen an 8.7% increase in use since 1997.¹³ Figure 6.c. shows trends in use of Dufferin's two permanent food banks. The Orangeville Food Bank reports a 24% increase in the number of families/year using the food bank since 1997.

Figure 6.c.

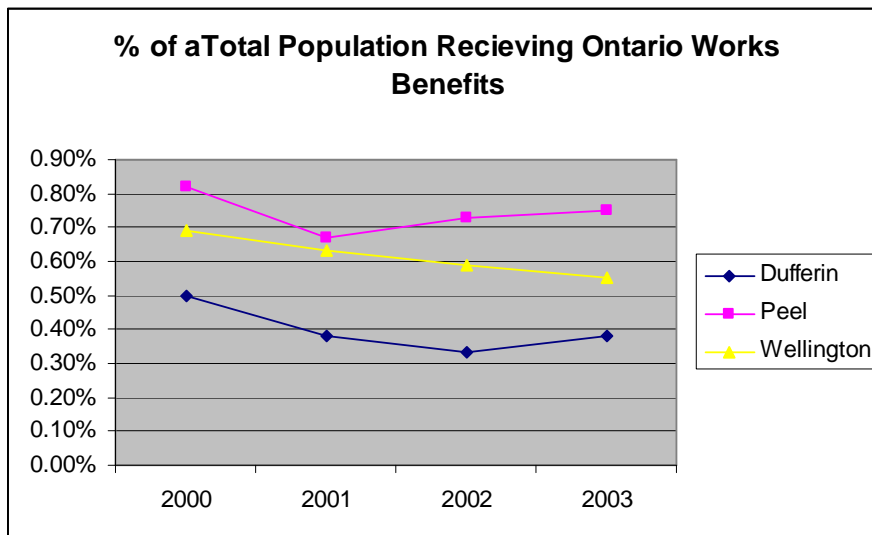


Source: Orangeville Food Bank and Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank (Shelburne)

6.4 Number of People Receiving Ontario Works Benefits

While food bank use has increased since 2000, we see a slight decrease in the percentage of the population receiving Ontario Works income support benefits in Dufferin, Peel Region, and Wellington County over the same period. Figure 6.d. indicates that Dufferin may have lower rates of use of Ontario Works (OW) income supports; although we cannot be certain that this difference is significant. The average number of OW recipients in Dufferin has declined from 251 in 2000 to 201 in 2003.¹⁴

Figure 6.d



Source: Ontario, 2004 Data Resource Guide, Ontario Works (2004)

7 Housing

Dufferin appears to not have sufficient variety of housing options to meet the housing needs of individuals and poor people. While construction of new housing, particularly in the towns of Orangeville and Shelburne, remains strong, the majority of new and existing housing is single detached family dwellings. There is not adequate stock of single rental accommodation to meet demand. This is reflected in actual rental rates for single accommodation in Orangeville, which are nominally lower than average rents for single accommodation in Toronto.¹⁵ Census data for 1996 indicate that 68% of renters in Dufferin spend 30% or more of their household income on shelter. This compares to 27% at the provincial level.¹⁶

One would expect that this reality has a great impact on homelessness among individuals and people in transition, and the ability of single individuals to be able to live independently and remain in Dufferin. This likely also affects the number of people and families spending beyond their means to cover rent, living in

inappropriate housing, and relying on community supports such as food banks to meet essential needs.

7.1 Supported Housing

The Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council reports that:

- No supportive housing exists for persons with serious mental health issues in Dufferin or rural Wellington Counties. Many people with serious mental health issues are living with parents and relatives.¹⁷
- Supportive Housing for the Elderly Population growth projections for the 60+ age group is higher in Dufferin than in Wellington or Waterloo.¹⁸
- Lack of supportive housing for frail elderly in all Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin¹⁹

7.2 Homelessness and Emergency Shelter

Because of the high incidence of homelessness among people living with a serious mental health issue, the Waterloo Region, Wellington-Dufferin District Health Unit reported the following in Housing for People with Serious Mental Health Issues in Waterloo Region, Wellington-Dufferin (2000):

- Approximately 30-35% of homeless people and 75% of homeless single women are living with mental illness.
- It is estimated that one person per 1000 in Dufferin-Wellington was literally homeless at least once over the course of the year (approximately 165). “Unlike in Toronto, the homeless population in Wellington-Dufferin is largely hidden because they are precariously housed rather than living on the street”.²⁰

8 Community Safety

This section deals briefly with issues of crime and community safety in Dufferin. Greater community safety and lower rates of violent and property crime are considered to be indicators of higher levels of social capital. Individuals who are included socially and economically, and who participate in networks are less likely to act against community norms. The data available for this report indicates that patterns in Dufferin’s crime statistics are similar to those nationally.

We do not have the data to compare crime rates and perceptions of safety within Dufferin with those of other municipalities. We are able to track trends over time within Dufferin that could indicate whether pressures of demographic growth have resulted in increased crime.

8.1 Reported Crime

Annual reports from Orangeville Police Services (reported incidents) and Shelburne Police Services (actual charges) indicate that violent crime decreased overall from 2000 to 2003. While national figures for violent crime remained largely similar in 2003, Shelburne Police reported an increase in 2003. Property crimes in Orangeville appear to have increased moderately since 2000, but decreased in Shelburne. Nationally, property crimes increased by 3.7% in 2003. Both Shelburne and Orangeville reported modest increases in property crime from 2002-2003.

9 Health

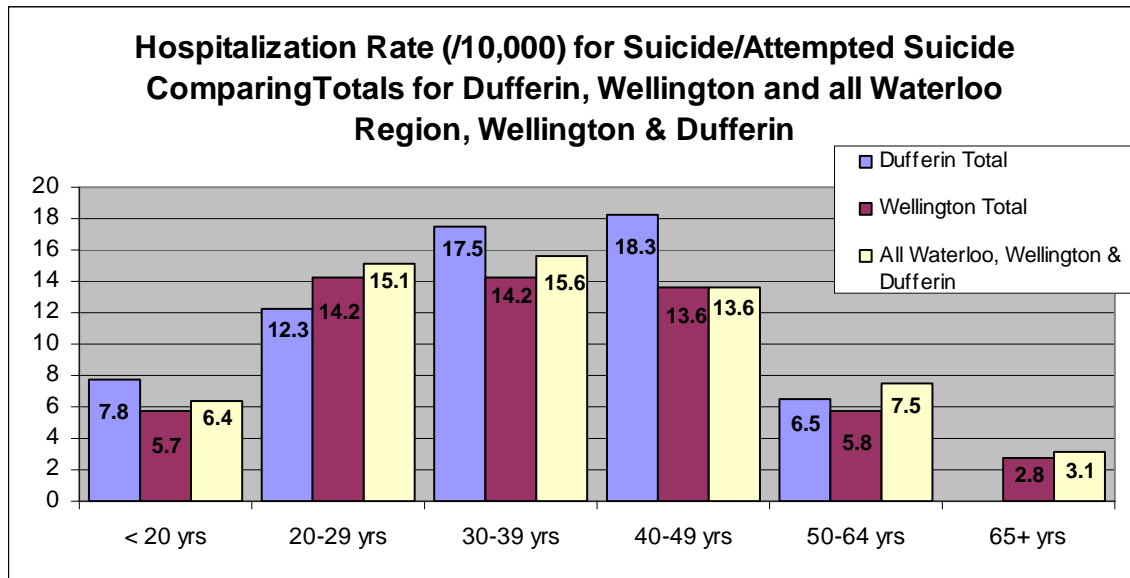
This section presents some data on health indicators that may help to describe the health of Dufferin residents. It is not the place of this research to attempt any comprehensive examination of the degree of health within the Dufferin population. However, social and economic factors have a significant impact on the health of individuals, and health status is considered to be a reliable indicator of social capital. The indicators in this section are chosen based on their availability and on their ability to lend insight into physical and mental health issues in Dufferin.

The age standardized mortality rates (1991-1997) for Dufferin have declined along with provincial rates. The WRWD District Health Council notes that Dufferin's rate in 1997 remained the highest in the Waterloo-Wellington-Dufferin and above that for Ontario.²¹

Suicide and attempted suicide can be considered one measure for mental health in a community. Figure 9.a. indicates that the hospitalization rates for suicide and attempted suicide in Dufferin (from 1996-2001) were higher than those for Wellington County for youth under 20 years, and adults 30-49 years.

What does this tell us about the overall mental health of Dufferin residents and the availability of services to support individuals and families in crisis? Is this difference significant? If so, does this reflect a general lack of supports or a lack of knowledge of supports in a community with a high number of newcomers?

Figure 9.a



Source: Vital Statistics mortality database, Office of the Registrar General, from Provincial Health Planning Database, 2003. in Waterloo Region, Wellington Dufferin District Health Council, Mental Health WRWD Summary, 2004

9.1 Physician Shortage

The current shortage of family physicians is a significant issue affecting Dufferin residents' access to primary care. Dufferin experienced largest decline in number of physicians per 100,000 people between 1995 and 2000 compared to Waterloo Region and Wellington County. In 2000, Dufferin had a rate (per 100,000 people) of 78, while the Ontario rate was 175. The rate for general practitioners also dropped in Dufferin so that in 2000, Dufferin's rate (per 100,000) was 52, while Ontario's rate was 84.²² Between 1995 and 2000, Dufferin sustained the highest percentage of physicians between 65 and 85 years of age, when compared to Waterloo Region, Wellington County, and Ontario. Similar low and declining rates are also noted for registered nurses and registered practical nurses.

10 Disability Issues

It is beyond the scope of this report to provide an in-depth look at issues surrounding disability and services for children, adults and seniors. However, this section can begin by outlining some themes that are documented by the District Health Council, and touch on disability issues common to many rural communities.

As in many rural communities, and particularly those experiencing rapid growth, the level of service for people with disabilities and their families falls short of actual need. People with disabilities in rural areas like Dufferin are confronted by barriers that would be less pronounced in urban centres.

Appropriate and affordable housing options for adults and seniors combined with the needed supports do not exist in Dufferin.

Affordable and reliable transportation both within Dufferin and to other centres outside of the county is not universally accessible except for those who can afford to pay, or who have a strong network of family and friends. This presents barriers to people with disabilities for accessing health and other services, and to people's ability to find and keep employment.

The Ontarian's with Disabilities Act (ODA) may in some cases alleviate some physical barriers to municipal and other services in the private sector.

An aging population throughout North America means that the needs of a growing seniors population is well documented by health service organizations involved in health services planning. The Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council provides an overview of long-term care consumer trends that can be expected to affect organizations in the community that are outside of the health system but that assist elderly and their caregivers. Briefly, these trends are:

- More children (0-19 years) with special needs are living longer healthier lives and entering adult health system.
- Adults with disabilities expected to require increasing levels of service as their condition advances, as they become older, and as needs become more complex.
- Increasing numbers of adults under 65 years with disabilities in LTC's and requiring specialized programming.
- Older adults – normal aging process has affected the way that individuals react to treatments and that expertise in this area is not built into the system.
- Expectation that the population of frail elderly with complex geriatric needs will increase in the near future.
- Family and informal caregivers (including volunteers) provide 80% of care to the elderly, resulting in burnout (and having to give up role as caregiver).²³

The Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council also highlights the following relating to Dufferin in their report Toward 2006: Directions for Community Long Term care Services in Waterloo Region, and in Wellington and Dufferin Counties.

- Publicly-funded services for people with acquired brain injury do not exist in Dufferin, while local services can be purchased privately – a two-tier system,
- Community supports for adults with disabilities that are funded by the Ministry are not universally accessible, largely due to lack of transportation.
- There is a lack of supportive housing for frail elderly in all Waterloo Region, Wellington County, and Dufferin County.

11 Community Supports

Dufferin County, like many small communities in Ontario has a rich tradition of volunteering and caring. Over time, Dufferin has developed an infrastructure that consists of a mix of non-profit, charitable, and municipal community supports that have contributed to the high quality of life in Dufferin.

Recent estimates place the number of human service organizations operating in Dufferin at between sixty and eighty. While there are no concrete numbers, it is safe to estimate that almost half of these organizations operate exclusively with volunteers and many of the remaining with fewer than five employees. Most of these organizations are based in Dufferin, while several larger ones are managed from regional offices in Owen Sound, Guelph, or Brampton/ Mississauga.

11.1 Funding

Dufferin's not-for-profit and charitable sector experiences similar stresses as those of organizations in other communities across Canada, with the added pressure to raise funds for a growing population but within a relatively small market.²⁴ In recent years, it has become more apparent that public (government) and private funding for human services in Dufferin has not kept up with population growth and demand for services in Dufferin. This may also reflect the growing need for entirely new types of services that reflect the needs of a growing and changing urban population.

The growth in the population of young families and seniors places added pressure on services in a number of areas. Funding has not been there to meet this need and this has resulted in long waiting lists for services ranging from housing and long term care to counseling.²⁵

There are several examples in Dufferin where the fallout to funding shortfalls included rapid downsizing, ceasing programs, or closing entirely. Those remaining compete heavily for grants and fundraising dollars. Frequently it is the numerous smaller organizations with less infrastructure that have the greatest difficulty meeting these challenges.

The charitable and non-profit sector has been described as an important third pillar of society, alongside government and the private sector. The risk of losing programs and services due to funding shortfalls affect Dufferin residents who benefit from these programs, as well as the greater community. This scenario also poses a risk to other organizations such as school boards who refer students to services outside of the school.

United fundraising campaigns such as through the United Way have not been generally embraced. There is no United Way that includes Dufferin, and there is no consensus among charities and the business community on the benefits of running a campaign or for forming a separate United Way for Dufferin. Only recently has the United Way of Guelph Wellington formed an allocations committee for Dufferin to allocate funds raised through corporate employee donations within the county. In the meantime, organizations have opted to form their own relationship with businesses and other donors to raise funds.

11.2 Volunteerism

Non-profits and charities in Dufferin, as elsewhere, rely on volunteers at all levels for leadership, program delivery, and for fundraising. Community organizations in Dufferin and across Canada involved in delivering health and social services are having greater difficulty recruiting volunteers for leadership positions, as well as for increasingly complex and sensitive front-line positions. Volunteers need to be properly recruited, screened, trained, and supervised for positions that require longer-term commitments working with vulnerable populations such as seniors and persons with disabilities.²⁶

Organizations in Dufferin also report ongoing difficulties attracting and retaining volunteers for leadership positions as directors, and for jobs in fundraising.

11.3 Human Resources Management Issues

Non-profits and charities delivering health and social services in Dufferin work in an environment that makes it difficult for them to manage human resources and plan effectively. Trends among these providers include...

- Increased demand for health professionals and greater acuity of patients,
- An aging workforce and fewer people entering health professions,
- Provincial policies that place a strain on agencies ability to recruit and retain health professionals, resulting in sharp compensation differences, high turnover, and
- Resources needing to be diverted to recruit, hire, train and retain professionals.²⁷

Dufferin Caledon Health Services Forum (May 8, 2002) identified nine strategies to address needs in Dufferin and Caledon. Needs identified were:

- Equitable funding for health services in Dufferin and Caledon

- Recruiting and retaining more health professionals
- Evaluating performance of health system, not organizations
- Speaking with unified voice on key issues that need greater public attention (awareness)
- Board development leading to new/strengthened partnerships between organizations
- Training for organizations in identifying, forming and maintaining cross-sectoral partnerships
- Joint strategic planning
- Transportation strategies to improve access to existing services, and
- Public education on organizations and programs

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- ⁵ The presence of long-term care facilities within Shelburne may explain low percentage of married individuals and the high number of widowed individuals in Shelburne.
- ⁶ Peel-Halton-Dufferin Training Board, 2003 Environmental Scan, (2003)
- ⁷ At Work in the High Country; An Assessment of Human Resource Needs and Supply Strategies in Dufferin County, Final Report, September 2002.
- ⁸ Source for all charts on educational attainment: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census
- ⁹ Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit, Health Status Report, June 2004. p.27.
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- ¹² Horvath, B., People of Dufferin: A Resilient Community. An environmental scan of data relevant to children and to children and adults with developmental disabilities in Dufferin County, May 1999, p.6
- ¹³ Summary: HungerCount 2003; Something Has to Give: Food banks Filling the Policy Gap in Canada, Canadian Association of Food Banks, October 2003.

¹⁴ Ontario, 2004 Data Resource Guide, Ontario Works (2004). Percentages are based on average (#) annual Ontario Works caseload as percentage of the total actual population (2001) or estimated population for each region. Cases refer to single individuals and family heads on social assistance (e.g., a family of five is counted as one case). Source: Ontario, 2004 Data Resource Guide, Ontario Works (2004)

¹⁵ Based on a comparison of average advertised rental rates for one bedroom apartments in Orangeville and June 2004 data from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

¹⁶ Horvath, B., People of Dufferin: A Resilient Community. An environmental scan of data relevant to children and to children and adults with developmental disabilities in Dufferin County, May 1999. p7.

¹⁷ Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council, Housing for People with Serious Mental Health Issues in Waterloo Region, Wellington-Dufferin. p 24, 34

¹⁸ Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council , A Needs Analysis for Supportive Housing for the Elderly in Waterloo Region, Wellington County and Dufferin County, January 2003, p11.

¹⁹ Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council, Toward 2006: Directions for Community Long Term care Services in Waterloo Region, and in Wellington and Dufferin Counties, July 2002.

²⁰ Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council, Housing for People with Serious Mental Health Issues in Waterloo Region, Wellington-Dufferin, July 2000, p 35-36

²¹ Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council, Local Health System Monitoring Report, (2001-2002), p.154

²² Waterloo Region Wellington Dufferin District Health Council, Local Health System Monitoring Report (May 2002)

²³ Waterloo Region-Wellington-Dufferin District health Council, Toward 2006: Directions for Community Long Term care Services in Waterloo Region, and in Wellington and Dufferin Counties, July 2002.

²⁴ A thorough discussion of funding pressure on Canadian NFP organizations can be found in: Canadian Council on Social Development, Funding Matters: The Impact of Canada's New Funding Regime on Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations, 2003.

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