

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending August 11, 2017

REPORTS

1. None

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS

1. Bill 139 – The Proposed Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017
2. Potential Changes to Ontario's Building Code – Phase Two Index

CORRESPONDENCE

1. GRCA Current, August 2017
2. AECOM Canada Ltd. re: Notice of Study Commencement – Highway 6 (Hanlon Expressway) Interchanges from Maltby Road Northerly to the Speed River
3. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health – 2016 Community Report

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. None

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None

Provincial/Federal Consultation Alert							
Title	Ministry	Consultation Deadline	Summary	Proposed Form of Input	Rationale	Lead	Link to Ministry Website
Bill 139 – the proposed Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017	Ministry of Municipal Affairs	August 14, 2017	<p>Bill 139 proposes to introduce new legislation to replace the Ontario Municipal Board with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, and make amendments to existing legislation, including the <i>Planning Act</i>, to give communities a stronger voice in land use planning.</p> <p>If passed, the proposed changes to statutes dealing with land use planning would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give more weight to local and provincial decisions by changing the standard of review – the grounds for appeal on major matters would be limited to their failure to conform or be consistent with provincial and local policies • Give municipal elected officials greater control over local planning by exempting a broader range of municipal land use decisions from appeal. • Support clearer and more timely decision making • Support government priorities on climate change 	Staff-level comments will be submitted on the Environmental Registry (EBR) based on the Council endorsed comments from the December 2016 consultation, and provided to Council via the Information Package following the consultation deadline.	Upon initial review, the draft legislation responds to many of the City's major recommendations. Council endorsed comments from the prior consultation provide a detailed basis for responding to the proposed legislation.	Legal Services Planning, Urban Design and Building Services	<p>EBR Registry Number: 013-0590</p> <p>https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-municipal-affairs</p>

Provincial/Federal Consultation Alert							
Title	Ministry	Consultation Deadline	Summary	Proposed Form of Input	Rationale	Lead	Link to Ministry Website
Potential Changes to Ontario's Building Code – Phase Two Index	Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA)	September 29, 2017	<p>Further to the Province's consultation that took place last fall regarding Phase 1 amendments to the Building Code, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is now seeking input on changes for potential inclusion in the next edition of the Building Code related to the objectives of Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).</p> <p>Specifically the Ontario government is proposing a range of initiatives to reduce GHG emissions; making buildings more resilient during extreme weather events, as well as additional items that could inform potential future changes to the Building Code, or other regulations.</p>	Online comment form	Staff input to the survey is considered appropriate in this case.	<p>Building Services</p> <p>Water Services and Climate Change staff will be consulted as well.</p>	http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page16490.aspx

GRCA Current



August, 2017 • Volume 22 Number 8

GRCA General Membership

Chair Helen Jowett

Vice-Chair Chris White

Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley

Guy Gardhouse

Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North

Pat Salter

Township of Centre Wellington

Kirk McElwain

Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch

Chris White

City of Guelph

Bob Bell, Mike Salisbury

Region of Waterloo

Les Armstrong, Elizabeth Clarke,
Sue Foxtan, Helen Jowett,
Geoff Lorentz, Jane Mitchell,
Joe Nowak, Wayne Roth,
Sandy Shantz, Warren Stauch

Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East

George Wicke

Halton Region

Cindy Lunau

City of Hamilton

George Stojanovic

Oxford County

Bruce Banbury

County of Brant

Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons

City of Brantford

Dave Neumann, Vic Prendergast

Haldimand and Norfolk Counties

Bernie Corbett, Fred Morison



Riverfestival
2000
Riverprize
For excellence in river management



Conservation
ONTARIO
Natural Champions



www.grandriver.ca

Cambridge dike work

Bronte Construction has been hired by the GRCA to upgrade the Cambridge dike floodwall at 2 Water Street.

This project involves raising the top of the floodwall 1.5 metres behind the Water Street building to the design height of the wall. The original floodwall design was never completed at this location. The GRCA has also obtained an easement on title to ensure ongoing protection and maintenance.

This project is being carried out in August and will cost about \$100,000.

The Cambridge dike and channel was built as a series of projects from the mid-1970s through the early 1990s by the GRCA and the City of Cambridge.

The GRCA has recently completed assessment studies of the system to identify deficiencies and maintenance needs for the system, which has been in place for 40 years. The assessment also incorporated portions of the river floodwall predating that time.

Saturated watershed

Precipitation during the first half of July was varied across the watershed, with some climate stations recording only half of the normal rainfall and others recording almost twice the normal rainfall.

May and June were very wet, leaving much of the landscape saturated. The Luther climate station recorded almost three times the normal rainfall for June, and as of July 19 had recorded another 77 mm of rain.

The water level in the overburden monitoring well near Burford increased steadily from the start of the year to June, recovering from last year's low levels, and has stabilized slightly above the long-term average.

By mid-July, water levels in the Shand, Conestogo and Guelph reservoirs are at or slightly above their normal operating level, while the Luther reservoir is above its normal operating

level. Reservoirs are being drawn down to their normal operating levels following the recent rainfall.

The need for flow augmentation has been less than normal over the past few months. River flows are well above low flow targets through the middle Grand and Speed rivers.

Third season for Belwood Lake OspreyCam

This was the third year of operation for the Belwood Lake osprey webcam project.

It operated around the clock starting April 6, and a mating pair of ospreys were raising two healthy young chicks on the nest by June.

Early in the morning on June 18 the female osprey flew off the nest and didn't return. A dead osprey was found near the nest later that day. A preliminary diagnostic assessment of the bird revealed it was a healthy female that had injuries usually associated with a frontal collision.

The male continued to care for the two young on his own and they were growing quickly. It is rare for a male to care for osprey chicks alone, and the webcam was very popular for viewers from the watershed and around the world.

Unfortunately, overnight on July 9 a great horned owl took one of the chicks, returning July 11 for the second. Great horned owls are natural predators of ospreys.

The camera was subsequently shut down on July 20. While the osprey chicks at this nest did not fledge this year, there is a healthy population of ospreys within the Grand River watershed.

The GRCA will be reviewing the project's objective to determine next steps.

Total viewing time was close to 11 years, with an average viewing time of 20 minutes.

Blair Creek monitoring

In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the City of

Grand River Conservation Authority

Communications audit – opportunities for stakeholder input

At the GRCA, we value the trust of our stakeholders and are committed to openness and accountability.

We strive for clear and respectful communication with our partners and with members of the public in order to build a better understanding of GRCA programs, services, projects and watershed challenges.

As part of our commitment to open communication, we work to keep stakeholders up-to-date on what's happening at the GRCA through our website, social media channels and a number of publications. In 2016, we conducted a review of three GRCA publications: GRCA Current, Grand Actions and The Grand. The review included a survey, and we thank all those who provided us with their feedback.

We are now expanding the scope of the review and taking a more thorough look at all of our communications practices. In May 2017, the GRCA hired Enterprise Canada to undertake a comprehensive Communications and Marketing Review. The overall goal of the review is to perform an organization-wide audit of current communications and marketing practices for the GRCA as well as the Grand River Conservation Foundation (GRCF).

Research underway

The audit will include a review of both internal and external communications in order to identify strengths and weaknesses, and to develop specific recommendations and action steps to strengthen and enhance the GRCA's communication processes.

The research phase of the project is now underway and questionnaires are being developed to gather input from all stakeholders. Information about the audit and ways to provide your input will be shared on our website, social media channels and in our publications in the coming months.

Any questions about the audit may be directed to Lisa Stocco, GRCA Manager of Communications at lstocco@grandriver.ca.



Photo by Ron Wu-Winter

In 2014 native flowers were seeded in a hydro corridor on GRCA land in Cambridge. The plants are doing very well this year and are attracting butterflies, such as this swallowtail. They are also a source of seeds used by GRCA staff for other plantings.

Continued from page 1

Kitchener, the GRCA is leading a study on the long-term Blair Creek Subwatershed Monitoring Program.

The study will evaluate the monitoring program, which has been underway since 2006, as a case study in cumulative effects monitoring. It will also assess potential impacts of ongoing residential development on the creek's water quality and hydrology.

The study is guided by a technical advisory committee and will be completed at the end of the year.

2017 accessibility award for Apps' Mill

The renovation of Apps' Mill Nature Centre has received a 2017 Accessibility Award from the County of Brant accessibility advisory committee.

The award was presented by Mayor Ron Eddy and Councillor David Miller in recognition and appreciation of the valuable contribution to the community made through construction of a fully accessible addition, renovations and outdoor classroom.

When members of the accessibility advisory committee visited the nature centre, they were very impressed with the changes that allow barrier-free travel.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in August, 2017.

It is a summary of the July, 2017 business conducted by the Grand River Conservation Authority board and committees, as well as other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

The Grand River Conservation Authority welcomes distribution, photocopying and forwarding of *GRCA Current*.

Next board meeting:
August 25 at 9:30 a.m.,
GRCA Administration Centre

Subscribe to GRCA Current and other news:
www.grandriver.ca/subscribe

View meeting agendas:
<https://calendar.grandriver.ca/directors>

View coming events:
www.grandriver.ca/events

Friday August 4, 2017

Stephen O'Brian, City Clerk
City of Guelph
City Clerk's Office
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

RECEIVED
AUG 08 2017
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. O'Brian:

**RE: Notice of Study Commencement
Highway 6 (Hanlon Expressway) Interchanges from Maltby Road Northerly to
the Speed River
Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment (G.W.P. 14-00-00)**

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is moving forward with a Preliminary Design Review and Detailed Design under the Class Environmental Assessment for Highway 6 (Hanlon Expressway) interchanges from Maltby Road northerly to the Speed River in the City of Guelph and Guelph/Eramosa Township, in Wellington County (refer to the enclosed *Notice of Study Commencement* for a key map of the study area).

As noted on the enclosed *Notice*, the approved Preliminary Design includes:

- Upgrading Highway 6 within the study limits to a controlled access freeway;
- Replacement of the intersection at Kortright Road / Downy Road with a partial interchange (Highway 6 access to and from the south only);
- Replacement of the intersection at Stone Road with a full interchange;
- Replacement of the intersection at College Avenue with a bridge at Highway 6 (no connection to the highway);
- A new municipal service road west of Highway 6 between Woodland Glen Drive and the new interchange at Stone Road;
- Closure of Hanlon Road south of Flanders Road; and,
- Pavement rehabilitation, illumination improvements, stormwater management, drainage improvements, and utility relocations.

This study is subject to the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and will be completed in accordance with the *MTO Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)* process for a Group B project, with the opportunity for public input. We encourage you to visit the project website at <http://Highway6-HanlonCityofGuelph.ca> for further information.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the commencement of this study. On the enclosed Contact Information Form, please indicate whether your organization has an interest in this study and who will act as our main contact. In order to assist us with our planning process, please also indicate if the above noted

project will affect the delivery of your organization's programs or services. A reply by Tuesday September 5, 2017 would be appreciated.

We are committed to ensuring that government information and services are accessible for all Ontarians. For communication supports or to request project material in an alternate format, please contact one of the Project Team members listed on the enclosed *Notice*.

Comments and information will be collected to assist MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

If you would like to provide comments, or if you require further information, please feel free to contact me by phone at 905-882-4401 or email at patrick.puccini@aecom.com. You may also contact the MTO Project Manager, Charles Organ, by phone at 1-800-265-6072 ext. 4591 or by email at chuck.organ@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,
AECOM Canada Ltd.



Patrick Puccini, P. Eng

Consultant Senior Project Manager

Cc: C. Organ - MTO Senior Project Manager
J. Corcoran - MTO Senior Environmental Planner
G. Coy - AECOM Deputy Project Manager
F. Leech - AECOM Senior Environmental Planner
S. Schmied - AECOM Environmental Planner

Enclosed: Notice of Study Commencement, Contact Information Form

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT
HIGHWAY 6 (HANLON EXPRESSWAY) INTERCHANGES
FROM MALTBY ROAD NORTHERLY TO THE SPEED RIVER (G.W.P. 14-00-00)
DETAILED DESIGN AND CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

THE PROJECT

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is moving forward with a Preliminary Design Review and Detailed Design under the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Highway 6 (Hanlon Expressway) interchanges from Maltby Road northerly to the Speed River in the City of Guelph and Guelph/Eramosa Township, in Wellington County.

BACKGROUND

A Planning and Preliminary Design Study was completed in June 2009, which documented improvements to the Highway 6 (Hanlon Expressway) corridor from south of Maltby Road to the Speed River (G.W.P. 3002-05-00). The recommended plan from this study was documented in a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) and was approved on November 17, 2009.

Recommendations that were made as part of the 2009 TESR included a new interchange at Laird Road which was constructed in 2011.

The remaining recommendations from the 2009 TESR are the subject of this study. The approved Preliminary Design includes:

- Upgrading Highway 6 within the study limits to a controlled access freeway;
- Replacement of the intersection at Kortright Road / Downey Road with a partial interchange (Highway 6 access to and from the south only);
- Replacement of the intersection at Stone Road with a full interchange;
- Replacement of the intersection at College Avenue with a bridge at Highway 6 (no connection to the highway);
- A new municipal service road west of Highway 6 between Woodland Glen Drive and the new interchange at Stone Road;
- Closure of Hanlon Road south of Flanders Road; and,
- Pavement rehabilitation, illumination improvements, stormwater management, drainage improvements, and utility relocations.

THE PROCESS

This study is subject to the Ontario EA Act and will be completed in accordance with the *MTO Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)* process for a Group B project with the opportunity for public input. A review will be undertaken to determine if significant changes have occurred since the submission of the 2009 TESR. In the event that significant changes are identified, a TESR Addendum will be made available for a 30-day public and agency review period. The Detailed Design phase will be documented in Design and Construction Report(s) (DCRs) that will be made available for public and agency review. The DCR(s) will document the study process, Detailed Design and associated environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and a summary of consultation undertaken.

CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

Consultation and engagement will take place throughout the study with the public, Indigenous peoples, regulatory agencies and municipalities. A Public Information Centre (PIC) will be held to provide an opportunity to discuss the study with members of the Project Team. Notifications advising of the time and location of the PIC, and of the availability of the TESR Addendum (if required) and DCR(s) will be published in local newspapers, posted on the project website, and mailed to those on the project mailing list.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact the project team members below or visit the project website to obtain additional information, provide comments or to be placed on the project mailing list.

Charles Organ, CET

Senior Project Manager
Ministry of Transportation - West Region
Planning & Design
659 Exeter Road, London, ON N6E 1L3
Tel: 519-873-4591
Toll-free: 1-800-265-6072 extension: 519-873-4591
Fax: 519-873-4600
Email: chuck.organ@ontario.ca

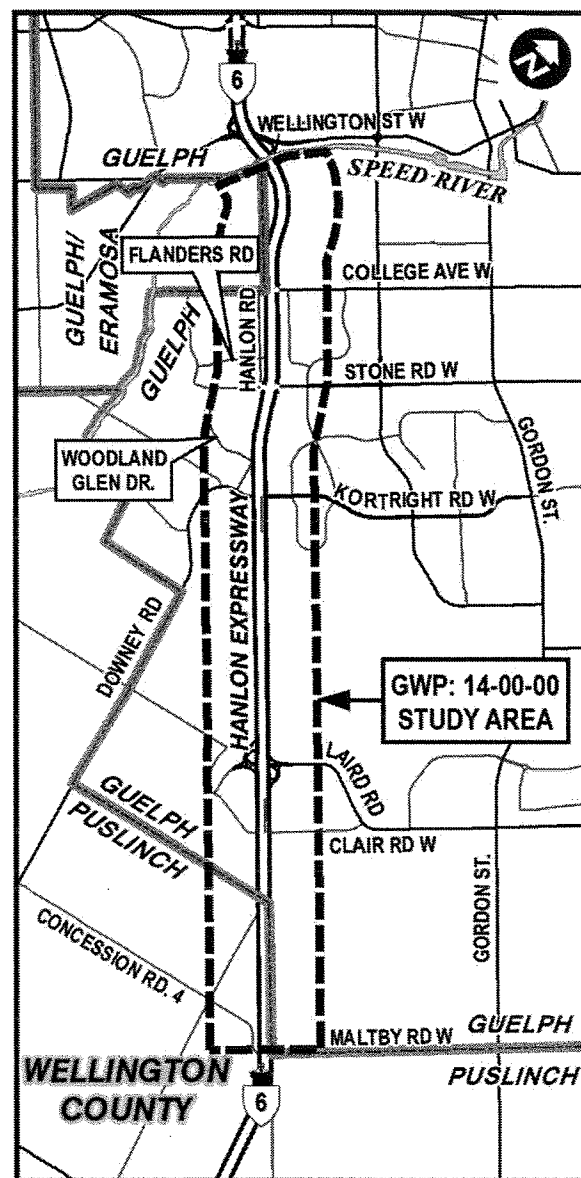
Patrick Puccini, P. Eng

Consultant Senior Project Manager
AECOM Canada Ltd.
4th Floor, 30 Leek Crescent
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4N4
Tel: 905-882-4401
Fax: 905-882-4399
Email: patrick.puccini@aecom.com

Project website: <http://Highway6-HanlonCityofGuelph.ca>

We are committed to ensuring that government information and services are accessible for all Ontarians. For communication support or to request project material in an alternate format, please contact one of the project team members listed above.

Comments and information will be collected to assist MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario EA Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.





COMMUNITY REPORT



2016 Board of Health

wdgpublichealth.ca/board-health

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health has a Board of Health consisting of elected representatives from Wellington and Dufferin counties and the City of Guelph, as well as local representatives appointed by the provincial government.

The Board of Health is responsible for the general oversight and direction of Public Health. The Ontario Public Health Standards guide the assessment, planning, delivery, management and evaluation of our programs and services.

2016 BOARD OF HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

Margaret Abbink

Provincial Appointee, City of Guelph

Doug Auld, Chair

Provincial Appointee, County of Wellington

Term ended: November 14, 2016

William Baxter

Provincial Appointee, County of Wellington

Christine Billings

Councillor, City of Guelph

George Bridge

*Mayor, Town of Minto
Warden, County of Wellington*

Guy Gardhouse

*Mayor, Township of East Garafraxa
Councillor, County of Dufferin*

June Hofland

Councillor, City of Guelph

Dennis Lever

*Mayor, Township of Puslinch
Councillor, County of Wellington*

Mark MacKinnon

Councillor, City of Guelph

Ken McGhee

*Deputy Mayor, Town of Mono
Councillor, County of Dufferin*

Dr. Nicola Mercer, Ex-Officio Member

Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Keith Perron, Secretary-Treasurer

Provincial Appointee, City of Guelph

Nancy Sullivan, Vice-Chair

*Provincial Appointee, City of Guelph
Appointed as Chair: November 2016*

Allen Taylor

Provincial Appointee, County of Dufferin

Chris White

*Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa
Councillor, County of Wellington*

Table of Contents

[Message from the Medical Officer of Health and CEO, Dr. Nicola Mercer](#) 4

[Message from the Chair of the Board of Health, Nancy Sullivan](#) 5

[2016-2020 Strategic Plan – Vision, Mission, Mandate, Values and Strategic Directions](#) 6

YOUR HEALTH 8

- [Respect for Sexual and Gender Diversity](#)
- [Reducing the Risk of Shingles](#)
- [Harm Reduction Approach to Marijuana Use](#)
- [Protection from Extreme Weather](#)
- [Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle](#)
- [Creating Communities Free from Alcohol-Related Harm](#)

YOUR KIDS 11

- [Keeping Immunization Records Up To Date](#)
- [Protection from the Human Papillomavirus](#)
- [Free Oral Health Services for Kids](#)
- [Speech and Language Services for Preschoolers](#)
- [Supporting Youth in the Community](#)
- [Family Mental Health](#)
- [Prenatal Programs](#)

YOUR HOME 14

- [Testing Your Home for Radon](#)
- [Testing Drinking Water from Your Well](#)
- [Avoid Spreading Illness at Home](#)

YOUR COMMUNITY 16

- [Support for a Basic Income Guarantee](#)
- [Implementing and Enforcing Smoking Legislation](#)
- [Working to Prevent the Threat of Rabies](#)
- [Public Health and Safety at Community Events](#)
- [Investigating Infection Control Complaints](#)
- [Health Resources for Teachers and Youth Groups](#)
- [Building a Healthier Local Food System](#)

CLINICS & CLASSES 20

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS / SCHOOLS / CHILDCARE PROVIDERS 21

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING 22

Message from the Medical Officer of Health & CEO, Dr. Nicola Mercer

In 2017, as the country turns 150 years old, Canadians may be reflecting on how fortunate they are to be living here. One of the distinct benefits of living in Canada is the universal system of healthcare that Canadians are able to take for granted, particularly when they are ill and require medical attention. Throughout our country's history, public health has also played a key role in the detection and control of infectious diseases, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, and the prevention of disease and injury.



Dr. Nicola Mercer
*Medical Officer of Health
& CEO*

Public health and the healthcare system in Ontario are on the precipice of important change. With the recent release of the *Patients First Act* legislation and the modernization of the Ontario Public Health Standards, the healthcare system is working to eliminate inequities and improve the circumstances in which people in our communities are born, grow, live, work and age.

Canadians recognize health disparities that exist between prosperous and developing nations. Poverty, poor nutrition, lack of education and employment, and inadequate housing are some of the social determinants of health that affect individuals and groups in developing and war-torn countries around the world.

When we turn the lens to Canada and our local communities, health inequities may not be as obvious to everyone, but they do exist. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health assesses the health outcomes of groups of individuals to determine which priority populations would benefit from evidenced-based programs and services.

We have chosen health equity as one of four strategic directions in our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan which will align with changes being made to Ontario's healthcare system. Public Health's programs and services will use health equity principles in an effort to reduce and eliminate health differences in our communities.

Message from the Board of Health Chair, Nancy Sullivan

It is a particular privilege to serve as Chair of the Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health as we celebrate 50 years of service to the residents of Wellington County, Dufferin County and the City of Guelph.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment to public health of the municipal representatives and provincial appointees who serve with me on the Board of Health. This dedicated group of people are as passionate about the work of public health as I am.



Nancy Sullivan
Board of Health Chair

Working together, Board members provide oversight and guidance at the local level for the essential work of public health in delivering programs and services to meet the distinctive needs of our communities. Public Health's vision is our shared hope for the future that everyone in our community has the opportunity for health and well-being.

The current committed staff of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health and all those who preceded them over the past 50 years deserve special thanks and recognition. You are the physicians, nurses, inspectors, epidemiologists, health promoters, dental staff, speech and language pathologists and support staff who have and continue to make significant contributions to the health of individuals and families in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph. I believe we are living in healthier communities today as a result of your efforts to prevent disease, protect health and promote the well-being of individuals and our communities.

Throughout my career, I have had several gratifying opportunities to participate in the governance of universities and community organizations. My involvement with Public Health affords me with the unique opportunity to make a difference in the health and well-being of Wellington County, Dufferin County and the City of Guelph.

For anyone interested in the work of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, our Board meetings are open to the public. Information on the dates for our meetings and the programs and services we offer is available at wdgpublichealth.ca.

2016-2020 Strategic Plan

Public Health helps people stay well. As an essential part of the healthcare system, we are committed to the health and well-being of the communities we serve. Our new Strategic Plan is establishing priorities, guiding decision-making, aligning resources and inspiring staff. More information is available at wdgpublichealth.ca.

VISION Everyone has the opportunity for health and well-being.

MISSION Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health uses an innovative approach to deliver evidence-informed programs and services to meet the distinctive needs of our communities.

MANDATE The Province of Ontario mandates Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health to provide programs and services that prevent disease, protect health and promote the well-being of individuals.

VALUES

Advocacy
Public Health advocates for policies and strategies that improve the health and well-being of people where they live, work, learn and play.

Engagement

Public Health builds and maintains meaningful relationships with clients and stakeholders for the well-being of the communities we serve.

Excellence

Public Health is committed to the delivery of high quality, evidence-informed programs and services.

Respect

Public Health is dedicated to providing an inclusive environment that respects diversity.

Transparency

Public Health is accountable and fiscally responsible to staff, communities and partners.

Strategic Directions

WDGPH's strategic directions provide the framework for our day-to-day work. We have selected four priorities that will transform our vision, mission, mandate and values into action.



HEALTH EQUITY

We will provide programs and services that integrate health equity principles to reduce or eliminate health differences between population groups.



ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

We will improve our capacity to effectively deliver public health programs and services.



SERVICE CENTRED APPROACH

We are committed to providing excellent service to anyone interacting with Public Health.



BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We will work with communities to support the health and well-being of everyone.

Your Health

wdgpublichealth.ca/your-health



Public Health is a vital part of the local healthcare system. We offer many evidence-based programs and services to help residents achieve their optimum health. For more information about how Public Health supports your health and well-being, visit wdgpublichealth.ca and the “[Your Health](#)” section.

RESPECT FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY

**Positive
Space**

Lesbian Gay Bisexual
Transgender Queer



Public Health is committed to providing equitable access to programs and services for people of all sexual and gender diversities in our communities. To ensure that our Public Health offices are welcoming and LGBTQ friendly, we recently asked clients, community partners and local service providers for their feedback. Read about steps Public Health is taking to improve everyone’s experience in “[LGBTQ Health: Results from Community Consultations](#)” available at wdgpublichealth.ca.

Public Health staff have had an opportunity to participate in “positive space” training to understand the issues around sexual and gender diversity. We are increasing our awareness and understanding of the issues affecting the LGBTQ community to work respectfully and equitably with everyone.

REDUCING THE RISK OF SHINGLES

One-third of adults who had chickenpox are likely to get shingles during their lifetime. [Shingles](#) can result in serious complications, the most common being mild to severe nerve pain that can last months or even years after the blisters are gone. In addition to making daily activities difficult, shingles can have serious consequences such as nerve damage and vision loss if it affects the eye.

To reduce the risk of getting shingles, Public Health promotes the Zostavax vaccine to adults aged 50 and older. Anyone who is between 65 and 70 years old is able to get the shingles vaccine from their doctor or at a Public Health clinic at no cost. For those outside this age group, the vaccine is available by prescription from their doctor (the cost is approximately \$200).



HARM REDUCTION APPROACH TO MARIJUANA USE

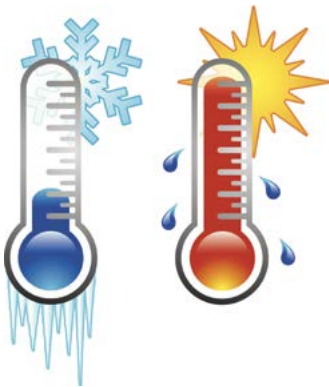


Cannabis is the most widely used illegal drug in Canada with approximately 11 percent of Canadians and 14 percent of Ontarians reporting use in the past year. A local survey conducted by Public Health revealed that approximately one-quarter of grade 10 students reported using cannabis in the past year.

Individuals who start using cannabis during adolescence and frequent users are most at risk of immediate and long-term health effects. Of particular concern to Public Health is cannabis use while driving. Recent cannabis use reduces reaction time, concentration, visual function, short-term memory and doubles a driver's risk of a motor vehicle collision.

The Federal Government has committed to the legalization of marijuana. Public Health is advocating for an approach that includes strict regulations around the drug's production, distribution, promotion and sale. Public Health wants to ensure that the new regulatory system promotes health and safety, reduces harm and prevents youth uptake. For more information you can read "[A Public Health Approach to Cannabis Legalization in Canada](#)" board report on our website.

PROTECTION FROM EXTREME WEATHER



Public Health receives advance warning from Environment and Climate Change Canada of extreme heat or cold weather conditions. We relay the information to our community partners including the [City of Guelph](#), [Dufferin County](#) and [Wellington County](#) so they can activate [extreme heat](#) or [extreme cold](#) weather plans. Additionally, we notify daycares, retirement homes and long-term care providers of potentially dangerous weather conditions.

Another important part of the notification process is providing residents of the community with information about ways to protect themselves against extreme heat and cold, and the potential health effects of conditions such as frostbite and heatstroke.

Public Health monitors [air quality](#) and issues smog alerts when air pollution increases health risks. Children, seniors, people who work or exercise outside, and individuals with diabetes, heart disease and lung disease are at most risk. Get smog and extreme weather alerts by following us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

PROMOTING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Public Health's "[Stay Well WDG Blog](#)" has been up and running since 2015 and offers healthy living tips, stories and ideas for residents of Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph. You can subscribe to get weekly blog posts direct to your inbox and read current and past editions at [wdgpublichealth.ca/blog](#).

An example of what you might read about is a summertime blog about [E. coli](#) describing the wide range of symptoms that can make individuals sick. Those most at risk are young children, pregnant women, older adults and anyone with a

weakened immune system. The blog offers advice for protecting your family from E. coli including [barbeque food safety skills](#), tips for [staying safe and healthy at pools and splash pads](#), and [testing and treatment of private well water](#).

CREATING COMMUNITIES FREE FROM ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM

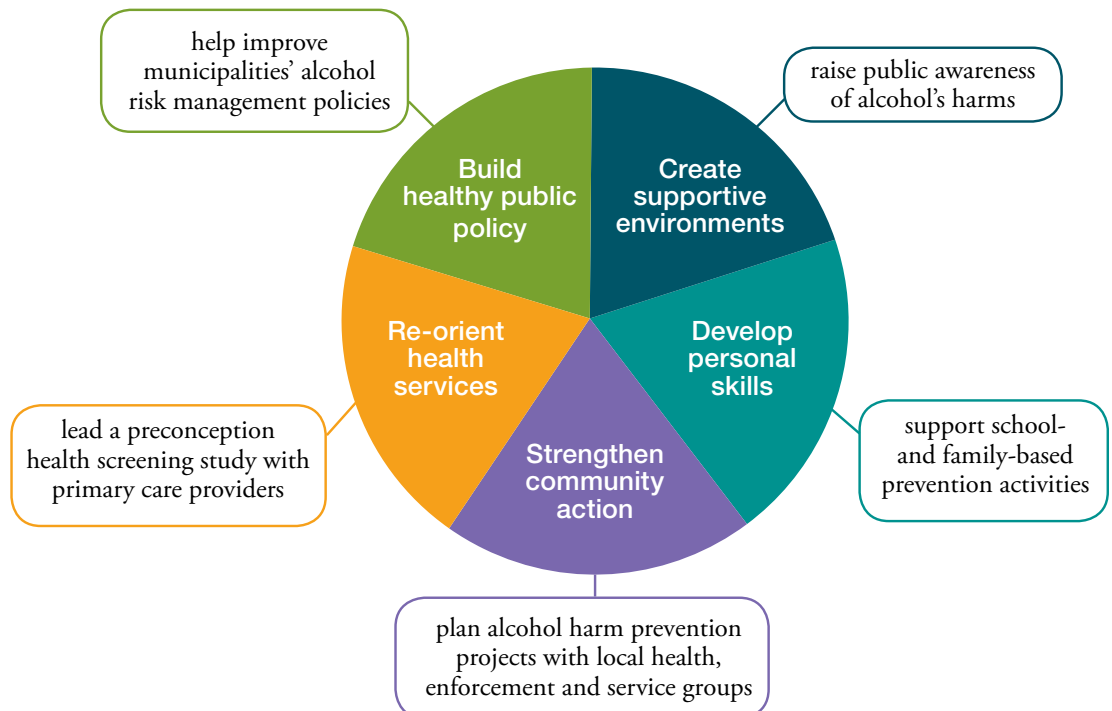
Despite the popular belief that moderate drinking can improve your health, research shows that the health risks of alcohol use are more likely to greatly outweigh the benefits. Alcohol use, especially at high-risk levels, is associated with over 60 diseases including cancer, heart disease, digestive diseases and mental health conditions. It also contributes to traffic injuries, violence and suicide. Locally, alcohol is responsible for an average of 463 hospital visits per year.



Our studies indicate that more people in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph drink alcohol, and are more likely to drink in a high-risk way, than the provincial average. About half of local grade 10 students reported binge drinking in the past year and one in three University of Guelph students are heavy, frequent drinkers.

Public Health has developed a comprehensive strategy and is working with community partners to educate the public about alcohol-related harms, strengthen policies at the municipal and provincial levels, and prevent alcohol misuse in youth and young adults. Find the [“Alcohol Harm Prevention Strategy”](#) board report and [“7 things you didn’t know about alcohol”](#) blog post on our website.

The Strategy



Your Kids

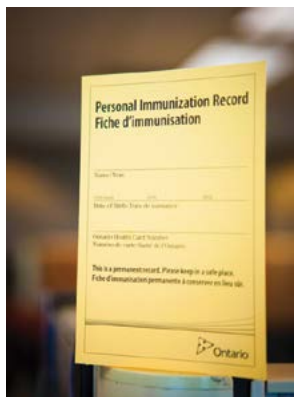
wdgpublichealth.ca/your-kids



Public Health is available to help parents with the health and development of their children. We offer programs and services to assist with pregnancy, feeding and nutrition, dental health, vaccination and parenting. For more information about how Public Health supports parents, visit the “[Your Kids](#)” section of our website.

To speak with a public health nurse about parenting or your child’s health and development, call KIDS LINE at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 3616. You can also connect with us on Facebook [@LetsTalkParenting](#) and Twitter [@LetsTalkParents](#) where we share parenting tips, strategies and resources.

KEEPING IMMUNIZATION RECORDS UP TO DATE



It is a requirement of the Immunization of School Pupils Act that students who attend school in Ontario must have up-to-date vaccinations or a legal exemption on file with Public Health. Annually, Public Health assesses the immunization records of all students and notifies those with missing vaccines that they need to update their records to avoid suspension from school.

In 2016, 1767 elementary and high school students were suspended because of incomplete immunization records. Public health nurses and staff worked with schools, students and families to get suspended student’s immunizations up-to-date and on file so they could return to class.

Parents/guardians/students are encouraged to make an appointment with their physician to arrange for any missing vaccines. Public Health also holds drop-in immunization clinics at our offices and [local high schools](#). Visit the “Your Kids” section of our website to find out [what immunizations are needed for school](#) and how to report them to Public Health.

PROTECTION FROM THE HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

Parents of children in grade 7 receive an [immunization consent form](#) from Public Health at the beginning of the school year. By signing the form, parents protect their children from the human papillomavirus (HPV), in addition to meningococcal disease and hepatitis B which are given at the same time.

HPV is a common virus that can lead to cervical, penile and genital cancers, as well as genital warts. Gardasil, the HPV vaccine, is most effective when given before an individual becomes sexually active.

FREE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR KIDS



The most common chronic disease of early childhood is tooth decay. Public Health provides [free oral health services to children and youth](#), ages 0-17, through [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#). Our staff will help families that cannot afford dental care to enroll in the program. Anyone with questions is welcome to call the Dental Line at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 2661 or search “HSO” on our website.

Public Health dental hygienists also [visit elementary schools to screen students’](#) teeth and then let their families know if there are any oral health problems such as cavities. In 2016, over 13,000 local children were screened in school and community clinics. We also provide fluoride varnish, a protective coating that helps prevent cavities, for students in those schools where children have higher rates of urgent dental problems. The number of urgent oral health needs at these schools has decreased significantly since the introduction of the program.

Poor oral health is associated with health complications during pregnancy, including premature birth and low birth weights for newborns. Since 2013, Public Health has been offering free dental cleanings to pregnant women enrolled in our [“Pregnancy to Parenting”](#) program to help improve the health of mom and baby.

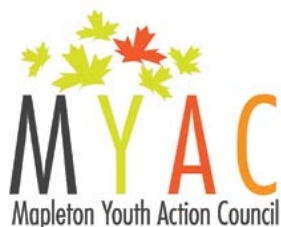
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

“[Wee Talk](#)” is a free speech and language service for preschoolers. Parents or guardians who are concerned about their child’s speech can call [KIDS LINE at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 3616](#). Children with speech and language developmental concerns will be assessed by a speech-language pathologist who will determine what services are most appropriate.



Wee Talk offers a broad range of therapy and programming options including individual and group therapy, parent education and training, and transition to school support. For more information about Wee Talk Preschool Speech and Language services, visit [weetalk.net](#).

SUPPORTING YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY



Public Health is committed to helping young people reach their full potential and feel connected to their communities. We support a variety of community programs that create opportunities for youth participation. Anyone wanting information about how to make a community group or organization more youth friendly is welcome to contact Public Health.





In partnership with the townships in North Wellington County, [Public Health supports Youth Action Councils](#). Individuals between the ages of 14-24 can join groups in [Mapleton](#), [Wellington North](#) and [Minto](#). The Youth Action Councils provide leadership and volunteer opportunities for youth. Youth also have an opportunity to share their ideas about how to make policies, programs and services more youth friendly with local councils, businesses and organizations.



FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH



healthy babies
healthy children

Mental health is an important part of every individual's overall health and well-being, and an important component of some of Public Health's programs and services. We recently released a report called "[Mental Health in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph](#)" that takes an in-depth look at local mental health issues. This report can be found by searching "mental health" on our website.

Public Health supports the mental health of families participating in the "[Healthy Babies Healthy Children](#)" program. Our clients are families with children who may be at an increased risk due to challenging situations. Public health staff can provide families with helpful advice about their child's development, parenting and healthy living. Our staff also link clients with other community support services as needed.

PRENATAL PROGRAMS

For any woman looking online for advice about her pregnancy, there is an overwhelming amount of information and it is not all reliable or based in best practice. This is one of the reasons Public Health has introduced a [new online prenatal program](#) for individuals and families in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph who are expecting a family. "The Gift of Motherhood" includes a "narrator option" for those who prefer to listen rather than read the information. The program includes videos, activities and links to other websites and local community resources.

Public Health also offers [in-person prenatal classes](#) which we recommend taking in the fifth or sixth month of pregnancy. Register for either the online or in-person program (or both) at wdgpublichealth.ca, or by calling 1-800-265-7293.

Learn about pregnancy, birth,
breastfeeding and
taking care of baby with our

FREE Online
Prenatal Program



Your Home

wdgpublichealth.ca/your-home



Public Health offers a number of services whether you live in a house, condo or apartment. We can provide information about food safety, radon testing, well water testing, lead in pipes and more. For information about how Public Health services help keep your family safe at home, visit wdgpublichealth.ca and the “[Your Home](#)” section.

TESTING YOUR HOME FOR RADON



[Radon](#) is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is released from the soil. It seeps into buildings through cracks in the foundation. Radon accumulates; the higher the concentration, the greater the risk of developing lung cancer. Locally, 15 percent of homes have higher radon levels than recommended in Canadian guidelines.

For the past two years, Public Health has hosted [radon information sessions](#) so the public can ask experts questions about radon and how to test for it. In 2016, 277 local residents attended radon information sessions held in Guelph, Fergus and Orangeville. The fall and winter are the best seasons to do radon testing because windows and doors are generally closed, preventing drafts from affecting the results. The public can compare their home’s test results with the Health Canada guideline that recommends taking action to reduce the indoor radon level if it is above 200 Bq/m³.

TESTING DRINKING WATER FROM YOUR WELL



[Well water that looks, tastes and smells fine can be contaminated with bacteria.](#) As a result, Public Health recommends that drinking water from a private well should be tested three times a year. Residents can pick up a water sampling bottle from their township or a Public Health office. [Well water testing](#) is free.

Public Health sends water samples for testing to a regional public health laboratory. Results are typically available with five business days of dropping off a sample at a Public Health office. Anyone who needs help interpreting the results of their well water test or wants to know how to disinfect their well can contact Public Health.



AVOID SPREADING ILLNESS AT HOME

Public Health is responsible for the investigation of cases of outbreaks and infectious diseases in the community in institutions such as [hospitals](#), [long-term care facilities](#), [retirement homes](#), [licensed daycares](#) and [group homes](#). During outbreaks, Public Health works collaboratively with institutions to promote current infection prevention and control requirements such as housekeeping practices, types and uses of disinfectants, use of personal protective equipment and isolation of individuals with symptoms.

Family members living together in households are also vulnerable to viruses that spread easily and are hard to kill. One of the worst and well-known causes of vomiting and diarrhea is the [norovirus](#) which occurs frequently in institutions.

Following are a few basic tips for families to avoid spreading illness to others:

- Use a bleach and water cleaning solution for high-touch surfaces (1 part bleach to 10 parts water). Clean and disinfect surfaces sick people might have touched (e.g., bathroom counters, doorknobs, taps and toilets).
- Launder the sick person's bedding and clothing in a separate load.
- Use gloves when cleaning up vomit and stool and discard after using.
- Wash hands thoroughly using soap and water after using the bathroom or changing a diaper, and before preparing or eating food.
- The person who is sick should stay home from work or school for at least 48 hours until vomiting and diarrhea have stopped. Do not prepare food for other people until you feel better.



Your Community

wdgpublichealth.ca/your-community



Public Health works with community partners to develop policies that improve local health outcomes. We also work to reduce potential health risks to the community through routine inspections that ensure businesses are providing safe services. In 2016, Public Health conducted 4,260 inspections of food premises, drinking water and recreational water. For more information about how Public Health supports the health of the community, visit wdgpublichealth.ca and the “Your Community” section.

SUPPORT FOR A BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

Public Health supports a proposal that would address poverty and improve the health of Canadians including the one in seven children in this country who live in poverty. A [basic income guarantee](#) is an economic and social intervention that would assist everyone to meet their basic needs. The Board of Health has joined widespread advocacy efforts to encourage the federal government to investigate a basic income guarantee for all Canadians.

Public Health programs and services use health equity principles to reduce or eliminate health differences in our community. A [basic income guarantee for all Canadians](#) also has the potential to improve health outcomes and lift individuals with the lowest incomes out of poverty.



IMPLEMENTING AND ENFORCING SMOKING LEGISLATION

Public Health is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of new legislation enacted on January 1, 2016 affecting both the [Smoke-Free Ontario Act \(SFOA\)](#) and the [Electronic Cigarettes Act \(ECA\)](#). Amendments to the SFOA ban most flavoured tobacco, double the maximum fines for selling tobacco products to minors and prohibit smoking on hospital grounds. Under the ECA it is illegal to sell or supply e-cigarettes to minors.

[Public Health implemented the legislation](#) through educational visits to approximately 225 tobacco and e-cigarette vendors in the region to inform them of their obligations. Any business that sells tobacco or e-cigarettes to someone under 19 years of age faces a fine and the possibility of losing their license to sell these products.

In Canada, teens and young adults are using e-cigarettes more than any other group. The ECA is working to limit exposure of youth to e-cigarettes and the potential health risks associated with nicotine addiction.



Ontario



WORKING TO PREVENT THE THREAT OF RABIES



Public Health is working to prevent the occurrence of [rabies](#) including making the public aware that rabies poses a serious threat to people and their pets. This effort is due to the recent [re-emergence of rabies in the Ontario wildlife population](#) in December 2015. Prior to that, there had not been a case of rabies in the province in the past 10 years.

Hundreds of raccoons and skunks in [Ontario](#) have tested positive for the raccoon strain of rabies. Most of these animals are from the Hamilton area; however, other affected areas include Haldimand-Norfolk, Niagara Region, Perth County and Brant County.

The public can [reduce the risk of rabies](#) by vaccinating their dogs and cats, supervising pets when they are outside, and staying away from all wildlife and unfamiliar animals. Anyone concerned that they may have been exposed to rabies should immediately contact their physician or go to a hospital emergency department.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

[Public Health protects the health of the public at community events](#) by managing and investigating food safety, water safety, tobacco control, rabies control and health hazard complaints. One of these events was the [International Plowing Match](#) in Minto Township in September 2016. Public Health [implemented a plan](#) to ensure the health and safety of approximately one million visitors during the course of the event. These efforts included advance [food safety training](#) for anyone who would be serving food to the public.

[Public health inspectors \(PHIs\)](#) were at the event for its duration to protect the public from potential health risks. All food vendors were inspected on location before they could open to the public. On a daily basis, PHIs tested 10 metres of water distribution lines to ensure that water was safe to use. PHIs also conducted active surveillance for the risk of infectious diseases, as well as monitoring sanitation and the pest control of on-site garbage. Search “plowing match” on our website to find out more about our role during this event.



INVESTIGATING INFECTION CONTROL COMPLAINTS

Public Health routinely inspects [food establishments](#) and [personal services settings like nail salons and tattoo shops](#) to ensure they are following proper food safety and infection control practices. The public can check the inspection results online at checkbeforeyouchoose.ca.

Check Before You Choose

Businesses operated by [regulated health professionals](#) including doctors, dentists, chiropractors and massage therapists are not routinely inspected by Public Health. Their respective professional colleges regulate and set the standards that are followed in these settings. However, anyone may [submit a complaint](#) to Public Health if they are concerned about infection control practices in a business operated by a regulated health professional. Public Health will investigate to ensure there is no risk to the public and, if necessary, work with the business to take corrective action. Inspection reports where an infection control lapse is found are posted at wdgpublichealth.ca or you can call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752 for more information.

HEALTH RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND YOUTH GROUPS

[Public Health and local libraries have launched a new initiative](#) targeted at teachers and youth leaders. A collection of resource kits and DVDs that align with the Health and Physical Education curriculum for schools can be borrowed for classroom or group use. Visit one of the following libraries or search their online catalogues:

- Guelph Public Library (www.guelphpl.ca)
- Wellington County Library (www.wellington.ca/library)
- Orangeville Public Library (www.orangeville.ca/orangeville-public-library)
- Shelburne Public Library (www.shelburnelibrary.ca)
- Terry James Resource Centre (UGDSB teachers) (ugdsb.on.ca/terry-james/)

Questions about these resources can be directed to 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4111, or email schoolhealth@wdgpublichealth.ca.



BUILDING A HEALTHIER LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM



Public Health is one of the organizations involved in the [Headwaters Food and Farming Alliance \(HFFA\)](#) which has been working with community stakeholders to develop a [Headwaters Food Charter](#). A food charter is a vision for what a local food system could look like – it uses “food” as a tool for community action.

The HFFA is building its food system around the following six pillars:

- Agricultural sustainability
- Environmental responsibility
- Food access and equity
- Health and well-being
- Culture and celebration
- Economic vitality

In 2016, the community was asked to provide feedback on the values and goals of the food charter. A local action plan has been developed to increase awareness, build skills, support policies and bring partners together to achieve a common vision.



Clinics & Classes

wdgpublichealth.ca/clinics-classes

Public Health provides a variety of clinics and classes for residents of Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph. For detailed information about any of the services listed below, visit wdgpublichealth.ca and the “[Clinics & Classes](#)” section. If you have questions and would like to speak with a member of our staff, please call 1-800-265-7293.

CLINICS

[Breastfeeding Clinics](#)

Drop-in clinics for women with babies 12 weeks and under.

[Dental Clinics](#)

Oral health services for children aged 0-17 whose families cannot afford dental care.

[Sexual Health Appointments](#)

Birth control (for those 24 years of age and under), pregnancy tests, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, anonymous HIV tests.

[Travel Appointments](#)

Travel vaccines and personalized travel advice.

[Vaccination Appointments](#)

Routine vaccines for children and adults; non-routine vaccinations (e.g., Zostavax, Bexerso, Hepatitis A for high-risk clients).

CLASSES

[Come Understand Parenting](#)

Program for parents and parents-to-be under age 25.

[Feelings After Birth](#)

Postpartum groups for mothers who need support after giving birth or adoption.

[Pregnancy to Parenting](#)

Weekly program for pregnant women and teens facing challenges.

[Prenatal Series](#)

Classes for pregnant women and their partners or support person.

[Safe Food Handler Course](#)

Training and certification for food service workers and anyone who prepares food.

[Wee Talk](#)

Speech and language program for preschoolers.

Healthcare Providers / Schools / Childcare Providers

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health collaborates with local healthcare providers, schools and childcare providers to support their work and ensure the health and safety of the community.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Public Health communicates and collaborates regularly with healthcare providers in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph. Visit wdgpublichealth.ca and click on the “[For Healthcare Providers](#)” menu link for information that supports the work of local physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, long-term care staff, emergency service workers (police, fire, emergency medical services), dental professionals and midwives. The website also posts [physicians’ advisories](#) and provides quick access to [forms](#).

SCHOOLS

Public Health supports schools to improve the health and well-being of students and staff. Visit wdgpublichealth.ca and click on the “[For Schools](#)” menu link for information about curriculum resources, the Healthy Schools initiative, immunizations for school attendance, oral health screening and more.

CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

Public Health helps childcare providers provide safe, healthy environments for kids in their care. Our staff are available to work with any licensed childcare centre to meet the health and safety licensing requirements of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Visit wdgpublichealth.ca and click on the “[For Child Care Providers](#)” menu link for information about reporting and managing outbreaks, infection control, immunization requirements for children and more.

Public Health Funding

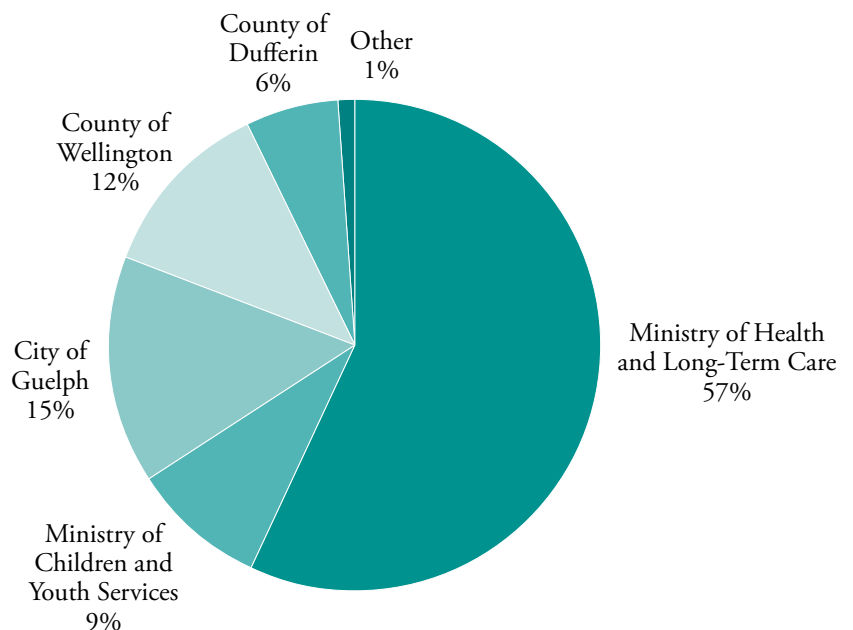
In 2016, the total operating budget for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health was \$26,012,252. The Province of Ontario provided funding for 66% of the total operating budget; the County of Wellington contributed 12%; the County of Dufferin contributed 6%; and the City of Guelph contributed 15%.

FUNDING PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health receives funding from multiple sources:

- The Province of Ontario provides funding through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. In 2016, the Province of Ontario provided funding for 66% of the total operating budget.
- The municipalities of Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph provide funding based on the population of each municipality relative to the total population of the region. Population numbers are determined by the most recent Census. In 2016, the County of Wellington contributed 12% of the total operating budget; the County of Dufferin contributed 6%; and the City of Guelph contributed 15%.

As a publicly funded organization, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health reports under the accounting standards of the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB). The financial statements are subject to an audit by the City of Guelph's external audit firm (KPMG LLP). The Municipal Act requires Public Health to use the same external auditor as the largest municipal funder. After the 2016 audit is complete, the full [audited financial statements](#) for the year can be found online.





PublicHealth
WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN-GUELPH
Stay Well.

1-800-265-7293

wdgpublichealth.ca



Fergus
474 Wellington Road #18,
Suite 100

Guelph
• 160 Chancellors Way
• 20 Shelldale Crescent

Mount Forest
311 Foster Street

Orangeville
180 Broadway

Shelburne
167 Centre Street
(Mel Lloyd Centre)

1-800-265-7293

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