

Housing Security in Guelph and Wellington County

■ The following fact sheet provides information on factors influencing housing security in the City of Guelph and Wellington County.

Housing Facts for the City of Guelph and Wellington County

- The average rent cost for a one bedroom apartment in Guelph and Wellington as of April 2008 was \$754. A two bedroom was \$866.ⁱ A single individual with no dependents receiving Ontario Works receives \$356 per month for shelter costs.ⁱⁱ
- Guelph and Wellington have 2,754 social housing units (2238 in Guelph and 516 in Wellington) of those 2,430 are Rent Geared to Income units.ⁱⁱⁱ
- There are 211 Rent Supplement Units (50 are subsidized units in affordable housing).^{iv}
- The average value of a house in Wellington County (city of Guelph included) is \$293,572.^v Saving for a down payment for a house, as well as maintenance, insurance, and mortgage payments are expensive and most of the time unattainable for individuals and families living on fixed income budgets.

Homelessness in the City of Guelph and Wellington County

- An estimated 150,000 to 300,000 people are homeless in Canada, living in shelters or on the streets. On any given night, 40,000 people stay in homeless shelters.^{vi}
- The shelters in Guelph and Wellington continue to be used frequently. There were a total of 1660 individual visits to shelters in 2008.^{vii}
- In 2008 approximately 138 visits were made to the shelters by individuals each month with an average length of stay of approximately 2 weeks.^{viii}

ⁱ Wellington and Guelph Housing Services (2008). 2008 Housing by the Numbers.

ⁱⁱ Personal Correspondence with Wellington County Social Services employee Rico Sabatini. January 2009.

ⁱⁱⁱ Wellington and Guelph Housing Services (2008). 2008 Housing by the Numbers.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CD&Code1=3523&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=wellington&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Families%20and%20households&Custom=>

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^{vi} <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/homelessness/index.shtml>

^{vii} Personal Correspondence with Wellington County Social Services employee Goldie Barth. February 2009.

^{viii} Ibid.