

Creating a Safe and Caring Community in Guelph and Wellington County

■ The following fact sheet provides information on creating a safe and caring community in the City of Guelph and Wellington County.

Protecting those in Need

- The Children's Aid Society is funded and mandated by the province to protect children from harm, and investigate any cases of abuse and/or neglect.
- Between 2001 and 2007 the number of calls received by Family and Children Services of Guelph and Wellington has remained relatively stable.ⁱ
- The highest number of investigations was made for physical/sexual harm by commission.ⁱⁱ
- In the 2008-2009 fiscal year there were a total of 1,290 new investigations (cases for which the investigation was required to gather more details and assess the situation). This was up only slightly from the previous fiscal year which had a total of 1,246 new investigations.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Last year (2008-2009) there were 118 children admitted into care which was up from the previous year which had a 74 children were admitted into care.
- Community Torchlight at the Distress Centre of Guelph and Wellington/Dufferin is available 24/7 to provide listening, support, referral, and crisis assistance services for all ages. A youth line is also available. In 2008 the line had 10,054 calls answered by volunteers.^{iv}

Guelph City Police

- This year Statistics Canada rated Guelph as having the lowest crime severity index of cities in Canada with a population between 100,000 and 500,000.^v
- In 2007, The Guelph City Police reported a total crime rate for the City of Guelph as 5,516 per 100,000. This excludes traffic crimes. This was up slightly from the previous year which indicated a rate of 4,837 per 100,000 which was the lowest rate in the past 10 years.^{vi}
- Property crime was the most common type of crime with a total of 2,558 per 100,000.

Volunteering

- The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington promotes volunteerism in Guelph and Wellington by matching people with meaningful opportunities as well as providing training, and resource for agencies to assist in their volunteer management.
- In 2008 The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington was able to assist 1,042 individuals to apply for volunteer positions online. There were 142 new volunteer opportunities submitted by agencies.^{vii}
- Based on a MacLean's Magazine, Guelph was rated Canada's Most Caring City in 2008. This was based on the fact that approximately 69.7% of individuals residing in Guelph reported volunteering some of their time.^{viii}

ⁱ Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington, September 2008.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington, Annual Report 2008-2009,

<http://www.fcsgw.org/en/community/resources/AnnualReport2008-2009.pdf>

^{iv} Personal Correspondence with the Agency February 2009.

^v <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/090721/t090721a3-eng.htm>

^{vi} Striving for the Vision, Guelph Police Service Annual Report 2007.

^{vii} Personal Correspondence with the Agency February 2009.

^{viii} MacLean's Magazine, online: http://www.macleans.ca/canada/national/article.jsp?content=20080828_165730_35656