

Brant **Early Years** Community Report Card



December, 2005

Executive Summary

The Early Years (age 0-6) are a significant period of a child's development because experiences during this time can have a profound impact on a child's future educational, behavioural and health outcomes.

The Early Years Report Card documents the Early Years Community in terms of demographics, family resources, health, education, early care, and readiness to learn. This information is presented for the community as a whole and by each of the sixteen neighbourhoods that make up Brantford and Brant County.

For each of the sixteen neighbourhoods identified throughout Brantford and Brant County seven socio-economic indicators are discussed: total population size, proportion of population aged 0-6, family composition, mobility, education, dependence on government income, and poverty. In light of these variables, the Early Development Instrument (EDI) results are presented along with findings from the Parkyn screening tool delivered at-birth, and the inventory of programs and services available in that neighbourhood. Overall, there is a large variation among the neighbourhoods on these indicators.

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Indicators

Population and Children

Brant County had a population of 118,485 in the 2001 Census. Among the neighbourhoods, Brier Park, West South Dumfries, and East Ward were the largest in terms of population size as all had a population greater than 10,000 in 2001, while Banbury and the Core also approached 10,000. In contrast, South Brant-Onondaga, West Brant, Mayfair, and Shellard Lane all had populations below 6,000 in 2001. Since 2001, Shellard Lane has grown substantially, and will be better represented in the 2006 Census. There was little correlation between total population size and proportion of children aged 0-6 among the neighbourhoods. Overall, approximately 1,300 children are born each year throughout Brantford and Brant County, and children 0-6 years of age comprised just over 8% of the population in Brantford and Brant County. Six neighbourhoods were slightly higher than average, with 9-10% of the population 0-6 years of age: Eagle Place, Banbury and Shellard Lane, followed by East Ward, Holmedale-William, and the Core. Fairview-Greenbrier had the smallest proportion of the population 0-6 years of age (6%), followed by Henderson and Brier Park, each with less than 8%.



Family Composition

In 2001, 64% of Brantford and Brant County families had children at home: 48% were two parent families, 13% were led by female lone parents, and 3% were led by male lone parents (total lone parent families equaled 16% in Brant and 15% across Ontario). Five neighbourhoods had more than a 20% concentration of lone parent families: Eagle Place, Holmedale-William, the Core, East Ward, and West Brant. In two neighbourhoods, lone parent families comprised less than 10% of all the families with children at home, East South Dumfries and South Brant-Onondaga.



Mobility - Percentage of all residents in the neighbourhood that moved in the past year

According to the 2001 Census, the one-year mobility rate was highest among residents of the Core (20%), followed by East Ward, West Brant, and Holmedale-William neighbourhoods, each of which exceeded 15%. One-year Mobility was less than 9% for Henderson, Fairview-Greenbrier, South Brant-Onondaga and East South Dumfries, with the lowest proportion in West Brant County (7.5%). Overall, the one-year mobility rate was 13% in Brant County and 14% in the province as a whole.

Low Education Percentage aged 20 and older with less than Grade 9

In Brant County and Ontario, 9% had a low level of education in 2001. By neighbourhood in Brant County, Eagle Place, East Ward, Terrace Hill, and the Core had the highest proportion with a low education, at 11-12%. Four neighbourhoods had low education level less than 6%: East South Dumfries, Banbury, Henderson, and Shellard Lane.

Dependence on Government Income

This variable was highly correlated with low education. In 2001, 16-19% depended on government income in the following neighbourhoods: Fairview-Greenbrier, East Ward, Eagle Place, Terrace Hill, and the Core. Less than 10% depended on government income in East South Dumfries, West South Dumfries, Shellard Lane, and Banbury. In Brant County, 13% depended on government income, compared to 10% in Ontario.

Family Poverty - Percentage below the low income cut-offs

The low income cut-off in Brant was approximately \$32,000 for family of four and \$17,000 for a single adult in 2001. Overall, the family poverty rate was 13% in Brant and 14% across the Province. Five neighbourhoods had a family poverty rate of 20-26%: West Brant, East Ward, Holmedale-William, the Core and Eagle Place. The five neighbourhoods with the lowest rate varied from 4-6%: Mayfair, Shellard Lane, East South Dumfries, South Brant Onondaga, and West Brant County. This indicator was also highly correlated with dependence on family income and low education.

EDI - Readiness to Learn

The percent of children scoring in the lowest 10th percentile on two or more domains on the EDI is used to assess children's development as they enter the formal education system. In Brant, the EDI was last conducted in 2002 and consisted of 120 questions completed by Kindergarten teachers; 14% scored in the lowest 10th percentile on two or more domains. The five domains included physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge. Three neighbourhoods had 21-24% of the children scoring in the lowest 10th percentile on two or more domains: Fairview-Greenbrier, Shellard Lane, and the Core of Brantford. South Brant-Onondaga had 18%. Five neighbourhoods had less than 10%: Brier Park, Mayfair, Henderson, East South Dumfries, and West Brant.

Parkyn Screening Tool

The Parkyn is a screening tool performed in hospital prior to discharge and used by the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. Newborns who score 9 or higher may be at increased risk of experiencing developmental difficulties. In Brant, between 2002 and 2004, 22% of all newborns scored 9 or higher on the Parkyn. Four neighbourhoods had 27-39% of newborns scoring 9 or higher: Holmedale-William, East Ward, Eagle Place and the Core. Five neighbourhoods had 10-14% of children scoring 9 or higher: Mayfair, East South Dumfries, Henderson, South Brant-Onondaga, and Fairview-Greenbrier.

Child Care

In addition, the report discusses the findings from a survey of parents conducted in 2005. These results are informative from a planning perspective for the community as a whole. For instance, the survey found that 55% used some form of child care program for their children 0-6 years of age. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services has issued licenses to twenty-seven (27) non-profit and commercial centre-based child care programs in Brant, an increase of two from the 2004-2006 service plan, which totals 1174 spaces.



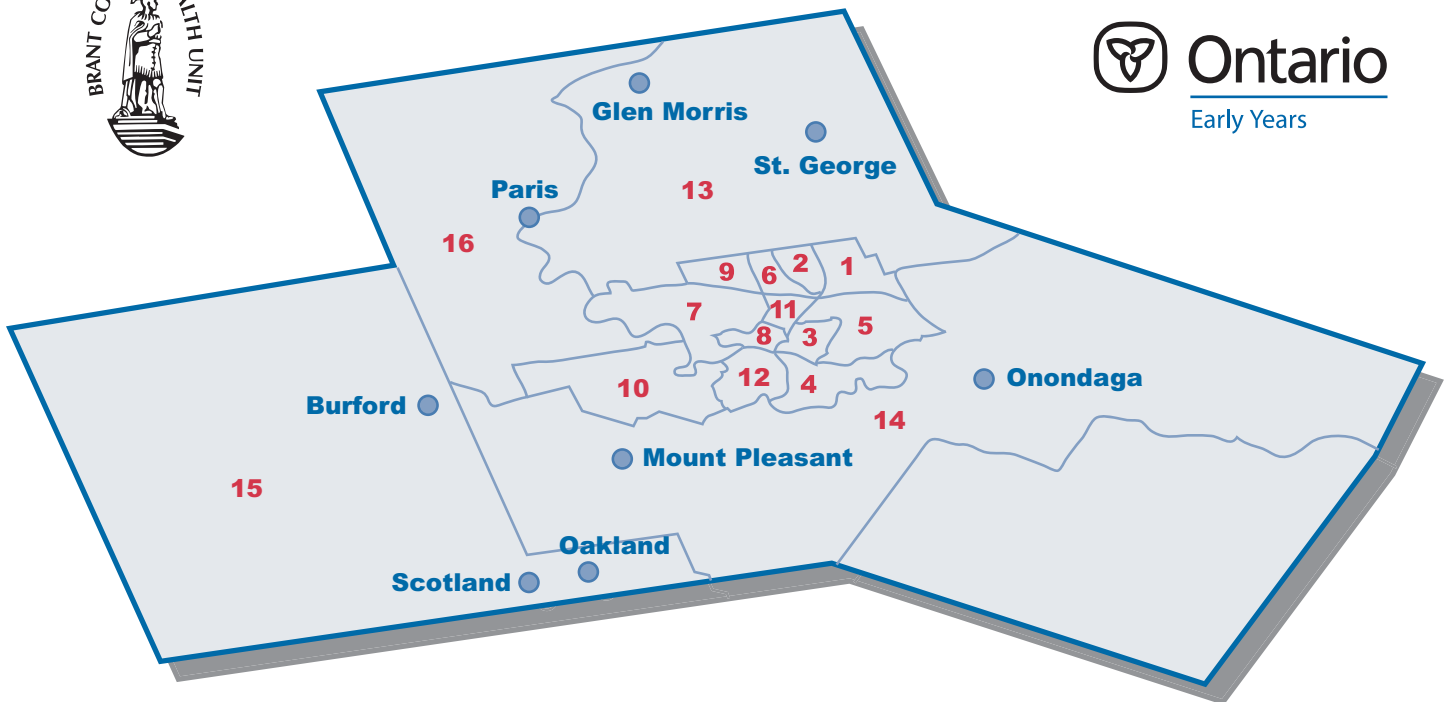
Neighborhood Map

In Brantford

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Banbury | 7. Henderson |
| 2. Brier Park | 8. Holmedale - William |
| 3. The Core | 9. Mayfair |
| 4. Eagle Place | 10. Shellard Lane |
| 5. East Ward | 11. Terrace Hill |
| 6. Fairview - Greenbrier | 12. West Brant |

In Brant County

13. East South Dumfries
14. South Brant - Onondaga
15. West Brant County
16. West South Dumfries



Early Years Programs and Services

For more information about early years services, or to find a parenting program close to you, please access the online database at:

www.eycbrant.ca click on the mouse to use the search engine

Or call: **759-3833** or **1-888-33-CHILD**
to find out about services and programs for children 0-6 in your neighborhood.

More information about the Ontario Early Years Centre can be found at:

www.ontarioearlyyears.ca

To view the complete Brant Early Years Community Report Card on-line, go to www.bchu.org and click on reports or email earlyyears@bchu.org