

# Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield

## Seniors Report



## Final Report

August 24, 2010

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## Executive Summary

Over the past decade, governments have recognized the importance of identifying the needs of their senior population in preparation for aging baby boomers. The Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield has taken a proactive approach to identifying how the Township is currently meeting the needs of its senior population and how it will meet future demands.

Seniors are a vital part of the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield and contribute in many ways to the culture and vibrancy of the community. Seniors are important for an array of reasons such as:

- They tend to be active voters
- They are mentors
- They are dedicated volunteers
- They are caregivers
- They invest in their communities
- They are active historians
- They are service club members
- Many are active members of the workforce

This report highlights the results of data collected by the Township through senior's surveys and focus groups. The data collected examines areas such as: Accessibility; Communication; Safety and Dependency; Transportation; Housing and Quality of Life.

Determining how seniors rated their community and their quality of life was important in understanding their overall happiness. The surveys resulted in very positive feedback with **93% of respondents rating the community they live in within the excellent to good range.** Additionally, a combined total of **over 91% of residents felt that their quality of life was either excellent or good.**

Although yielding very positive feedback on the quality of life, the Township was able to identify nine (9) recommendations to support some of the gaps in seniors needs, now and in the future.

1. Develop a stronger partnership with service providers like Community Care and consider cost sharing for communication and promotional efforts particularly in the areas of transportation and home maintenance (i.e. advertising in recreation guide, website, tax insert etc).
2. Continue to allocate resources to initiatives like the Council Communicator, tax insert and website pages to maintain and enhance existing communication levels.
3. Consider hosting a bi-annual meeting, or as required, with stakeholders (i.e. service providers, community members, seniors, caretakers) to address the changing needs of the senior population.

4. Facilitate private partnerships with retailers to consider a seniors shopping day shuttle service.
5. Consider increasing the number of sidewalks and crosswalks within the Township and continue to review accessibility of same within the Township to ensure ease of use for individuals using scooters, wheelchairs, walkers etc.
6. Continue to promote secondary suites and garden suites as a more affordable form of housing and continue to offer in-house staff support for seniors interested in applying.
7. Continue to actively lobby upper levels of government in support of additional affordable housing, additional supportive housing and long-term care beds.
8. Explore ways to lobby upper levels of government to consider a manageable income tax credit process for volunteering expenses.
9. Consider purchasing a portable sound system to be used at community meetings to enhance audio experience for all community members, including seniors.

## Introduction

### ***Study Purpose***

In 2007, the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield adopted a strategic plan which identified the need to develop a seniors plan particularly as it relates to housing and recreation. In 2006, 30% of the Township's residents were over the age of 55. This percentage is expected to increase with the aging baby boomer population.

In order to have a more in-depth understanding of the needs of seniors; the Township commenced the process of a Senior Needs Assessment. The intention of the Assessment was to provide a more current understanding of the needs of older adults in the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield. For the purpose of this Assessment, seniors are defined as anyone over 55 years of age. The Assessment was a two phased process which explored specific issues as well as general needs. Understanding the needs of Township seniors will allow the Township to plan for future demands and develop key strategies to meet those demands.

The Township would like to support seniors by ensuring they live a healthy and independent life for as long as possible in their community.

## **Study Methodology**

The needs assessment process consisted of two phases, using two methods of research; a survey and a series of community focus groups.

### ***Phase One - Survey***

A detailed survey was developed with the aid of senior Township staff members which examined general needs, Township services, safety, income and transportation needs (see Appendix A for Survey Sample). The survey was tailored to ask specific questions in an easy to read multiple-choice format with an additional section for comments.

The Township worked with various partners to distribute over 600 surveys which resulted in the total collection of 385 surveys. The Township ensured that a wide range of seniors were surveyed by using diverse distribution channels targeting the general senior population as well as seniors who were part of specific community organizations. (see Appendix D for a complete list of distribution channels). The intention was to obtain a wide representation of senior's needs and opinions.

To ensure that collected data was a good representative sample, population data from the 2006 Statistics Canada Census was used to calculate an appropriate sample size of 361 surveys. Statistically, this sample size would achieve a 95% confidence level (+/- 5) (see Appendix E for calculation of sample size)

The confidential survey was designed to be completed in 5-7 minutes and did not require any personal information such as name or address. The surveys were distributed during the months of February and March of 2010. The surveys provided a tear off portion to give participants the option to later participate in focus group sessions, the second phase of assessment. An online version of the survey was also available.

### ***Phase Two – Community Focus Groups***

Unlike the survey which encompassed tailored questions, the Township hosted a series of focus groups which provided participants an environment for open dialogue. One focus group was held in each ward.

The Township hired a third party facilitator to conduct the focus groups. The focus groups promoted a comfortable environment in which participants were free to discuss their views and opinions. The focus groups were open to all community members, including seniors and stakeholders that had an interest in seniors' needs, including senior service providers.

The Township advertised the focus groups through paid advertising, direct mail, web promotions and community information boards. The groups were held in the month of April and lasted approximately two hours each.

<b>Table 1 Focus Group Participation by Ward</b>	
<b>Ward</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
Ennismore	10
Lakefield	17
Smith	5

The standard to obtain a representative sample, stipulates a minimum of 6+ participants and a minimum of three separate focus groups to be held. This requirement was met. The number of participants varied from ward to ward with the Lakefield session being the largest gathering, hosting 17 participants. The

facilitator ensured that everyone was given the opportunity to speak and share their views. At each focus group, there were two Township staff members serving as scribes. Participants were given the opportunity to fill-out a seniors survey (phase one) prior to the commencement of the focus group.

The focus groups addressed safety/transportation, general needs, municipal and private services. Participants were also given the opportunity to freely discuss any topic they felt pertinent.

**Limitations**

**Survey** - The surveys relied heavily on the various distribution channels for completion and collection. This created some delays in the process due to factors such as staff time restraints, delayed return of surveys and the submission of incomplete surveys. As a result, survey collection timelines had to be extended.

**Focus Group** - The focus groups provided rich discussion and unique opinions. Since the focus group members were not individually selected but were asked by open invitation to participant, this resulted in a homogeneous sample where the profile of attendants was similar in all groups. This could result in an over representation of one group. In addition, the focus groups also led to discussions on topics that were not the responsibility of local government.

## Relevant Growth Trends

It is important to emphasize the ever growing population of seniors in the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield. This growing population will place higher demands on seniors' services as aging adults look for additional support from local levels of government.

- The 2006 Canadian Census shows a general population percentage increase of 6.1% in the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield from 2001 to 2006.
- Projections indicate that within the Greater Peterborough Area the segment of the population aged 65 years and older will grow from 19% to 27% by the year 2026. *(Source – Lapointe Consulting Inc.: Population Projections – County of Peterborough 2006-2036)*
- Over the next 20 years the Greater Peterborough Areas senior population of 65 and over will account for more than the combined populations of 20-44 and 45-64. *(Source – Lapointe Consulting Inc.: Population Projections – County of Peterborough 2006-2036)*
- There is a movement of empty nesters and retirees to smaller communities seeking a quieter, more rural environment *(Source – Lapointe Consulting Inc.: Population Projections – County of Peterborough 2006-2036)*

## Demographic Profile of Seniors for the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield

Population in 2001	16,414		
Population in 2006	17,410		
2001 to 2006 population change (%)	6.1		
Population Projections for 2026	21,905		
<b>Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield</b>			
<b>Age Characteristics</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Total Population 2006</b>	<b>17,410</b>	<b>8,570</b>	<b>8,840</b>
<b>Total Senior Population</b>	<b>6075</b>	<b>2965</b>	<b>3110</b>
55 to 59 years	1,485	715	770
60 to 64 years	1,380	710	670
65 to 69 years	975	490	485
70 to 74 years	885	440	445
75 to 79 years	630	315	315
80 to 84 years	420	185	235
85 years and over	300	110	190
<b>Median age of the population</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>46.6</b>

*Source: Statistics Canada & Lapointe Consulting*

## **Profile of Existing Seniors Services & Partnerships**

This section of the report briefly describes existing senior's services within the Township and key partnerships.

### ***Current Township Services/Initiatives***

- Providing facilities for recreational activities at a minimal cost to seniors groups
- Administering a seniors tax relief program from the County of Peterborough (see Appendix I for details)
- Improving accessibility requirements to ensure that municipal facilities are easily accessible to seniors
- Providing educational and recreational programs such as seniors computer classes, seniors skating times etc
- Providing live answer for everyone, including seniors that do not, or prefer not, to use automated answering services at the municipal office and other municipal locations i.e. libraries
- Placing importance on emergency services to ensure a sense of security and provide quick response times
- Providing seniors volunteering opportunities within the municipality
- Publishing communication pieces like the Council Communicator and tax insert to keep ratepayers informed on Township matters

### ***Allocation of Local Government Tax Dollars***

Less than 25% of total property taxes are used for direct Township purposes. The majority of tax dollars flow to the County of Peterborough and the Boards of Education. Local municipal dollars support the following:

- Police and fire services
- Weekly garbage pick-up and landfill site operation
- Road network, including snow removal & sanding
- Arenas, marina, parks, special events and trail networks
- Governance of local planning matters, By-laws, policies and other issues
- Library services at any of the three branches
- Conservation lands, flood control and environmental protection services

### **Upper Tier Dollars (County of Peterborough) support the following:**

- Ambulance services
- Weekly recycling, hazardous waste and recycling depots
- Road & bridge network, including snow removal and sanding
- Access to social services and child care, including support for affordable housing and long-term care facilities

### **Education**

- Support for public and separate school boards

### ***County of Peterborough Municipalities***

The Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield investigated the ways other municipalities support seniors activities within the County of Peterborough. The Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield allocates similar resources to seniors initiatives as other municipalities.

Support was seen in the following ways:

- Subsidy of facility rental space
- Online promotion of seniors social groups
- Support for funding applications i.e. letters of support, application review
- Providing seniors computer classes through the Provincial Community Access Program
- Encouraging community involvement through seniors awards programs and volunteering opportunities
- Administering a tax relief program through the County of Peterborough

### ***Current Township Partnerships***

The Township supports various community organizations that provided services to seniors. Support is provided in various ways from subsidized facility rentals to complimentary web and print advertising.

#### **Service Clubs such as Community Care**

- Caremobile
- Diner's Club
- Friendly Visiting
- Health and Wellness Clinics
- Home Making and Home Maintenance
- Meals on Wheels
- Medical Equipment Loan Registry
- Personal Distress Alarms
- Telephone Reassurance Checks
- Transportation

#### **Seniors Groups such as Golden Years, Ennismore Seniors and Chemung Seniors**

- Daily and weekly actives such as: Bridge, cribbage, crafts, scrabble, euchre, shuffleboard, carvings, pool and pot lucks

#### **Province**

The Province of Ontario provides services and funding in areas such as:

- Health & Wellness
- Housing
- Transportation including disabled parking permits
- Computers and Learning
- Care Facilities including home care

## Results & Recommendations

This section of the report will provide a summary of key recommendations based on the facilitator's observations of the focus groups as well as a summary of results from the needs assessment survey.

### ***Needs Assessment Surveys and Focus Group Results***

There were 385 Needs Assessment Surveys received by the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield which achieved a 95% confidence level in the results (see Appendix E for additional information).

Based on the focus group findings provided by the facilitator and the collected surveys, there are three key issues facing Township seniors today:

- Information
- Transportation
- Housing

### ***Obtaining Equal Representation:***

The surveys provided a fairly equal representation of all three wards with Smith Ward having the highest number of responses as demonstrated in Table 2. It was important to ensure that all three wards had fairly equal representation to guarantee a proper seniors profile. Each ward is unique making it necessary to determine if challenges were specific to a ward or similar throughout the Township.

<b>Table 2 In which Ward do you live?</b>	
<b>Ward</b>	<b>% of Participation</b>
Ennismore	29.6%
Lakefield	33.2%
Smith	34.8%
No Response	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Surveys</b>	<b>385</b>

It was equally important to obtain a good representative sample of different age groups, particularly to understand how seniors needs change as they age. Table 3 illustrates the age breakdown and participation rates of the respondents per ward. The largest age representation of respondents was 65-74 representing almost 38% of the sample. The lowest number of respondent was the 85+ age bracket; this is partially due the fact that this age bracket represents only 5% of the Township's population based on the 2006 Statistics Canada Censes.

**Table 3  
Participation Rates Per Ward based on Age**

	Total #Surveys	%	By Ward							
			Ennismore	%	Lakefield	%	Smith	%	No Ward	%
<b>55-64</b>	117	30.4%	44	37.6%	26	22.2%	44	37.6%	3	2.6%
<b>65-74</b>	145	37.7%	41	28.3%	51	35.2%	50	34.5%	3	2.1%
<b>75-84</b>	100	26.0%	26	26.0%	41	41.0%	31	31.0%	2	2.0%
<b>85+</b>	23	6.0%	3	13.0%	10	43.5%	9	39.1%	1	4.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>								

***Results on Isolation and Accessibility:***

Isolation can become more of an issue among seniors living in rural communities therefore, it was important to determine the level of social interaction that seniors experience particularly as they age. Isolation and lack of social interaction could lead to feelings of depression, anxiety and loneliness. This becomes more prevalent as seniors have more difficulty getting around either by vehicle or in person. The surveys asked respondents to rate their level of involvement with an array of Township services and their desire for social interaction.

The survey demonstrated that the majority of seniors never use local facilities like arenas, community centres and parks, trails, and beaches. The most popular service amongst seniors is the libraries with a 26% weekly usage rate. This could be because Township libraries are primarily staffed by volunteers, many of which are seniors. It was noted during focus group sessions, that participants were proud of the fact that they had the opportunity to volunteer at the community libraries providing them a sense of belonging. The survey indicated that 46% of seniors volunteer. Focus group participants did feel that volunteerism boosted community pride but was a costly endeavour for seniors on a fixed income.

**Table 4  
Usage Rate of Services**

	Library	Seniors Social Groups	Local Arenas	Community Centres	Parks, Trails, Beaches
<b>Weekly</b>	26.0%	15.1%	7.0%	6.2%	12.5%
<b>Monthly</b>	13.8%	8.6%	4.9%	6.8%	13.8%
<b>Couple of Times a Year</b>	19.7%	6.2%	26.5%	21.0%	34.0%
<b>Never</b>	34.0%	58.2%	50.6%	54.3%	30.9%
<b>No Response</b>	6.5%	11.9%	10.9%	11.7%	8.8%

Surprisingly, almost 60% of seniors do not participate in seniors social groups. When comparing this question to one that asked them if they had a problem with finding an opportunity to socializing with others, 77% said it was not a problem finding opportunities for social interaction. With that said, we can assume that

the 60% that do not participate in seniors groups are doing so out of choice not because of lack of opportunities to be involved.

**Table 5  
Having the opportunity to socialize with others**

	Total #Surveys	%	By Age							
			55-64	%	65-74	%	75-84	%	85+	%
Not a Problem	298	77.4%	93	31.2%	119	39.9%	68	22.8%	18	6.0%
Sometimes a Problem	43	11.2%	14	32.6%	14	32.6%	10	23.3%	5	11.6%
Frequently a Problem	7	1.8%	1	14.3%	1	14.3%	5	71.4%	0	0.0%
Not Applicable	12	3.1%	2	16.7%	5	41.7%	5	41.7%	0	0.0%
No Response	25	6.5%	7	28.0%	6	24.0%	12	48.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>								

The survey asked specific questions on accessibility to determine if accessing facilities prevented seniors from leaving their homes and doing things such as running errands or participating in recreational activities. Respondents were specifically asked about accessibility to retail and Township facilities. Both questions resulted in fairly positive results with accessing retail facilities being slightly more difficult for seniors.

**Table 6  
Accessibility to Township Facility**

	Total #Surveys	%
Not a Problem	313	81.3%
Sometimes a Problem	15	3.9%
Frequently a Problem	3	0.8%
Not Applicable	22	5.7%
No Response	32	8.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 7  
Accessibility to Retail Facility**

	Total #Surveys	%
Not a Problem	296	76.9%
Sometimes a Problem	21	5.5%
Frequently a Problem	9	2.3%
Not Applicable	29	7.5%
No Response	30	7.8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Focus group participants tended to be equally content with the level of accessibility to facilities throughout the Township however, there were some discussions on accessibility of roads, sidewalks and crosswalks. Seniors found some areas of the Township difficult to get around and suggested ramps, additional sidewalks and more crosswalks throughout the Township.

*Recommendation:*

5. Consider increasing the number of sidewalks and crosswalks within the Township and continue to review accessibility of same within the Township to ensure ease of use for individuals using scooters, wheelchairs, walkers etc.
8. Explore ways to lobby upper levels of government to consider a manageable income tax credit process for volunteering expenses.

The survey asked respondents to indicate “*who they rely on most*” for assistance. Results showed that 52% of respondents rely on their spouse and over 30% rely on their children or neighbours. Tables 8 provides a full breakdown of results.

Although it is encouraging to see that seniors can rely on their spouse, as baby boomers age and/or become widowers, the Township may notice an increase of dependency on service groups such as Community Care.

<b>Table 8 Who do you rely on most</b>		
	<b>Total #Surveys</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Your Spouse</b>	201	52.2%
<b>Your Children</b>	78	20.3%
<b>Neighbours</b>	41	10.6%
<b>Members of Church</b>	2	0.5%
<b>Seniors Centre</b>	11	2.9%
<b>Paid Help</b>	28	7.3%
<b>Other</b>	15	3.9%
<b>No Response</b>	9	2.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Recommendation:*

1. Develop a stronger partnership with service providers like Community Care and consider cost sharing for communication and promotional efforts particularly in the areas of transportation and home maintenance (i.e. advertising in recreation guide, website, tax insert etc).

**Results on Safety:**

It was important to identify if seniors felt safe and secure in their communities. Both the survey and the focus groups resulted in positive responses.

The survey asked specific questions on safety such as “*do you feel anxious or afraid in your neighbourhood*” and “*do you have a problem accessing Police/Ambulance /Fire Department etc*”. The results indicated that the majority of seniors, 82%, felt safe in their neighbourhoods. Moreover, if required, 84% of them had no problem accessing emergency services. These statistics were supported by many comments made during the focus groups. Participants emphasized their comfort in the level of community policing and emergency response times. There was some desire to increase the level of foot patrol policing throughout the main areas of communities i.e. Queen Street in Lakefield.

Although the majority of seniors felt safe in their communities, the results vary slightly when discussing safety of sidewalks and crosswalks with only 68% of seniors feeling that using sidewalks and crosswalks was not a problem. Almost

18% of seniors had some to frequent difficulty with using crosswalks and sidewalks. This seemed to be more of an issue in the Lakefield and Smith Wards (see Table 9 for full breakdown).

**Table 9  
Using Sidewalks or Crosswalks**

	Total #Surveys	%	By Ward							
			Ennismore	%	Lakefield	%	Smith	%	No Ward	%
Not a Problem	263	68.3%	85	32.3%	88	33.5%	82	31.2%	8	3.0%
Sometimes a Problem	52	13.5%	6	11.5%	23	44.2%	23	44.2%	0	0.0%
Frequently a Problem	16	4.2%	2	12.5%	8	50.0%	6	37.5%	0	0.0%
Not Applicable	20	5.2%	10	50.0%	0	0.0%	10	50.0%	0	0.0%
No Response	34	8.8%	12	35.3%	9	26.5%	13	38.2%	0	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>								

*Recommendation:*

5. Consider increasing the number of sidewalks and crosswalks within the Township and continue to review accessibility of same within the Township to ensure ease of use for individuals using scooters, wheelchairs, walkers etc.

**Results on Communication:**

Focus groups revealed that many seniors were not aware of some of the services available to them through various community service providers and often found it difficult to know where to turn to for information on these services. Trying to educate and notify seniors of the different services available to them would minimize frustration and promote more frequent use of these service providers. Much of the frustration pertained to needing additional information on services/options available in the areas of transportation, housing and home maintenance.

These results varied from the survey which demonstrated that only 18% of seniors sometimes have a problem obtaining information on social services. When trying to obtain information however, seniors do refer to Township publications. Seniors tended to rely on their tax information insert or alternatively seek Township office support either by phone or in person. When trying to access information from Township staff either in person, by phone or email, 80% of respondents stated that it was not a problem. (Refer to Table 10 for a breakdown of information sources)

When asked how they would like to receive Township information, over 65% of respondents preferred traditional mail. Alternatively, over 18% of seniors prefer to obtain information via email or from websites; this number is expected to increase over the next 10 years as baby boomers age. This will require re-

evaluation of communication processes placing higher importance on electronic options.

**Table 10**  
Form of communication that respondents rely on most

	Total #Surveys	%
Tax Insert	131	34.0%
Council Communicator	24	6.2%
Website	38	9.9%
Go to Township Office	53	13.8%
Call Township Office	79	20.5%
Other	38	9.9%
No Response	22	5.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 11**  
How would you like to receive Township Information?

	Total #Surveys	%
Email	44	11.4%
Website	29	7.5%
Traditional Mail	251	65.2%
Media	32	8.3%
Other	6	1.6%
No Response	23	6.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Focus group participants showed frustration with the acoustics of many Township buildings making it difficult to participate in community meetings. Many seniors felt discouraged or isolated when they could not hear the speaker and consequently found it difficult to participate.

*Recommendation:*

1. Develop a stronger partnership with service providers like Community Care and consider cost sharing for communication and promotional efforts particularly in the areas of transportation and home maintenance (i.e. advertising in recreation guide, website, tax insert etc).
2. Continue to allocate resources to initiatives like the Council Communicator, tax insert and website pages to maintain and enhance existing communication levels.
3. Consider hosting a bi-annual meeting, or as required, with stakeholders (i.e. service providers, community members, seniors, caretakers) to address the changing needs of the senior population.
9. Consider purchasing a portable sound system to be used at community meetings to enhance audio experience for all community members, including seniors.

### ***Results on Transportation:***

Seniors expressed frustration with accessing transportation within their community as well as to Peterborough. There was particular frustration with the cost of trips to Peterborough via bussing systems or taxi for necessities such as doctor's appointments. Much discussion was held on the need for low cost transportation within wards and to Peterborough. Although the survey indicated that 83% of seniors did not have a problem with getting to the doctor or getting around for shopping, almost 12% did have some to frequent difficulty. Developing a transit system is both costly and unattainable; however, there are initiatives that the Township should consider to increase awareness of transportation options.

#### *Recommendation:*

1. Develop a stronger partnership with service providers like Community Care and consider cost sharing for communication and promotional efforts particularly in the areas of transportation and home maintenance (i.e. advertising in recreation guide, website, tax insert etc).
4. Facilitate private partnerships with retailers to consider a seniors shopping day shuttle service.

### ***Results on Housing & Assisted Housing:***

The results of the survey demonstrated that 70% of seniors do not have a problem with obtaining affordable housing and that 90% still live in their own homes. As the population ages; increased awareness and communication of home support services may be required to ensure that seniors maintain a relatively independent lifestyle.

These results vary from focus group results which showed that seniors are seeking additional assisted housing options within their own communities. Seniors desire to stay in their own communities and are looking for options to do so.

**Table 12**  
**Obtaining Affordable Housing**

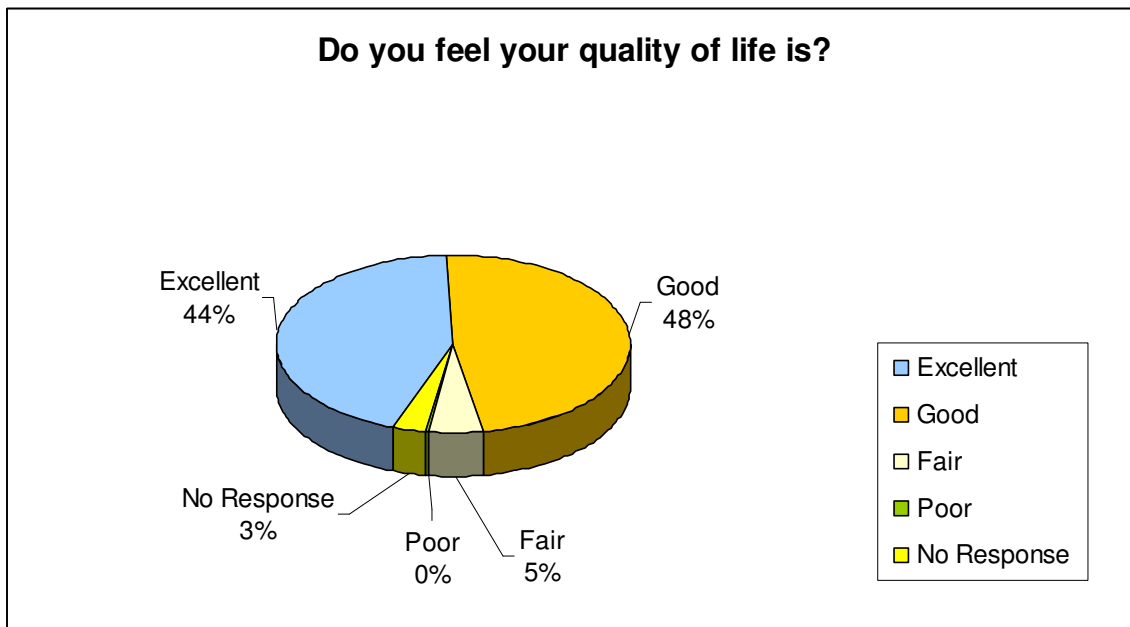
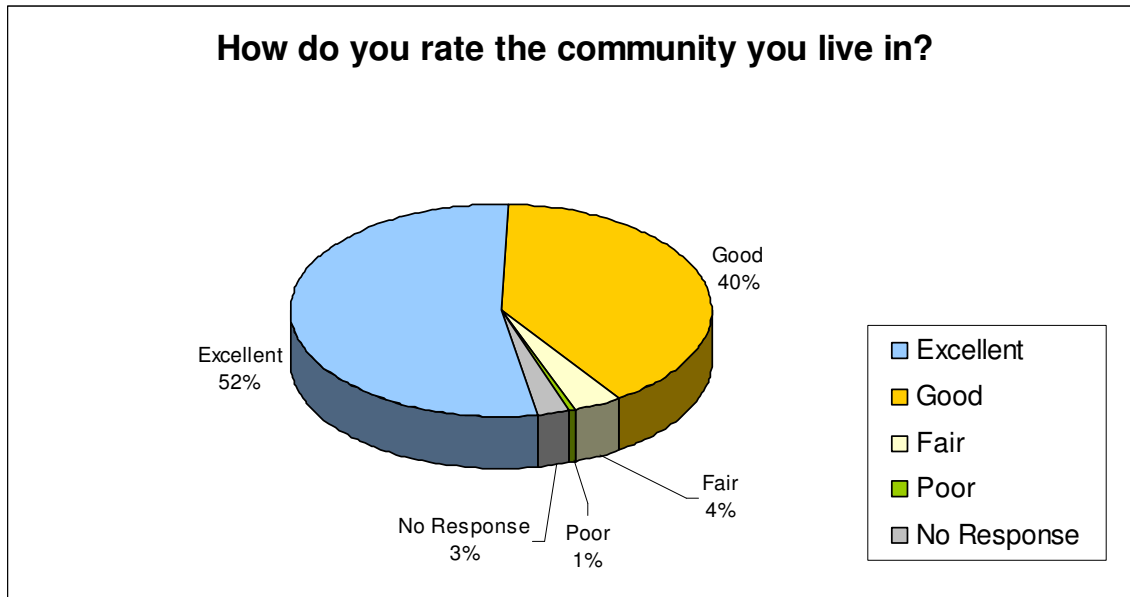
	Total # of Surveys	%	By Ward							
			Ennismore	%	Lakefield	%	Smith	%	No Ward	%
<b>Not a Problem</b>	271	70.4%	79	29.2%	97	35.8%	91	33.6%	4	1.5%
<b>Sometimes a Problem</b>	15	3.9%	4	26.7%	4	26.7%	7	46.7%	0	0.0%
<b>Frequently a Problem</b>	3	0.8%	1	33.3%	1	33.3%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%
<b>Not Applicable</b>	50	13.0%	15	30.0%	13	26.0%	19	38.0%	3	6.0%
<b>No Response</b>	46	11.9%	15	32.6%	13	28.3%	16	34.8%	2	4.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>								

*Recommendation:*

6. Continue to promote secondary suites and garden suites as a more affordable form of housing and continue to offer in-house staff support for seniors interested in applying.
7. Continue to actively lobby upper levels of government in support of additional affordable housing, additional supportive housing and long-term care beds.

### Results on Quality of Life:

Determining how seniors rated their community and their quality of life was important in understanding their overall happiness. The surveys resulted in very positive feedback with 93% of respondents rating the community they live in within the excellent to good range. Additionally, a combined total of over 91% of residents felt that their quality of life was either excellent or good.



## **Appendices**

***Survey***

***Survey Results***

***Survey Comments***

***Survey Channels of Distribution***

***Sample Size Calculation***

***Focus Group Questions***

***Focus Group Results***

***Facilitators Report***

***Peterborough County Tax Rebate***