



Initiative on the New Economy

**Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places:
A Report for Tweed, Ontario**

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A project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
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INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY - ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *Initiative on the New Economy* project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation works closely with residents, service providers, voluntary organizations, business members, and decision makers to identify factors that contribute to building capacity in rural and small town places across Canada. Capacity is the ability of people residing in a place to mobilize their assets and resources to cope with stress and transition, or to capitalize on opportunities. Such capacity is built from trust and relationships grounded in institutions, organizations, businesses, and services alike. The Initiative on the New Economy is built on four key themes to explore capacity including *local governance, communications, services, and the environment*. This report explores the relationship between services and capacity.

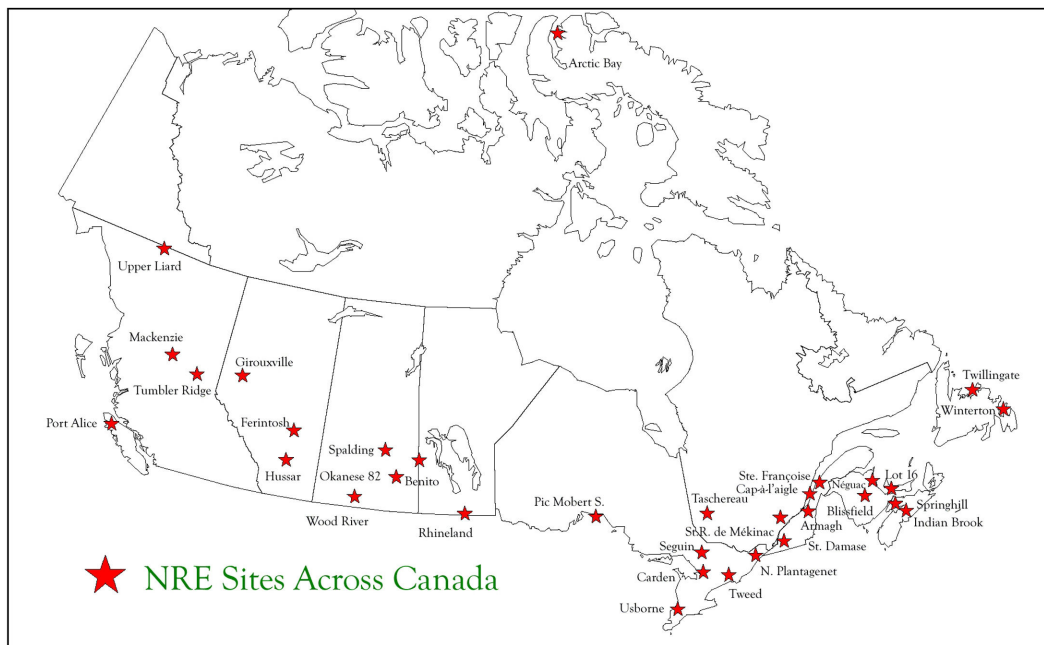
The Services Research theme conducted site profile surveys in the summer of 2005. This is the fourth survey conducted since 1998 with a goal to track services over time. Services play two key functions in building capacity. First, services help rural and small town places to cope with restructuring and transition as a result of economic downturns or plant closures. Job losses stemming from industrial restructuring or closure can place increased demands on local services for education and training, business development, counselling, health care, and other support services. Without such services, residents would have to cope with the additional burden of having to leave their town to access assistance. Job and service losses present a significant challenge to rural and small town places.

Second, services provide opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust. Together, these can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. For example, schools or seniors' centres can act as multi-functional facilities for the community where local volunteer groups, sporting clubs, local theatre, and others can do their work. Another example might be the way that post offices can act as a one stop shop for a range of government services. This report focuses on the current service provision levels in rural and small town Canada. In particular, this report will compare the availability of services in Tweed, Ontario with services available in other research sites across Canada, as well as with services available in other study sites within Ontario. In each of the tables in this report, the availability of services in Tweed is compared to the 24 sites surveyed across Canada and to the 5 study sites in Ontario.

Data for this report was collected in Tweed by: David Connell, Leigh Golden, and Ellen Wall.

ABOUT THE SERVICE INVENTORY

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation has been conducting research in 32 rural and small town sites from across Canada. These sites form a type of “rural observatory” in which aspects of the *Initiative on the New Economy* project may be examined. The sites participating in this project reflect the diversity of the Canadian landscape, and include forestry and mining towns, farming and fishing communities, and tourism towns. Furthermore, some of these places are located adjacent to metropolitan areas, while others are more isolated.



In the summer of 2005, researchers visited 24 sites across Canada to update a service provision inventory. This included 9 sites in Western Canada, 5 sites in Ontario, 4 sites in Québec, and 6 sites in Atlantic Canada. The population of these rural and small town places varies from 150 to 5,205 people.

Distribution and size of INE participating sites

SITES	POPULATION SIZE – 2001
Western Canada	
Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia	1,851
Mackenzie, British Columbia	5,205
Port Alice, British Columbia	1,126
Hussar, Alberta	181
Ferintosh, Alberta	150
Spalding, Saskatchewan	261
Wood River, Saskatchewan	370
Benito, Manitoba	415
Rhineland, Manitoba	4,183
Ontario	
Seguin, Ontario	3,698
Tweed, Ontario	1,540
North Plantagenet, Ontario	3,848
Carden, Ontario	888
Usborne, Ontario	1,490
Québec	
Taschereau, Québec	534
Cap-à-l'aigle, Québec	720
St. Damase, Québec	1,327
St. Françoise, Québec	453
Atlantic Canada	
Blissfield, New Brunswick	674
Neguac, New Brunswick	1,697
Lot 16, Prince Edward Island	688
Springhill, Nova Scotia	4,091
Twillingate, Newfoundland and Labrador	2,615
Winterton, Newfoundland and Labrador	560

Source: CRRF NRE 2005; Statistics Canada 2001.

Data were collected to examine the availability of a range of services including:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| education | community |
| health | transportation |
| protection services | recreational |
| legal | basic Shopping |
| business services | commercial shopping |
| communication | economic development organizations |
| elderly and childcare | housing |
| government | |

AVAILABILITY

Copies of all service availability reports were distributed within the participating sites. Additionally, copies have been posted on the INE website (nre.concordia.ca) and on Greg Halseth's website (<http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>).

Copies of the larger *Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Canada* report are available in a number of locations. At the University of Northern British Columbia, copies have been deposited at the Weller Library or can be accessed on Greg Halseth's website: <http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>. Copies are also available on the Initiative of the New Economy website at: nre.concordia.ca.

For further information about this report or other available reports on services, please contact Greg Halseth at:

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**INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY
SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES: A REPORT FOR TWEED, ONTARIO**

Site Description – Tweed, Ontario

The Municipality of Tweed is an amalgamated municipality comprised of the former Township of Hungerford, Townships of Elzevir and Grimsthorpe and Village of Tweed. The newly amalgamated Municipality of Tweed was incorporated as of January 1st, 1998 as a lower tier municipality within the County of Hastings two tier governing system (Tweed web site: http://www.twp.tweed.on.ca/Our_Community/location/location.htm)

The NRE site designation corresponds to the village of Tweed boundaries where the population was 1,540 in 2001. Tweed is located in Hastings County, 38 kilometres north of Belleville, on a route between Toronto and Ottawa. The village acts as a service centre for the surrounding farm and rural non-farm area. Tweed's manufacturing industry and public service sectors have declined in an economy that is mixed, based on tourism and retirement functions, as well as retail and agricultural services.

In 2001, Tweed had a relatively large percentage (23%) of its population over 65 years of age, which contributes to the fact that employment income constitutes only 54.8% of the village's total income while government transfer payments and other income made up approximately 43%. Trade, manufacturing, and other categories represent main areas of employment. Statistics also reveal that 38% of Tweed's labour force commutes out of the village for employment. For those that remain, self-employment, especially for males, is relatively high compared to national standards. Numerous opportunities for employment exist in the village's private and public service establishments. Given that 122 of these opportunities have been identified, it appears that Tweed enjoys an important role in its economic and social maintenance.



POPULATION PROFILE - TWEED, ONTARIO

The population of Tweed declined from 1,575 residents in 1996 to 1,540 residents in 2001. Overall, it still has an older family oriented population. The number of seniors in Tweed demands a range of services, such as health and social housing. The village also faces a challenge with youth out-migration, particularly among youth 20 to 24 years of age.

Population	Site: Tweed		
	Total	Male	Female
Population in 2001	1 540	715	825
Population in 1996	1 575	720	855
1996 to 2001 population change (%)	-2.1	-0.7	-3.5
Total - All persons	1,540	715	825
Age 0-4	80	40	40
Age 5-14	220	110	110
Age 15-19	95	45	50
Age 20-24	65	25	40
Age 25-44	380	175	200
Age 45-54	215	105	105
Age 55-64	165	85	75
Age 65-74	165	65	95
Age 75-84	115	40	80
Age 85 and over	40	15	25
Median age of the population	41.9	41.3	42.6

Source: Statistics Canada 2001.

SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES

Services play an important role in retaining and attracting residents and businesses. However, rural and small town places across Canada are experiencing tremendous change stemming from economic and social restructuring in an increasingly global economy. As a result, some small towns have been experiencing population declines. At the same time, federal and provincial government policies have been withdrawing some of the service infrastructure that can provide a foundation for revitalizing rural and small town places and assist residents to cope with stress. Some rural and small town places adjusted to transition through establishing innovative services or diversifying their local economies. These types of innovation suggest one way by which services help to build capacity within a place.

Services also help to build capacity by providing opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust, which subsequently can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. Together, services can help to enhance local quality of life and mitigate out-migration.

Educational Services

Educational institutions are playing a changing role in maintaining quality of life in rural and small town places. Schools have provided other amenities through their libraries, theatres, and art galleries in places that would otherwise not have access to such services. They have also played a larger economic development role. Community colleges can provide skilled and professional workers, act as a broker of services, and act as a repository of information. They can also design programs and services that are relevant and respond to the changing labour market conditions of small places.

Table 1: Availability of Education Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Ontario % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Pre-school/kindergarten	50.0	62.5	50.0	60.0	✓	
Elementary school	63.6	66.7	50.0	60.0	✓	
High school	27.3	37.5	0.0	40.0		✓
CEGEP/college	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

With the exception of community colleges, educational services are available in more sites across Canada in 2005 compared to two years ago. The availability of educational services in Ontario resembles the national average (Table 1). Ontario sites have experienced a growth in the availability of high schools since 2003. While Tweed is equipped to meet the educational needs of young families, a concern may be that youth must leave to access high school and post-secondary education. These services, however, are accessible within 30 minutes of Tweed. The

closest high school is located in Madoc, while residents may pursue post-secondary opportunities at Loyalist College in Belleville.

Health Services

Health services play an important role in attracting new labour and retaining residents. During times of economic and social restructuring, closures in hospitals and the centralization of physical and mental health services can be difficult on the elderly and the poor who do not have access to a vehicle or who live in a place with limited transportation services. However, it is not just the utility of health services that is of concern, but also the potential loss of health care jobs that can lead to a further decline in the local economy and population.

Table 2: Availability of Health Infrastructure - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Ontario % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Hospital	18.2	12.5	0.0	0.0		✓
Health centre/CLSC	27.3	37.5	25.0	20.0	✓	
Medical clinic	40.9	37.5	25.0	20.0		✓
Blood/urine testing facility	36.4	41.7	0.0	20.0		✓
X-ray facility	22.7	20.8	0.0	0.0		✓
Baby delivery facility	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0		✓
CT scan facility	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		✓
Nursing home	13.6	16.7	0.0	20.0	✓	
Pharmacy	40.9	37.5	0.0	20.0	✓	
Ambulance	36.4	41.7	0.0	40.0	✓	
Emergency services	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Health facilities are limited in most of the rural and small town places examined (Table 2). This has changed very little over the last two years. Of particular interest is that fewer than 40% of sites across Canada in 2005 have a health centre, hospital, or pharmacy. This carries important implications for residents commuting for medical emergencies or health care reasons. Sites in Ontario have more limited health care facilities compared to the national sample. Since 2003, there has been an increase in the proportion of these sites with blood / urine testing facilities, nursing homes, pharmacies, or ambulance services. Tweed offers more limited health care facilities compared to other sites across Canada. In 2004, however, ambulance service was offered on for a trial period, and has since been maintained. The presence of a health centre, pharmacy, and ambulance will establish an important foundation to retain residents in an aging population.

Table 3: Availability of Health Professionals - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Ontario % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Doctors	36.4	41.7	0.0	20.0		✓
Nurses	36.4	41.7	33.3	20.0		✓
Dentists	27.3	25.0	25.0	20.0	✓	
Dental surgeons	9.1	8.3	0.0	0.0		✓
Optometrists	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0		✓
Home care visits	54.5	70.8	25.0	60.0		✓
VON	13.6	20.8	0.0	20.0		✓
Social workers	22.7	29.2	25.0	40.0	✓	
Public health nurse	31.8	37.5	0.0	0.0		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

The availability of health care professionals is also limited in small places. In fact, only home care visits are available in more than half of the sites across Canada in 2005 (Table 3). Even those services considered as essential, such as doctors, are only available in just over 41% of the sites across Canada. The presence of health professionals is more limited in Ontario sites. None of these sites has a dental surgeon, an optometrist or a public health nurse. However, a greater proportion of Ontario sites have social workers. Tweed has a more limited range of health professionals compared to some of the other sites across Canada. While residents are able to access dentists and social workers locally, residents must travel to access other health care professionals approximately 40 kilometres away in Belleville. The Gateway Community Health Centre does provide access to doctors, nurses, and other health care services for residents. However, not all residents may access the services at this facility due to a shortage of doctors and the length of people on waiting lists. This may pose concerns for residents who must commute for health care services, but who have limited transportation options.

Table 4: Availability of Health Programs / Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Ontario % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Physiotherapy	22.7	25.0	25.0	40.0	✓	
Speech therapy	31.8	25.0	0.0	20.0		✓
Occupational therapy	13.6	17.4	0.0	20.0		✓
Respite care	22.7	21.7	0.0	0.0		✓
Prenatal care programs	*	39.1	*	40.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

The availability of health care programs and services is also low in the sites examined across

Canada. However, new services being tracked in 2005, including prenatal care programs, are more widely available (Table 4). The availability of health care services and programs in sites across Ontario reflects the national sample. More sites in Ontario offer physiotherapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy compared to their 2003 results. Tweed residents are able to access physiotherapy and prenatal care programs through the Gateway Community Health Centre, although only patients of doctors at this health centre are able to access physiotherapy services. Other health care programs and services are accessible within 30 minutes in Belleville.

Protection Services

Protection services contribute to community capacity in a number of ways. For example, volunteer fire departments and various crime watch programs provide opportunities for community involvement and interaction, both of which can build trust and leadership.

Table 5: Availability of Protection Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed:	
	Canada		Ontario		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Police (local/RCMP)	22.7	33.3	0.0	40.0		✓
Fire department	68.2	79.2	50.0	80.0	✓	
911 emergency line	86.4	83.3	75.0	100.0	✓	
Security services	4.5	12.5	25.0	20.0		✓
Alarm services	22.7	37.5	25.0	20.0		✓
Neighbourhood watch	31.8	29.2	50.0	80.0		
Rural crime watch	13.6	16.7	0.0	20.0		
Victim's services – police based	*	16.7	*	0.0		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Protection services are more available than most other services (Table 5). Most notably, fire departments and the 911 telephone number are available in more than half the sites across Canada. Since 2003, some sites across Canada appear to have recovered policing and fire department services. Ontario sites offer a wider range of protection services compared to the national sample. At least half of these sites have a fire department, 911 service, and neighbourhood watch programs. Tweed has a more limited range of protection services compared to other Ontario sites. While Tweed is served by a 911 emergency line and a volunteer fire department, the closest Ontario Provincial Police and police-based victim's services are located 20 kilometres away in Madoc. Security and alarm services are accessible in Belleville.

Legal Services

Legal services are another example of specialized services that are often not found in rural areas. The absence of legal services has important implications as residents must commute to go to court, to access legal services such as preparation of wills or for purchasing real estate, or to have passports or affidavits signed.

Table 6: Availability of Legal Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Ontario % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Lawyer	18.2	16.7	25.0	20.0	✓	
Notary	40.9	45.8	25.0	20.0	✓	
Court	18.2	12.5	0.0	0.0		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Overall, legal services are limited in the study sites across Canada (Table 6). The availability of legal services in Ontario sites is more limited compared to the national sample. In particular, none of these sites have a court. As residents are able to access a lawyer and a notary public locally, Tweed is well equipped with legal services compared to other sites in Ontario. The closest court is located in Belleville.

Financial Services

Businesses also play a role in providing a range of activities that enhance the quality of life of a place, as well as the viability and stability of the local economy. Business members also play an important role in community development as they can provide leadership in, and support for, local volunteer groups. Small local businesses are also an important source for fundraising and sponsorship of specific local organizations or events.

Table 7: Availability of Financial / Business Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Ontario % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Banks	36.4	33.3	25.0	20.0	✓	
Credit union/caisse populaire	50.0	50.0	0.0	20.0		✓
ATM	50.0	54.2	50.0	60.0	✓	
Micro-financing	9.1	16.7	0.0	0.0		
Insurance office	50.0	50.0	50.0	40.0	✓	
Industrial park	22.7	20.8	0.0	0.0		✓
Real estate office	18.2	20.8	50.0	40.0	✓	
Accounting	50.0	50.0	50.0	60.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In general, credit unions, ATMs, insurance offices, and accounting services are found in half the rural and small town sites across Canada (Table 7). The availability of these services has remained fairly stable over the last two years. In 2005, more Ontario sites have real estate offices and accounting services. None of the Ontario sites offer micro-financing or have an industrial

park. Tweed offers financial services commonly found in other rural and small town places across Canada including banking services, ATMs, an insurance office, and accounting services. Tweed is also one of the few sites across Canada that has a real estate office in its community. Furthermore, while the former village of Tweed being tracked in this study does not have an industrial park within its boundaries, there is an industrial park located adjacent to the former village in the amalgamated Municipality of Tweed.

Communications

Connectivity is crucial in the new economy. Communication services also allow residents to maintain contact with family and friends. With improved communication infrastructure, rural and small town places can attract improve local employment opportunities, and support business networks.

Table 8: Availability of Communication Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed:	
	Canada		Ontario		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Cell phone – analog	86.4	91.7	100.0	100.0	✓	
Cell phone – digital	40.9	83.3	100.0	100.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Tweed residents and businesses benefit from the availability of both analog and digital cell phone service (Table 8). Overall, analog cell phone service is widely available across the study sites in Canada. Approximately 83% of the sites in the national sample also enjoy digital cell phone service. All of the Ontario sites offer analog and digital cell phone service.

Elderly and Childcare Services

Childcare services provide an important part of the educational and care services in rural and small town places. Childcare also provides men and women with children an opportunity to participate in the labour force. Other services of importance are seniors' services including nursing homes and retirement homes. These services are particularly important given the aging of the Canadian population.

An inventory of 24 sites across Canada indicates that while many are equipped to meet the needs of young families, others are not yet well equipped with seniors' care facilities (Table 9). The availability of elderly and daycare services in Ontario sites resembles the national average. Tweed, however, is well equipped to meet the needs of its young families and senior citizens. This is a change from two years ago when seniors needed to leave the community to live in a nursing or retirement home in Belleville.

Table 9: Availability of Elderly and Daycare Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Ontario % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Daycare	45.5	54.2	50.0	60.0	✓	
Senior citizen's nursing home	18.2	20.8	0.0	20.0	✓	
Senior citizen's retirement home	33.3	37.5	0.0	40.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Government Services

Town halls and post offices are the most frequently available government services in rural and small town places. Post offices not only provide a service and identity, but also opportunities for routine social interaction to build relationships. Other government services play an important role in community capacity by providing a local source of expertise and knowledge upon which the community can draw.

The rural and small town sites examined across Canada do not have access to many government services (Table 10). Of particular concern to sites experiencing social and economic restructuring is that few of the sites have Employment Insurance or social assistance offices. Consequently, during restructuring or plant closures, households experiencing stress will have to go outside the site for information and assistance.

Table 10: Availability of Government Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Ontario % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Employment Insurance	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0		✓
Provincial auto license office	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0		✓
Social assistance office	22.7	16.7	0.0	0.0		✓
Town hall	68.2	70.8	25.0	40.0	✓	
Post office	81.8	83.3	50.0	60.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

With the exception of a post office, most sites in Ontario have a more limited range of government services to assist households experiencing economic and social change compared to the national sample. None of the Ontario sites have Employment Insurance offices, provincial auto license offices, or social assistance offices. The availability of government services in Tweed, including a town hall and a post office, resembles the service provision provided in other Ontario sites. Other services, including an Employment Insurance office, a provincial auto license office, and a social assistance office, are accessible within 30 minutes in Madoc or Belleville.

Community Services

Community services can provide an important foundation from which to build relationships, and can be important sources to draw upon during times of economic and social stress. The availability of community services in rural and small town places varies considerably (Table 11). While fewer sites across Canada have second hand stores compared to two years ago, more sites in the national sample offer clothing depots and senior drop-in centres.

Table 11: Availability of Community Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada		Ontario		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Food bank	31.8	25.0	25.0	20.0	✓	
Clothing exchange/depot	18.2	29.2	25.0	20.0	✓	
Second hand stores	40.9	29.2	25.0	20.0	✓	
Youth drop-in centre	22.7	25.0	0.0	20.0	✓	
Women's drop-in centre	22.7	16.7	0.0	0.0		✓
Senior's drop-in centre	31.8	41.7	0.0	60.0	✓	
Half-way house	4.5	4.2	0.0	20.0		✓
Women's resource centre	9.1	8.3	25.0	0.0		✓
Women's safe house	*	8.3	*	0.0		✓
Personal aid services	31.8	37.5	25.0	20.0	✓	
Victim's services						
– comm. based	*	25.0	*	0.0		✓
Churches	*	95.8	*	100.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Overall, sites in Ontario offer a more limited range of community services when compared to all the sites across Canada. On the other hand, a greater proportion of Ontario sites have a senior's drop-in centre and a half-way house. The increase in senior's drop-in centres demonstrates that these communities are responding to their changing demographic needs. Such centres provide opportunities for interaction and help to foster a sense of community. Tweed offers a wider range of community services compared to other Ontario sites. These include services to help households cope with social and economic change, such as food banks, clothing depots, and personal aid services, as well as drop-in centres for youth and seniors. The closest community-based victim's services are accessible in Madoc, while other community services may be accessed in Belleville.

Transportation

Transportation infrastructure can have important implications not only for attracting economic activity to a place, but also for enhancing the quality of life of vulnerable groups in rural and small town places. Transportation services, especially freight services, can play an important role in attracting industry by providing additional options to export products. However, without adequate, affordable transportation options, mobility can be difficult for women, seniors, or those with disabilities to move within the community and to access services in adjacent centres. Being mobile enables citizens to have access to services, to be involved in the community, to develop local friendship ties and support networks, and to experience social activities.

The higher availability of gas stations and automobile repair services in these places reflects Canada's general reliance on the automobile (Table 12). Other transportation services are less frequently available, most notably local transit service, passenger rail service, and airport service.

Table 12: Availability of Transport Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada		Ontario		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Local bus transit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		✓
Inter-community bus station	31.8	29.2	0.0	0.0		✓
Train – passenger	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0		✓
Train – freight	36.4	29.2	0.0	0.0		✓
Airport	18.2	16.7	25.0	20.0		
Helicopter port	22.7	25.0	25.0	20.0		✓
Boat/ferry terminal	18.2	25.0	0.0	20.0		✓
Taxi	27.3	25.0	50.0	20.0	✓	
Gas station	86.4	87.5	100.0	100.0	✓	
Automobile repair	63.6	70.8	75.0	80.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

When compared to sites across Canada, more Ontario sites have a gas station and automobile repair shop. However, fewer Ontario sites have inter-community bus stations, as well as passenger and freight train service. While half of the Ontario sites had taxis in 2003, just 20% continue to offer this service in 2005. Tweed offers a more limited range of transportation services compared to other sites across Canada. Limited options for inter-community transportation may pose challenges for residents who do not have a vehicle, but need to access services in other centres.

Recreation Services

When examining all of the sites, recreational services show the greatest range of availability compared to any other service category (Table 13). This bodes well for the retention and attraction of residents, as well as the overall quality of life of these places. More notable recreational services available include community playing fields, community centres, libraries,

municipal parks, hiking trails, and campgrounds. Many of these services can be important places where events can foster a sense of community. Across Canada, most sites are also able to offer either an indoor skating rink or a community gym. Recreational services less frequently available across Canada include fitness facilities, such as athletic clubs and swimming pools, as well as entertainment features such as cinemas. Since 2003, live theatre and tennis courts are found in more sites in the national sample. Declines in recreational services between 2003 and 2005 in the national sample include outdoor municipal swimming pools and skiing trails.

Table 13: Availability of Recreation Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada		Ontario		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Curling rink	31.8	37.5	25.0	40.0	✓	
Bowling lanes	22.7	20.8	25.0	20.0	✓	
Indoor municipal swimming pool	13.6	12.5	0.0	0.0		✓
Outdoor municipal swimming pool	18.2	8.3	25.0	20.0		✓
Indoor municipal skating rink	50.0	54.2	50.0	40.0	✓	
Outdoor municipal skating rink	31.8	33.3	0.0	40.0	✓	
Community playing field	81.8	79.2	100.0	100.0	✓	
Community gym	50.0	50.0	50.0	20.0	✓	
Community centre	81.8	75.0	100.0	100.0	✓	
Private athletic club	13.6	15.0	0.0	20.0	✓	
Municipal athletic club	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0		✓
Theatre (live performance)	13.6	33.3	0.0	20.0	✓	
Cinema (movie theatre)	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0		✓
Museum	36.4	41.7	50.0	40.0	✓	
Library	77.3	79.2	100.0	100.0	✓	
Municipal parks	77.3	79.2	75.0	100.0	✓	
Provincial parks	22.7	16.7	25.0	40.0		
Tennis courts	31.8	45.8	25.0	60.0	✓	
Skiing trails	50.0	37.5	50.0	60.0	✓	
Hiking trails	63.6	62.5	75.0	80.0	✓	
Golf courses	36.4	37.5	50.0	60.0		✓
Campgrounds	68.2	66.7	75.0	60.0		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In 2005, a greater proportion of sites in Ontario offered a range of recreational amenities. In particular, all of these sites have a community playing field, a community centre, a public library, and municipal parks. Furthermore, at least half of the Ontario sites also have a tennis court, skiing trails, hiking trails, golf courses, and campgrounds. Tweed is able to offer residents and visitors a wide range of recreational amenities for different age groups and fitness levels. While Tweed does not have an indoor swimming pool, private homes with indoor pools offer swimming lessons. A golf course and campgrounds are located just five kilometres away in Stoco, while other recreational amenities not available in Tweed are accessible in Belleville.

Shopping

Shopping services contribute to the success of the local economy and are considered to be an important gauge of economic health of rural and small town places. Shopping is also an important recreational activity and provides opportunities for social interaction. Low levels of shopping services can lead to out-of-town shopping and perhaps even out-migration.

Table 14: Availability of Basic Shopping Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed: 2005	
	Canada		Ontario		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Grocery store	68.2	70.8	50.0	60.0	✓	
Farmers' market	13.6	25.0	25.0	60.0	✓	
Liquor store	54.5	62.5	50.0	60.0	✓	
Bakery	27.3	37.5	25.0	40.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

The service inventory indicates that most sites across Canada are able to offer shopping services that residents would need to access on a more frequent basis, such as grocery stores (Table 14). In fact, basic shopping services have been increasing in the 24 sites examined in the national inventory. While a lower proportion of sites in Ontario have a grocery store, a greater proportion of these sites have a farmers' market. Tweed residents are able to access all of these basic shopping services locally. Tweed residents can also access furniture stores, convenience stores, gift shops, hair salons, hardware stores, and a video store within their community. For more specialized shopping, residents may travel within 30 minutes to Belleville.

Economic Development Organizations

Economic development organizations can play an important role in promoting the community to attract not only additional businesses, but also to attract a wider population base. While there is not a wide range of economic development organizations in these sites, it is particularly critical to note that only approximately 20% of the sites across Canada have a Chamber of Commerce (Table 15). As these organizations are comprised of local business individuals, they are important sources to draw upon during economic and social change. On the other hand, more sites in the national sample offer financial and business consulting services compared to two years ago.

Economic development organizations are more limited in the Ontario sites compared to the national sample. In particular, while approximately 40% of the sites across Canada offer financial / business consulting services and women's leadership groups in 2005, only 20% of the sites in Ontario do so. Economic development organizations and programs available in Tweed include a Chamber of Commerce, tourism association, rotary club, and women's leadership group. The Comfort Country initiative started in 2004 with the amalgamation of chamber of

commerce organizations and business improvement areas for Tweed, Sterling, Madoc, and Marmora with a goal to boost tourism and economic development in the region.

Table 15: Availability of Economic / Development Organizations - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed:	
	Canada		Ontario		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Business Dev. Bank of Canada	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Community Futures Dev. Corp.	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0		
Chamber of Commerce	18.2	20.8	25.0	20.0	✓	
Local bus. dev. corp.	18.2	8.3	25.0	0.0		✓
Economic/community trust	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0		
Career training/placmt. program	13.6	12.5	25.0	20.0		✓
Financial/business consulting	27.3	37.5	25.0	20.0		✓
Real estate boards	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		✓
Tourism associations	27.3	12.5	25.0	20.0	✓	
Rotary clubs	18.2	12.5	25.0	20.0	✓	
Retraining programs – general	*	8.3	*	0.0		✓
Retraining programs – women	*	0.0	*	0.0		✓
Women’s leadership groups	*	41.7	*	20.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Housing

Housing has been used as an incentive to attract residents to rural and small town places. However, lack of housing options as a population changes, or ages, can be a problem and can lead to out-migration. Housing options can improve the quality of life of residents, especially the more vulnerable citizens, including senior citizens or those with disabilities.

Table 16: Availability of Social Housing Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Tweed:	
	Canada		Ontario		2005	
	% Yes		% Yes		Within	Within
	2003	2005	2003	2005	the Site	30 Minutes
Co-op housing	13.6	8.3	0.0	0.0		✓
Rent supplement units	22.7	20.8	0.0	0.0		✓
Asstd./sub. housing – seniors	31.8	50.0	25.0	40.0	✓	
Asstd./sub. housing – families	31.8	29.2	0.0	0.0		✓
Asstd./sub. housing – singles	9.1	12.5	0.0	0.0		✓
Asstd./sub. housing - Disabled/special needs	13.6	12.5	0.0	0.0		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Although, social housing does not appear to be widely available in sites across Canada, there have been some important changes (Table 16). Most notably, there has been an increase in the availability of assisted or subsidized housing for seniors from approximately 32% of the sites across Canada in 2003 to 50% in 2005. While the availability of social housing options is generally limited in Ontario sites, there has been an increase in the proportion of sites offering assisted or subsidized housing for seniors since 2003. Tweed offers assisted or subsidized housing for seniors. However, most other forms of social housing are accessible in Belleville.

Challenges and Opportunities for Tweed, Ontario

To pursue development and economic diversification, Tweed has been partnering with nearby communities through the “Comfort Country” initiative to expand its tourism and cottage industry sectors. This designation represents a new cooperative strategy recognizing that solutions are possible when regions come together with a will to focus on similarities instead of differences. The Comfort Country brand is designed for tourists looking to experience the charm of a unique rural setting with all the amenities of home. After the highly successful CRRF conference held in Tweed (October 2004), Comfort Country has been contracted to host other conferences and major reunions.

Besides working with Comfort Country, the Tweed Chamber of Commerce continues to build its reputation as the ‘Gateway to the Land O’ Lakes’ given its proximity to numerous provincial parks. Tweed also offers many recreational amenities for various age groups that will enhance local quality of life.

In 2004, an intensive hog operation was established in the new municipality of Tweed. Its presence has led to considerable dissension among local residents who had differing views on the development of such enterprises. Changes related to loss of employment opportunities and services have also created some challenges for the community. Because Tweed has limited transportation services for residents who do not operate their own vehicles, it will be important to maintain as many services within the community as possible. Notably, the presence of an ambulance, pharmacy, health centre, senior drop-in centre, and subsidized senior housing will be important for seniors within the site. Furthermore, while Tweed offers a wider range of shopping services compared to other sites across Canada, limited access to health services for some residents may lead to multi-purpose out-of-town trips for not just visiting the doctor, but also for shopping, entertainment, or pursuing other needs.

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