

COUNTY OF HURON

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



www.HuronCounty.ca



Contents

3	Land Acknowledgment
5	Warden's Message Building Momentum
6	2022-2026 Council Composition
7	CAO's Message Preparing for the Future
8	County of Huron Organizational Structure
9	Treasury Budget Process
10	Project Spotlights
11	Infrastructure Improvements Expanding Broadband
12	Meeting the Needs of the Community Building More Affordable Housing
14	Welcoming Newcomers Immigration Partnership
14	Meet the Team Public Works
15	Collaboration EV Charger Network
16	Service Areas
17	1. Administration and Corporate Services
19	2. Cultural Services
22	3. Economic Development
26	4. Emergency Services
28	5. Long-term Care
31	6. Planning and Development
34	7. Public Works
36	8. Social and Property Services
39	Have Your Say!



County of Huron

1 Courthouse Square
Goderich, ON N7A 1M2
www.HuronCounty.ca

Phone: 519.524.8394
Toll Free: 1.888.524.8394

Land Acknowledgment

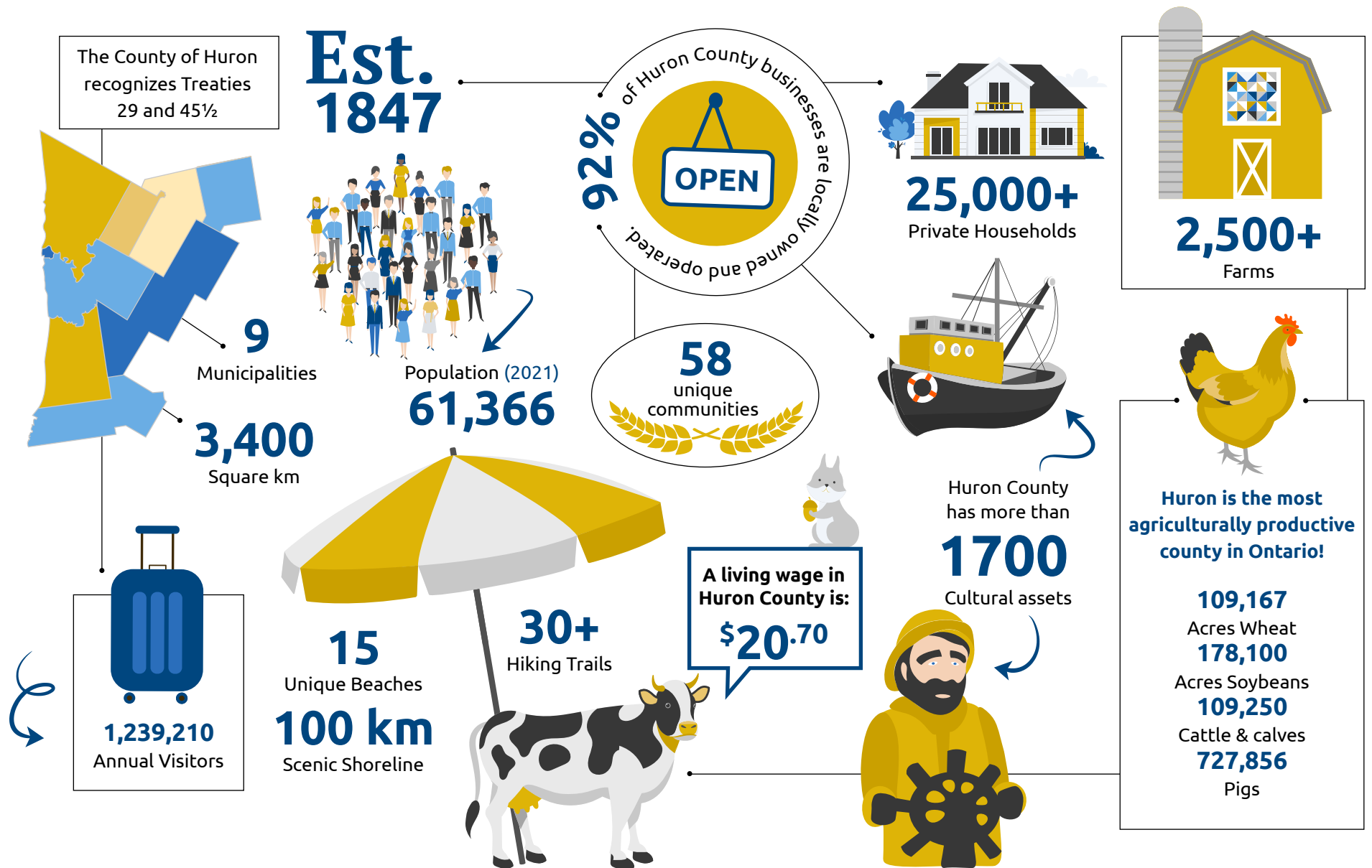
The County of Huron would like to acknowledge that the land we stand upon today is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Neutral peoples. We recognize the First Peoples' continued stewardship of the land and water, and that this territory was subject to the Dish with One Spoon wampum, under which multiple nations agreed to care for the land and resources by the Great Lakes in peace.

We would also like to acknowledge and recognize the Upper Canada Treaties signed in regards to this land, which include Treaty #29 and Treaty #45 1/2, and our roles as treaty people, committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, gratitude, and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.



Huron County

By the numbers



Warden's Message | Building Momentum

In the last term of Council, priorities were set that included expanding broadband, increasing access to affordable housing, addressing homelessness, and more. Through steady, incremental effort, and many collaborations, we are gaining momentum in these service areas, as well as many others.

We've continued to expand access to high-speed internet, locally. Once the current projects underway are complete, 97% of Huron County will have access to high-speed internet.

We also made a commitment to increasing affordable housing in Huron. Today, we have two projects, one that's in development and the other is in the construction phase. Another project is 'shovel ready' ensuring we're able to act swiftly and take advantage of funding opportunities when they arise.

We've collaborated to provide emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness, and we're making progress toward a Coordinated Access system of care that will address the needs of those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Most excitingly, at the end of 2022, we welcomed a new Council. A new Council always brings renewed energy to both the corporation and the community. This enthusiasm will undoubtedly further our momentum and lead to powerful progress in the years ahead.

This report highlights some of our collective accomplishments. With heartfelt thanks, I commend all who contributed to the progress made in 2022 and look forward to accomplishing even more in the years ahead.

Glen McNeil,
Huron County Warden



2022-2026 Council Composition

Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh

Glen McNeil, Mayor
Bill Vanstone, Deputy-Mayor

Bluewater

Paul Klopp, Mayor
John Becker, Deputy Mayor

Central Huron

Jim Ginn, Mayor
Marg Anderson, Deputy Mayor

Goderich

Myles Murdock, Mayor
Trevor Bazinet, Deputy Mayor

Howick

Doug Harding, Reeve

Huron East

Bernie MacLellan, Mayor
Alvin McLellan, Deputy Mayor

Morris-Turnberry

Jamie Heffer, Mayor

North Huron

Paul Heffer, Reeve

South Huron

George Finch, Mayor
Jim Dietrich, Deputy Mayor

Huron County Council's Strategic Priorities

- Homelessness short-term strategy
- Attainable housing initiatives
- Affordable housing initiatives
- Broadband advocacy
- County facility considerations
- Public communication
- Service Delivery Review (SDR)
- Economic Development Strategy
- Community collaboration
- Poverty reduction
- Council training
- COVID-19 recovery efforts
- Asset management funding
- Bylaw review



CAO's Message | Preparing for the Future

For the last several years, staff have been working to implement efficiencies in all service areas. Emphasis has been placed on modernizing our corporate services.

The *Modernization Project*, as staff refer to it, is a series of initiatives being undertaken in multiple departments that, when combined, are designed to strengthen our corporate services.

Through forecasting, we've identified upcoming challenges and opportunities, and the initiatives in the Modernization Project ensure that we're laying the groundwork we'll need to meet these challenges head-on, with confidence, and with a well prepared plan.

To date, we have undertaken many initiatives that will help us achieve our goals including implementing new technologies and reviewing policies and procedure such as remote and hybrid work opportunities. We've been more purposeful about youth engagement and we're incorporating more equity, diversity and inclusion practices into our daily work flows. We're identifying risks and implementing solutions that address climate change. We've expanded our communications efforts, both internally and externally. And all of these efforts combined will help to ensure that our organizational structure aligns with our corporate goals.

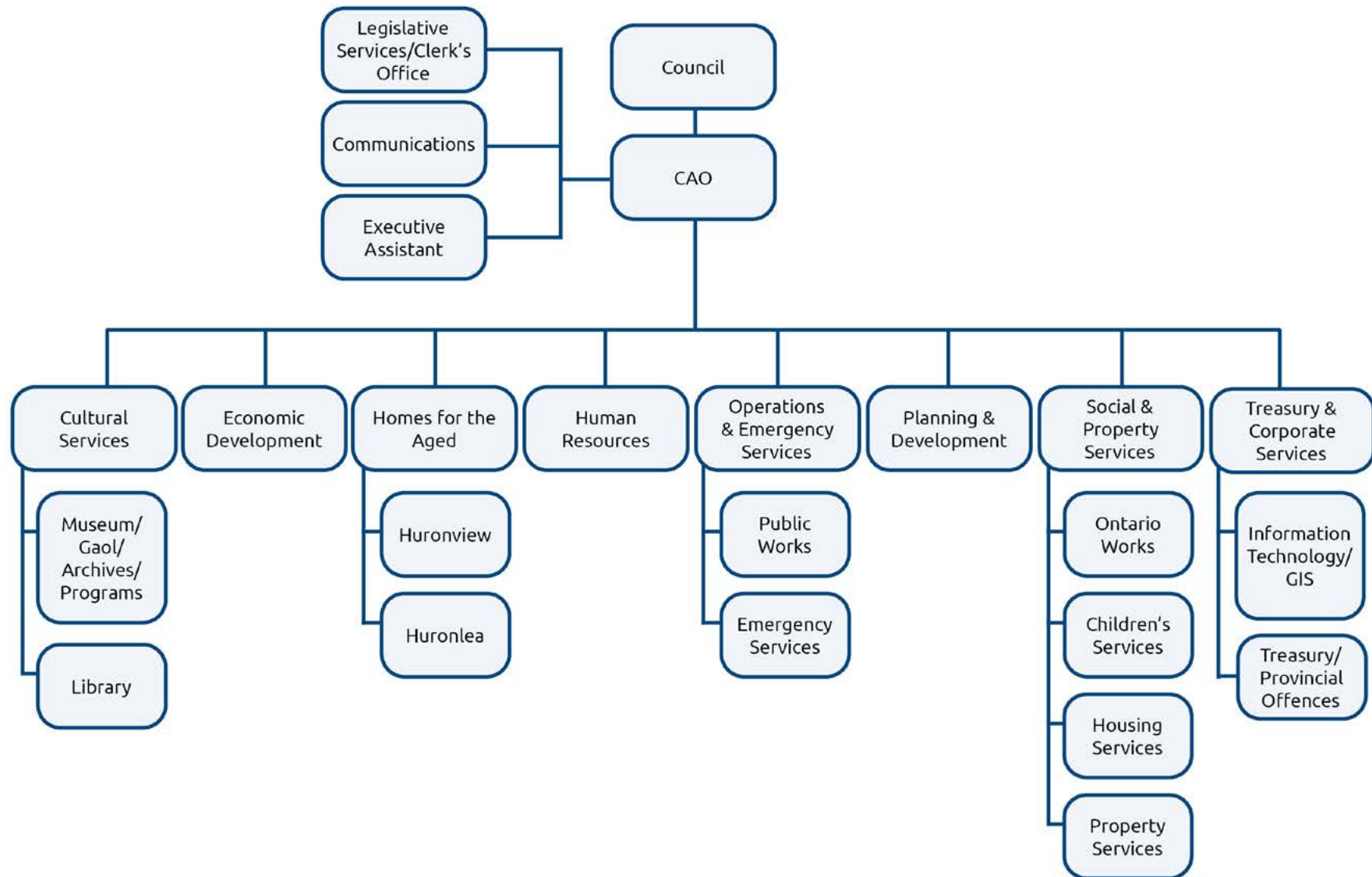
We're currently at a mid-point in the Modernization Project, but we are already seeing some fantastic efficiencies and staff engagement is increasing. All of these efforts will lead to an organization that is supported from the ground up and looking ahead.

The future is looking bright for the County of Huron.

Meighan Wark
CAO, County of Huron



County of Huron Organizational Structure



Treasury | Budget Process

There are many factors that affect the County's operating and capital budget, and these are closely tied to the priorities set out by Council in strategic planning sessions. The County of Huron wants to ensure long-term sustainability while maintaining essential and valued services.

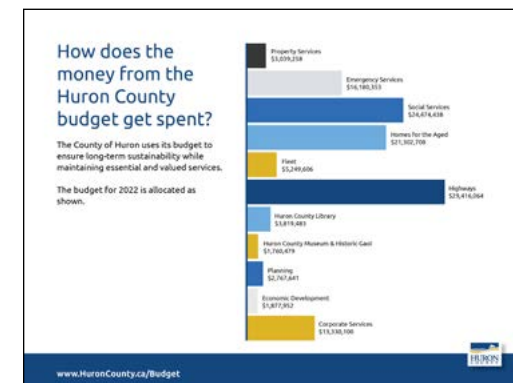
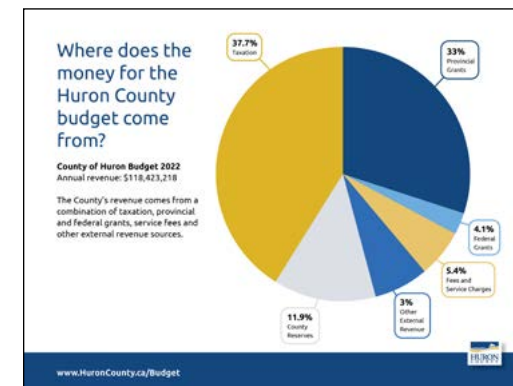
Like many municipalities, the financial sustainability of municipal services has been strained in the past few years as a result of the rising costs associated with inflation. In response, the County has a Financial Sustainability Management Strategy:

- Manage Assets – Asset Management Plan
- Control Spending
- Maintain Reserves
- Increase Efficiencies
- Maintain a level and realistic levy

In 2022, a **Budget Survey** was introduced that allowed the community to have their say about what matters most to them. The County of Huron encourages public engagement with its budget process annually.

Find out more about Huron County's budgeting process:

www.HuronCounty.ca/budget



Project Spotlights

Under the direction of Council, staff undergo a variety of special projects each year that address the immediate or emerging needs of the community.

Some of the projects the County of Huron undertook in 2022 include:

- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Broadband Expansion
- **Meeting the Needs of the Community:** Building Affordable Housing
- **Welcoming Newcomers:** Immigration Partnership
- **Collaboration:** EV Charger Network



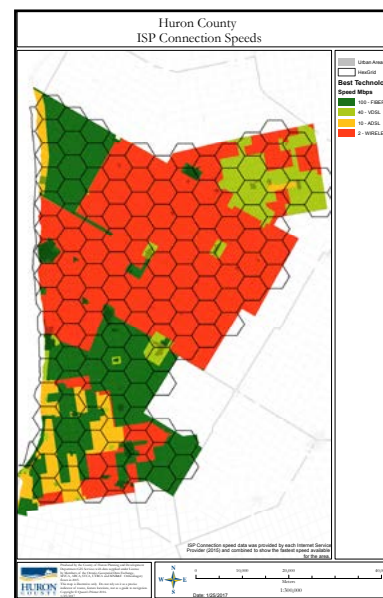
Infrastructure Improvements | Expanding Broadband

The County of Huron continues to expand access to high-speed internet in the community.

Working with local telecommunication companies, *SWIFT* and the *Western Ontario Warden's Caucus* (WOWC), the County has seen improvements to broadband connectivity in Huron.

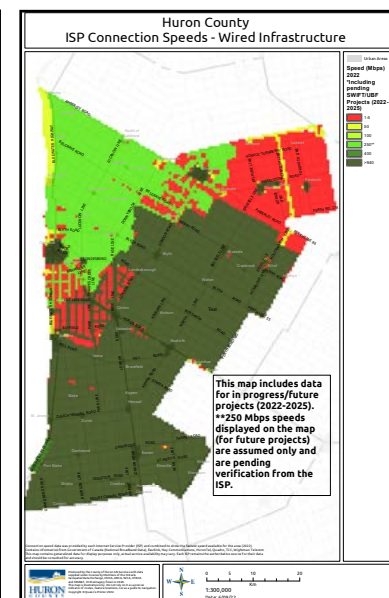
Once the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) and SWIFT projects are completed, 97% of Huron County will have access to high-speed internet. Approximately 964 households (about 3% of the County) will remain without access to fibre-based internet. Prior to the launch of the SWIFT and UBF programs, 15% of the County, or approximately 4,820 homes, did not have access to broadband.

Since 2015, local efforts to expand broadband, including the SWIFT project, have significantly improved the connection speeds available to Huron County residents.



Map 1: 2015

Anything coloured dark green can be considered to meet a 50/10 standard.



Map 2: 2022-2023

Anything coloured dark green can be considered to meet a 50/10 standard (Note that some of these projects won't be complete until at least 2023).

What does 50/10 standard mean?

- 50Mbps (megabits per second) refers to the download rate (the speed at which data, including files, web sites, pictures, music, and movies, is being delivered to you from the Internet).
- 10Mbps (megabits per second) refers to the upload rate (the speed at which data is traveling from you to the Internet).

To help understand what this means to the average internet user, a download speed of 50Mbps is considered good for households of 2–4 people using 5–7 devices. A speed of 50 Mbps can handle 2–3 live video streams plus some extra online activity.

Meeting the Needs of the Community | Building More Affordable Housing

Goderich: Bennett Street, Triplexes

Two new triplexes, currently under construction on Bennett Street East in Goderich, will offer six new one-bedroom units. These new units align with the current need for housing, which is for more for single bedroom units, located in Goderich.



Architect's rendering:
Bennett Street Triplex

Goderich: Gibbons Street Apartment

An apartment building is currently under development with a planned location of Gibbons Street in Goderich. The proposed apartment will offer 39 new one-bedroom units with a mix of affordable, rent-geared-to-income, and supported units.



Architect's rendering:
Gibbons Street Apartment

20 Unit Shovel Ready Project

In addition to the two projects currently in development and construction phases, the County is prepared to act on a third ‘shovel ready’ project. The County has fully developed schematics for a two storey apartment building, consisting of 20 one-bedroom units. The purpose of having a ‘shovel ready’ project is to ensure the County can be ready and act swiftly when funding opportunities arise.

Addressing the Missing Middle

All County of Huron housing projects are designed to help address Huron’s “Missing Middle”. Missing Middle housing refers to housing options in the middle of the housing spectrum. The units under development will reduce the waitlist for rent-geared-to-income housing and help support a housing-first strategy for Huron.



Welcoming Newcomers | Immigration Partnership

The County of Huron's Immigration Partnership is a collaboration of community members, organizations and business partners from multiple sectors within the region working to create a welcoming community for newcomers. Together, this group works to strengthen Huron's capacity to welcome newcomers and improve integration outcomes through enhanced economic, social political and civic participation.

Welcoming Week 2022

Approximately 3,000 people attended seven *Welcoming Week* events hosted throughout the community. The Immigration Partnership augmented the events with an advertising campaign that highlighted small gestures individuals could take to make the community more welcoming. This campaign was seen or heard by more than 50,000 people.

Welcoming Ukrainian Newcomers

The Immigration Partnership helped to coordinate the actions of 120 volunteers who registered to assist dozens of Ukrainian newcomers to Huron County. Newcomers received assistance that included transportation, practice to improve their English, and support to meet one another on a regular basis at gatherings hosted by community partners.



New to Huron County?

There are many government-funded services available to assist people new to Canada including:

- YMCA Settlement Services**
 - Personalized support to connect with local programs and services, along with filling out government forms
- Centre for Employment & Learning**
 - English as an additional language classes and employment support
- Huron County Library**
 - Access to computers, books and other learning materials
- Huron County Immigration Partnership**
 - Information about settling in Huron County

More information available at:
www.HuronCounty.ca/immigration-partnership



Funded by: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par: Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

Collaboration | EV Charger Network

The *Regional EV Charging Network Strategy: Feasibility Study*, spearheaded by Wellington County, was a collaboration designed to increase the number of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the region. The project included the participation of multiple municipalities:

- County of Bruce
- County of Dufferin
- County of Grey
- City of Guelph
- County of Huron
- County of Perth
- City of Stratford
- County of Wellington

Using a collaborative approach, the partners developed a Regional EV Charging Network Strategy with the help of consultants from *Community Energy Association*.

The feasibility study drafted has already led to tangible actions. Some of the partners, including the County of Huron, County of Dufferin, County of Perth, Bruce County and County of Grey, have begun or are considering the installation of the recommended EV chargers through a third-party implementation partner.

By working together and taking a regional approach, this strategy will ensure that EV drivers can travel seamlessly throughout the region. It will also help ensure that the region has the infrastructure necessary to continue transitioning to a low-carbon future.



New charger installed at the Huron County Museum in Goderich

Service Areas

What follows are highlights of some of the work undertaken by County departments in 2022. To find out more about County services, visit:

www.HuronCounty.ca

1. Administration and Corporate Services
2. Cultural Services
3. Economic Development
4. Emergency Services
5. Long-term Care: Huronview & Huronlea
6. Planning and Development
7. Public Works
8. Social & Property Services





1. Administration and Corporate Services

Clerk's Office

In 2022, the Clerk's Office hosted 28 County Council Meetings and 27 Committee and Board meetings, with both virtual and in-person attendees. In addition, Huron County municipal Clerks have collaborated on joint education sessions for Councillors and staff. The Clerk's Office also oversees the County's records management program and accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with provincial legislation. This team continues its work in ensuring a transparent and accessible bridge between County Council and Huron residents.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department is responsible for Human Resources Management functions related to the life cycle of the County's more than 650 employees. This includes:

- Talent Acquisition
- Training, Learning and Development
- Employee Wellbeing
- Total Rewards
- Labour Relations
- Culture and Leadership
- Employee Retention and Offboarding
- Human Resource Information System (HRIS)

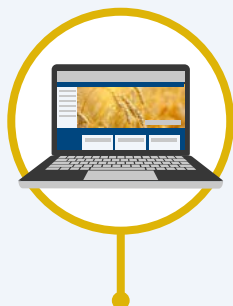
2022 Administration: By the Numbers



691
County Staff*



58 (up 16%)
Media Releases
280 (up 58%)
Media Mentions



530,117 (up 23%)
Website**
Visits



10,300+ (up 101%)
Huron County
Connects
engagements/views



719 (up 220%)
Facebook Follows
929 (NEW!)
LinkedIn Follows

* County staff includes: 335 full-time and 356 part-time (164 regular part-time, 125 casual, 19 student, 20 Council, 39 board members, and 7 Seasonal)

**Websites included in 'Visits' count: HuronCounty.ca, OntariosWestCoast.ca, HuronCountyMuseum.ca, and HuronCountyLibrary.ca

Communications

Communications staff manage a number of channels that keep the public and staff informed. This team issues media releases, manages the corporate website, intranet, and social media, and they facilitate projects on the County's online engagement platform, Huron County Connects.

Some projects this team launched in 2022 include:

- Recruitment marketing materials developed including; a new [LinkedIn](#) account, updated [Jobs](#) webpage, recruitment [videos](#), social media [campaigns](#), and more
- 2023 [Budget Survey](#)
- [Affordable Housing](#) Messaging
- And much more

Business Technology Solutions (BTS)

This year, Business Technology Solutions has focused the majority of their work in supporting County systems and departments to provide the best quality remote operations and customer service tools possible. While implementing new technologies in a response to the pandemic, this team continues to work behind the scenes to keep the County's systems safe, reliable, and secure.



2. Cultural Services

Huron County Library

In 2022, the Huron County Library was pleased to welcome people back to all branches for in-person service.

Now Fine Free

Beginning January 1, 2022, the Huron County Library no longer charges fines on overdue materials - removing barriers for Huron County residents accessing library services.

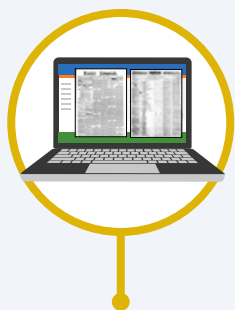
New Website

The Huron County Library launched a new [website](#) in 2022, making it easier than ever for Huron County residents and library patrons to learn about Library services and access resources.

In Your Backyard

In Your Backyard was a popular Library led program that expanded on a summer tourism campaign that encouraged residents to learn more about and visit 'Huron's Hidden Gems'. The program included a speaker series and a summer give-a-way contest.

2022 Cultural Services: By the Numbers



545,000+

Digitized Newspapers
available



6,792

Past Perfect Online
Artifacts available

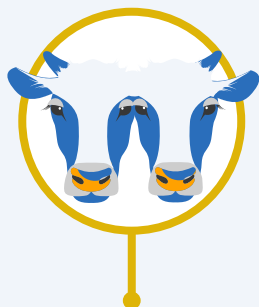


17,927

Programs (Library)*

5,482

Programs (Museum)*



112,435

Museum website
page views



346,081

Circulation (items
borrowed)



17,157

Active Library Card
Holders

Huron County Museum & Gaol

Youth Engagement

The *Young Canuckstorians* films explore Huron County history as told by kids for kids. Students from the Avon Maitland District School Board SOAR class and the 1st Bayfield Guides researched, scripted and recorded the videos in partnership with video producer Mickey Maple. This project was sponsored by Bruce Power, IODE Maple Leaf Chapter and Liuna Local 1059.

Indigenous Programming

On September 29 and 30, the Huron County Museum hosted a *Truth and Reconciliation Day Film Screening*. Four short films featuring Indigenous topics from the National Film Board (NFB) were shared. In addition to honouring Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, the Museum held two Indigenous partnership exhibits in 2022: *Hope and Healing Project* and the *Ribbon Skirts* project.

*Total attendance for both virtual and in-person programs

Temporary exhibits

The *Forgotten* exhibit, featuring unidentified images of people and places of Huron County continued to October 16, 2022. This exhibit was design with both in-person and *virtual* viewing opportunities.

The 2022 winners of the *Huron County Art Show* were Roman Turczyn's *Harvest Landscape Huron County*, and Michele Miller's *With Wonder*.

Industry Gallery Redevelopment

Throughout 2021 and 2022, staff have been in the process of planning a *major redevelopment* of one of the Museum's exhibition spaces, the Northwest/Industry Gallery, to better reflect the stories of industry from across Huron County.

Cultural Programming

Huron Multicultural Festival

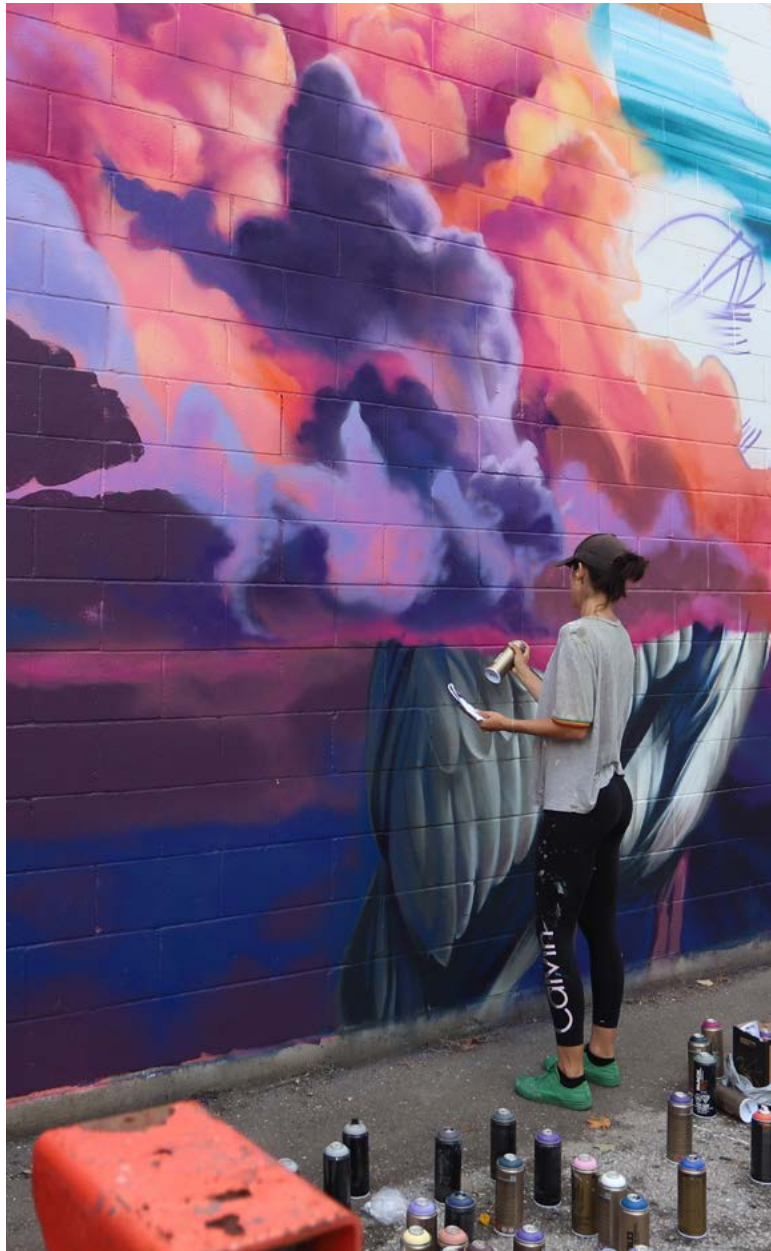
The *Huron County Multicultural Festival* returned in 2022. This free outdoor festival celebrates the customs and traditions of Canada's diverse populations. The festival includes a stage show of music and dance from around the world, a global food court and marketplace, children's activities and licensed beer garden.

Awards and Recognition

The Huron County Library was successful in re-accreditation in 2022. Accreditation is granted by the *Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council* in recognition of excellence in library service.

The Huron County Museum and Library were awarded the Huron County Accessibility Award in 2022

The Huron County Library was awarded the Ontario Library Association Award for Archival and Preservation Achievement for their *Digitization of Historical Newspapers* project.



3. Economic Development

In 2022, the Economic Development Department continued to serve its core clientele and business sectors, while building strategic foundations for the next five years. With new leadership, the Department used the 2021 Business Retention and Expansion survey results to complete a 5-year Strategic Plan. It also developed a complementary Operational Plan and an Attrition Management Plan to guide the structure of the Department moving forward.

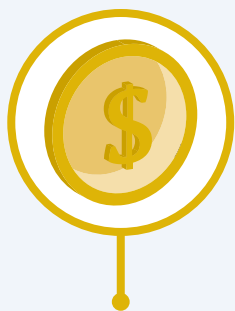
Business Services

The Huron Small Business Enterprise Centre (HSBEC) provides high-quality assistance and support in the creation of new businesses, expansion of existing businesses and the creation of new jobs – contributing to the economic growth of the region. Small business is the backbone of rural economies.

Services and programming include:

- **Core Services** – Free and confidential, one-on-one coaching support along the business lifecycle. Coaches provide referrals and connections to public sector agencies and private professionals that help support the business goals of each client. Services also include mentorships, networking opportunities, and the development and delivery of workshops and seminars. In 2022, Business Coaches provided one-on-one support to

2022 Economic Development: By the Numbers



~\$6 million

Invested into local economy through business start-ups and coached clients



69

Jobs created through SBEC coaching services



10,000

Visitor's Guides distributed

30,000

Huron Holiday Guides distributed



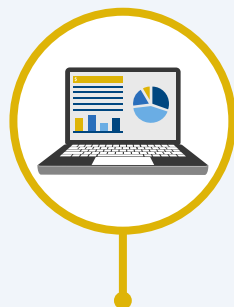
3000+

Attendees at Welcoming Week events



120

Volunteers supported Ukrainian newcomers



51

Businesses successfully received \$2,500 in Digital Transformation grants

over 120 clients, saw 47 businesses start or expand, and helped create 69 local jobs.

- **Starter Company Plus (SCP)** – this program provides 12 weeks of business training and skills development; business coaching and mentorship; assistance in writing a comprehensive business plan to better position participants in obtaining financing; and grant opportunities up to \$5,000 for eligible participants to start, expand, or buy a small business. In 2022, there were 39 participants in the program.
- **Summer Company** – Students aged 15-29 can receive up to \$3,000 to start a summer company. Students learn how to run a business, receive mentorship and training, and develop skills that are highly valued in all workplaces. Each year, 5 students participate in the program from across Huron County.
- **Digital Main Street's Digital Service Squad** – The Digital Service Squad (DSS) experts provide one-on-one digital support services to small businesses throughout Huron County. Services are offered at no cost, to help businesses improve their use of digital technologies through digital transformation, consulting, and coaching. These services include promoting and supporting Digital Main Streets Digital Transformation Grant, which provides brick-and-mortar businesses with a \$2,500 grant. In 2022, over 200 businesses received DSS services and the DSS staff supported 51 businesses in receiving over \$127,500 in grants.

To learn more about Huron County business services, visit www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development.

Funding Opportunities

Economic Development staff deliver a variety of funding programs each year. This funding supports local businesses and helps them reach their business goals.

- Supporting Local Economic Development (SLED) - Funds were allocated under the 2022 SLED program with 9 applications being approved for grants totaling \$87,500. New in 2022, a collaboration with Community Futures Huron enabled SLED to offer \$100K in funding to the community.
- Starter Company Plus – The program saw 14 businesses graduate, of which 6 received funding, totaling \$20,000.
- Summer Company – The program saw 5 businesses receive grants totaling \$13,500.

Investment Attraction

- Investment attraction consultations increased with over \$400 million in investments being explored in 2022.
- An inventory of available commercial and industrial properties is in development to support investment inquiries.

Immigration Partnership: Welcoming Newcomers

The Immigration Partnership works to improve the experience of newcomers, including immigrants and refugees, in Huron County. Immigration Partnership staff work to:

- Improve coordination of settlement
- Assist with community integration
- Encourage community involvement

Some 2022 initiatives include:

- Participated in Newcomer Welcome Week. This national event is held annually in September. Immigration Partnerships staff and volunteers hosted several Welcome Week events across the County.
- Created nine video tool resources to assist individuals with supporting newcomers to Canada.
- Social Connector Training to support newcomers was conducted with 32 completions.
- Supported the creation of the Huron Newcomer Fund in partnership with Goderich Lion's Club.

To learn more about Immigration Partnerships, visit:

www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/our-services/immigration-partnership/

Tourism: Welcoming Visitors

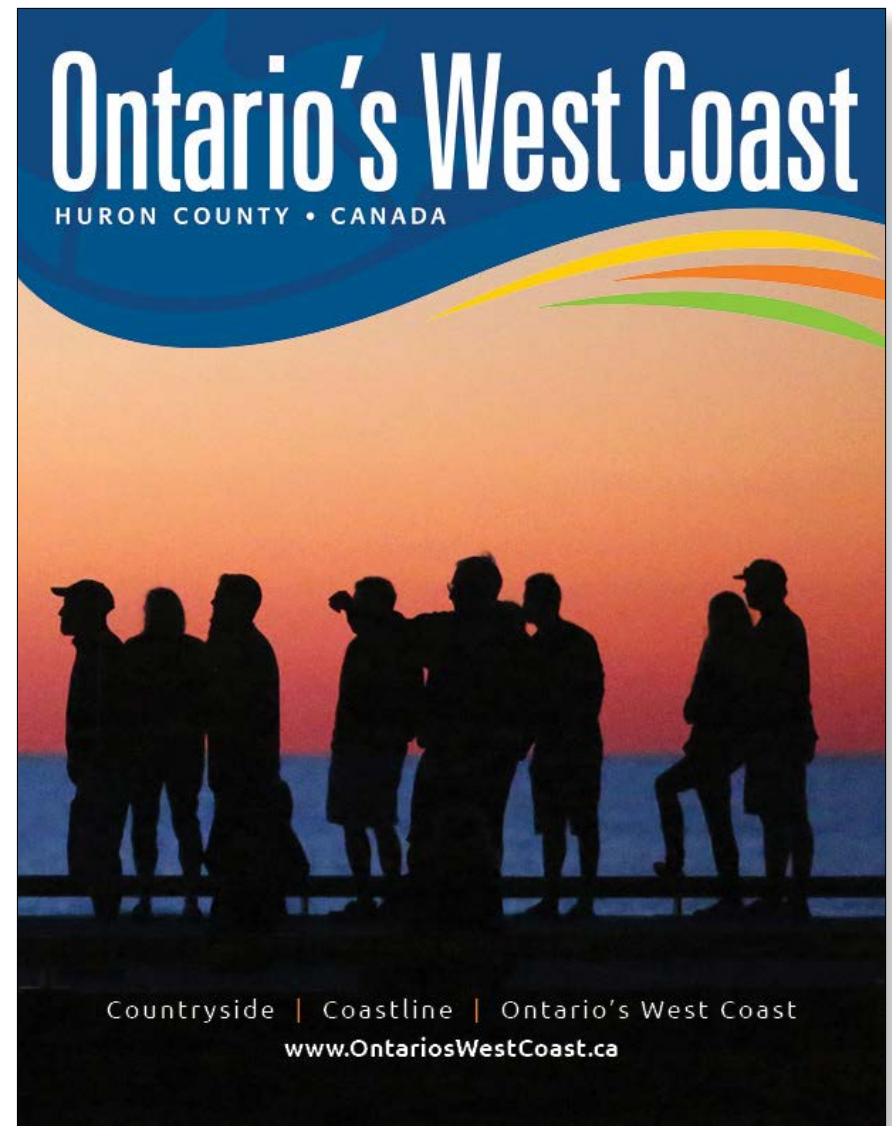
Huron County Economic Development manages Ontario's West Coast, the tourism brand for Huron County. The department's vision for tourism is for Ontario's West Coast to be a recognized tourism brand representing outstanding, authentic opportunities to experience the natural environment, immerse in local heritage and historical places, play a role in the dynamic story of rural Ontario, and celebrate the vibrant arts community. We continue to drive business to a tourism and hospitality assets and share that Huron County is beautiful to visit during all four seasons.

Some 2022 highlights include:

- Taste of Huron App and updated website launched during Oktoberfest celebrations, which saw over 1000 people taking in food, beer, wine and concert events.
- Huron Hygge, a winter local tourism campaign, won the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) Marketing Canada Award for its Glow, Savour and Delight Boxes.
- 30k Huron Holiday Guides distributed
- 10k Ontario's West Coast Visitor Guides distributed

To learn more about Huron County Tourism, visit:

www.ontarioswestcoast.ca





4. Emergency Services

Community Paramedicine Team

In 2020, Huron County Emergency Services established a specialized Community Paramedicine Team to provide additional COVID-19 support for the Community. In 2022, this dedicated team received on-going funding from the Provincial Government and is now providing numerous services to Huron County residents. By December 2022, approximately two percent of Huron County Residents have utilized our Community Paramedicine program.

Community Paramedicine Services:

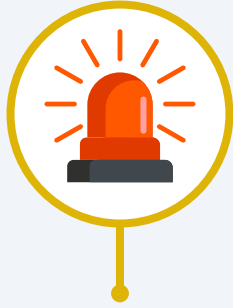
- Routine visits for clients with chronic health conditions from referrals by 911 Paramedics, Home and Community Care Services, Family Health Teams, or other Health Care agencies.
- Supporting Homebound residents with vaccinations and blood draws.
- Assisting with wound care when requested by Home and Community Care Services.
- Providing remote home monitoring to clients.
- Maintaining the Project Lifesaver Program with the assistance of the OPP.
- Providing Point of Care testing (urinalysis) to clients when required.
- Supporting local Palliative Care Services in Huron County

2022 Emergency Services: By the Numbers



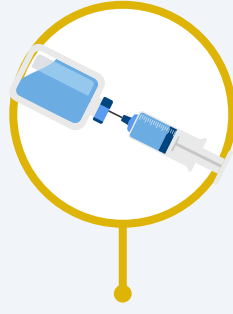
100

Huron County
Paramedics



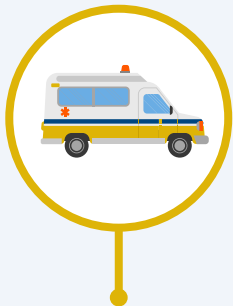
8,436

Calls for paramedic
service answered



24

Mobile Vaccination
Clinics offered



13

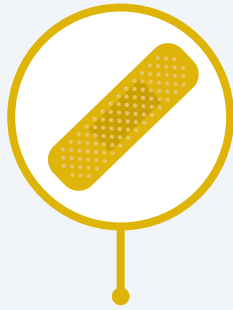
Ambulances

4

Rapid Response Units

3

Community
Paramedic Units



21

Specially trained
Community Care
Team Paramedics



9 min 37 sec

Average
response time

12pm - 1pm

Busiest hour of the day
(Friday is the busiest day of
the week)

by working with the hospices and Palliative Care Outreach Team.

- Referrals and interim support for clients to other agencies to get further care as necessary.

Out of the Cold: Heart to Home Emergency Shelter:

The Community Paramedicine team worked in partnership with at the Out of the Cold: Heart to Home emergency shelter. Paramedics offered COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to shelter guests and attend weekly wellness clinics during the winter months to work with clients including, monitoring vital signs and Diabetic management.

Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccine Mobile Clinics:

The Community Paramedicine Team provided 24 mobile vaccination clinics in Huron County to targeted groups, including local seniors, Huron County apartment tenants, Huron OPP, local healthcare workers, and vulnerable community members. In total, the Community Paramedicine Team administered over 250 vaccinations.



5. Long-term Care

The County of Huron, in cooperation with the Province of Ontario, operates two not-for-profit municipal long-term care homes, located in Clinton and Brussels. Residents of the Homes are provided with support for all of their individual care needs through a team approach, including family, health professionals and the local community.

Long-term care homes provide a place for seniors to live, and offer many support services in a “home-like” setting. They are often the right choice for seniors who:

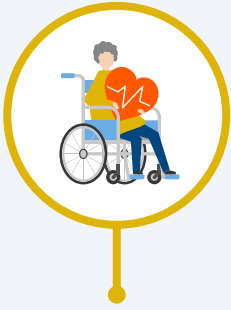
- Need help with the activities of daily living.
- May require 24-hour nursing care.
- Need supervision within a secure setting.

Long-term care homes offer higher levels of personal care and support than typically offered by either retirement homes or supportive housing.

Homes for the Aged Key Functions

- Create a home-like atmosphere for residents and their families to enjoy.
- Maintain a safe living environment.
- Daily housekeeping and meal service.
- A variety of health services including nursing and personal care on a 24-hour basis.
- Provide access to health professionals and personal care services.

2022 Long-term Care: By the Numbers



184

Long-term care beds
maintained



76

New admissions
(31 HL + 45 HV)



24 hour

Service and care



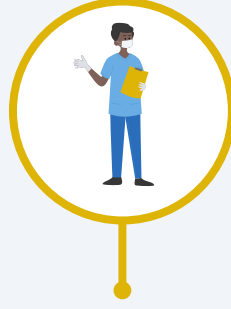
2

Facilities, Huronview
and Huronlea



2,400+

Senior's programs,
events and activities
held



276

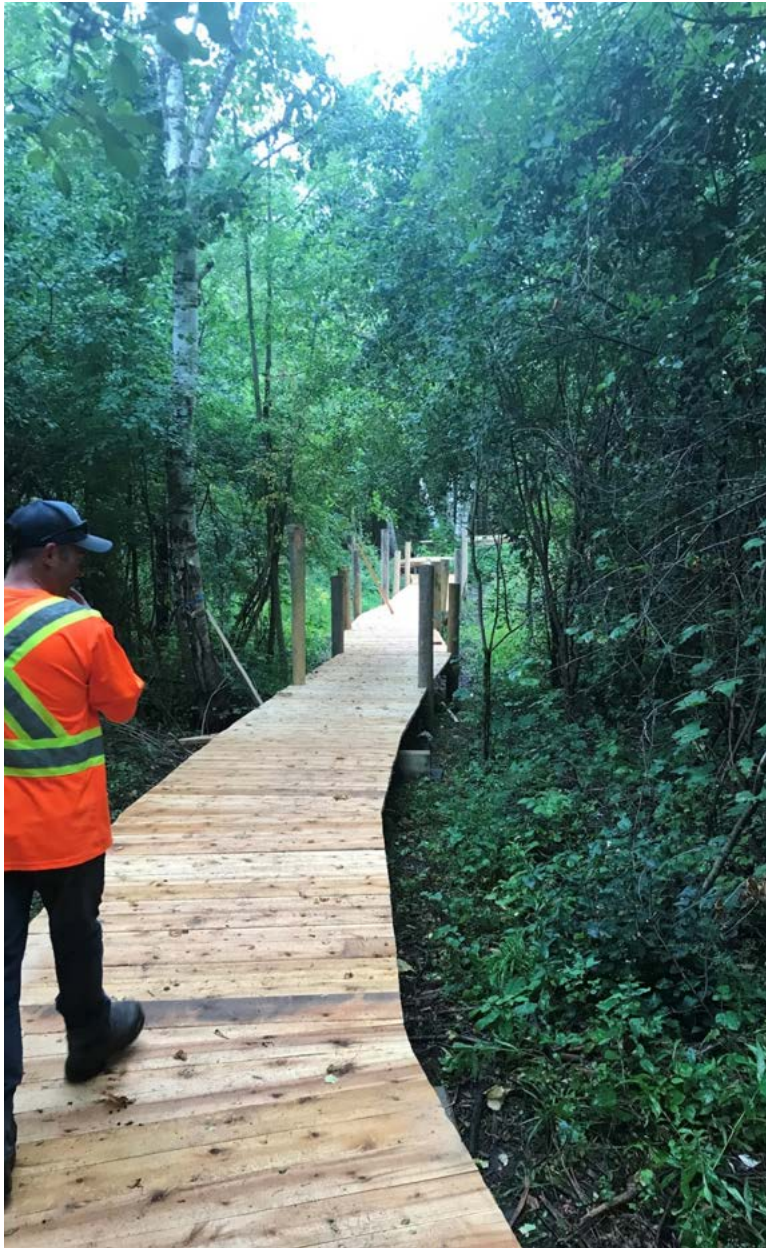
Skilled and
caring staff

- Individualized religious and spiritual services
- Dynamic and engaging programs and activities
- Facilitate volunteers and resident care givers
- Collaborate with local community partners
- Work with provincial and federal regulatory agencies

Programs

Each year, the Homes run a robust schedule of creative and interactive programming. In 2022, more than 2,400 programs were hosted including:

- **Indoor and Outdoor Concerts.** Continuing to meet health and safety guidelines, residents were entertained al fresco as well as indoors.
- **Physiotherapy Activities.** Resident exercise classes, walking programs and assistance with mobility aides provided by Physiotherapist/Physiotherapist Assistants.
- **In-Home Activities.** Residents were engaged with a variety in-home activities that included temporary tattoos, growing butterflies, fundraisers for the food bank, and more!
- **Scenic Drives.** Residents were escorted in the Home's mobility van to many areas throughout Huron County. This also included visits to local restaurants, parades, wineries/breweries, dances, and much more.
- **Community Involvement.** Residents attended local events, and developed relationships through local schools such as Co-op placements and pen pal programs.



6. Planning and Development

Huron County development applications remain high. In 2022, the County's Planning and Development Department processed 301 development applications under the Planning Act (112 of those were severance applications).

This included the final approval of 7 Plans of Subdivision and draft approval of 5 Plans of Subdivision and one Plan of Condominium across Huron County.

Planning policy work was also advanced. This included the completion of 5 Year Reviews of the Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh and North Huron Official Plans, initiation of the Goderich 5 Year Review, completion of the Bayfield Secondary Plan, contributing to the development of the Goderich Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan, and implementation of the Housing Friendly Lens in multiple planning documents across the County.

In 2022, Planning staff hosted meetings of the Sustainable Huron Steering Committee on Business Retention and Expansion: *Collaborative Action Planning, Are We Ready?*, Demographic Shifts, Changing Communities and Community Resilience, and Forest Health Trends.

The Department also worked jointly with other County Departments on a Housing Renewal Plan to identify options for housing development on County owned properties, and a County-wide Cycling Master Plan which is nearing completion.

2022 Planning: By the Numbers



301

Development
applications reviewed



13

Plans of Subdivision
received draft or final
approval



1,600+

Acres of County
owned and
maintained Forest
Tracts (14 locations)



226

Clean Water
Projects approved



\$1,355,819

Value of 2022 Clean
Water Projects

Water Protection

The *Huron Clean Water Project* provides financial and technical assistance to Huron County residents to improve and protect water quality in Huron County. It is funded by the County of Huron and service delivery is provided by Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Conservation Authorities.

Applications can be submitted electronically for the Huron Clean Water Project. Visit the Huron County website for information, grant categories, and application form.

Under the \$500,000 allocated by Huron County, there were 226 Clean Water Projects approved for a total project value of \$1,355,819. This leads to a 4:1 match of County funds by landowners and other funding partners.

The County hosted four meetings of the Water Protection Steering Committee on the topics of Cover Cropping in Huron County, Water Resources and Local Initiatives, County Forests and Farm Demonstration Field Day, and Forest Health Trends

Forestry and Stewardship

The County of Huron owns and maintains 14 forest tracts consisting of more than 1600 acres. These forests are a legacy of the reforestation effort undertaken by Ontario and Southern Ontario municipalities that began in the early

1900s. Today, these forests provide valuable sources of environmental protection, education, and recreation.

Since the onset of COVID-19, day use of the County's forests has sharply increased. In response, the Forestry Team worked with Public Works to ensure that the trails were well maintained, parking areas were created or expanded, and access to the forests was available year round. This has ensured residents can enjoy safe and healthy outdoor recreation.

In 2022, County Forest properties celebrated its 75th anniversary, which was commemorated with a new interpretive trail and a large Forests Help Keep our Water Clean sign at the Stevenson Tract.

Additional projects undertaken by the Forestry and Stewardship Team included:

- Monitored forest harvest activities from 140 Notices of Intent filed under the Forest Conservation By-law.
- With assistance from Public Works and Canada Conservation Corps, installed dual purpose parking areas and log landings in Redmond, Rodger, Collins, Adams and Taylor Tracts and graded several kilometres of logging roads and trails.
- Completed boardwalk trail connections in Sheppardton Tract and accessible boardwalk and trail in Hays Tract;
- In partnership with the Huron Stewardship Council, continued administration of \$223,795 for the protection of species at risk and land stewardship.
- Hosted the Annual Turtle Release in collaboration with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, which was attended by approximately 500 individuals and raised funds for turtle and wetland conservation work in Huron County.

Climate Change and Energy

Climate change and energy are priorities for the County of Huron. The County is currently taking action to mitigate climate change and prepare for the future, as well as improve the management of energy in its facilities.

- Implemented actions from the County's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2020-2025).
- Continued to use EnergyCAP to track utility data, energy usage, greenhouse gas emissions, and determine energy savings and identify inefficiencies.
- Installation of 22 Level 2 electric vehicle charging ports across Huron County in partnership with Huron East and the Town of Goderich.
- Completion of a feasibility study for implementing a Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Network and initiating implementation alongside Bruce, Dufferin, Grey and Perth Counties.
- Creation of an Enriching the Rural Roadside pilot to enhance aesthetics of county roads, promote pollinator species and reduce Green House Gas emissions from mowing.
- Completed annual energy reporting for the County's facilities, as mandated by Ontario Regulation 507/18.



7. Public Works

New Online Permit System

Public Works staff have worked hard behind the scenes with the Municipal 511 system. This work will expand services from road closures notification to include a truck permitting system. County of Huron is one of the first counties to offer such a service. The new online submission system includes oversized and single trip permits. This system went live in the second half of 2022. This new service allows trucking companies to submit permits online which will greatly speed up service delivery.

Traffic Control

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) and traffic studies were completed on two of the County's busiest intersections:

Blyth – Cr 25 and CR 4.

The County is designing traffic signals for the intersection with plans to improve intersection safety in 2023.

West of Exeter – CR 83 and Airport Line.

Environmental Assessment study was completed in 2022 with recommendation for a roundabout in 2024.

2022 Public Works: By the Numbers



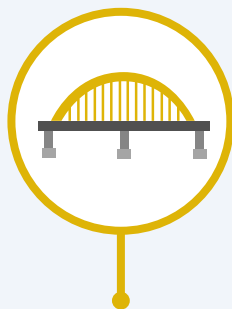
775 km

Paved roads
maintained



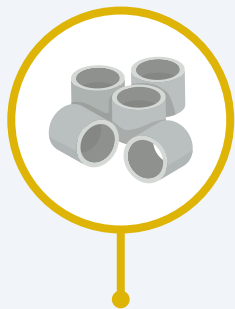
81

Bridges maintained



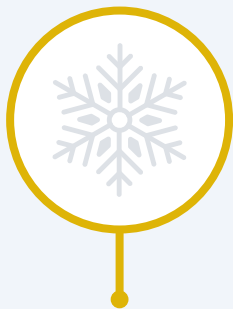
3

Bridge
Rehabilitations



210

Culvert structures



Ongoing

Winter road
maintenance and
snow removal



94

Vehicles in fleet

Speed Control

County Highways procured additional speed display signs to be installed at entrances to villages and towns to calm traffic and remind motorists to slow down and observe posted speed limits for improved traffic safety.

Infrastructure Improvements

County Road 30 and 84

Public Works rehabilitated two County roads in 2022. County Road 30 from Clifford to CR 87 in the North and County Road 84 from Zurich to Airport Line. Improvements within the Village of Zurich CR 84 were also carried out. The County Highway system is vital to moving people, commerce and agricultural activities throughout and beyond our County.

Bridges

Three bridges: Westerhout, Wallace, and Zetland were rehabilitated in 2022 all which form necessary integral components of a strong County Highway system.



8. Social and Property Services

Housing Services

The County of Huron's Social Housing Program provides a range of administrative, support, and funding services to provide affordable housing options in Huron County. Available programs allow seniors to stay in their home communities, offer affordable homes to low-income families, and give people with disabilities independence in a safe and secure environment.

Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter

In 2022, the County of Huron partnered with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron Perth Addiction and Mental Health Services (CMHA) along with Lakeshore United Church to provide the Huron Heart to Home: Out of the Cold emergency shelter.

By-Name list

In 2022, the County established its first By Name List. A By Name List is a real-time list of all people experiencing homelessness in our community. This is a dynamic list comprised of those who are known and offering consent. A By Name List offers systemic level data on homelessness in the community as well as person specific data to better support matching and referring to housing resources. Data

2022 Social & Property Services By the Numbers



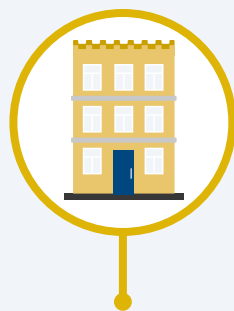
6,122

Children visits
to EarlyON
programming



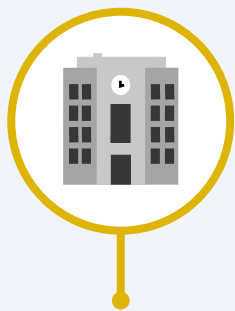
640+

Individuals provided
social assistance
monthly



415

Rent-Geared-
to-Income units
maintained



110

County properties
maintained (includes
County facilities and
housing units)



21

Individuals
experiencing
homelessness moved
to the 'housed' status
on the By-Name-List



\$41,360.00

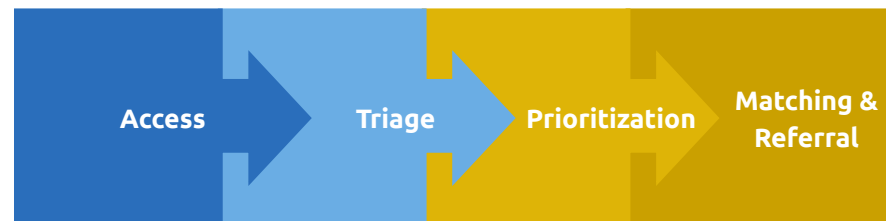
Urgent Needs Funds
delivered to 117
households/254
individuals

from the By Name List enables all stakeholders to make data-driven informed decisions about solutions to end homelessness and approaches are able to shift to support new trends.

At the end of December 2022, 53 people were active on the By Name List of 135 entries, and 21 people were successfully moved to "Housed" status on the list.

Coordinated Access

In 2022, the County of Huron team began the process of creating a coordinated access program. Members from agency partners came together in both governance and case conferencing to learn how coordinated access works, to establish priorities for the County of Huron and to initiate a serving system. Coordinated Access is a way for communities to bring consistency to the process by which people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness access housing and related services. This approach offers a streamlined and standardized approach to service delivery in four key elements:



Children's Services

Working with individuals, municipalities, and agencies, Huron County Children's Services makes sure that families and child care providers can find the early learning programs and child care support needed in the community. This team provides all children and their families easy access to:

- Parent education.
- Early learning activities and resources.
- Connections to other community agencies or programs.
- Information on choosing quality child care.

Some of the 2022 Children's Services highlights include:

- **Emergency Childcare** was offered briefly in January 2022 serving 85 children of front-line essential staff.
- **EarlyON** continues to offer a variety of programming for families in Huron County. In 2022, the EarlyON program had 6,122 children visits and 4,364 parent visits. The KEyON software system, launched in 2021, allows contactless sign-in to programming and data collection.
- In 2022, the beginning phases of the **Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care System** were implemented. This program will see reduced rates for parents accessing child care in Ontario. Huron County Children's Services worked with local providers to implement the initial phases of this program.

- An average of 218 children monthly received supports from County of Huron **Growing Together** staff to assist with early intervention and resources in one or more of the following areas of development: physical, social, emotional, communication and cognitive development.
- County of Huron Children's Services hosted a **Professional Development** day on ECE appreciation week to promote outdoor learning and play. Approximately 250 educators in Huron County attended the Varna complex.

Ontario Works

Ontario Works is an Ontario-wide program that provides income, employment, and life stabilization support to people in temporary financial need. The program combines income support with employment services and has two main components being employment assistance and financial assistance:

Some of the notable actions undertaken by the Ontario Works Team in 2022 include:

- **Centralized Intake** was launched in the fall of 2022. Applicants complete the initial eligibility screening process through the Ministry of Community and Social Services centralized application site and files are then passed to the local office to offer ongoing supports.
- **Geographical Caseloads and Community Based Services** are distributed based on geographical region to allow caseworkers to serve clients in their community and in conjunction with other local supports and services. Caseworkers have established satellite offices to better serve our clients.
- Emergency Funding issued via **Urgent Needs and Emergency Assistance Funding** to assist those facing emergency and crisis situations, including Ukrainian families.

Property Services

The County of Huron's Property Services Team provide a range of services to County owned facilities including County workspaces and housing units.

Property Services provide maintenance and groundskeeping service, accessibility and efficiency upgrades, and ongoing asset management.

In 2022, this team completed:

- More than 650 preventative maintenance tasks.
- More than 1,300 work orders.
- Refurbishing of 30 housing units.
- Replaced 35 residential family unit roofs.
- Upgraded pole lights across Housing & Property Services to efficient LEDs.
- Replaced 14 residential family-unit furnaces.

Have Your Say!

Visit Huron County Connects to participate in projects and learn about activities, strategies and initiatives that are important to you. You can easily *Have Your Say* and make a difference in your own community!

Learn more:

www.HuronCountyConnects.ca

