



Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Report Card on the Wellbeing of Children is coming soon...

The United Way of Guelph & Wellington is part of the development of The Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Report Card on the Wellbeing of Children. This report card is a valuable local tool that is intended to raise the profile of children in our communities by examining and reporting on the state and well-being of children in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph (WDG). Once complete, the Report Card will identify areas of strength and vulnerability in the birth to 6 population, aid in the development of goals that reflect local needs and outcomes, act as a planning tool for service providers, guide the development of local priorities and a local plan of action, and track improvement over time.

Stay tuned for more information as this group moves closer to the completion of this project. [Click here for more information.](#)

United Way Hosts Leadership Reception with Special Guest Pamela Wallin

The United Way of Guelph & Wellington hosted this year's Leadership Appreciation Reception at the University of Guelph Arboretum on June 12th. Special guest, Pamela Wallin, well known broadcaster and Chancellor of the University of Guelph, spoke to United Way Leaders (donors who give \$1,000 or more) on the importance of generosity and leadership in our communities. We were also pleased to hear from: Kathy Bardswick, President and CEO of the Co-operators; Mayor Karen Farbridge; and, Alastair Summerlee, U of G President and Vice-Chancellor and 2008 Campaign Chair. A special thank you to all who attended the event and to the event sponsors, The Co-operators and the University of Guelph.

2008 Campaign Kickoff Hosted in Partnership with The Walk

We are pleased to announce that this year's United Way Campaign Kickoff will be held in partnership with The Walk, an annual event hosted by Community Torchlight in an effort to raise awareness around suicide prevention in our community. The kickoff and walk will be September 10th at Riverside Park in Guelph. For more information or to sign up a team please visit The Walk website at www.thewalk.ca.

200 KM Bike Ride for United Way Raises \$10,000

On June 12, thirteen riders, all employees of Linamar plants Autocom, Transgear, Roctel, and Vehcom, set out from Kitchener to ride 200 KM over two days in support of United Way. The riders headed to Bayfield on Lake Huron and returned the following day ending the race at the Autocom Manufacturing Plant in Guelph. Barry Grime, an avid cyclist and general manager of Autocom and Transgear, started this fundraising event four years ago. Each year the distance of the bike ride has increased and the team has grown in size. The riders raised \$10,000 through sponsorship by fellow Linamar employees. The United Way of Guelph & Wellington thanks the riders and organizers for their generous spirit and congratulate the team on a very successful bike ride.

Family Composition in Guelph and Wellington - Highlights from the 2006 Census

The 2006 Census data revealed changes in the composition of families and households at local, provincial, and national levels. Changes in the way families and households look reflect the interaction of many different factors, including but not limited to social and economic trends and events, policy and legislative changes. [Click here for more information on changing family composition in our community.](#)

United Way Donor? See Where Your Money Is Going This Month: Food and Friends

We've all heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but for many young people in our community, access to healthy food in the morning is not a reality. Anita Macfarlane, Program Coordinator of Food and Friends, says many children don't eat breakfast for various reasons, including living in poverty. "Research shows when a child goes to school unnourished, they are lethargic, inattentive and more likely to be absent. Providing a healthy breakfast gives children about 25% of their daily nutrients and a great start to their day." [Click here for more information on this important local program.](#)

Please note a correction to the February/March edition of Community Connections. The article entitled "The Face of Guelph and Wellington is Changing", the foreign-born population in the county is 11% (not 14% as stated in article).



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