



# Virден-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment

Spring, 2004

This Report was developed by the Virден-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment

Project and the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University, with support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Rural Lifestyle Assessment

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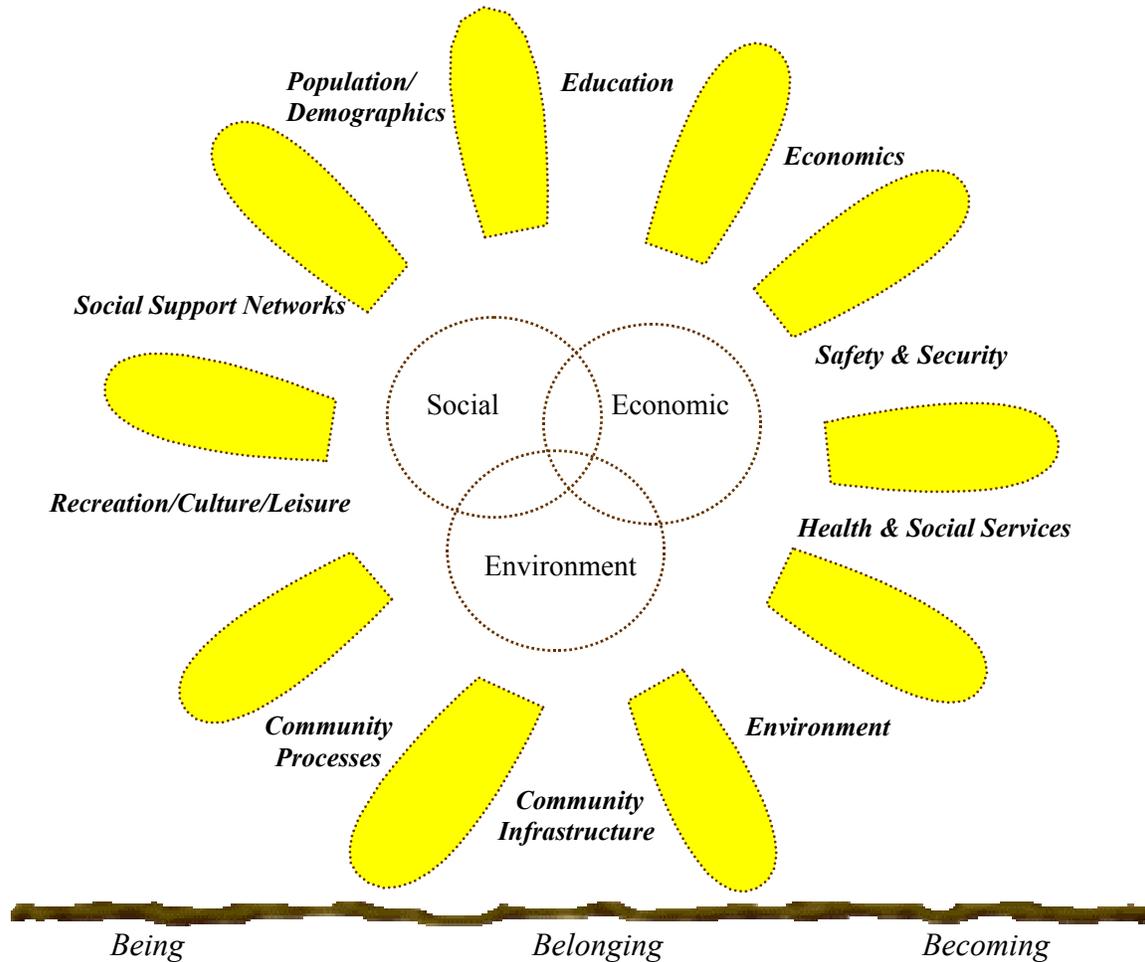
**RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

**Manitoba Advanced Education and Training**



*Funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
Grant 828-1999-1029*

# Virден-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment



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# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

## ***Virден-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team***

The Virден-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team would like to thank Brandon University's Rural Development Institute for providing the opportunity for our community to examine itself in a new way and for providing the support that was required to make it happen.

The team also recognizes Manitoba Advanced Education and Training, Labour Market Partnership Program for providing funding that assisted with hiring a project coordinator and the Virден-Wallace Community Development Corporation for their ongoing support of the project.

We would like to thank Leanne Kalynuk, our project coordinator, for all of her hard work and patience. We were fortunate to have Leanne's talents working for us and organizing the massive amounts of information. She truly did a wonderful job.

We would like to thank the representatives from the countless community organizations and government departments that assisted Leanne in her research by providing valuable information and the citizens and business owners that took the time to respond to the community survey. The cooperation of everybody was essential and appreciated.

Gathering large amounts of information over an extended period of time is a huge challenge. The team would like to thank the individuals representing both the Town of Virден and the R.M. of Wallace that took the time to read the draft document and provide clarification on a number of facts. This was a valuable exercise that will bring credibility to the document and ensure that it is used in the decision-making and future planning of various groups.

Lastly, the Virден-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team would like to thank the groups that will use the document to generate ideas for community initiatives, gain insight to the communities' strengths and weaknesses and continually strive for improvements. The true value of our efforts will be measured by the way this document is used to make changes in the community.

The cover pictures are courtesy of the Virден community and can be located on the Virден-Wallace Community Development Corporation website, [www.virden-wallace.mb.ca](http://www.virden-wallace.mb.ca).

## ***Rural Development Institute (RDI), Brandon University***

For more than 100 years Brandon University has been a cornerstone of the City of Brandon and southwestern Manitoba. Throughout this time, Brandon University has maintained its foundation as a rurally-based university with strong national and international links.

The University established the Rural Development Institute in 1989 as an academic research center and a leading source of information on issues affecting rural communities in Western Canada and elsewhere.

RDI functions as a not-for-profit research and development organization designed to promote, facilitate, coordinate, initiate and conduct multi-disciplinary academic and applied research on rural issues. The Institute provides an interface between academic research efforts and the community by acting as a conduit of rural research information and by facilitating community

involvement in rural development. RDI projects are characterized by cooperative and collaborative efforts of multi-stakeholders.

The Institute has diverse research affiliations, and multiple community and government linkages related to its rural development mandate. RDI disseminates information to a variety of constituents and stakeholders and makes research information and results widely available to the public either in printed form or by means of public lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences.

For more information, visit RDI's website at [www.brandonu.ca/rdi](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi) or contact Dr. Robert Annis, Director of RDI at (204) 571-8513 or [annis@brandonu.ca](mailto:annis@brandonu.ca).

### ***Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)***

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) is federal agency of the government of Canada that supports university-based research and training in the social sciences and humanities. Since 1977, SSHRC has been funding research throughout Canada on issues such as the economy, education, health care, the environment, immigration, globalization, language, ethics, peace, security, human rights, law, poverty, mass communication, politics, literature, addiction, pop culture, sexuality, religion, and aboriginal rights. For more information about SSHRC, see their website at <http://www.sshrc.ca>.

### ***A Rural Community Guide for Assessing Well-Being and Quality of Life***

The *Rural Community Guide for Assessing Well-Being and Quality of Life*, which was used by the Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team, was a result of many people's input and effort. Western Manitoba rural community members, community and government partners, university researchers, community development professionals and graduate and undergraduate students all contributed to the development of the framework, depicted as a flower, and to the content of the Guide. Dr. Robert Annis, Dr. Fran Racher, and Ms Marian Beattie served as editors with members of the research team editing each of the chapters.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1999, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) awarded the Rural Development Institute of Brandon University research funding for an innovative, interdisciplinary research project entitled the *Determinants of Health of Rural Populations and Communities*. The goals of the project were to examine the determinants of health and health indicators and analyze the health of rural populations using existing data at national, provincial and regional levels; to generate and adapt health indicators for application to rural populations and communities; to develop a framework, process and tools with selected rural communities to assist them with assessing their health and sustainability; and to apply and evaluate the resulting framework, process and tools with selected communities.

Rural residents, together with researchers and project partners, developed a framework and indicators to examine the health and well-being of rural communities. Focus groups were conducted with residents of fifteen rural communities from across southwestern Manitoba. They were asked for their views of the concepts of 'rural', 'health' and 'community'; to describe ways to determine if a community was healthy; and to suggest criteria to assess rural community health and well-being. Following the focus groups, representatives of each focus group participated in a workshop to develop a meaningful framework for rural community assessment. Ten framework categories were identified: Population/Demographics; Education; Economics; Safety and Security; Health and Social Services; Environment; Community Infrastructure; Community Processes; Recreation/Culture/Leisure; and Social Support Networks. The framework is visually represented as a flower with each petal depicting a framework category. During the focus groups and workshop, framework indicators emerged. During the same period of time, health care managers throughout western Manitoba were interviewed to ascertain their perceptions of quality of life in rural communities and to obtain their suggestions for indicators of rural health and well-being. The resulting information was used to develop processes and tools, including a workbook A Rural Community Guide for Assessing Well-Being and Quality of Life (hereafter referred to as the Guide), for residents of rural communities to use to assess the health and quality of life of their communities.

Pilot communities were required to test the processes and tools. The criteria for the pilot communities included a commitment and desire to undertake a project to look at the health and well-being of the community; a contact person/coordinator to work with the research partners and act as a liaison with a committee in the community; and a group of volunteers to act as a steering group for the project. Based on these criteria, the community of Virden was nominated by the community partners in the project. The community eagerly joined the project in late 2002, forming a steering committee of interested residents. At this time the first draft of the Guide was provided to the steering committee. The second draft was completed in February 2003 and a third draft incorporating feedback from the committee was issued in July 2003. The steering committee adopted the name Virden-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Project Team (RLAP) and organized sub-committees around the framework categories (petals). Each sub-committee reviewed the indicators within their petal deciding which indicator data could be collected through existing sources and which needed to be collected through alternate means. To assist the RLAP, a local project coordinator was engaged to collect the data at the request of the chairpersons of the sub-committees. Student research assistants from RDI assisted with the data collection and analysis.

The RLAP wanted information and opinions that were not available through government, regional or local data sources. They developed a community survey and distributed it to community residents via the mail. A local business survey was also developed and distributed at the same time. The completed surveys were returned by direct mail to RDI, where student research assistants, enhancing their learning experience, assisted the RLAP with the data analysis.

All the information gathered in the community assessment processes was reviewed by the RLAP and compiled into this report for the community. This information will contribute to the community's understanding of itself and will aid in its development by revealing public values, opinions and priorities; dispelling myths; confirming knowledge; setting priorities; developing short and long range plans; defining and solving problems; stimulating action; building support to address issues; and providing evidence to influence others.

## **Community Highlights**

The following are highlights of the RLAP's findings of community health and well-being. The highlights include data gathered from government, regional and local sources as well as information and opinions obtained from the Community and Business surveys.



### **Population/Demographics**

In 2001:

- The Town of Virden had a higher proportion of seniors aged 65+ (29%) than the R.M. of Wallace (10%) and the Province of Manitoba (14%).
- The R.M. of Wallace had a higher proportion of children and youth 19 years of age and younger (34%) than the Town of Virden (24%) and the Province (28%).
- The R.M. of Wallace had a higher proportion of non-movers while the Town of Virden's mobility rates resemble that of the Province.
- One-third (34%) of the households in the Town of Virden contained a resident who lives alone. This is compared to 14% in the R.M. of Wallace and 28% in the Province.
- A single parent was the head of 11% of Virden families and 8% of R.M. of Wallace families (Province 18%).

Between 1996 and 2001, the Town of Virden's population declined by 0.9% and the R.M. of Wallace's population declined by 6.5%.



## Education

In 2001:

- The total enrollment for the 2 elementary schools, 1 junior high and 1 high school in the Town of Virden was 1,087 students.
- The Kola School (K-S1) had an enrollment of 42 students and Elkhorn School had 221 students. The Plainview and Boundary Lane Hutterite Colonies had enrollments of 23 and 22 students respectively.
- Some 48% of the Town of Virden's population and 43% of R.M. of Wallace's population (aged 20+) had not completed high school (Manitoba 34%).
- Some 27% of the Town of Virden's population and 31% of R.M. of Wallace's population (aged 20+) held a college or trades certificate/diploma or a university degree (Manitoba 40%).

The Fort La Bosse School Division had a decrease of 125 full-time equivalent students from the 2001-2002 to the 2003-2004 school year.

### *Community Survey Highlights*

Regarding Upgrading, Life Long Learning and Continuing Education, in the past 12 months, 16 survey respondents took community college courses, 16 took general interest courses, 13 took university-level courses, 5 took grade 12 or equivalent courses and 4 took technical courses.

Some 5% of survey respondents indicated they would take education/training courses in the next 12 months if offered in the community.

Most survey respondents preferred an in-class method of delivery for education and training; however, distance education was preferred for university-level courses.

Distance/lack of availability (30%) and affordability (29%) were top challenges to upgrading skills and education.



## Economics

Unemployment rates for the area have dropped since 1996 (down 1.1% for Virden, 4.1% for R.M. of Wallace).

In 2001:

- The Town of Virden (5.8%) and the R.M. of Wallace (2.1%) had unemployment rates lower than that of Manitoba (6.1%).
- Some 15% of the Town of Virden's population and 17% of the R.M. of Wallace's population lived on income below the low-income cut-off point (as defined by Statistics Canada).
- Some 14% of Virden's workers and 41% of the R.M. of Wallace's workers commuted to a workplace outside of the community.
- Virden's employment was distributed amongst a variety of sectors including 'other service industry' (20%), retail and wholesale trade (19%) and health and social services (16%).
- For the R.M. of Wallace, 44% of employment was in the primary industry sector (agriculture, forestry, mining).
- A total of 305 farms in the R.M. of Wallace reported the usage of 281,834 acres (114,054 hectares) of land. The average size farm was 924 acres (374 hectares). Some 60% of the land was reported as 'land in crops', 20% was 'natural land for pasture, 8% was 'tame or seeded pasture' and 6% was 'summerfallow land' (Statistics Canada).
- The main farms types were cattle (34%), grain and oilseed crop (30%) and wheat crop (11%) (Statistics Canada).
- The R.M. of Wallace had the highest cattle numbers in Southwest Manitoba compared to other R.M.s and was the third largest cattle producer provincially (Statistics Canada).
- Some 44% of farms in the R.M. of Wallace reported paying wages or salaries for agricultural work.

According to the local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives office, in 2003 the number of PMU farms in R.M. of Wallace dropped from 13 to 4 due to the downsizing of the industry.

According to the Manitoba Community Profiles website, the Town of Virden has 16 and the R.M. of Wallace has 15 different types of businesses.

A total of 875 active oil-producing wells are located in 3 oil fields in the Virden-Wallace area.

Approximately 20 oil producing companies and 24 service and supply companies have their Manitoba offices located in Virden.

### *Community Survey Highlights*

Some 48% of respondents had traveled outside of the community for apparel and accessories and 34% of respondents had traveled outside of the community for groceries on a regular basis over the past 12 months.

Some 15% of employed survey respondents worked outside of Virden-Wallace.

### *Business Survey Highlights*

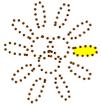
Top required skills of employees were sales and customer service (54%), communication (48%), accounting/bookkeeping (42%) and computer skills (42%).

Some 38% of respondents indicated their business had benefits plans.

The average annual charitable donation per business was \$3,200.

Some 52% of respondents planned on their business staying the same, while 27% reported they planned on expanding their business.

Some 42% of businesses survey respondents reported that they had employees who commuted.



## **Safety and Security**

In 2002, the Virden-Wallace Fire Department utilized 4 rescue vehicles and was operated by a team of 1 paid staff person and 29 volunteers. Two ambulance units, operated by the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority are based in Virden and serve the Virden-Wallace area.

The Virden Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) houses 13 officers and 8 police cruisers.

The total number of criminal code offences for the Town of Virden has decreased from 311 in 2000 to 267 in 2002.

Total crimes against persons including assaults in Virden had increased from 23 in 2000 to 28 in 2002.

Property damage under \$5,000 was only half as common in 2002 (41 offences) as compared to 2000 (85 offences).

The number of persons charged for Highway Traffic Act offences in Virden increased from 178 in 2000 to 274 in 2002.

Accidents and reportable collisions increased from 39 in 2000 to 60 in 2002.

Virden was one of the first communities in Manitoba to adopt a Juvenile Justice Committee.

### *Community Survey Highlights*

Some 93% of survey respondents felt safe in the community.

The most common safety concern in the community was vandalism.

Respondents indicated a high level of satisfaction with Police, Ambulance and Fire services in the community.



## Health and Social Services

Life expectancy is higher in the region than for Manitoba as a whole.

For the Virden-Wallace area between 1995 and 2000:

- Diabetes rates rose from 3.8% to 49%.
- In 2000, 21% of the population had been treated for hypertension (high blood pressure) at least once in a three-year period, up from 17% in 1995.
- Rates of heart attacks decreased slightly between 1995 (2.29/1000 residents aged 20+) and 2000 (2.11/1000 residents aged 20+).
- Rates of strokes decreased slightly between 1995 (2.08/1000 residents aged 20+) and 2000 (1.85/1000 residents aged 20+).
- Incidences of new cancer cases per 1000 residents increased from 1995 (5.65) to 2000 (6.36).

Top causes of death in the region between 1995 and 1999 were circulatory problems (40%), cancer (26%) and respiratory problems (10%).

As of 2000-2001, 70% of women in the area aged 50 through 69 had at least one mammogram in the previous two years. This was higher than that of the Province as a whole (63%) for the same time period.

In 2000, 86% of 1-year olds, 76% of 2-year olds and 85% of 7-year olds in the area received the recommended immunizations for their age group. These rates are lower than those of 1995 in each age category.

In 2003:

- 113 children participated in the preschool wellness fair.
- The percentage of preschoolers screened who were referred to a specialist was 25% for speech language (17 of 69), 22% for hearing (17 of 78), 15% for vision (7 of 48) and 12% for developmental (7 of 57).

Virden hospital occupancy rate is one of the highest in the Province amongst hospitals of comparative size (68%).

### *Community Survey Highlights*

Some 92% of survey respondents considered their community a healthy place to live.

Some 56% of survey respondents rated their health as 'very good' or 'excellent'.

Survey respondents indicated short waiting times for physician visits, however wait times for diagnostic services can be lengthy.

Some 73% of survey respondents accessed some health services outside of the community in the last 12 months, with dental services (33%) and eye care (26%) being the most common.

Respondents indicated that surgical and obstetrical services would improve life for people in the community.



## Environment

The Town of Virden's water treatment facility was upgraded in 1999.

A water treatment facility and pipeline to serve residents in the R.M. of Wallace is being constructed and initial hookups are expected in 2004.

Virden has a recycling depot with bins available for drop-off service. Curbside collection is planned and will start in June 2004. The area received a provincial "C" grade for recycling, suggesting room for improvement.

To encourage homeowners to maintain, upgrade and repair their property, local competitions are held annually for residents and businesses. A "Yard of the Week" is featured weekly in the local newspaper, the *Virden Empire Advance*.

### *Community Survey Highlights*

Some 60% of survey respondents indicated equal concern for the economy and the environment, while 22% of respondents reported their primary concern was with the quality of the environment even if economic growth was reduced and 3% percent reported concern with economic growth even if the quality of the environment was reduced.



## Community Infrastructure

Public transportation is provided locally by a taxi service and the Handi-Van. Transportation to other communities is available by bus. The airport is available for private planes and emergency use.

Virden's public and business sector is approximately 75% wheelchair accessible.

Approximately one mile of walking trail is located in the Town of Virden. No paved walking paths or bicycle paths are available.

High-speed Internet is available in both the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. Three public Internet service locations are available in the Town of Virden: the Border Regional Library, Post Office and a local coffee shop.

According Statistics Canada, in 2001, 74% of dwellings in the Town of Virden and 93% of dwellings in the R.M. of Wallace were owner-occupied.

Average housing costs per month are \$607 for owners and \$524 for renters in 2001.

There are 2 personal care homes and 5 seniors housing facilities (3 being life-lease facilities) in Virden. Waiting times for entry into seniors' housing in range from "depending on need" (personal care homes) to 4 years (Princess Lodge).

More than a dozen public meeting places are available in the community with seating capacity ranging from 10–18 people (The Elegant Moose Restaurant) to 467 people (The Auditorium Theatre).

The Border Regional Library, serving the communities of Virden, Elkhorn, McAuley, and R.M.s of Archie and Wallace, held 38,329 materials and had 42,939 circulation transactions in 2002.

### *Community Survey Highlights*

Community respondents are generally satisfied with Handi-Van services.

Some 15% of respondents indicated that availability of housing needs improvement.

Meeting facilities and halls in the community were perceived to be adequate by 69% of the survey respondents.



### **Community Processes**

A high proportion of leadership positions in the last elections were filled by acclamation, with 6 of the 7 Councillor positions in the Town of Virden, 7 of the 9 Trustee positions in Fort La Bosse School Division, and 4 of the 7 Councillor positions in the R.M. of Wallace.

No member of the Virden Town Council, R.M. of Wallace Council or Fort La Bosse School Division Board is under the age of 35.

More than 60 service clubs and volunteer organizations operate in the community.

Residents have their choice of 8 religious establishments in the Town of Virden and 4 in the R.M. of Wallace.

There are 34 registered charities in the Town of Virden and 4 in the R.M. of Wallace.

### *Community Survey Highlights*

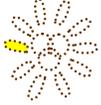
Some 247 (58%) of community survey respondents indicated that they currently volunteered for at least one local organization. The most commonly mentioned organizations were churches (39) and the Legion and Legion Auxiliary (19).

Some 41% of male community survey respondents and 24% of female respondents indicated that they sit on the executive of an organization.

Some 50 community survey respondents who indicated that they do not currently volunteer in the community expressed an interest in volunteering (12% of all respondents). One-third of those respondents were under the age of 35.

Community members suggested increasing volunteerism in the community by: advertising of volunteer groups and positions; increasing personal contact; encouraging the involvement of young people; being more considerate of volunteers' time commitments; and giving volunteers local recognition and incentives.

Some 69% of community survey respondents indicated that they belonged to an organized faith/religion.



## Recreation/Culture/Leisure

There are 21 recreational facilities within the Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace. There were 34 recreational activities, with numbers of participants ranging from 8 (Golden Seals Swim Club) to 360 ( Golf -- men's, women's seniors') reported for 2002.

There are number of historic building in the community. Two buildings have provincial heritage designations and one building has a municipal heritage designation.

The Manitoba Historical Society has designated 18 farms in the R.M. of Wallace as Manitoba Century Farms. This award is presented to descendents of pioneers who have continued on the land for 100 years or more.

A variety of cultural events such as the Virden Music and Arts Festival, the Concert Series and the Indoor Rodeo and cultural activities such as choir for youth, drama club for adults and art club and chorus for seniors are offered throughout the year.

### *Community Survey Highlights*

Generally, community survey respondents indicated that if their children were not participating in a recreational activity it was due to lack of interest. However, 16 households indicated that children were not participating in minor hockey because it was too costly, as did 10 households for figure skating.

The recreational and leisure facilities were reported to be adequate by 61% of the community survey respondents. Some 26% of survey respondents indicated that the recreational and leisure facilities were not adequate for their needs.

Some 59% of community survey respondents indicated that there was enough variety of recreational programs offered in the community, while 19% of respondents reported that not enough variety of recreational programs was offered. Some 22% of the respondents did not answer the question.

Although 67% of survey respondents (324) indicated that walking was part of their regular activity only 23% (99) used Virden's walking paths.



## **Social Support Networks**

The Hide Out Youth Centre, operated by Youth for Christ, is attended by up to 100 youth each Friday evening.

Seniors Access to Independent Living (SAIL) offers over 15 services including Meals on Wheels, housecleaning assistance, foot care clinics and exercise programs to enable seniors to remain independent in their homes.

Two nursery school groups operate in Virden and as of December 2003, space was available for additional children in both programs.

One group Day Care and two private licensed Day Care facilities are located in Virden. Funshine Day Care Centre reports that while the facility runs close to capacity, on some days staff have to turn children away, and other days they do not have enough children to warrant the staffing levels. They believe this is due to higher number of “part-timer” clients. One of the private licenced Day Cares reports a waiting list of 2 babies. Subsidized day care spaces are available in the community.

Community support programs include Christmas Cheer (80 hampers annually), Meals on Wheels (16-17 participants/day), Virden and Area Food Cupboard (12-15 hampers monthly), Donor’s Choice (\$55,389 in 2003), and Palliative Care.

### *Community Survey Highlights*

Awareness of community support programs ranges from 57% for the Palliative Care Program to 91% for Donor’s Choice.

Drug and alcohol abuse programs, respite care, palliative care, child day care and a youth centre received ratings of ‘high’ importance to the well-being of the community by 44% to 47% of survey respondents.

Some 48% of households with children aged birth to four years and 21% of households with children aged five to fourteen years reported that they used Day Care.

Suggestions for improving Day Care in the community included: extended hours for shift workers, before and after school programs for school aged children a larger Day Care facility.

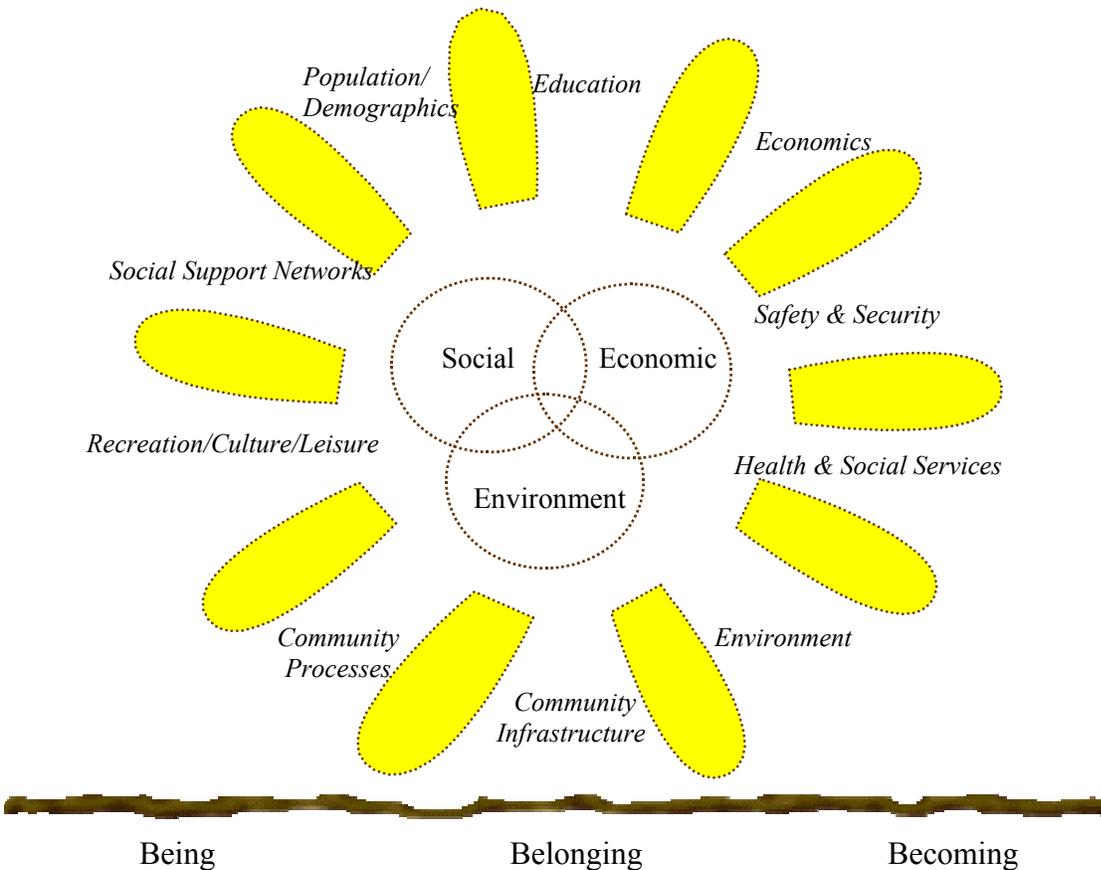
## Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

Rural and northern Canadians are vitally concerned about how they can participate in decision-making and planning processes to ensure quality of life for the people and communities in which they live. Access to education, employment, health care services, social support networks and safe environments are pivotal factors in the lives of rural and northern people.

In 1999, the Rural Development Institute of Brandon University was awarded the Determinants of Health of Rural Populations and Communities Research Project as an innovative, interdisciplinary research project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The goals of the project were to examine the determinants of health and health indicators (measurements of the determinants of health) and analyze the health of rural populations using existing data at national, provincial and regional levels, to generate and adapt health indicators for application to rural populations and communities, to develop a framework, process and tools with selected rural communities to assist them with assessing their health and sustainability and to apply and evaluate the resulting framework, process and tools with selected communities.

The Rural Development Institute, Brandon University, initiated this research project. The project involved community and government partners including community development agencies, regional health authorities and government agencies with rural and health policy interests. Researchers from Brandon University's departments of Rural Development, Geography, Psychology, as well as the School of Health Studies collaborated on this project. Additional perspectives were brought to the project by partnering with other universities, adding expertise in rural gerontology from the University of Manitoba and rural sociology from Concordia University. Community partners included rural regional health authorities and community development organizations in southwestern Manitoba as well as organizations such as Community Futures Partners of Manitoba and Wheat Belt Communities Futures Corporation. Government partners included Health Canada, Statistics Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Rural Secretariat).

Rural residents, together with researchers and project partners, developed a framework and indicators to examine the health and well-being of rural communities. Focus groups were conducted with residents of fifteen rural communities from across southwestern Manitoba. They were asked for their views of the concepts of 'rural', 'health' and 'community', to describe ways to determine if a community was healthy and to suggest criteria to assess rural community health and well-being. Following the focus groups, representatives of each focus group participated in a workshop to develop a meaningful framework for rural community assessment. Ten framework categories were identified: Population/ Demographics; Education; Economics; Safety and Security; Health and Social Services; Environment; Community Infrastructure; Community Processes; Recreation/Culture/Leisure; and Social Support Networks. During the focus groups and workshop, framework indicators emerged. During the same period of time, health care managers throughout western Manitoba were interviewed to ascertain their perceptions of quality of life in rural communities and to obtain their suggestions for indicators of rural health and well-being.



Source: Annis, R., Racher, F., Beattie, M. (Eds.) (2002). *A rural community guide for assessing well-being and quality of life*. Brandon MB: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

The framework is visually represented as a flower. As residents of rural communities assess their communities' health, well-being and quality of life, they discover who and what their community is, “*Being*”, how their community fits with its environment, “*Belonging*” and what activities are required to achieve their goals, hopes and aspirations, “*Becoming*” (Raphael, et. al.1999).

The information resulting from these processes was used to develop processes and tools including a workbook, *A Rural Community Guide for Assessing Well-Being and Quality of Life*, for residents of rural communities to assess the health and quality of life of their communities. The Guide is a tool to stimulate community development processes used by a community as well as to provide valuable information for community planning.

Within each “petal” of the framework, are a number of indicators that assist communities in gathering information. The Guide provides information on how to gather information from many sources including government sources such as Statistics Canada and Manitoba Community Profiles, regional sources such as regional health authorities and school divisions, local sources such as municipal and town records and communicating directly with local residents through interviews, focus groups and surveys.

Two pilot communities were required to test the processes and tools. The criteria for the pilot communities included a commitment and desire to undertake a project to look at the health and well-being of the community; a contact person/coordinator to work with the research partners and act as a liaison with a committee in the community; and a group of volunteers to act as a steering group for the project.

Based on these criteria, the communities of Shoal Lake and Virden and surrounding municipalities were nominated by the community partners in project. Both communities eagerly joined the project in late 2002. Each community formed a steering committee of interested residents and utilized the process and tools to assess the health and well-being of their community. Sub-committees were organized around the framework categories (petals). Each sub-committee reviewed the indicators within their petal deciding which indicator data could be collected through existing sources and which needed to be collected through alternate means. To assist the steering committees, local project coordinators were engaged to collect the data. Student research assistants from RDI assisted with the data collection and analysis.

The steering committees wanted information and opinions that were not available through government, regional or local data sources. They developed community and business surveys that were distributed to community residents via the mail. The surveys were mailed directly to RDI, where student research assistants, enhancing their learning experiences, assisted with the data entry and analysis.

All the data and information gathered in these community assessment processes were reviewed by the steering committees and compiled into reports for distribution within their respective communities. This information will contribute to each community's understanding of itself and will aid in its development by surfacing public values; opinions and priorities; dispelling myths; confirming knowledge; setting priorities; developing short and long range plans; defining and solving problems; stimulating action; building support to address issues; and providing evidence to influence others.

## Chapter 2: PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The process of utilizing the workbook, *A Rural Community Guide for Assessing Well-Being and Quality of Life*, began in late 2002. The Virden-Wallace Community Development Corporation organized the initial meeting in the community. After a review of the Determinants of Health project with the members of the community who attended the initial meeting, it was decided that a follow-up meeting would be beneficial. For this follow-up meeting each member present at the initial meeting was to contact people and groups who may be interested in the project. This second meeting attracted approximately 20 area residents. The community members in attendance represented many aspects of the community, including local service clubs, businesses, seniors, religious leaders and health care professionals. At this meeting, participants established a local committee based on the model the community had used to host a successful Manitoba Summer Games in 2000. The group assigned a chairperson for each of the ten categories of the framework in the workbook. Each chairperson would be responsible for finding people to serve on a sub-committee with them. Following the structure of the summer games committee, the group decided to have a chairperson or two co-chairs to coordinate the overall committee and plan meetings.

Early in January 2003 the group decided to name itself the **Virden-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Project Assessment Team (RLAP)**. The Team decided that the area they would collect data for included the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. Each sub-committee chairperson, with assistance from their group, examined the indicators listed in the workbook and determined which could be collected through existing databases and which needed to be collected through alternate means. To assist the RLAP, a project coordinator was engaged in early March 2003 to work on a part-time basis. The project coordinator was responsible for the collection of data, taking minutes from meetings and other duties as directed by the project committee. Remuneration for the project coordinator position came from within the SSHRC grant held by RDI. This funding was used to leverage additional funding through a matching grant from Manitoba Advanced Education and Training.



## **Data Sources**

A number of sources were used to gather the information included in this report. These sources include government sources, regional sources, community-based sources and locally conducted community and business surveys.

### **Government Sources**

Statistics Canada and Manitoba Community Profiles were the two main government sources of information. Statistics Canada is the national data-gathering body that produces statistics to help Canadians better understand the country, its population, resources, economy, society and culture. Statistics Canada provides objective statistical information about the population and demographics of the community. At the time this report was written, some information from the 2001 Census was available and when possible has been included.

Manitoba Community Profiles is a website available at [www.communityprofiles.mb.ca](http://www.communityprofiles.mb.ca). This site provides the most comprehensive listing of information on communities and regions of Manitoba. Each community profile offers up-to-date information covering everything from location (maps) to quality of life indicators (demographics, population, labour force, education, history, recreational facilities) to economic indicators (utilities, transportation, taxation, land, buildings & development). Staff of Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs maintain the Manitoba Community Profiles website.

### **Regional Sources**

Although some information was not available for the specific Virden-Wallace area, there was some information available for a larger region. The Assiniboine Regional Health Authority (formerly South Westman and Marquette Regional Health Authorities) and the Fort La Bosse School Division provided useful regional information to the project.

### **Community-Based Data**

Community-based data is information collected locally that was not available through other data sources. The gathering of community-based data was directed by knowledgeable community residents who knew what information was available and could provide contact information to the project coordinator. Community-based data included documents such as local reports and information gathered through interviews with relevant members of the community.

### **Data Limitations**

The RLAP team and RDI have made every attempt to ensure the data in this report is the most current, accurate, complete and comprehensive data at time of publication. Much of the statistical data presented in this report was obtained from Statistics Canada, a highly credible and widely used source of information. It should be noted that data generated by Statistics Canada are rounded off to the nearest zero or five. In small samples, data results are suppressed by Statistics Canada to maintain confidentiality. Certain columns and rows of numbers presented in the report may not add exactly as a result of this procedure. Where appropriate, further commentary has been provided in this report to explain data variations.

## **Surveys**

### **Survey Limitations**

The survey information and data presented in this report provide indications of key concerns and issues in the community. However, given they represent information and opinions of the respondents only, the information and opinions may not always be representative of the entire community.

### **Community and Business Surveys**

The team required information that was not available through government, regional or local sources. Therefore, they decided to develop a survey to be distributed to members of the community. After committee members submitted their questions to the project coordinator, they decided that two surveys should be developed; one tailored to local businesses and the second to the general community. Over the course of two meetings, and with the assistance of researchers and students from RDI, the wording of the surveys was finalized. The survey was to be distributed to and include “anyone residing in the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. It also includes people who work, go to school, utilize local recreational facilities or access health services on a regular basis within these locations”. All surveys were distributed through the postal outlets in the community in late May 2003 with a return deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Each survey contained a preaddressed, prepaid envelope for the completed surveys. A reminder letter was distributed to all mailboxes in mid-June to encourage return of the surveys.

Prior to distribution, both surveys were submitted to the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee (BUREC). Consent was assumed upon completion and return of the survey as explained in the cover letter that accompanied the survey. All participants were assured that their participation was entirely voluntary; that information collected would be aggregated; and that their identities would not be revealed. By the beginning of July, 427 of 1,915 distributed community surveys were returned. This represents a return rate of 22%. For the business surveys, 71 of the 225 were returned, representing a return rate of 32%. To facilitate data entry and to encourage graduate and undergraduate student learning, the surveys were returned directly to RDI for data entry and preliminary analysis. Please refer to Appendix A for a copy of the Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey and Appendix B for a copy of the Business Survey.

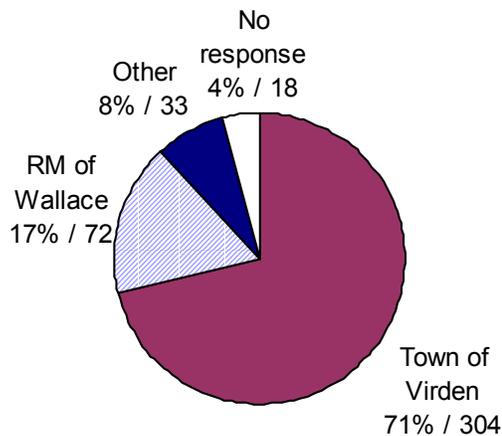
Throughout this report, the variable ‘n’ is used to represent to the total number of surveys that were completed or the number of people the question pertained to.

In the *Virden-Wallace Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey*, a number of questions gathering demographic information were asked. This information can be used to create a profile of survey respondents for comparison to the overall population, potentially indicating how representative the sample that responded was of the overall population.

### Household Responses

Seventy-one percent of respondents (304) lived in the Town of Virden and 17% (72) lived in the R.M. of Wallace. Eight percent of respondents (33) reported that they lived in a location outside of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace and 4% (18) of respondents did not answer this question. Other locations of residence were the R.M. of Woodworth (18), the R.M. of Pipestone (10), the R.M. of Sifton (3), Elkhorn and Brandon.

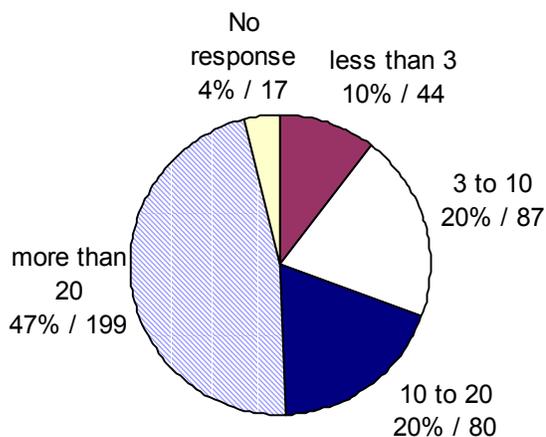
**Figure In-I: Location of Residence (n=427)**



Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Respondents ranged from those new to the community; 10% of respondents (44) had lived in the community less than 3 years, to those who had lived in the area most of their lives; 47% of respondents (199) had lived in the community for more than 20 years.

**Figure In-II: Years of Residence in Community (n=427)**



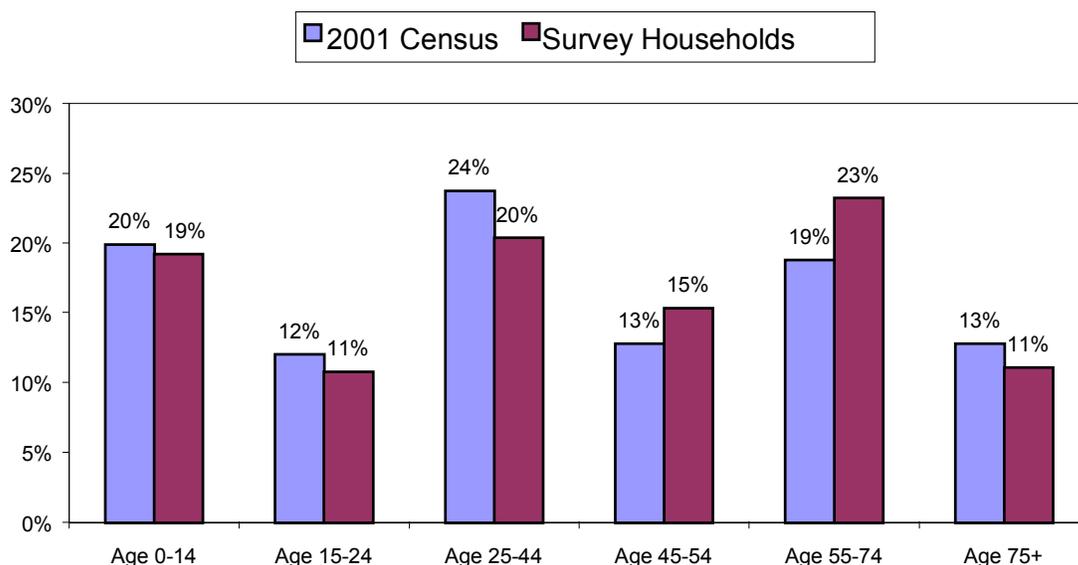
Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Responding households varied in size from 1 individual to 7 people, with an average size of 2.4. Twenty-three percent of respondents (100) lived by themselves, 42% (179) lived in a two-member household, 10% (42) lived in a three-member household, 16% (67) in a four-member household and 7% (32) lived in households of five or more people. Two percent of respondents (7) did not answer this question.

The distribution of family income of survey respondents closely resembled the distribution of the population according to the 2001 Census, indicating that the survey was responded to by households representing all income categories found in the community. One-hundred and twenty-one respondents indicated their household income.

In total the 427 households represented over 1000 people. Census data from 2001 allows us to compare the age distributions of responding household members to that of the overall population of the area (See Figure In-III). Overall, the sample of households was fairly representative across Census age categories. Survey households had more of a concentration in the 45 to 74 year age grouping than the general population.

**Figure In-III: Age Distribution of Household Members Compared to Overall Population**



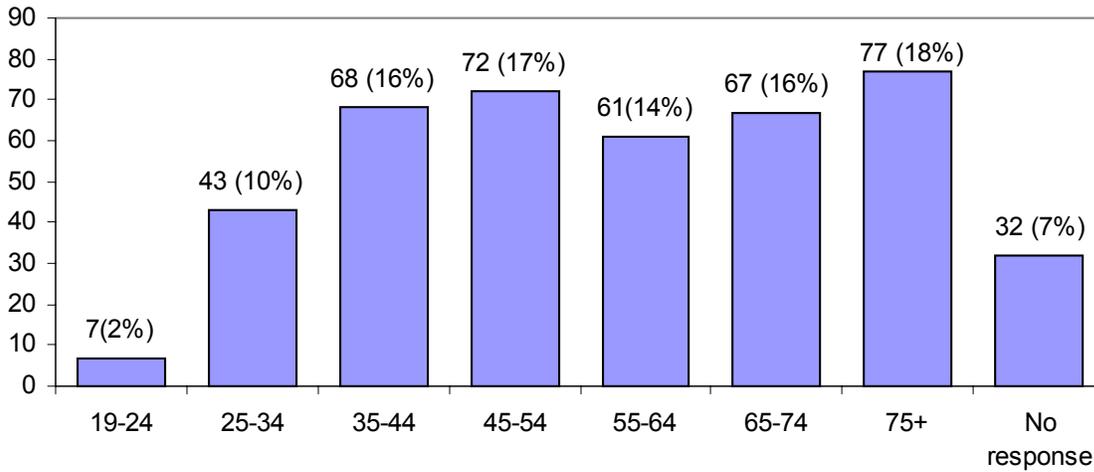
*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

*Individual Responses*

The first section of the survey (questions 1 to 21) asked questions relating to the household. The remainder of the survey asked for personal opinions and information relating only to the member of the household filling out the survey. Sixty-nine percent of respondents (294) were female and 25% (105) were male. Seven percent of respondents (28) did not specify their gender.

The average age of respondents was 56 years. Two percent of respondents (7) were under the age of 25, 10% (43) were 25 to 34 years of age, 16% (68) were 35 to 44, 17% (72) were 45 to 54, 14% (61) were 55 to 64, 16% (67) were 65 to 74 and 18% (77) were above 75 years of age. Seven percent of respondents (32) did not answer this question.

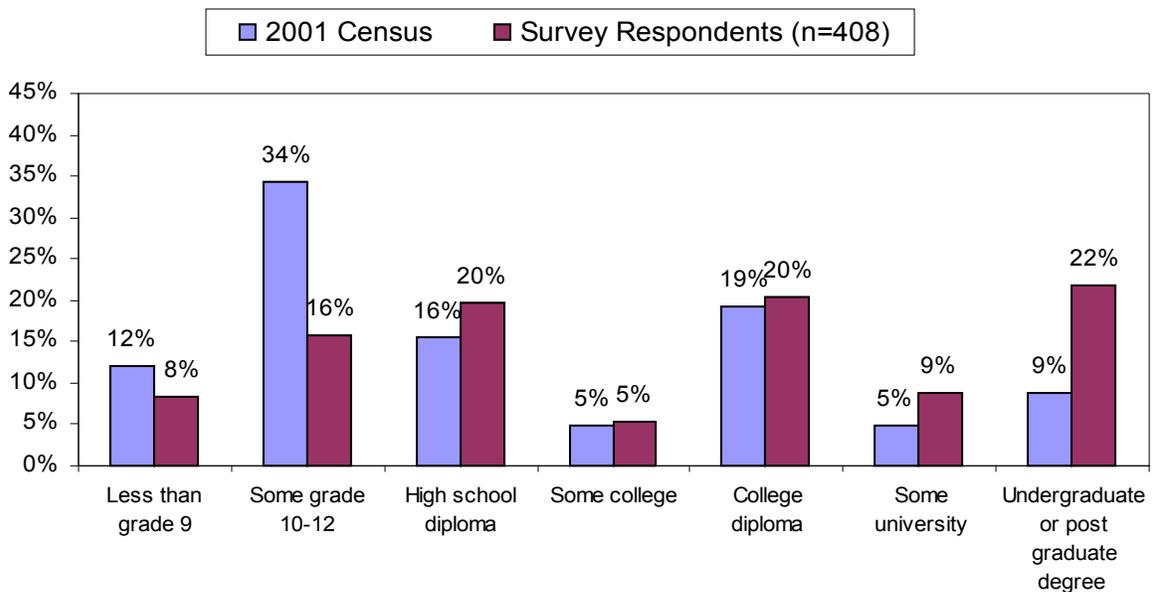
**Figure In-IV: Age of Respondents (n=427)**



Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Survey respondents had higher educational levels than that of the overall population according to the 2001 Census. Twenty-four percent of survey respondents indicated an educational level less than grade 12 compared to 46% of the overall population.

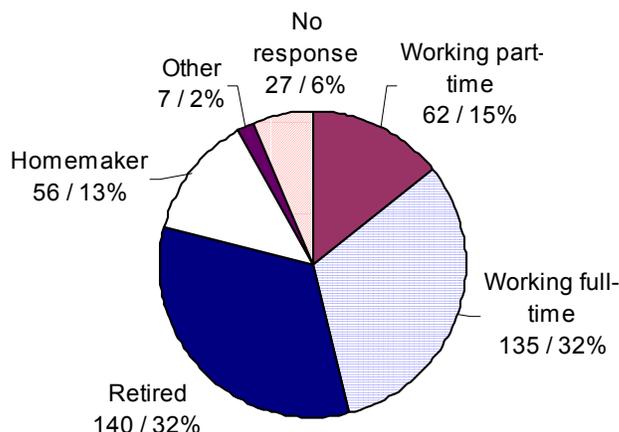
**Figure In-V: Education of Respondents Compared to Overall Population**



Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Working either “full-time” (32%, 135) or “part-time” (15%, 62) was the main activity of almost half of the respondents. Thirty-two percent of respondents (140) were “retired” and 13% of respondents (56) categorized themselves as a “homemaker”. Other main activities were “looking for work” (3), being a “student” (2) and “maternity leave” (1).

**Figure In-VI: Main Activity of Respondents (n=427)**



Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

### **Data Analysis and Reporting**

Over the summer and fall months of 2003, the project coordinator continued to gather data. This information was combined with the findings of the community and business surveys into a data report. The RLAP reviewed the report for accuracy and omissions. The team also identified which findings they wished to have highlighted. The result of this process is this report.

### **Next Steps**

The members of the committee are pleased to put this report forward for discussion and planning by the community. They recognize that residents will identify other information and topics to be considered and are encouraged to do so. This report is seen as a first step in enabling residents to know more about their community. The community members will decide what information should be added in the future and how this information will be used.

## Chapter 3: POPULATION/DEMOGRAPHICS



The number and demographic characteristics of individuals in a given community affect the health and well-being of that community. For example, young people staying in or returning to their communities, aging populations who are living longer and overall increase or decline in the population of the community influence the capacity of the community. Data on age structures are useful in determining the need for and allocation of resources for education, Day Care, health care, recreational programs and social services. The culture, heritage and ethnic diversity of the population is also important when examining the make-up or composition of a population in a rural community. Socio-demographic characteristics such as number of people living alone and number of single parent families can indicate need for social support services.

The indicators relating to Population/Demographics collected include:

*Population – age and gender groups, population growth rate, mobility.*

*Socio-Demographic – number of people living alone, population that speaks English as their first language, number of First Nations/Métis and immigrants, single parent families, labour force replacement ratio.*

### Highlights

- ✓ In 2001, Virden had a higher proportion of seniors aged 65+ (29%) than the R.M. of Wallace (10%) and the Province of Manitoba (14%) (see Table PD-1).
- ✓ In 2001, R.M. of Wallace had a higher proportion of children and youth 19 years of age and younger (34%) than Virden (24%) and Manitoba (28%) (see Table PD-1).
- ✓ Between 1996 and 2001, Virden's population declined by 0.9% and the R.M. of Wallace's population declined by 6.5% (see Table PD-4).
- ✓ In 2001, the R.M. of Wallace had a higher proportion of non-movers while Virden's mobility rates resemble that of the Province (see Tables PD-5 and PD-6).
- ✓ In 2001, one-third (34%) of the households in Virden contained a resident who lives alone. This is compared to 14% in the R.M. of Wallace and 28% in Manitoba (see Table PD-7).
- ✓ In 2001, a single parent was the head of 11% of Virden families and 8% of R.M. of Wallace families (Manitoba 18%) (see Table PD-10).

## Population

### Age and Gender Groups

Several population tables are presented within the following section including the population of the Town of Virden, R.M. of Wallace and Province of Manitoba and the population of the Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace by age group and gender for several different Statistics Canada Census years. Statistics for the R.M. of Wallace include the communities of Kola, Hargrave and Kirkella. The Village of Elkhorn is a separate municipality and is therefore not included in R.M. of Wallace statistics.

In Table PD-1 the population of the Town of Virden, R.M. of Wallace and the Province of Manitoba are presented by age group for 2001. The R.M. of Wallace has a higher proportion of children and youth aged 0 to 19 than the Town of Virden (34% compared to 24%). The R.M. of Wallace also has a higher proportion of residents between the ages of 45 and 64 than the Town of Virden (27% compared to 20%). The Town of Virden has a higher proportion of residents over the age of 65 than the R.M. of Wallace (29% compared to 10%).

Compared to the Province of Manitoba, the Town of Virden has a higher proportion of the population made up of seniors in the 65 years and older age range (29% compared to 14%) and a lower proportion of the population in the 20 to 44-age range (28% compared to 36%). Compared to the Manitoba statistics, the R.M. of Wallace showed higher proportions of the population in the 0 to 19 years (34% compared to 28%) and 45 to 64 years of age ranges (27% compared to 23%), while the 20 to 44 year olds (29% compared to 36%) and the 65 and older age ranges (10% compared to 14%) were lower than the provincial figures.

**Table PD-1: Population of Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba by Age Group, 2001**

Age Group	Town of Virden		R.M. of Wallace		Manitoba	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	3,110	100%	1,545	100%	1,119,580	100%
0-4	160	5%	105	7%	70,670	6%
5-14	380	12%	280	18%	163,045	15%
15-19	220	7%	145	9%	80,425	7%
20-24	140	5%	55	4%	72,850	7%
25-44	725	23%	380	25%	320,305	29%
45-54	360	12%	235	15%	155,710	14%
55-64	255	8%	180	12%	100,155	9%
65-74	335	11%	105	7%	78,560	7%
75-84	365	12%	50	3%	56,875	5%
85+	175	6%	5	0%	20,975	2%

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Community Profiles Cat. No. 93F0053X1E

The total population for the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace by age group for 1991, 1996 and 2001 is presented in Table PD-2. This table shows the changes in the population over the past 10 years. Overall, the Virden-Wallace area has maintained a fairly consistent age distribution from 1991 to 2001.

**Table PD-2: Population of Virden & R.M. of Wallace by Age Group, 1991, 1996 & 2001**

Age Group	1991		1996		2001	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	4,780	100%	4,795	100%	4,655	100
0-4	335	7%	290	6%	265	6%
5-14	700	15%	700	15%	660	14%
15-19	365	8%	310	7%	365	8%
20-24	245	5%	275	6%	195	4%
25-44	1,210	25%	1,195	25%	1,105	24%
45-64	915	19%	925	19%	1030	22%
65+	1020	22%	1070	23%	1035	22%

Source: Statistics Canada 1991, 1996 & 2001 Community Profiles

When examined by gender, the Virden-Wallace area has a higher proportion of females (52%, 2,430) than males (48%, 2,230). The difference is particularly noticeable in the 65 and older age group with 25% of females being in this age category compared to 20% of males. However, in Virden-Wallace there are a higher proportion of males (14%, 305) between the ages of 15 to 24 years than females (11%, 260).

**Table PD-3: Population of Virden & R.M. of Wallace by Age Group and Gender, 2001**

Age	Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace					
	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Total	2,230	100%	2,430	100%	4,655	100%
0-4	135	6%	130	5%	265	6%
5-14	310	14%	340	14%	660	14%
15-19	200	9%	165	7%	365	8%
20-24	105	5%	95	4%	195	4%
25-44	535	24%	575	24%	1,105	24%
45-54	295	13%	295	12%	595	13%
55-64	205	9%	225	9%	435	9%
65-74	195	9%	240	10%	440	9%
75-84	180	8%	240	10%	415	9%
85+	65	3%	120	5%	180	4%

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Community Profiles Cat. No. 93F0053XIE

**Population Growth Rate**

For the time period of 1996 to 2001, the population of the Town of Virden remained relatively constant (a 0.9% decrease), while the population of the R.M. of Wallace showed a decrease of 6.5%. Overall, the Virden-Wallace area saw a 2.9% decrease from a total population of 4,791 in 1996 to 4,656 in 2001.

**Table PD-4: Population Change for Virden & R.M. of Wallace, 1996 to 2001**

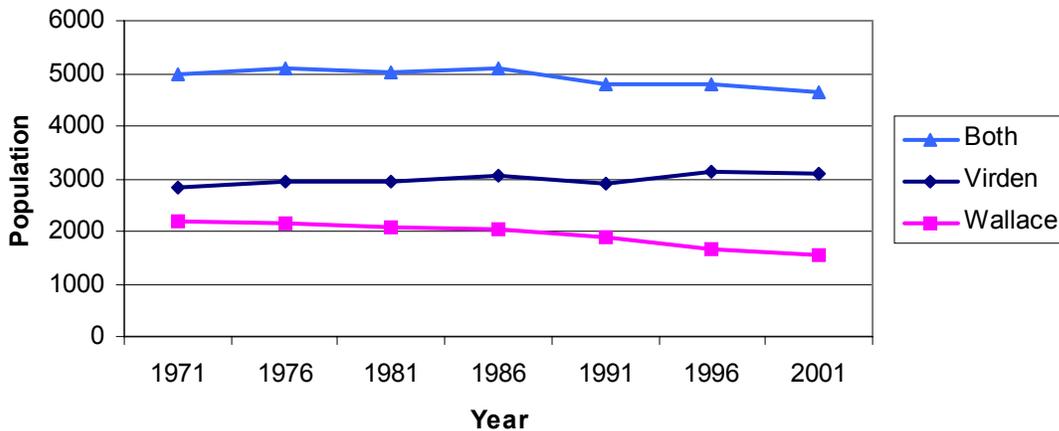
	Population in 1996*	Population in 2001	Population Change 1996-2001
Town of Virden	3,137	3,109	-0.9 %
R.M. of Wallace	1,654	1,547	-6.5 %
Town of Virden & R.M. of Wallace	4,791	4,656	-2.9 %

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Community Profiles Cat. No. 93F0053XIE

\* Note: Numbers for 1996 have been adjusted to account for changing census boundaries in the 2001 Census.

Over the past 30 years, the Virden-Wallace area has seen a decrease of approximately 7% or 350 people. While the population in the area remained fairly stable between 1971 and 1986, decreases have been seen between 1986 and 2001. The Town of Virden experienced an approximate 7% or 215 person increase between 1991 and 2001 while for the same time period, the R.M. of Wallace experienced an approximate 18% or 350 person decrease. It should be noted that between 1996 and 2001 census collection dates, the Town of Virden annexed land from the R.M. of Wallace. The residents living on this annexed land will account for a portion of the decrease in the R.M. of Wallace and a portion of the increase in the Town of Virden.

**Figure PD-I: Population Change in Virden-Wallace, 1971 to 2001**



Source: Statistics Canada

### Movers and Non-Movers

According to the 2001 Census, 87% of the Town of Virden population and 95% of the R.M. of Wallace population lived in the same residence as they had one year previous. The Manitoba rate for the same time period was 86%. Of the 400 movers into the Town of Virden, 30% (120 of 400) had come from outside of the Province. Fifteen of the 80 movers into the R.M. of Wallace (19%) had moved from outside of the Province.

Comparing the place of residence from the 2001 Census to the place of residence 5 years previous, 58% of Town of Virden residents and 83% of R.M. of Wallace residents reside at the same address. The provincial proportion of non-movers for this time period was 61%. For the Town of Virden, 18% of movers had moved from outside of the Province and 16% of movers from the R.M. of Wallace had moved from outside the Province. Overall, the Town of Virden has a proportion of movers similar to the Province while the R.M. of Wallace has a higher proportion of non-movers than the provincial figures. The mobility status for the Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace compared to one year ago and five years ago are presented in Tables PD-5 and PD-6.

**Table PD-5: Mobility Status of Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba Residents 2001, Compared to 1 Year Ago**

Mobility	Town of Virden		R.M. of Wallace		Manitoba	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population (1 year of age and older)	2,970	100%	1,530	100%	1,090,115	100%
Non-movers (lived at same address 1 year ago)	2,570	87%	1,450	95%	942,240	86%
Movers	400	14%	80	5%	147,880	14%
From within Manitoba	280	9%	65	4%	127,040	12%
From outside of Manitoba	120	4%	15	1%	20,840	2%

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Community Profiles Cat. No. 93F0053XIE

**Table PD-6: Mobility Status of Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba Residents 2001, Compared to 5 Years Ago**

Mobility	Town of Virden		R.M. of Wallace		Manitoba	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population (5 years of age and older)	2,875	100%	1,390	100%	1,032,500	100%
Non-movers (lived at same address 5 years ago)	1,670	58%	1,155	83%	631,515	61%
Movers	1,205	42%	225	16%	400,980	39%
From within Manitoba	985	34%	190	14%	338,045	33%
From outside of Manitoba	220	8%	35	3%	62,935	6%

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Community Profiles Cat. No. 93F0053XIE

## Socio-Demographic

### People Living Alone

The Town of Virden shows a higher percentage (34%) of people living alone than the provincial figures (28%) while that of the R.M. of Wallace is lower (13%).

**Table PD-7: People Living Alone in Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden	R.M. of Wallace	Manitoba
Number of People Living Alone	450	65	121,755
Total Number of Households	1,335	505	432,555
Percent of Households with People Living Alone	34%	13%	28%

Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 95F0486XCB01001

### First Language – English

Both the Town of Virden (92%) and the R.M. of Wallace (80%) show a higher percentage than the Province (75%) of people for whom English is their first language.

**Table PD-8: People Whose First Language is English for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden	R.M. of Wallace	Manitoba
Population with First Language of English	2,740	1,235	823,910
Total Population	2,985	1,545	1,103,695
Percent of Population with First Language of English	92%	80%	75%

Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 95F0486XCB01001

### First Nations/Métis and Immigrants

Both the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace show lower proportions of their population as including First Nations/Métis peoples (4% and 0% respectively) and immigrants (3% for both Town and R.M.) than the provincial figures (13% and 12%). In Virden, the immigrant population had largely immigrated to Canada prior to 1961. Immigrants in the R.M. of Wallace had arrived more recently, with the most recent immigrants coming from Mexico.

**Table PD-9: First Nations/Métis Peoples & Immigrants for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden	R.M. of Wallace	Manitoba
Total Population	2,985	1,545	1,119,583
Number of First Nations/Métis People	120	0	150,045
Percent of Population that are First Nations/Métis	4%	0%	13%
Immigrant Population	80	40	133,660
Percent of Population who are immigrants	3%	3%	12%

*Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Community Profiles Cat. No. 93F0053XIE*

### Single Parent Families

Single parent families, usually headed by women, often have an income below the poverty line. Eleven percent of families with children in the Town of Virden and 8% of families with children in the R.M. of Wallace are single parent families. Provincially, single parents head 16% of all families with children.

**Table PD-10: Single Parent Families with Children for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden	R.M. of Wallace	Manitoba
Number of single parent families with at least one child	95	35	49,160
Total number of families with at least one child	865	440	302,855
Percentage of single parent Families with children	11%	8%	16%

*Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 95F0486XCB01001*

### Labour Force Replacement Ratio

The labour force replacement ratio measures the potential number of new entries into the labour force (those currently 0 to 14 years of age) compared to the potential number of people exiting the labour force (those currently 45 to 64 years of age) in the community. The Town of Virden has a labour force replacement ratio of 88% and the R.M. of Wallace has a ratio of 93%. This can be compared to the provincial ratio of 91%. The ratios indicate that slightly more working age people will be needed than currently reside in the area, to replace those exiting the labour force.

**Table PD-11: Labour Force Replacement for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	<b>Town of Virden</b>	<b>R.M. of Wallace</b>	<b>Manitoba</b>
Number of Children aged 0-14	540	385	233,715
Number of People aged 45-64	615	415	255,865
Labour Force Replacement Ratio	88%	93%	91%

*Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Community Profiles Cat. No. 93F0053XIE*

## Chapter 4: EDUCATION



Effective education for children and lifelong learning for adults are key contributors to health and prosperity for individuals and for their communities. Education contributes to health and prosperity by equipping people with knowledge and skills for problem solving helping provide a sense of control and mastery over life circumstances. It increases opportunities for job and income security and job satisfaction. Early childhood education, basic and post-secondary education, literacy, continuing and life-long learning all contribute to health and well-being.

The indicators relating to Education collected include:

Educational Attainment Levels – *highest level of education, changes over last ten years.*

Primary and Secondary Education – *total enrolment, student teacher ratio, spending per student, multi-grade classes, electronically delivered interactive courses.*

Upgrading, Lifelong Learning, Continuing Education – *academic upgrading and continuing education offered in the community.*

Early Childhood Development – *number of preschoolers screened for healthy child development.*

### Highlights

- ✓ The total enrollment for the 2 elementary schools, 1 junior high and 1 high school in the Town of Virden was 1,087 students in 2001 (see Table Ed-1).
- ✓ In 2001, the Kola School (K-S1) had an enrollment of 42 students and Elkhorn School had 221 students. The Plainview and Boundary Lane Hutterite Colonies had enrollments of 23 and 22 students respectively (see Table Ed-1).
- ✓ The Fort La Bosse School Division had a decrease of 125 full-time equivalent students from the 2001-2002 to the 2003-2004 school year (see page 36).
- ✓ In 2001, 48% of Virden's population and 43% of R.M. of Wallace's population (aged 20+) had not completed high school (Manitoba 34%) (see Table Ed-3).
- ✓ In 2001, 27% of Virden's population and 31% of R.M. of Wallace's population (aged 20+) held a college or trades certificate/diploma or a university degree (Manitoba 40%) (see Table Ed-3).

## Community Survey Highlights

- ✓ In the past 12 months, 16 respondents took community college courses, 16 took general interest courses, 13 took university-level courses, 5 took grade 12 or equivalent courses and 4 took technical courses (see Table Ed-6).
- ✓ Some 15% of survey respondents indicated they would take education/training courses in the next 12 months if they were offered in the community (see 42).
- ✓ Most survey respondents preferred an in-class method of delivery for education and training; however, distance education was preferred for university-level courses (see Table Ed-7).
- ✓ Distance/lack of availability (30%) and affordability (29%) were top challenges to upgrading skills and education (see Table Ed-8).

### **Primary and Secondary Education**

The Town of Virden has two elementary schools (grades K-4), one middle school (grades 5-8) and one high school (Senior 1-4). R.M. of Wallace students are served by Kola School which houses kindergarten to Senior 1 students and Elkhorn School which houses kindergarten to Senior 4 students. Two Hutterite Colony's in the R.M. of Wallace each have a school: the Plainview Colony with an enrollment of 23 and Boundary Lane with an enrollment of 22. The total enrollment of each school, the student-teacher ratio and the spending per student are presented in Table Ed-1. The student-teacher ratios vary from 12.1:1 to 15:1.

From the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year to the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year, enrollments for the Fort La Bosse School Division had decreased by 125 full-time equivalent students.

**Table Ed-1: Total Enrollment in Primary/Secondary Education, Student Teacher Ratio and Spending Per Student, 2001**

	Name of School	Type of School	Enrollment	Student Teacher Ratio	Spending Per Student
Town of Virden	Goulter	Elementary (K-4)	171	13.2:1	\$7,465
	Mary Montgomery	Elementary (K-4)	145	12.1:1	\$7,465
	Virden Junior High	Middle School (5-8)	321	14:1	\$7,465
	Virden Collegiate	High School (S1-S4)	450	15:1	\$7,465
R.M. of Wallace	Kola School	Mixed (K-S1)	42	14:1	\$7,465
	Plainview Colony	Mixed (1-S2)	23	--	--
	Boundary Lane	Mixed (1-S2)	22	--	--
	Elkhorn School	Mixed (K-S4)	221	15:1	\$7,465

*Source: Manitoba Community Profiles website*

The number of multi-grade classes in the schools is determined year by year, depending upon need. In 2002-2003, the Goulter Elementary School and Virden Junior High did not have any multi-grade classes. Two of Mary Montgomery's seven classes were multi-grade, as were two of Elkhorn School's eight elementary classes.

Virden Collegiate offered 202 courses in 2002-2003, 17 of which were offered as multi-grade courses. Seven of the 42 courses offered to Elkhorn School's senior students were offered as multi-grade courses. Multi-grade courses refer to courses in which two or more different grade levels are taught during the same class period. Examples of multi-grade classes include electronics, band, choir and art classes.

**Table Ed-2: Percentage of Multi-grade Classes, 2002-2003**

	Name of School	Type of Class	# of Multi-grade Classes	Total # of Classes	% of Multi-grade Classes
Town of Virden	Goulter	Elementary	0	8	0%
	Mary Montgomery	Elementary	2	7	28.6%
	Virden Junior High	Junior High	0	12	0%
	Virden Collegiate*	Senior	17	202	8.4%
R.M. of Wallace	Kola School	Mixed	3	3	100%
	Elkhorn School	Elementary	2	8	25%
	Elkhorn School*	Senior	7	42	16.7%

Source: Fort La Bosse School Division

\* Statistics for Senior classes are relating to courses that are offered as multi-grade courses.

### **Educational Attainment Levels**

The educational attainments levels for residents of the Town of Virden, R.M. of Wallace and Province of Manitoba are presented in Table Ed-3. The percentage of the population 20 years or older that has not completed high school is 48% for the Town of Virden and 43% for the R.M. of Wallace. Both Virden and the R.M. of Wallace have a higher proportion of the population without a high school certificate compared to the Province of Manitoba (34%). Some 27% of Virden's population and 31% of the R.M. of Wallace's population holds a college or trades certificate/diploma or a university degree. Provincially, 40% of Manitobans over the age of 20 hold this level of educational attainment.

**Table Ed-3: Population by Educational Attainment Level for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

Education Level	Town of Virden		R.M. of Wallace		Manitoba	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population aged 20 +	2230	100%	1015	100%	789,615	100%
Less than Grade 9	270	12%	125	12%	86,805	11%
Grade 9 – 12, no certificate	810	36%	310	31%	185,090	23%
Secondary school certificate	335	15%	170	17%	89,725	11%
Non University without certificate	105	5%	55	5%	44,715	6%
College or trades certificate /diploma	375	17%	250	25%	205,415	26%
University without degree	110	5%	50	5%	64,710	8%
University with bachelor's degree or higher	230	10%	60	6%	113,150	14%

Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 93F0053XIE

The educational attainment levels for the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace for 1991, 1996 and 2001 are presented in Table Ed-4. Direct comparisons cannot be made as 1991 and 1996 numbers include all persons over the age of 15, while 2001 numbers include only persons over the age of 20. Overall, the number of residents with a college certificate or diploma appears to be rising in Virden-Wallace, as does the number of residents with a trades certificate or diploma. The number of residents with a university bachelor's degree or higher appears to be rising in the Town of Virden while remaining fairly stable in the R.M. of Wallace. Overall, educational levels in Virden-Wallace are increasing.

**Table Ed-4: Educational Attainment Levels for Virden & R.M. of Wallace, 1991, 1996 & 2001**

Highest Level of Schooling	Town of Virden			R.M. of Wallace		
	1991	1996	2001*	1991	1996	2001*
Total Population 15+ *20+ for 2001	2235	2305	2230	1395	1375	1015
Less than Grade 9	415	355	270	190	115	125
Grade 9 – 12, no certificate	755	835	810	485	555	310
Secondary school certificate	310	310	335	265	210	170
Trades certificate or diploma	95	50	180	35	85	130
College without certificate	75	50	105	60	95	55
College with certificate/diploma	250	290	195	150	180	120
University without degree	190	190	110	130	80	50
University with bachelor's degree or higher	140	220	230	65	50	60

Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles & Cat. No. 93F0053XIE

## **Upgrading, Life Long Learning and Continuing Education**

Due to budget cuts and lack of further funding, Virден’s Adult Learning Centre was closed in June 2002. This center offered a day program for adult learners to achieve their GED and operated in the community for 3 years.

Virден has an APPLE (Association of Parents and Professionals for Literacy Education) program. This program is geared towards providing literacy skills to individuals who require literacy upgrading. Since the closing of the Adult Learning Centre, APPLE also accepts learners who want to achieve their GED. This center also offers the Canadian Adult Achievement Test (CAAT) for those wanting to pursue a higher education. The Centre provides upgrading in areas of need identified by the CAAT test until academic improvement is achieved. As of 2003, eight full-time students are enrolled in APPLE and a number of people use the services on a part-time or drop-in basis.

Assiniboine Community College (ACC) and Border Regional Library CAP site offer computer application courses in Virден throughout the year. The number of courses and learners vary. In the Fall/Winter session of 2003 ACC offered a Computer Literacy and a Windows computer course in Virден. ACC has also offered Food Safe 1 and Food Safe 1 re-certification courses in Virден. Prairie West Recreation offers recreational and general interest courses in the community. A listing of Prairie West offered courses can be found under Recreation, Culture and Leisure.

## **Early Childhood Development**

Virден hosts a preschool wellness fair every spring. In 2001, 131 children were registered for the event and in 2003, 113 children were registered. Statistics are not available for 2002. The following table indicates the number of children screened for each of hearing, vision, development and speech language. The table also indicates the number and percentage of children who were screened and then referred to specialists. In 2003, the percentages of preschoolers screened who were referred to a specialist were 25% for speech language (17 of 69), 22% for hearing (17 of 78), 15% for vision (7 of 48) and 12% for developmental assessment follow-up (7 of 57). Please note that a referral does not necessarily mean that the child was treated.

**Table Ed-5: Preschool Wellness Fair Screenings and Referrals to Specialists**

Type of Screening	2001			2003		
	# screened	# referred	% referred	# screened	# referred	% referred
Hearing	89	29	32%	78	17	22%
Vision	59	6	10%	48	7	15%
Development	61	10	17%	57	7	12%
Speech language	87	22	25%	69	17	25%

*Source: Virден Preschool Wellness Fair 2001 & 2003 Reports*

## ***Community Survey Findings***

In the Virden-Wallace community survey, residents were asked to indicate the type of education and training that they had taken in 2002. They were also asked to indicate if they would take education or training over the next 12 months if it was available and what their biggest challenges were for upgrading their skills and education.

### **Education and Training Taken Over Past 12 Months**

Sixteen respondents had taken community college courses in the past 12 months, 16 had taken general interest courses, 13 had taken university-level courses, 5 had taken grade 12 or equivalent courses and 4 had taken courses that they classified as 'technical'. Other education and training taken included work related courses (8), first aid and CPR (2), emergency management (2) and anger management (1). The method of delivery of education and training taken in 2002 is presented in Table Ed-6.

Respondents indicated that in 2002, in-class university courses were taken at Brandon University (4), University of Winnipeg (1) and University of Saskatchewan (1). University courses taken by distance education were taken from the University of Alberta (2), University of Manitoba (1), and Dalhousie University (1). Two of the distance education courses were taken via the Internet, and two were taken by correspondence. One course, taken as a combination of in-class and distance education, was from Brandon University. Specified locations for in-class community college courses were Assiniboine Community College (9) and Winnipeg (1). Community college courses taken totally or partially by distance education were offered by Red River Community College (2) and Assiniboine Community College (2). One of these courses was offered via the Internet.

In-class general interest courses were most commonly taken locally (12 of 14) and specified providers included Prairie West, Adult Learning Centre and Assiniboine Community College. In-class general interest courses taken outside the community were taken in Souris and Brandon. The two distance education general interest classes were taken via the Internet. In-class courses listed in the 'other' category were taken in Virden (4), Brandon (2), Winnipeg (2), McAuley (1) and the United States (1). Two of the three 'other' courses that were taken by distance education were taken via the Internet.

**Table Ed-6: Education and Training Taken in 2002 (n=427)**

Type of Class	# of responses	Method of Delivery			
		In-class	Via the Internet/ correspondence	Combination of in-class & distance education	Not specified
Grade 12 or equivalent	5	2	--	--	3
University	13	6	4	2	1
Community College	16	11	3	1	1
Technical	4	1	1	1	1
General interest, (e.g., computer, painting, etc.)	16	14	2	--	--
Other	17	10	3	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

**Education and Training Desired Over Next 12 Months**

Fifteen percent of respondents (65) reported that they would take education/training courses in the next 12 months if they were available in the community. Thirty-two respondents reported that they would take general interest courses. Respondents who specified a type of general interest course indicated art and craft classes (6), painting (5), quilting (4), sewing (2), cooking (2), yoga (1), piano lessons (1), landscaping (1) and photography (1). Twenty respondents indicated an interest in taking a computer course over the next 12 months. Ten respondents reported that they would be interested in taking technical courses over the next 12 months. Specified technical courses were woodworking (4), and one each for welding, electrical, small engine repair, emergency planning, clinical technician and courses specific to the respondent’s industry of employment.

Twenty-two respondents indicated an interest in community college courses and 20 respondents indicated an interest in taking university courses over the next 12 months. Of the 22 respondents who indicated an interest in community college courses, 11 stated that they desired to take this training in-class, 7 preferred to take the training by distance education (correspondence or over the Internet) and 4 indicated that either method of delivery or a combination would be acceptable. Respondents who wanted to take university courses were more likely to indicate a preference for distance education than in-class courses. Four of the 20 respondents preferred to take the course(s) in-class, 8 preferred to take courses by correspondence or via the Internet and 6 indicated that either method or a combination of both was acceptable.

Ten respondents indicated a desire to take courses of a type not listed. Specified responses for ‘other’ included work-related courses (2), Spanish (2) and one each for typing, language training, health and well-being courses, financial courses, Apple upgrading and a course for the visually impaired. The number of respondents indicating an interest in taking education and training and their preferred method of delivery are presented in Table Ed-7.

**Table Ed-7: Education and Training Desired Over Next 12 Months (n=427)**

Type of Class	# of responses	Preferred Method of Delivery			
		In-class	Distance Education (Via the Internet/ correspondence)	Any method or combination of in-class & distance education	Not specified
Grade 12 or equivalent	1	--	1	--	--
University	20	4	8	6	2
Community College	22	11	7	4	--
Technical	10	5	4	1	--
General interest, (e.g., painting, crafts, etc.)	32	19	2	4	7
Computer (This category was not listed on the survey. Responses indicating a desire for computer training in the technical, general interest and other categories have been combined.)	20	9	--	3	8
Other	10	6	1	1	2
Total (Some respondents indicated more than one area of interest.)	115	54	23	19	19

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, May 2003*

### **Challenges to Upgrading Skills and Education**

Respondents were asked to indicate challenges for upgrading skills and education from a list of choices. ‘Distance/lack of availability’ and ‘affordability’ were the most frequently reported challenges indicated by 30% (129) and 29% (122) of respondents respectively. Twenty-five percent of respondents (108) reported ‘inflexibility of personal/work schedule’ was a challenge, 16% (68) stated ‘children at home’ was a challenge and 10% (44) indicated a ‘lack of information on programs’ was a challenge to upgrading their skills or education. Respondents indicated a number of other challenges to upgrading their skills and education including their age (13), a lack of time to take courses (9), lack of motivation (2), their health (2), not being interested in upgrading (2) and a lack of Day Care (1).

**Table Ed-8: Challenges for Upgrading Skills and Education (n=427)**

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Distance / lack of availability	129	30%
Affordability	122	29%
Inflexibility of personal / work schedule	108	25%
Children at home	68	16%
Lack of information on programs	44	10%
Other		
<i>Age (Elderly)</i>	13	--
<i>Lack of time</i>	9	--
<i>Not applicable</i>	3	--
<i>Lack of motivation</i>	2	--
<i>Health</i>	2	--
<i>Not interested</i>	2	--
<i>Day care</i>	1	--

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## Chapter 5: ECONOMICS



The number, types and diversity of businesses within communities, the skill of the labour force, the employment and training opportunities and the cost of living are all indicators of the health and well-being of communities. The unemployment rate can indicate the proportion of people who do not have employment and who are likely to have unfavourable living conditions, decrease in household income and reduction in social activities. The net unemployment growth can indicate whether fewer or more economic impacts of employment are seen from year to year within a community. The major employers in a community show the distribution of the labour force and diversity of business/industry. The number and types of businesses within the Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace can help indicate the number of employment opportunities within the community, the business taxation base and the resources available to the residents of the community and the catchment area.

The indicators relating to the Economics category collected include:

Socio-economic – *people living below low income and government transfer income.*

Employment – *unemployment rates, net unemployment growth, major employers and commuting rates.*

Business & Industry – *number of businesses in the community and percentage of businesses by sector.*

### Highlights

- ✓ Unemployment rates for the area have dropped since 1996 (see Table Ec-5).
- ✓ In 2001, the Town of Virden (5.8%) and the R.M. of Wallace (2.1%) had unemployment rates lower than that of Manitoba (6.1%) (see Table Ec-5).
- ✓ In 2001, 15% of the Town of Virden's population and 17% of the R.M. of Wallace's population lived on income below the low income cut-off point (as defined by Statistics Canada) (see Table Ec-1).
- ✓ In 2001, 14% of the Town of Virden's workers and 41% of the R.M. of Wallace's workers commuted to a workplace outside of the community (see Table Ec-8).
- ✓ According to the Manitoba Community Profiles website, the Town of Virden has 16 and the R.M. of Wallace has 15 different types of businesses (see page 50).
- ✓ In 2001, the Town of Virden's employment was distributed amongst a variety of sectors including 'other service industry' (20%), retail and wholesale trade (19%) and health and social services (16%) (see Table Ec-8).
- ✓ In 2001, for the R.M. of Wallace, 44% of employment was in the primary industry sector (agriculture, forestry, mining) (see Table Ec-9).
- ✓ According to Statistics Canada, in 2001, a total of 305 farms in the R.M. of Wallace reported the usage of 281,834 acres of land. The average size farm was 924 acres. Some 60% of the land was reported as 'land in crops', 20% was 'natural land for pasture, 8% was 'tame or seeded pasture' and 6% was 'summerfallow land' (see page 51).

- ✓ According to Statistics Canada, in 2001, the main farms types were cattle (34%), grain and oilseed crop (30%) and wheat crop (11%) (see page 52).
- ✓ According to Statistics Canada, in 2001, the R.M. of Wallace had the highest cattle numbers in Southwest Manitoba compared to other R.M.s and was the third largest cattle producer provincially (see page 52).
- ✓ According to the local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives office, in 2003 the number of PMU farms in R.M. of Wallace dropped from 13 to 4 due to the downsizing of the industry (see page 52).
- ✓ According to Statistics Canada, in 2001, 44% of farms in the R.M. of Wallace reported paying wages or salaries for agricultural work (see page 55).
- ✓ A total of 875 active oil-producing wells are located in 3 oil fields in the Virden-Wallace area (see Table Ec-17).
- ✓ Approximately 20 oil producing companies and 24 service and supply companies have their Manitoba offices located in Virden (see page 56).

### **Community Survey Highlights**

- ✓ Some 48% of respondents had traveled outside of the community for apparel and accessories and 34% of respondents had traveled outside of the community for groceries on a regular basis over the past 12 months (see Table Ec-18).
- ✓ Some 15% of employed survey respondents worked outside of Virden-Wallace (see page 59).

### **Business Survey Highlights**

- ✓ Some 42% of businesses survey respondents reported that they had employees who commuted (see page 60).
- ✓ Top required skills of employees were sales and customer service (54%), communication (48%), accounting/bookkeeping (42%) and computer skills (42%) (see Table Ec-19).
- ✓ Some 38% of respondents indicated their business had benefits plans (see page 62).
- ✓ Businesses donated substantially to community events and organizations (see page 62)
- ✓ The average annual charitable donation per business was \$3,200 (see page 62).
- ✓ Some 52% of respondents planned on their business staying the same and 27% reported they planned on expanding their business (see Table Ec-20).

## Socio-economic

### People Living Below the Low Income Cut-off Point

Statistics Canada defines the “low income cut-offs” as income levels at which families or unattached individuals are expected to experience “strained” circumstances. The low income cut-off point is a threshold below which a family will devote a larger share of its income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than an average family would. Low-income cut-offs are dependant upon family size and the degree of urbanization of the area of residence (i.e., the size of the community in which people live). As a percentage of the total population living in private households in the community, 15% of the Town of Virden and 17% of the R.M. of Wallace’s population can be classified as living below the low income cut-off point. The Manitoba incidence rate for low income is 18%. When looking at the incidence of low income among economic families (a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption), 9% of families in Virden, 12% of families in R.M. of Wallace and 13% of families in Manitoba live below the low income cut-off point (Table Ec-2). However, when examined by unattached individuals (a person living alone or with others who are not related to them), 47% of unattached individuals in the R.M. of Wallace have a low-income, which is higher than Manitoba’s rate of 40% and Virden’s rate of 36% (Table Ec-3).

**Table Ec-1: Incidence of Low Income Among Population in Private Households for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden	R.M. of Wallace	Manitoba
Total – Population in private households	2970	1410	1,035,790
Low income	430	240	180,975
Incidence of low income %	15%	17%	18%

*Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 95F0492XCB01001*

**Table Ec-2: Incidence of Low Income Among Economic Families for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden	R.M. of Wallace	Manitoba
Total – Economic families	860	435	289,810
Low income	80	55	38,565
Incidence of low income %	9%	12%	13%

*Source: Statistics Canada Cat No. 95F0492XCB01001*

**Table Ec-3: Incidence of Low Income Among Unattached Individuals for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden	R.M. of Wallace	Manitoba
Total – Unattached individuals 15 years and older	525	70	147,895
Low income	170	30	59,695
Incidence of low income %	36%	47%	40%

*Source: Statistics Canada Cat No. 95F0492XCB01001*

### **Government Transfer Income**

Government transfer income refers to total income from all transfer payments received from federal, provincial or municipal governments during the 2000 calendar year including Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Child Tax Benefits and other income from government sources. Twenty-percent of the Town of Virden's and 14% of the R.M. of Wallace's total income is a result of government transfer. For Manitoba this percentage is 13%. The proportion of seniors is higher for the Town of Virden. As seniors usually receive Old Age Security and Canada Pension Plan benefits, this may account for much of the higher percentage of transfer income.

**Table Ec-4: Government Transfer Income as a Percentage of the Community's Total Income for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden	R.M. of Wallace	Manitoba
Government transfer income as a percentage of the community's total income	20%	14%	13%

*Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 95F0492XCB01001*

## ***Employment***

### **Unemployment Rates and Net Unemployment Growth**

In 2001, the unemployment rate in Virden was 5.8%, which was down by 1.1% compared to 5 years previous in 1996. The R.M. of Wallace had an unemployment rate of 2.1% in 2001. This was down by 4.1% from 1996. In 2001, both Virden (5.8%) and R.M. of Wallace (2.1%) had unemployment rates lower than that of Manitoba (6.1%).

**Table Ec-5: Unemployment Rate and Net Unemployment Growth for Virden, R.M. of Wallace & Manitoba, 1991 to 2001**

	Unemployment Rate			Net Unemployment Change	
	1991	1996	2001	1991 to 1996	1996 to 2001
Town of Virden	3.4%	6.9%	5.8%	3.5%	-1.1%
R.M.of Wallace	2.8%	6.2%	2.1%	3.4%	-4.1%
Manitoba	8.1%	7.9%	6.1%	-0.2%	-1.8%

*Source: Statistics Canada Community Profiles 1991, 1996 and 2001*

### Major Employers

As of 2003, Town of Virden employers with the largest numbers of employees were the Fort La Bosse School Division (80 employees), the Virden District Hospital (50 employees), the Manitoba Department of Highways (48 employees) and Valleyview Co-op Limited (47 employees). The sectors with the most employees in Virden included the public sectors of education, health services and transportation and service sectors in both sales and hospitality. The Town of Virden employers with the largest numbers of employees, the sector to which they belong and the numbers of people they employ are presented in the following table. Due to seasonal employment and changes in the industry, the numbers presented may fluctuate.

**Table Ec-6: Number of Employees by each Major Business in the Town Of Virden, 2002**

Name	Sector	Number of Employees
Fort La Bosse School Division	Education	80
Virden District Hospital	Health Services	50
Manitoba Department of Highways	Transportation	48
Valleyview Co-op Limited	Service / Sales	47
Jay's Inn & Suites/Central Hotel	Service / Hospitality	35
Four Season Sales	Service / Sales	30

*Source: Manitoba Community Profiles Website and Community Assessment Coordinator*

In the R.M. of Wallace, the employers with the largest numbers of employees are Heartland Livestock (35 employees), T.L. Penner Management (27 employees), Kola Feed Service (23 employees), Chevron Canada Resources (21 employees) and ERCO Worldwide (20 employees). The sectors of these businesses include agriculture, construction, oil and manufacturing. The employers with the largest numbers of employees for the R.M. of Wallace, the sector to which they belong and the numbers of people they employ are presented in the following table.

**Table Ec-7: Number of Employees by each Major Business in the R.M. of Wallace, 2002**

Name	Sector	Number of Employees
Heartland Livestock	Agricultural	35
T.L. Penner Management (Kola)	Construction	27
Kola Feed Service	Agricultural	23
Chevron Canada Resources	Oil	21
ERCO Worldwide	Sodium Chlorate Manufacturing	20

*Source: Manitoba Community Profiles Website and Community Assessment Coordinator*

For the Town of Virden, 14% of workers (195 of 1380) commuted to a workplace outside of the Town. For the R.M. of Wallace, the percentage of workers traveling outside of the Municipality was 41% (380 of 920). Most of the commuters traveled to destinations in adjacent communities to work. Census Division #6 includes the Town of Virden, R.M. of Wallace, Town of Oak Lake, Village of Elkhorn, Sioux Valley First Nation and the R.M.s of Sifton, Pipestone and Woodworth. Some 7% (95 of 1380) of Virden's workers traveled outside of this area to work, as did 5% (50 of 920) of the R.M. of Wallace's workers.

**Table Ec-8: Number of Employees Commuting Outside of the Community to Work for Virden & R.M. of Wallace, 2001**

	Town of Virden		R.M. of Wallace	
Total employed labour force aged 15 years and over	1,380	100%	920	100%
Working outside of the community	195	14%	380	41%
Working outside of the Census Division	95	7%	50	5%

*Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 95F0490XCB01001*

## ***Business & Industry***

### **Number of Businesses and Franchises in the Community**

As of 2003, the total number of businesses located in the Town of Virden and surrounding area is 350 and the number of businesses in the community of Kola is 14. For this report, a franchise was defined as any business that had another location by the same name in another community. Virden has a total of 31 franchises and the R.M. of Wallace has 3. All but 6 of Virden's 31 franchises are locally owned and none of R.M. of Wallace's 3 franchises are locally owned.

### **Business Sectors**

According to the Manitoba Community Profiles website, Virden has 16 different types of businesses and the R.M. of Wallace has 15 different types of businesses. The largest percentage of employment in Virden was in the other service industry category (20%), followed by retail and wholesale trade (19%) and health and social services (16%). For the R.M. of Wallace the largest percentage of employment was in the primary industry sector (44%) followed by other

service industries (12%). Presented in Table Ec-9 are the percentages of employment in the Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace by sector.

**Table Ec-9: Percentage of Employment by Sector for Virden & R.M. of Wallace, 2001**

Sector	Town of Virden		R.M. of Wallace	
	#	%	#	%
Total labour force aged 15 years and older	1445	100%	940	100%
Primary industries (Agriculture, forestry, mining)	155	11%	415	44%
Manufacturing	25	2%	30	3%
Construction	60	4%	55	6%
Transportation and warehousing	115	8%	70	7%
Retail and wholesale trade	280	19%	70	7%
Financial, insurance, and real estate sector	50	3%	50	5%
Educational services	160	11%	45	5%
Health care and social services	225	16%	70	7%
Public administration	55	4%	20	2%
Other service industries	295	20%	110	12%

Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 95F0490XCB01001

## **Agriculture**

In the 2001 Statistics Canada Agricultural Census, a total of 305 farms in the R.M. of Wallace reported the usage of 281,834 acres (114,054 hectares) of land. The average size of farms in the area was 924 acres (374 hectares). Sixty percent of the land was reported as 'land in crops' (167,790 acres), 20% (55,089 acres) was 'natural land for pasture', 8% (22,270 acres) was 'tame or seeded pasture' and 6% (17,209) was 'summerfallow land'.

**Table Ec-10: Land Use in the R.M. of Wallace, 2000**

Use	Farms Reporting	Acres	Hectares	% of Total Land
Land in Crops	276	167,790	67,902	60%
Natural Land for Pasture	212	55,089	22,294	20%
Tame or Seeded Pasture	109	22,270	9,012	8%
Summerfallow Land	111	17,209	6,964	6%
All Other Land	234	19,476	7,882	7%
Total	305	281,834	114,054	100%

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census

Of the 292 farms in the R.M. of Wallace that provided a farm type based on their primary type of livestock or crop in the 2001 Agricultural Census, 39% (114) classified their farm type as cattle (beef), 30% as grain and oilseed crop and 11% as wheat crop.

**Table Ec-11: Farm Types for the R.M. of Wallace, 2001**

Type	# of farm	% of farms
Cattle (beef)	114	39%
Grain and Oilseed (except wheat)	87	30%
Wheat	31	11%
Miscellaneous: Specialty	22	8%
Field Crop (except grain and oilseed)	14	5%
Livestock Combo	7	2%
Hog	6	2%
Dairy	3	1%
Other Combination	3	1%
Poultry and Egg	2	1%
Fruit	2	1%
Vegetable	1	--
Total farms reporting	292	100%

*Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census*

### **Livestock**

According to the 2001 Agricultural Census, the R.M. of Wallace had the highest cattle numbers in Southwest Manitoba compared to other reporting R.M.s and was the third largest cattle producer provincially. Livestock numbers for 2001 can be found in Table Ec-12. In 2001, 180 farms in the area reported having a total of 28,761 head of cattle (including calves). Sixteen farms reported a total of 34,512 pigs, 18 farms reported a total of 10,114 chickens, 80 farms reported a total of 2,469 horses and ponies and 9 farms reported a total of 1,274 sheep and lambs. According to the local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) office, with the recent BSE crisis, cattle numbers have dropped in the area in the past months. Also, in the Fall of 2003 the number of PMU farms in R.M. of Wallace dropped from 13 to 4 due to downsizing of the industry.

In Manitoba, an intensive livestock operation (ILO) is considered to be 400 or more animal units per location. According to the local MAFRI representative, there would currently be 6 beef operations in R.M. of Wallace that meet the criteria of ILO with the largest being 2500 animal units and 7 hog operations with 400 to 750 animal units.

**Table Ec-12: Livestock in the R.M. of Wallace, 2000\***

<b>Livestock</b>	<b>Farms Reporting</b>	<b>Number of animals</b>
Total Cattle & Calves	180	28,761
Bulls, 1 year and over	140	379
Dairy cows	5	134
Beef cows	163	9,235
Total heifers, 1 yr & over	100	4,276
Steers, 1 yr & over	56	5,026
Calves under 1 year	171	9,711
Total Pigs	16	34,512
Boars	7	81
Sows & gilts for breeding	8	6,059
Nursing & weaner pigs	7	12,368
Grower & finishing pigs	13	16,004
Total Sheep & Lambs	9	1,274
Rams	7	40
Ewes	9	671
Total Lambs	8	563
Total Hens & Chickens	18	10,114
Horses & Ponies	80	2,469
Goats	9	135
Llamas & Alpacas	5	10

*Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census*

*\* Numbers of livestock on three or fewer farms have been suppressed for confidentiality.*

### **Cropped Land**

Of farms in the R.M. of Wallace reporting area in crop and summerfallow, the size of farms ranged from under 10 acres to over 1,600 acres. The greatest proportion of farms (reporting area in crops and summerfallow) was in the 240 to 399 acre farm size (15% of respondents).

**Table Ec-13: Size of Farms in the R.M. of Wallace, 2001 (of farms reporting area in crops and summerfallow)**

Acres	# of Farms	% of Farms
Under 10	4	1%
10 – 69	24	9%
70 – 129	27	10%
130 – 179	28	10%
180 – 239	20	7%
240 – 399	42	15%
400 – 559	28	10%
560 – 759	24	9%
760 – 1119	30	11%
1120 – 1599	24	9%
1600 & over	25	9%
Total farms reporting area in crops and summerfallow	276	100%

*Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census*

The most common crop grown in the R.M. of Wallace was spring wheat, covering 31% (52,441 acres) of cropped land. Barley was grown on 20% (33,806 acres) and canola was grown on 18% (29,647) of cropped land. The area of land dedicated to each crop is presented in Table Ec-14.

**Table Ec-14: Crops Grown in the R.M. of Wallace, 2000\***

Crop	Farms Reporting	Acres	Hectares	% of Land in Crop*
Spring Wheat (excluding durum)	134	52,441	21,222	31%
Barley	120	33,806	13,681	20%
Canola	95	29,647	11,998	18%
Alfalfa & Alfalfa Mixtures	127	15,304	6,193	9%
Oats	94	13,157	5,324	8%
Winter Wheat	23	5,939	2,403	4%
Flaxseed	38	5,783	2,340	3%
Other Tame Hay & Fodder Crops	59	5,659	2,290	3%
Dry Field Peas	8	1,871	757	1%
Mixed Grain	6	1,329	538	1%
Rye	9	1,009	408	1%
Durum Wheat	3	575	233	--
Other Field Crops	4	501	203	--
Forage Seed for Seed	3	66	27	--
<b>Total Land in Crops</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>167,790</b>	<b>67,902</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census

\* Information on crops grown on only 1 or 2 farms in the area has been suppressed for confidentiality.

### **Paid Agricultural Workers**

According to 2001 Agricultural Census results, a total of 44% of farms in the R.M. of Wallace (134 of 305) reported paying wages or salaries for agricultural work. Of these 134 farms, 40% (54) reported paying for year round agricultural work and 67% (90) reported paying for agricultural work on a seasonal or temporary basis (this includes 10 farms reporting both year round and seasonal/temporary work). While the number of persons employed was not available, an average of 39 weeks of paid work per farm was reported. The average number of weeks of paid agricultural work for Manitoba was 56.

**Table Ec-15: Paid Agricultural Work for the R.M. of Wallace, 2000**

	# of farms	# of weeks	Average # of weeks per farm reporting paid work
Total Paid Work	134	5,279	39
Paid work, year round	54	3,825	71
Paid work, seasonal or temporary	90	1,454	16

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census

## Farm Receipts and Expenses

In the 2001 Statistics Canada Agricultural Census, farm operators in the R.M. of Wallace reported an average of \$251,232 in gross farm receipts and an average of \$230,171 in farm business operating expenses for 2000. Average gross farm receipts and farm business operating expenses for the R.M. of Wallace and the Province of Manitoba are presented in Table Ec-16. While the amounts for both gross farm receipts and farm business operating expenses were lower for Manitoba compared to R.M. of Wallace, the difference between gross farms receipts and operating expenses was similar (\$21,061 for R.M. of Wallace and \$21,815 for Manitoba).

**Table Ec-16: Average Gross Farm Receipts and Farm Business Operating Expenses, R.M. of Wallace and Manitoba, 2000**

	R.M. of Wallace (n=305)	Manitoba (n=21,071)
Gross Farm Receipts	\$251,232	\$167,492
Farm Business Operating Expenses	\$230,171	\$145,677
Difference Between Gross Farm Receipts & Operating Expenses	\$21,061	\$21,815

*Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census*

## Oil Industry

When the first producing formation was discovered in 1951 it was given a life span of 10 years. Now over 50 years later the oil industry remains a vibrant contributor to Virden-Wallace. Located in the Virden-Wallace area are two main oilfields: the Daly Field located to the west of Virden and the Virden Field, which is the town and immediate surrounding areas. The smaller Kirkella Field is located northeast of Virden. The Daly Field includes townships 8, 9 and 10 and ranges 27, 28 and 29, the Virden Field includes townships 9, 10 and 11 and ranges 25 and 26 and the Kirkella Field includes township 12 and range 29 (See Appendix C).

Approximately 20 producing oil companies and 24 service and supply companies currently have their Manitoba offices located in Virden. Virden is the location of the Manitoba Oil Museum Board of Directors and Hall of Fame. In the past Virden has hosted the Manitoba Provincial Oil Show.

## Oil Production

In 2002, a total of 875 active oil-producing wells were located in the Virden-Wallace area: 491 in the Virden Field, 355 in the Daly Field and 29 in the Kirkella Field. Of these wells, 23 of the Virden Field wells and 15 of the Daly Field wells had been newly drilled in 2002. In 2002, total oil production from these wells was 393,610 cubic meters; accounting for 61% of Manitoba's total oil production. From 2001 to 2002, the Virden Field experienced a 9.7% increase in total oil production, while the Daly Field experienced a 2.9% decrease and the Kirkella Field experienced a 22.4% decrease. According to the Virden Petroleum Branch office, the Virden and Daly Fields produce enough oil to meet 1/6 of Manitoba's refined product consumption.

Manitoba's overall crude oil selling price in 2002 increased 7% from 2001 to \$230.59/m<sup>3</sup> (\$36.64 Cdn. per barrel).

**Table Ec-17: Oil Production in Virden-Wallace, 2001 & 2002**

Oil Field	Active Oil Producer Wells, 2002	Active Wells Oil Production, 2001 (m <sup>3</sup> )	Active Wells Oil Production, 2002 (m <sup>3</sup> )	% Change in Oil Production from 2001 to 2002
Viriden Field	491	227,878	250,043	9.7%
Daly Field	355	132,403	128,575	-2.9%
Kirkella Field	29	19,310	14,992	-22.4%
Total	875	379,591	393,610	3.7%

*Source: Manitoba Industry Economic Development and Mines, Petroleum Branch, 2002*

**Petroleum Industry Expenditures**

It is estimated that in Manitoba the petroleum industry spent \$97.9 million in 2002 on exploration, development, land, production, royalties and production taxes, abandonment and rehabilitation of sites, municipal taxes and other miscellaneous expenditures. The Viriden Petroleum Branch office estimates that the proportioned expenditures for wells in the R.M. of Wallace for 2002 would be \$33 million. These monies are not necessarily all injected into the local economy.

**Municipal taxes**

Oil producers in Manitoba pay municipal taxes on production facilities, including oil wells, batteries, salt-water disposal wells, salt water disposal plants, and water injection wells. According to the Viriden Petroleum Branch office the portioned municipal tax assessment on these facilities for the R.M. of Wallace for the calendar year 2001 was approximately \$911,244.

**Surface Owners**

Royalties paid to landowners from wells in the R.M. of Wallace is estimated at \$8,000,000 for the year 2003. Surface rights rentals vary from company to company and between landowners but the approximate total rental fees that was paid out in 2003 is \$1,677,000.

**Kola**

Kola is a small community of approximately 200 people located 28 kilometers west of Viriden on provincial road 257 in the R.M of Wallace. The majority of businesses in Kola are agricultural based or related to the construction industry. Kola has seen significant amount of economic growth in recent years, especially in the hog production industry. Two 1500 animal unit (AU) sow barns with 10 full-time staff, one 3000 AU sow barn with 9 full-time staff, 8 nursery barns with 4 full-time staff and 10 finishing barns with 7.5 full-time staff are located in the area. In addition to these jobs, supporting businesses related to the hog barns such as trucking and water washing have also been created in the past few years.

Kola Feeds has been an important part of the community for over 30 years. Kola Feed Services manufactures over 50,000 metrics tons annually (requiring the equivalent of 37,000 acres of wheat & barley and 21,000 acres of canola) and has storage capacity of 4,200 metric tons of product. Recent expansions have made the mill one of the most up to date processing feed

plants in the industry. Kola Feeds employs 24 staff and is in operation 24 hours per day. It has 5 delivery units and 1 feed grain farm pickup.

The “Kola Family Recruitment Program” has been renamed to “Kola Employee Recruitment Committee” due to immigration policy’s requirements that “employees” are recruited and their families may come with them, since jobs are the first priority in work visas and immigration documents. The committee of approximately 12 people formed in 2000 due to the growing needs of employers. This also coincided with the school being placed under review and the need to increase the numbers in the school or face closure. Recruitment is done by sourcing families through contacts in Europe, South America, Mexico and the U.S. Presently there are families living in Kola that have immigrated from Bolivia, Belize, Mexico, Paraguay (originally from South Africa) and Germany (originally from Russia). Attempts are made to source families that are a fit to the rural community of Kola and families are encouraged to visit Kola before committing to relocate. To date 15 families have immigrated or moved to Kola from elsewhere in Canada with the help of the committee. Some of these families have moved on, however at the present these families account for an increased population in Kola of 50 people. The program has been considered successful and will continue to recruit for the future depending on economic development needs in the community.

### ***Community Survey Findings***

In the Virden community survey, residents were asked to identify which services they utilized outside of their community and the number of people commuting outside the community for employment. Survey respondents were also asked for their views related to economic growth and the quality of the environment. For the results from this question, please refer to Environment.

#### **Services Accessed Outside of the Community**

Respondents were asked to identify where they traveled for services outside the community on a regular basis over the past twelve months. The question identified five retail service areas including groceries; apparel and accessories; automobile sales; automobile services; and furniture and appliances. Services sought in Virden are not included in the figures.

Of the listed services the one most commonly accessed outside of the community in the past 12 months was apparel and accessories (48%, 203). In the past 12 months, 34% of respondents (144) traveled outside of the community for groceries, 27% of respondents (117) traveled outside of the community for furniture and appliances, 17% (74) traveled outside of the community for automobile service and 17% (72) traveled outside of the community for automobile sales. For each service the most common community traveled to was Brandon. In Table Ec-18, the number of respondents who traveled outside of the community for each service and the top 3 communities traveled to for each service are presented.

**Table Ec-18: Needs Served Outside the Community (n=427)**

	Number of respondents		Most common communities traveled to for service* (*Respondents may have indicated multiple responses)		
	#	%	First	Second	Third
Apparel and accessories	203	48%	Brandon (188)	Winnipeg (9)	Regina (2)
Groceries	144	34%	Brandon (134)	Winnipeg (2)	
Furniture and appliances	117	27%	Brandon (102)	St. Lazare (4)	Winnipeg (4)
Automobile service	74	17%	Brandon (56)	Moosomin (4)	Winnipeg (2)
Automobile sales	72	17%	Brandon (49)	Winnipeg (7)	Moosomin (3)

Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

### **Commuting for Employment**

Respondents were asked to identify the number of household members who worked within Virden-Wallace and the number who work outside Virden-Wallace. Of the 523 employed household members identified, 85% (443 of 523) were reported to be employed within the community and 15% (80 of 523) were reported to work outside of the community.

### **Business Survey Findings**

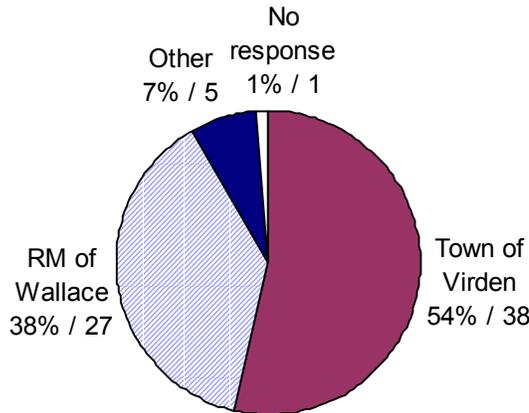
The Virden-Wallace Business Survey was distributed to all business mailboxes within the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. The business survey was comprised of 19 questions. Business respondents answered questions about their customer base, employees, skills they required, donations and their future plans for the business.

### **Business Profile**

Respondents indicated business locations in the Town of Virden (54%, 38), R.M. of Wallace (39%, 28), Rural Municipality of Woodworth (4%, 3) and the Rural Municipality of Pipestone (1%, 1). Some 15% (11 of 71) of these businesses had been originally started less than 10 years previous, 28% (20) had been started between 10 and 25 years previous, 25% (18) had been started 26 to 50 years previous and 20% (14) had been originally started over 50 years previous. Eleven percent of respondents (8) did not indicate which year the business had been started. Forty-one percent of respondents (29) indicated that they had owned the business since it was originally started.

Some 35% of respondents (25) indicated that the ownership structures of their businesses were sole proprietorships, 27% (19) were corporations and 25% (18) were partnerships. Of the responding businesses, 21% (15) indicated they were home-based, 11% (8) were franchises, and 8% (6) were owned outside of the community.

**Figure Ec-I: Location of Business (n=71)**



*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Business Survey, June 2003*

The largest business categories reported were agricultural and related services (31%, 22), retail trade (20%, 14) and construction (11%, 8). Other business categories indicated were mining, quarrying and oil well industries (8%, 6), business services (7%, 5), accommodation, food and beverage services (4%, 3), wholesale trade (3%, 2), transportation and storage (3%, 2) and one each for finance and insurance; communication; real estate; government; health and social services; education services; and manufacturing.

**Customer Base**

Respondents were asked to rank the location of their customer base of a rating scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating the largest portion of their customer base and 5 indicating the smallest portion of their customer base. From highest to lowest respondents indicated their customer base was comprised of local residents; customers from adjacent communities; other businesses in the area; and customers from out of the Province. Other listed customer bases included non-adjacent communities in the Province, businesses outside of the area and customers outside of the country.

**Employees**

With regards to the number of employees per business, 50% of respondents (35 of 71) reported that their business employed five or fewer employees, 28% (20) reported 4 to 9 employees, 10% (7) reported 10 to 25 employees and 11% (8) reported having more than 25 employees. The number of employees reported ranged from 1 to 500.

Of the 71 businesses responding, 52% (37) reported that none of their employees commuted from outside of the community and 42% (30) indicated that one or more of their employees commuted. Six percent of respondents (4) did not answer this question. The average number of commuters per business was reported as 2, with the number of commuting employees ranging from 1 to 25. As a proportion of their employees, 52% of respondents (37) indicated 0% of their employees commuted, 15% (11) indicated ‘1-25%’ of their employees commuted, 21% (15) indicated ‘26-50%’ of their employees commuted and 6% (4) indicated that ‘more than 50%’ of their employees commuted from outside of the community to their business to work.

Seven businesses (10%) reported having a total of 14 unfilled jobs. These jobs included hospitality related positions (6), labourers (3), supervisors (3) and administrative positions (2). Of these 14 unfilled jobs, 8 were reported as full-time positions, 4 as part-time positions and 2 as seasonal positions.

### Skills, Education and Training

Respondents were asked to indicate which skills they required of their employees. Top skills were sales and customer services skills (54%, 38), communication skills (48%, 34), accounting/bookkeeping skills (42%, 30) and computer skills (42%, 30). Marketing skills were required by 31% of respondents (22) and trades skills were required by 24% of respondents (17). Other required skills listed by one respondent each were livestock stewardship, trucking, self-motivation, heavy equipment, welding, engineering, maintenance and knowledge of water products.

**Table Ec-19: Skills Required by Employers (n=71)**

Skill	# of respondents	% of respondents
Sales/customer services	38	54%
Communication	34	48%
Accounting/bookkeeping	30	42%
Computer	30	42%
Marketing	22	31%
Trades	17	24%

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Business Survey, June 2003*

While 46% of respondents (33) did not indicate a minimum education requirement for their employees, the most common minimum education requirement listed was a 'grade 12 education' (38%, 27). Eight percent of respondents (6) indicated a minimum educational requirement of 'grades 9 to 11' and 6% (4) indicated a requirement of 'college or training in a trade'.

Over the past 12 months, 49% of businesses (35) provided on-job training to their employees. Training that was provided included computer skills, business skills, job shadowing, apprentice programs and in-house training. Some 39% (28) of businesses reported that they foresee a need to provide employee training in the next 12 months. Common training that respondents expected to offer to their employees included computer skills upgrading, a continuation of their in-house training, additional apprentice programs and training to keep up with changes in regulations.

### **Benefit Plans**

Some 38% of businesses (27) indicated that they have a benefit plan for their employees. Of these businesses 48% (13 of 27) offered a health plan and 44% (12 of 27) offered both a health and a pension plan. Two of the respondents did not indicate what type of plan they offered.

### **Donations to Community**

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of times per year that they donated towards community events and the total value of their business's donations and contribution in 2002. Six percent of respondents (4) indicated that they donated 'zero times', 31% (22) donated '1 to 9 times', 14% (10) donated '10 to 19 times', 11% (8) donated '20 to 49 times' and 17% (12) donated to community events '50 times or more in a year'. Twenty-one percent of respondents (15) did not answer this question. In 2002, the average annual charitable donation by responding businesses in the community was \$3,200. The value of reported charitable donations ranged from \$20 to \$25,000.

In addition to charitable donations, respondents reported other contributions that their businesses made to the well-being of the community, including employees volunteering for community organizations and events; providing floral planters in front of business; participating in the Chamber of Commerce; supporting local businesses; and supporting the local schools.

### **Future Plans**

When asked about future plans for the business, half of respondents (52%, 37) reported that the business would 'stay the same' and one-quarter of respondents (27%, 19) reported that they plan to 'expand' the business. Other responses included plans to 'sell' the business (8%, 6), 'retire' (7%, 5), 'get out of the business' (7%, 5), 'downsize' (4%, 3), 'transfer the business to a family member' (4%, 3) and 'move the business from the area' (1%, 1). As responses were not mutually exclusive, respondents could indicate more than one response for their future business plans.

Factors that have lead to these future plans included age of the business owner, potential for growth in the community, personal reasons (e.g., health). Three businesses reported that the affects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) in the livestock industry will force them to re-evaluate their future plans.

**Table Ec-20: Future Business Plans of Respondents**

<b>Plan</b>	<b># of responses</b>	<b>% of respondents</b>
Stay the same	37	52%
Expand	19	27%
Sell the business	6	8%
Retire	5	7%
Get out of the business	5	7%
Downsize the business	3	4%
Transfer the business to a family member	3	4%
Move the business from the area	1	1%

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Business Survey, June 2003*

## Chapter 6: SAFETY AND SECURITY



Personal safety, crime and vandalism rates, available and reliable emergency services and community support programs can be measured to determine the health and well-being of people within rural communities and the quality of life in the community. For example, the number and type of emergency service responses may have an impact on emergency services planning, paid and volunteer emergency service personnel can show the level of resources and community involvement with emergency services and the existence of a town or municipal disaster plan that is tested on a regular basis shows that a community is prepared for disasters that may occur. Involvement of participants in community safety and security programs indicates a sharing of safety and security responsibilities.

The indicators collected relating to Safety and Security include:

Emergency Services – *response times and types, human resources, financial resources.*

Crime Rates – *criminal offences, traffic accidents and offences.*

Emergency/Disaster Preparedness – *disaster plans.*

Community Programs – *community safety and security programs.*

### Highlights

- ✓ The Virden Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) houses 13 officers and 8 police cruisers (see page 65).
- ✓ The total number of criminal code offences for the Town of Virden has decreased from 311 in 2000 to 267 in 2002 (see Table SS-5).
- ✓ Total crimes against persons including assaults in Virden had increased from 23 in 2000 to 28 in 2002 (see Table SS-5).
- ✓ Property damage under \$5,000 was only half as common in 2002 (41 offences) as compared to 2000 (85 offences) (see Table SS-5).
- ✓ The number of persons charged for Highway Traffic Act offences in Virden increased from 178 in 2000 to 274 in 2002 (see Table SS-6).
- ✓ Accidents and reportable collisions increased from 39 in 2000 to 60 in 2002 (see Table SS-6).
- ✓ Virden was one of the first communities in Manitoba to adopt a Juvenile Justice Committee (see page 70).

### **Community Survey Highlights**

- ✓ 93% of survey respondents felt safe in the community (see page 71).
- ✓ The most common safety concern in the community was vandalism (see Table SS-7).
- ✓ Respondents indicated a high level of satisfaction with Police, Ambulance and Fire services in the community (see Table SS-8).

### ***Emergency Services***

The Virden-Wallace Fire Department utilizes 4 rescue vehicles that are maintained at the fire hall, located at 330 - 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Three qualified in-house instructors provide training to fire service volunteers. Extra training is taken on occasion from the Manitoba Emergency Services College in Brandon. The Virden-Wallace Fire Department is part of the Oak Lake Mutual Aid Group, a group of fire services with an agreement to assist each other when needed. The Mutual Aid Group consists of fire services from Virden, Reston, Oak Lake, Kenton, Elkhorn, McAuley and Moosomin.

Two ambulance units serve the Virden-Wallace area and are based on Frame Street southeast of the Virden & District Hospital complex. These ambulance units serve the area from Hargrave to Routledge and Lenore to Scarth. The Virden Ambulance Service is funded by the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority (ARHA) and is coordinated with other ambulance services in the ARHA. The surrounding communities of Elkhorn, Oak Lake and Reston have their own ambulance service.

The Virden Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) is a Federal police force. The Virden Detachment has 8 police cruisers and serves as the headquarters for the Westman Detachment, which covers an area of approximately 6,500 square kilometres. It is bordered to the west by the Saskatchewan border and to the south by North Dakota. It includes two border crossings, at Lyleton and Coulter.

As of October 1997, Virden and Wallace offers 9-1-1 emergency telephone services to its citizens.

## Emergency Responses

Emergency service average response rates can be affected by various factors. Response rates for calls within the Town of Virden range from 4 to 8 minutes for police, 5 to 8 minutes for ambulance and 3 to 6 minutes for fire department services. The Fire Department reports 10 to 15 minutes response time to calls from out of town. Response rates out of town depend upon the distance of travel required from Virden.

**Table SS-1: Average Response Time (from receipt of call to arrival on the scene) for high priority call for Police, Fire and Ambulance, 2002**

Emergency Service	Response Time (In Town)
Police	4 – 8 minutes
Ambulance	5 – 8 minutes
Fire	3 – 6 minutes 10 – 15 minutes (out of town)

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

Emergent responses refer to responses to conditions that are potentially threatening to life, limb or function. In 2002, 29% of ambulance responses were emergent, 26% were non-emergent and 45% were scheduled. Two-thirds of responses to fire were emergent and one-third were non-emergent.

**Table SS-2: Percentage of Emergent, Non-Emergent and Scheduled Responses by Ambulance and Fire, 2002**

Type of Response	Ambulance	Fire
Emergent	29%	66%
Non-emergent	26%	33%
Scheduled	45%	--

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

## Human Resources

The Virden-Wallace Fire Department has 1 paid staff member and 29 volunteers. The ambulance team consists of 3 full-time, 3 part-time and 9 casual staff members. All members of the ambulance service are now paid staff, with no volunteers. The Virden Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police employs 13 officers.

**Table SS-3: Number of Emergency Services Personnel, 2002**

Type of Service	Fire	Ambulance	Police
Paid	1	3 full-time 3 part-time 9 casual	13
Volunteer	29	0	0

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

**Financial Resources**

The Town of Virden budgeted \$74,844 for fire service and \$345,472 for police service in 2003. The R.M. of Wallace budgeted \$75,729 for fire service in 2003. The Assiniboine Regional Health Authority funds ambulance services for the Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace.

**Table SS-4: Community Financial Contributions Towards Fire and Police Services (Budgeted Amount for 2003)**

Financial Contributor	Fire	Police
Town of Virden	\$74,844	\$345,472
R.M. of Wallace	\$75,729	Nil

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

**Crime Rates**

In Table SS-5 statistics from an Annual Police Report presented by the Virden R.C.M.P. to the Town of Virden are listed. This report indicates that the total number of criminal code offences for the Town of Virden have decreased from 2000 to 2002. In 2000, a total of 311 criminal code offences were charged, compared to 267 in 2002. In 2002, 121 property offences were committed, down from 144 in 2000, but up from 111 in 2001. Total crimes against persons including assaults and sexual assaults had increased from 23 offences in 2000 to 28 in 2002. Property damage under \$5,000 was only half as common in 2002 (41 offences) as compared to 2000 (85 offences).

**Table SS-5: Criminal Offences for Town of Virden in 2000, 2001 and 2002**

<b>Criminal Offences</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Robbery	0	1	0
Sexual assaults	0	1	3
Assaults	23	19	25
Property damage over \$5,000	0	0	0
Property damage under \$5,000	85	71	41
Break, enter and thefts	34	16	19
Thefts of motor vehicles	8	14	9
Thefts over \$5,000	0	0	0
Thefts under \$5,000	85	71	65
Possession of stolen property	9	9	3
Frauds	8	9	25
Weapons offences	1	4	4
Drug offences	14	5	4
Provincial Acts (not traffic)	84	83	81
Municipal By-laws	52	41	52
<b>Total crimes against persons</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total property offences</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Other Criminal Code Offences</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>267</b>

*Source: Annual Police Report from the Virden R.C.M.P. to the Town of Virden*

### **Traffic Offences**

Presented in Table SS-6 are the number of traffic accidents and offenses for 2000, 2001 and 2002. The number of persons charged for Highway Traffic Act offences increased from 178 in 2000 to 218 in 2001 to 274 in 2002. For the same time period, Criminal Code Traffic Offences including impaired driver, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and driving while prohibited ranged from 8 to 12 per year. Accidents and reportable collisions increased from 39 in 2000 to 60 in 2002. In 2002, ten checkstops were conducted in the Town of Virden at which 308 vehicles were checked and three 24-hour driver's license suspensions issued.

**Table SS-6: Traffic Accidents and Offences for the Town of Virden in 2000, 2001 and 2002**

<b>Traffic Accidents</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Fatal Accidents	0	0	1
Injury Accidents	6	4	1
Reportable collisions (over \$1000.00)	33	61	58
<b>Provincial Highway Traffic Act</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Fail to Stop or remain at scene	15	17	20
Persons charged for Highway Traffic Act offences	178	218	274
Written Warnings	47	71	64
Total Traffic (complaints & charged offences excluding warnings)	182	231	277
<b>Criminal Code Traffic Offences</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Dangerous Operation of a motor vehicle	0	1	0
Impaired drivers and over .08 mg%	9	10	8
Refuse breath test	1	0	0
Drive while prohibited/Fail to remain	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC Offences</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

*Source: Annual Police Report from the Virden R.C.M.P. to the Town of Virden*

### **Emergency/Disaster Preparedness**

The Virden Emergency Plan has been in place since 1986. In 1998 the Area Joint Emergency Plan, a joint plan between the Town of Virden, Town of Oak Lake, R.M. of Sifton and R.M. of Wallace, was created. The plans adhere to the 60 qualifying requirements set out in the Provincial Government Security Management Act and are administered by a group of volunteers that meet once a month from November to May to keep the plans current and in compliance with provincial requirements. This group consists of representatives from the Virden Emergency Action Plan, Area Mutual Aid Plan and Emergency Services. Training is encouraged and provided to this group of volunteers on an on-going basis as time permits. The last testing of the emergency plan took place in February 2004. The plans have procedures designed to manage any emergency that cannot be handled by the local emergency services and can be considered a disaster such as oil or chemical spills, large fires or tornadoes.

## **Community Programs**

Active safety and security programs in Virden-Wallace are:

Block Parent

Citizen's on Patrol

Juvenile Justice Committee

Neighborhood Watch

### *Block Parent*

The Block Parent program is open to any responsible adult who volunteers their home as a safe refuge to children when a need arises. The program is a citizen action program at the community level, and is wholly dependent on citizen involvement on a voluntary basis. Block Parents display a sign, which can act as a deterrent to potential offenders in a neighbourhood. The official symbol of the program is displayed in the windows of Block Parent volunteers, and children are free to access this person in cases of need. Volunteers must undergo a police screening and must be willing to help at any time.

### *Citizens On Patrol Program (COPP)*

Citizens On Patrol Program (COPP) is a volunteer program whereby citizens from the community patrol residential and downtown areas in the Town of Virden. Since the program's inception in 1997, the volunteers' presence has been an added comfort to the public, reducing minor crimes and petty vandalism.

### *Juvenile Justice Committee*

Virden was one of the first communities in Manitoba to adopt a Juvenile Justice Committee. The Juvenile Justice Committee has existed in Virden for over 20 years. This committee of approximately 13 volunteers and representatives from the R.C.M.P. and Probation Services, deals with young offenders for driving offences, substance offences, property damage, theft and mischief under \$5,000, assault, willful damage, false pretence and other offences as they arise. The committee is also instrumental in providing seminars to interested residents by bringing in speakers on topics such as pornography awareness, crime awareness and substance abuse awareness. The Juvenile Justice Committee services the area of the Westman detachment of the R.C.M.P. In 2002 the committee reported dealing with 30 young offenders. The Committee receives strong commitment and support by community members.

### *Neighborhood Watch*

The Neighbourhood Watch Program is a proactive concept designed to reduce residential break and enters and other property crimes within a community. Through increased awareness and crime prevention tips, participating community members are encouraged to develop good security habits and to watch out for each other's property.

## **Community Survey Findings**

In the Virden-Wallace community survey residents were asked if they believed they were safe in the community and what they perceived to be the greatest safety concerns. Respondents were also asked to rate emergency services in the community and about their awareness of the Youth Justice Program in Virden. Most community survey respondents (93%, 399) believed they were safe residing in their community; 4% (16) did not feel safe and 3% (12) did not answer this question.

### **Safety Concerns**

Survey respondents were asked, “What do you feel is the greatest safety concern in your community?”. The most frequently cited safety concern was vandalism (73 responses). Safety concerns of respondents fit primarily into three categories: crime/policing, traffic and natural or human made disasters. Crime and policing issues included vandalism (73 responses), theft/break and enter (36 responses), youth activities (29 responses) and drugs (21 responses). Top traffic concerns were speeding and careless drivers (31 responses), pedestrian safety (16 responses) and the #1 Highway or the Trans Canada Highway (12 responses). The safety of children in relation to the traffic was frequently identified. Respondents worried about the occurrence of disasters including train derailments (9 responses), water contamination (6 responses) and fires (5 responses). A complete list of responses to the question is presented in the following table.

**Table SS-7: Greatest Safety Concern of Respondents**

Safety Concern	# of responses
Crime / policing	
Vandalism	73
Theft / break & enter	36
Youth (out late, nothing to do, crime, gangs)	29
Drugs	21
Policing of community	13
Sexual abusers	3
Traffic	
Speeding and careless drivers (especially around children)	31
Pedestrian safety (children, lack of sidewalks, no snow removal, lighting at night)	16
#1 Highway	12
Traffic / accidents	9
Drinking and driving	6
King Street (stop lights needed)	4
Railroad crossings	2
Disasters (natural & human made)	
Train derailments	9
Water supply contamination	6
Fires / fire service	5
Pollution (hog barns, air quality)	5
General disaster preparation	2
Other	
Small community/knowning each other (helps safety)	8
Transients	7
Child safety	6
Ambulance service	5
Alcohol abuse	5

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

**Satisfaction with Safety and Security Services**

Fifty-seven percent of respondents (245 of 427) indicated that they were aware of the Youth Justice Program in Virden. Of those aware of the program, 45% (111 of 245) indicated that it has been a benefit to the Town, 7% (18 of 245) indicated it had not been a benefit to the Town, and 47% (116 of 245) were unsure.

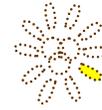
In the community survey, residents were asked to rate their satisfaction with three emergency services (fire department, ambulance service, and police service). The results are presented in the following table. Overall, emergency services in the community were rated to be ‘satisfactory’ or ‘excellent’ by 74% to 82% of respondents. Two percent of respondents (7) indicated that the fire department needed improvement, 4% (18) that the ambulance service needed improvement, and 8% (36) indicated that police services needed improvement.

**Table SS-8: Respondent Satisfaction with Emergency Services (n=427)**

	Needs Improvement		Satisfactory		Excellent		Not applicable / No response	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Fire Department	7	2%	174	41%	173	41%	73	17%
Ambulance Service	18	4%	170	40%	144	34%	95	22%
Police Service	36	8%	192	45%	131	31%	68	15%

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## Chapter 7: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES



Health and social services, particularly those designed to maintain and promote health, to prevent disease, and to restore and/or manage health and function contribute to health and well-being. Residents of rural communities are concerned about access to and level of services, availability of services and gaps in these services, as well as health staff recruitment and retention. Rural residents recognize the importance of rural health resource allocation and the processes used to make these decisions. Social support services such as affordable housing, day care, social support groups and crisis intervention systems are important supports to rural residents.

The indicators collected relating to the Health and Social Services category include:

Health Status – *life expectancy, incidence of specific diseases, incidence of selected cancers, causes of death.*

Preventative Services – *breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, influenza vaccinations, immunization.*

Health Behaviours – *smoking, alcohol and drug use.*

Social Support Services – *children in care, affordable housing, day care, health care programs, social support groups, crisis intervention support systems.*

Health Service Utilization – *health care professionals in the community, hospital occupancy rate, access to health care services.*

Much of the data presented in this section was not available for the Virden-Wallace Region by itself. The smallest region for which data were available in The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas: Population-Based Comparisons of Health and Health Care Use (Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, 2003) was South Westman, located in the southwestern corner of the Province. Please note throughout this section that District 1 of the South Westman Region includes the R.M.s of Albert, Archie, Arthur, Brenda, Edward, Sifton, R.M. of Wallace, Winchester; Oak Lake First Nation; and the Towns or Villages of Melita, Waskada, Pipestone, Oak Lake, Virden, Elkhorn and Deloraine.

## Highlights

- ✓ Life expectancy is higher in the region than for Manitoba as a whole (see page 76).
- ✓ For the Virden-Wallace area between 1995 and 2000:
  - Diabetes rates rose 3.8% (see Table HSS-1).
  - In 2000, 21% of the population had been treated for hypertension (high blood pressure) at least once in a three-year period, up from 17% in 1995 (see Table HSS-1).
  - Rates of heart attacks decreased slightly between 1995 (2.29/1000 residents aged 20+) and 2000 (2.11/1000 residents aged 20+) (see Table HSS-1).
  - Rates of strokes decreased slightly between 1995 (2.08/1000 residents aged 20+) and 2000 (1.85/1000 residents aged 20+) (see Table HSS-1).
  - Incidences of new cancer cases per 1000 residents increased from 1995 (5.65) to 2000 (6.36) (see Table HSS-1).
- ✓ Top causes of death in the region between 1995 and 1999 were circulatory problems (40%), cancer (26%) and respiratory problems (10%) (see Table HSS-2).
- ✓ As of 2000-2001, 70% of women in the area aged 50 through 69 had at least one mammogram in the previous two years. This was higher than that of the Province as a whole (63%) for the same time period (see Table HSS-3).
- ✓ In 2000, 86% of 1-year olds, 76% of 2-year olds and 85% of 7-year olds in the area received the recommended immunizations for their age group. These rates are lower than those of 1995 in each age category (see Table HSS-4).
- ✓ In 2003:
  - 113 children participated in the preschool wellness fair (see page 40 Education chapter).
  - The percentage of preschoolers screened who were referred to a specialist was 25% for speech language (17 of 69), 22% for hearing (17 of 78), 15% for vision (7 of 48) and 12% for developmental assessment (7 of 57) (See Table Ed-5, Education chapter).
- ✓ Virden hospital occupancy rate is one of the highest in the Province amongst hospitals of comparative size (68%) (see page 83).

## Community Survey Highlights

- ✓ Some 92% of survey respondents considered their community a healthy place to live (see page 84)
- ✓ Some 56% of survey respondents rated their health as ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’ (see Figure HSS-I).
- ✓ Respondents indicated short waiting times for physician visits (see Figure HSS-V).
- ✓ Wait times for diagnostic services can be lengthy (see Table HSS-7).
- ✓ Some 73% of survey respondents accessed some health services outside of the community in the last 12 months, with dental services (33%) and eye care (26%) were the most common services to be accessed outside of the community in the past 12 months (see Table HSS-8).

## Health Status

### Life Expectancy

The life expectancy of a resident living in District 1 of the South Westman Region is 76.05 years for a male and 82.98 years for a female. This is higher than the Manitoba life expectancies of 75.87 for males and 81.29 for females. Compared to other regions in Manitoba, the South Westman region had the highest female life expectancy and the third highest male life expectancy (Source: The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas).

### Incidence of Specific Diseases

Presented in Table HSS-1 are incidence rates for key illnesses for District 1 of the South Westman Region of Manitoba. Diabetes rates have risen in the area from 3.8% of the population in 1995 to 4.9% in 2000. In 2000, 21% of the population had been treated for hypertension (high blood pressure) at least once in a three-year period, up from 17% in 1995. Rates of heart attack and stroke decreased between 1995 and 2000. Incidence of new cancer cases per 1000 residents increased from 5.65 in 1995 to 6.36 in 2000. Cancer rates in 2000 were higher than the Provincial rate of 5.61.

Compared to other regions in the Province, the South Westman region had the second lowest rates of diabetes, but the second highest rates of cancer. When analyzing the incidence of disease it is important to recognize other factors that may influence whether the statistics are accurately reflecting the health of the region. Higher rates of diagnosis with key illnesses may be influenced by access to diagnostic services. That is, higher rates of certain diseases in an area may be linked to a higher level of access to services that diagnose a disease. These illnesses may to a greater extent go undiagnosed in an area with less access to diagnostic services.

**Table HSS-1: Incidence of Key Illnesses for District 1 of the South Westman Region**

Illness	District 1 1995	District 1 2000	Manitoba 2000
Diabetes (% of residents aged 20-79 treated)	3.8%	4.9%	5.6%
Hypertension (% of residents aged 25+ who received treatment)	17%	21%	22%
Respiratory Diseases (% of residents treated)	11.1%	12.1%	12.4%
Heart Attack (per 1000 residents aged 20+)	2.29	2.11	2.22
Stroke (per 1000 residents aged 20+)	2.08	1.85	1.71
Cancer (new cancer cases per 1000 residents)	5.65	6.36	5.61

Source: *The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas*

### Incidence of Selected Cancers

According to the *Westman Regional Health Authority Community Health Needs Assessment (1998)*, the highest numbers of annual new cancers by site for females were skin (64), breast (33), genitourinary (uterus, bladder) (26) and gastrointestinal (23). For males, the highest numbers of new cancers by site were skin (79), genitourinary (prostate, bladder) (60), gastrointestinal (29) and respiratory (22).

### Causes of Death

Top causes of death in South Westman between 1995 and 1999 were as a result of circulatory problems (40%), cancer (26%) and respiratory problems (10%). Injuries accounted for 6% of deaths in the area. The most common causes of injury causing death were motor and other vehicle accidents (29%), falls (23%) and violence to self (20%).

**Table HSS-2: Top Causes of Death in South Westman 1995 – 1999**

Cause of Death	% of Deaths
Circulatory	40%
Cancer	26%
Respiratory	10%
Other	18%
Injuries *(following is breakdown of deaths by injury)	6%
<i>Motor and Other Vehicle</i>	29%
<i>Falls</i>	23%
<i>Violence to Self</i>	20%
<i>Other</i>	19%
<i>Drowning</i>	3%
<i>Poisoning</i>	3%
<i>Violence by Others</i>	3%

Source: *The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas*

## Preventative Services

### Breast Cancer Screening, Cervical Cancer Screening & Influenza Vaccination Rates

As of 2000, in District 1 of the South Westman Region, 70% of women aged 50 through 69 had at least one mammogram in the previous two years. This was higher than the percentage for 1996-1997 (44%) and that of Manitoba (63%) for the same time period.

For the same district, 63% of women aged 18 through 69 years had at least one Papanicolau (Pap) smear within a three-year period prior to 2001. This was similar to the percentage for the previous 3-year time period and lower than the Manitoba figure of 69%.

Half of adults (50%) aged 65 years or older in District 1 of South Westman region received a flu shot. For the Province during this time period 55% of adults aged 65 and older received a flu shot.

**Table HSS-3: Proportion of Population Using Preventative Services for District 1 of the South Westman Region, 1996-1997 & 2000-2001**

	District 1 of South Westman Region		Manitoba
	1996-1997	2000-2001	2000-2001
Breast Cancer Screening (% of women aged 50-69)	44%	70%	63%
Cervical Cancer Screening (% of women aged 18-69)	62%	63%	69%
Influenza Vaccination (% of adults aged 65+)	--	50%	55%

Source: *The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas*

### Percentage of Children Immunized

Presented in Table HSS-4 are the proportion of the population of children in the District who have received the complete set of recommended immunizations at the ages of 1, 2 and 7. In 2000, 86% of 1 year olds, 76% of 2 year olds and 85% of seven years olds had received the recommended immunizations for their age. While immunization rates for the District were higher for each age group than Manitoba, immunization rates dropped from those 5 years previous.

**Table HSS-4: Immunization Rates for District 1 of the South Westman Region, 1995 & 2000**

	District 1 of the South Westman Region		Manitoba
	1995	2000	2000
1 Year Immunizations	91%	86%	83%
2 Year Immunizations	83%	76%	71%
7 Year Immunizations	91%	85%	73%

Source: *The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas*

## **Health Behaviours**

### **Smoking**

Smoking is linked to an increased risk of poor general health, cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory problems. In 2001, according to Health Canada, 26% of Manitobans smoked. While smoking has decreased among high school students in Manitoba from 47% in 1997 to 40% in 2001, the rate is still much higher than the rate for Manitoba adults (Source: Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, 2001).

A survey of the South Westman Region, reported in the 1998 *South Westman Regional Health Authority Community Needs Assessment*, found that 15% of the 8,086 respondents smoked at the time of the survey. This survey also found that 33% of teenage boys and 24% of teenage girls who were surveyed smoked at the time of this survey. Questions about smoking habits were asked in the Virden-Wallace Community Survey and are presented in the Community Survey Results portion of this chapter.

### **Alcohol and Drug Use**

High levels of alcohol consumption and drug use are linked to potential personal, family and health problems. According to the Addiction Foundation of Manitoba, 81% of high school students drank alcohol in 2001, an increase of about 2% since 1997. This rate was the same as the estimated rate of Manitoban adults. The use of drugs other than alcohol or tobacco is also increasing in Manitoba. In 1995, 37% of high school students reported using such drugs and in 2001 the comparable figure was 40%. Questions about alcohol consumption were asked in the Virden-Wallace Community Survey and are presented in the Community Survey Results portion of this chapter.

## **Social Support Services**

### **Child and Family Services**

Statistics for the number of children in care with Child and Family Services are only available by region. Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba had 196 children in full-time care as of March 31, 2003. This was an increase from 174 children as of March 31, 2002.

### **Affordable Housing**

In Virden, 19 family units including 15 single houses and 2 duplexes are available as subsidized housing. A number of low cost senior's housing units are also available in the Town. For more information about the availability of affordable housing see Community Infrastructure.

### **Day Care**

One group Day Care and 2 licensed Day Care facilities operate within Virden. The Funshine Day Care Centre can accommodate up to 35 children and the private licensed Day Cares can accommodate up to 8 children each. Subsidized Day Care spaces are available. For more information on Day Care see Social Support Networks.

### **Health Care Programs**

The Regional Health Authority both in Virden and in neighbouring communities is currently implementing a variety of health care programs. These include:

**Bath Program:** Bath-in is provided at local facilities for residents who are unable to be bathed safely at home due to illness or disability. A referral is required from a Home Care Case Co-ordinator, a Public Health Nurse or the Seniors Community Resource Co-ordinator and a user fee is charged.

**Child and Family Services:** The organization provides foster home support and recruitment.

**Children's Special Services:** The program provides support to families who have children with mental/physical disabilities. Referrals are accepted from anyone; however, basic eligibility needs to be assessed.

**Community Living Program:** The program provides support to adults who have mental disabilities. Referrals are accepted from anyone, however basic eligibility needs to be assessed. Service requests are subject to availability of resources.

**Community Mental Health Services:** The organization promotes the mental health of all residents. Services offered include intake, consultation, crisis intervention, counselling and treatment.

**Home Care Program:** The program is designed to assist individuals in their efforts to remain in their own homes as independently as possible. The focus is on individuals and their family who are no longer able to meet their care needs without assistance. Services available include: Adult Day Program, Community Therapy Services, Direct Service Staff, Family Managed Care, Home Oxygen Program, Home Care Equipment and Supplies, Respite Care, and Self-Managed Care.

**Public Health Nursing:** Includes a variety of topics such as Health Education, Baby First Program, Birth Control Clinic, Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Counselling, Prenatal Classes, Child Health Clinic, Parenting Information and Pre-school Assessment Clinic. (Source: [www.virden-wallace.mb.ca](http://www.virden-wallace.mb.ca))

See Social Support Networks for related programs operating within the community.

### **Social Support Groups**

The following self-help groups have offices and/or regular meetings in Virden:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Al-Anon Family Groups
- Grief Support Group
- Caregivers Support Group
- Mood Disorders Support Group
- Addictions Foundation of Manitoba
- Child & Adolescent Community Mental Health
- Adult Community Mental Health Services
- Weight Watchers
- TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)
- Mom's Group (for teen and young adult mothers)

Groups that meet occasionally in Virden include:

- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Anxiety Disorders Association of MB

Manitoba Schizophrenia Society  
Compassionate Friends/Bereaved Parents Support Group

Other resources that are available to Virden-Wallace residents but are located outside of the community include:

Westman Women's Shelter  
Sexuality Education Resource Centre  
AIDS/STD Information  
Planned Parenthood  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Facts of Life Line  
Childs Advocate Office  
Mood Disorders Association of MB  
Canadian Red Cross Society  
Learning Disabilities Association of MB  
Elsbeth Reid Family Resource Centre  
Westwind Eating Disorder Recovery Centre  
Body Image Network

### **Crisis Intervention Support Systems**

Crisis intervention support systems available to Virden-Wallace residents include:

Suicide Prevention Centre  
Kids Help Phone  
Parent Help Line  
Farm and Rural Stress Line  
Teen Touch  
Sexual Assault Crisis  
Battered Women's Crisis Line  
Sexual Assault Line  
Crisis Pregnancy Centre  
AFM Gambling Helpline  
Mental Health Crisis Line  
Community Trauma Support Services

The Crisis Stabilization Unit provides short-term residential services for adults in psychosocial crisis and is located in Brandon as is the Child and Adolescent Treatment Centre, the Centre for Adult Psychiatry and the Centre for Geriatric Psychiatry.

## **Health Service Utilization**

### **Number of Health Care Professionals in the Community**

Five physicians, 25 registered nurses (RN's) and 25 licensed practical nurses (LPN's) provide care in the community. Seven community health nurses provide public health, mental health and home care programs in the community. An occupational therapist is available 1 day per week and a physiotherapist is in the community 3 days per week. Other health care professionals in the community include 4 pharmacists, 2 chiropractors, an optometrist, a dentist and a dietician.

**Table HSS-5: Number of Health Care Professionals in the Community, 2003**

<b>Health Care Professional</b>	<b># in the Community</b>
Physicians	5
Registered Nurses (Hospital)	12
Registered Nurses (Nursing Home)	13
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)	25
Community Health Nurses	7
Nurse Practitioners	0
Occupational Therapists	1 day/week
Physiotherapists	3 days/week
Optometrists	1
Pharmacists	4
Dentists	1
Dieticians	1
Chiropractors	2

*Source: Assiniboine Regional Health Authority*

**Hospital Occupancy**

The hospital occupancy rate indicates the level of usage of the local facility. In 2000, the Virden hospital had an occupancy rate of 68%, one of the highest in the Province among hospitals of a comparative size. The average occupancy rate of “intermediate rural hospitals” in 2000 was 59% (Source: Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, 2000). The Virden hospital was also ranked highly in discharge efficiency, suggesting that the occupancy rate is a result of normal usage among residents, not longer than necessary stays in hospital.

**Access to Health Care Services**

For the South Westman Region in 2000, 76% of visits to a general or family practitioner were made within the resident’s service district, 5% were made elsewhere within the same Regional Health Authority (RHA), 16% were made in another RHA (not including Winnipeg) and 3% were made in Winnipeg. This distribution was similar to that seen in 1995.

In 2000 South Westman residents visited specialists located outside of the RHA, either in Winnipeg (30%) or another RHA (70%). This was a change from 1995 when 11% of residents reported seeing a specialist within their RHA service district. This suggests that residents are traveling further to see medical specialists.

**Table HSS-6: Location of Visits to Health Care Professionals for South Westman Residents**

	In District	Elsewhere in RHA	Other RHA (excluding Winnipeg)	Winnipeg
Visits to General or Family Practitioners				
1995	78%	5%	15%	2%
2000	76%	5%	16%	3%
Visits to Specialists				
1995	11%	.08%	64%	25%
2000	.01%	.01%	70%	30%

Source: *The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas*

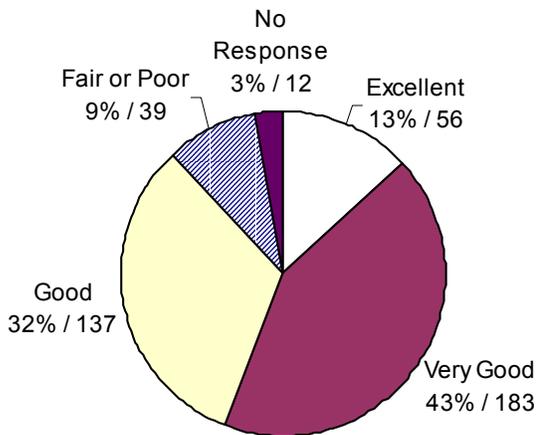
## Community Survey Findings

In the Virden-Wallace community survey, respondents were asked a number of questions regarding their health status and behaviors. They were also asked a number of questions regarding access to health services within and outside of the community.

### Health Ratings

Most respondents (92%, 393) considered their town or municipality to be a healthy place to live. When asked to rate their own health, over half of respondents (56%) indicated that their health was either 'very good' (43%, 183) or 'excellent' (13%, 58). A third of respondents (32%, 137) rated their health as 'good' and 9% of respondents (39) rated their health as either 'fair' or 'poor'.

**Figure HSS-I: Respondent Self-Rating of Overall Health (n=427)**



*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, May 2003*

### Chronic Illness or Disability

Fifteen percent of respondents (62) indicated that members in their household had chronic illnesses or disabilities that limited their daily activities at home. A quarter of these respondents (27%, 17 of 62) indicated that the chronic illness or disability also limited a household member's activity at work.

Overall, 52% of respondents (32 of 62) from households with a resident living with a limiting chronic illness or disability reported sufficient support in the community to help them or their family manage the illnesses or disabilities, while 19% (12) reported a lack of sufficient support in the community. The remaining 30% of respondents (18) did not respond to the question or indicated that the question was not applicable to their situation. Table HSS-7 provides details of opinions concerning the sufficiency of support by type of limitation. Respondents from households with residents living with chronic illness or disability that limited their activities at both home and work were more likely to rate community support as insufficient (41%, 7 of 17) than those with chronic illness or disability that limited activity at home only (11%, 5 of 45).

**Table HSS-7: Availability of Community Supports to Manage Chronic Illness or Disability (n=62)**

	Sufficient		Not Sufficient		Not Applicable		No Response	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Limited activities at home only (n=45)	27	60%	5	11%	6	13%	7	16%
Limited activities at home and work (n=17)	5	29%	7	41%	3	18%	2	12%
Total (n=62)	32	52%	12	19%	9	15%	9	15%

Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, May 2003*

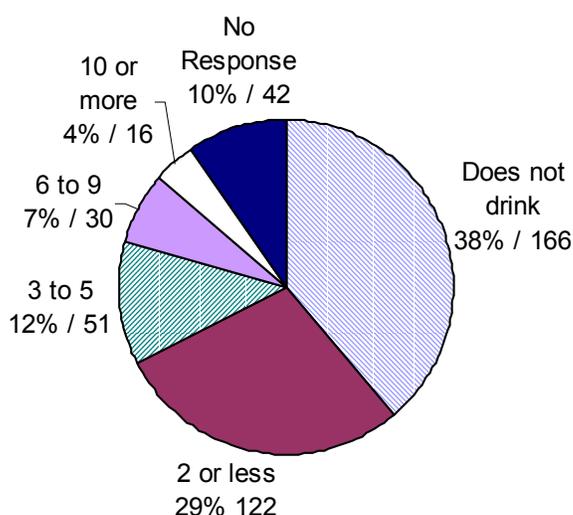
### Health Behaviours

Ten percent of respondents (42) indicated that they currently smoked. Number of cigarettes smoked per day ranged from 1 to 40 with an average of 16 cigarettes per day. The number of years that respondents had been smoking ranged from 2 to 70 with an average of 24 years. Sixty-two percent of the respondents who smoked (26 of 42) indicated a desire to quit smoking.

Over one-quarter of respondents (26%, 113) indicated that they had smoked in the past but had since quit. On average, these respondents indicated that they had smoked 17 cigarettes per day (range of 1 to 50 cigarettes) over an average of 18 years (range from 1 to 55 years).

Fifty-eight percent of respondents (246) indicated that they consumed alcohol, while 39% (166) reported that they did not. Of those who did consume alcoholic beverages, the average number of drinks per week was 3.5. Half of respondents who consumed alcohol (50%, 122 of 246) indicated that they had two or less drinks per week. Twenty-one percent of respondents (51 of 246) consumed three to five drinks per week, 12% (30) had six to nine drinks per week, 4% (10) had 10 to 13 drinks per week and 2% (6) consumed more than 14 drinks per week.

**Figure HSS-II: Number of Alcohol Drinks Consumed per Week (n=427)**

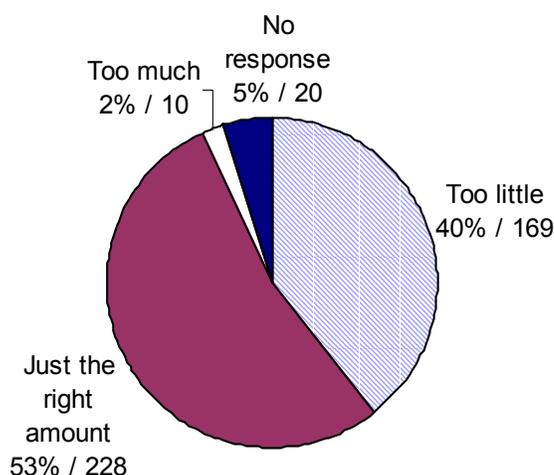


Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Playing the VLT's was an activity of 16% of respondents (68). Of these respondents, 81% rarely played (55 of 68), 12% played monthly (8 of 68) and 7% played weekly (5 of 68).

In a self-rating of their physical activity level, 40% of respondents (169) reported they got 'too little' physical activity, while 53% of respondents (228) reported that they got 'just the right amount' of physical activity. Only 2% of respondents (10) reported that the amount of physical activity they got was 'too much'.

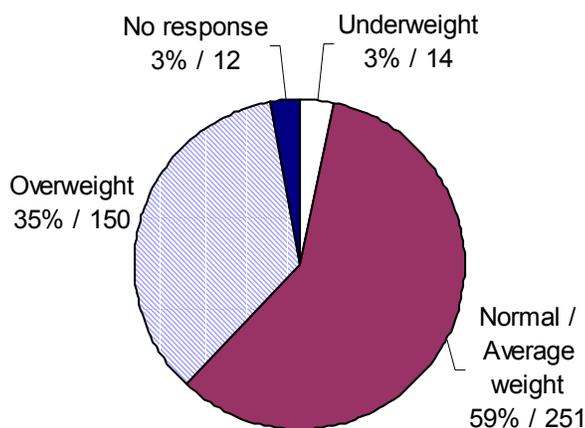
**Figure HSS-III: Respondent Rating of Usual Amount of Physical Activity (n=427)**



*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, May 2003*

Over half of respondents (59%, 251) considered themselves to be of normal or average weight; one-third (35%, 150) considered themselves to be overweight and 3% (14) considered themselves to be underweight.

**Figure HSS-IV: Respondent Rating of Body Weight (n=427)**

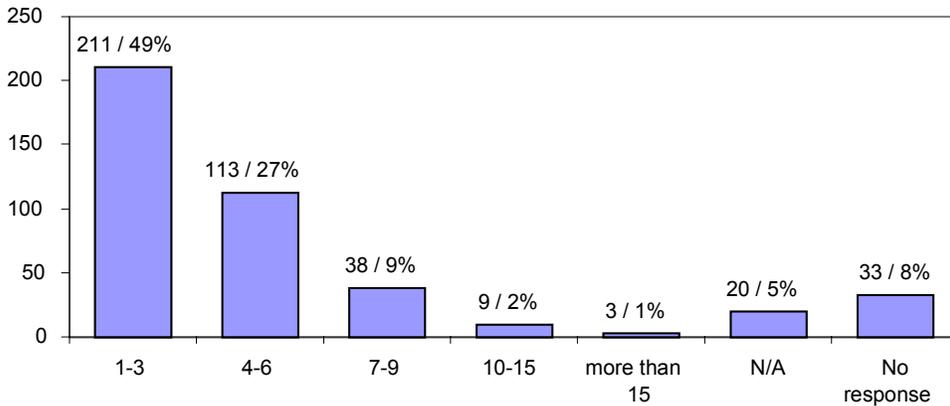


*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, May 2003*

### Health Service Availability

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding health service availability in the community. About half of the respondents (221) indicated that they waited one to three business days for a regular short appointment with their physician in Virден. Twenty-seven percent of respondents (113) reported waiting four to six business days, and 12% of respondents (50) reported waiting more than seven days.

**Figure HSS-V: Length of Wait in Business Days for a Regular Short Appointment to a Virден Physician (n=427)**



Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, May 2003*

For other health services accessed, the length of wait for an appointment ranged from less than a month to more than a year. In Table HSS-8 respondents' experiences regarding the lengths of wait times for medical specialist appointment, surgery, CT scan, MRI, physiotherapy and ultrasound are noted.

**Table HSS-8: Wait Times for Medical Services**

	Less than 1 month		1 to 2 months		3 to 5 months		6 to 11 months		1 year or more	
	#	%	#	%	#	#	#	%	#	%
Specialist Appointment (n=267)	53	20%	78	29%	70	27%	47	18%	19	7%
Surgery (n=105)	16	15%	26	25%	27	26%	22	21%	14	13%
CT Scan (n=73)	31	42%	22	30%	14	19%	5	7%	1	1%
MRI (n=25)	1	4%	10	40%	9	36%	3	12%	2	8%
Physiotherapy (n=40)	18	45%	13	33%	5	13%	4	10%	0	0%
Ultrasound (n=92)	22	24%	41	45%	15	16%	9	10%	5	5%

Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

### Health Services Accessed Outside of the Community

Seventy-three percent of respondents (311) indicated that members of their households accessed health services outside of the community. In 2002, the services most commonly accessed outside the community were dental (33%, 142), specialists (28%, 121) and eye care (26%, 110). The number of households who accessed services outside the community in 2002 is recorded in Table HSS-9. The table also contains information about services that required an overnight stay. Access to a specialist was the service most frequently reported to require an overnight stay (25%, 30 of 121). Nine percent of households (10 of 110) indicated that access to eye care in 2002 had required an overnight stay. The numbers of visits per household made to health services outside of the community in 2002 are also noted.

**Table HSS-9: Health Services Accessed Outside of the Community in 2002 (n=427)**

	Households who Accessed the Service Outside the Community		Households with Overnight Stay to Access Service	
	#	%	#	%
Any Health Service	311	73%	--	--
Dental	142	33%	4 of 142	3%
Eye care	110	26%	10 of 110	9%
Chiropractor	28	7%	1 of 28	4%
Hearing	22	5%	0 of 22	0%
General Practitioner / Family Physician	66	15%	3 of 66	5%
Occupational Therapist	11	3%	0 of 11	0%
Physiotherapist	22	5%	0 of 22	0%
Specialist	121	28%	30 of 121	25%

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

**Table HSS-10: Number of Visits to Health Services Outside of the Community in 2002 (n=427)**

	1 to 3		4 to 6		7 or more		None / no response*	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Dental	93	22%	32	7%	17	4%	285	67%
Eye care	97	23%	12	3%	1	0%	317	74%
Chiropractor	9	2%	11	3%	8	2%	399	93%
Hearing	18	4%	4	1%	0	0%	405	95%
General Practitioner / Family Physician	34	8%	20	5%	12	3%	361	85%
Occupational Therapist	7	2%	2	1%	2	1%	416	97%
Physiotherapist	7	2%	7	2%	8	2%	405	95%
Specialist	95	22%	14	3%	12	3%	306	72%

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

*\* Many respondents left this question blank, or answered with a dash (-). While some of these responses may indicate 0 visits, we cannot make this assumption of all such responses.*

Over half of the respondents (58%, 247) indicated that members of their household were covered by health insurance other than Medicare (e.g., Blue Cross). Thirty-nine percent of households (165) were not covered by additional health insurance.

Respondents were asked to indicate what additional health services, programs or facilities would improve life for people in their town or municipality. Responses are listed in Table HSS-11. Suggestions were to provide surgical (44) and obstetrical services (42) in the community and increased availability of health personnel such as adding a physiotherapist (17), doctors (9) and an anesthesiologist (7). Respondents also indicated a desire for more diagnostic services in the community such as ultrasound, stress tests, hearing tests, MRI, bone density, mammogram and CAT scan.

**Table HSS-11: Additional Health Services / Programs / Facilities to Improve Life in Community**

Suggested Service/Program/Facility	# of responses
Health Services	
Surgery	44
Baby delivery / obstetrics	42
Better use of hospital facilities	10
Dialysis	9
Cancer care	4
Cardiac care	2
Additional Health Personnel	
Physiotherapist	17
Additional doctors in community	9
Anesthesiologist	7
Access to specialists	5
Foot care specialist	4
Additional dentist	3
Naturopath/homeopath/acupuncture	3
Occupational therapist	1
Speech therapist	1
Orthodontist	1
Diagnostic Services	
Ultrasound	10
Diagnostic services/equipment in general	5
Stress tests	3
Hearing tests	3
MRI	3
Bone density tests	1
Mammogram	1
CAT scan	1
Other	
Seniors housing / personal care homes	8
Fitness facility / heated pool	5
Wellness and healthy lifestyle programs	4
Better health care/quality of doctors and nurses	4
Shorter wait times	3
Longer hours / after hours walk-in service	3
Telehealth	3
Affordable travel to health services	3

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## Chapter 8: ENVIRONMENT



The natural environment is an important determinant of health. A healthy natural and built environment promotes health while at certain levels of exposure, contaminants in air, water and soil can cause a variety of adverse health effects. Environmental policies such as water, air and soil testing and waste management policies indicate the degree to which people have taken responsibility for their environment. Community beautification planning indicates community commitment to the quality of life of its residents

The indicators relating to Environment include:

Water – *water supply, well water testing.*

Waste Management – *sewage treatment, recycling.*

Air Quality – *ambient air monitoring.*

Farming Practices – *intensive livestock operations, farm chemicals, organic farms, stubble burning.*

Community Appearance – *community beautification planning, green space.*

### Highlights

- ✓ Virden's water treatment facility was upgraded in 1999 (see page 92).
- ✓ A water treatment facility to serve residents in the R.M. of Wallace is being constructed and initial hookups are expected in 2004 (see page 92).
- ✓ Virden has a recycling depot with bins available for drop-off service. Curbside collection is planned and will start in June 2004. The area received a provincial "C" grade for recycling, suggesting room for improvement (see page 94).
- ✓ To encourage homeowners to maintain, upgrade and repair their property, local competitions are held annually for residents and businesses. A "Yard of the Week" is featured weekly in the local newspaper, the *Virden Empire Advance* (see page 100).

### Community Survey Highlights

- ✓ Some 60% of survey respondents indicated equal concern for the economy and the environment, while 22% of respondents reported their primary concern was with the quality of the environment even if economic growth was reduced and 3% percent reported concern with economic growth even if the quality of the environment was reduced (see Figure En-I).

## **Water**

### **Water Supply**

The Town of Virden provides water to the residents of the town and all businesses that require high quality treated water. The Town of Virden's water supply recently underwent the second phase of a major upgrade. The first phase, the installation of new supply lines and the drilling of two new wells, was completed in 1993. The second phase, a new \$3.7 million water treatment facility, was completed in 1999. The Assiniboine River Valley is the source of water for the area. Two storage reservoirs include a 100,000-gallon storage tower and a 400,000-gallon storage reservoir at the main station. The average daily demand is 1.3 ML per day and the Town has a total pumping capacity of 3.25 ML per day and a peak daily capacity of 30 ML per day (Source: [www.virden-wallace.mb.ca](http://www.virden-wallace.mb.ca)). The water supply is tested daily.

Rural residents currently rely on private wells for their water supply. Since the year 2000, the R.M. of Wallace, with guidance and cooperation from Manitoba Water Services, have considered and explored at least ten sources of water to supply rural pipeline to the ratepayers in the R.M. of Wallace. Each situation was terminated by either low quantity or cost prohibitive quality. In 2003, a source of water of both good quantity and quality was found in the basin of the Assiniboine valley, three miles north of R.M. of Wallace, in the R.M. of Miniota. From this find and through positive surveys and a public meeting the decision was to pursue a rural pipeline with 430 kilometers of mainline to satisfy the shortages and improve quality requirements for the R.M. of Wallace ratepayers. With a total potential 430 connections, 365 connections are expected, while 275 have committed financially as of December 31, 2003. This soft water will be supplied to Hargrave, Kirkella and Kola with consideration given to Elkhorn. As well, local rural household and livestock needs will be fulfilled.

A low cost treatment facility and storage will be located at NW 31-12-26 along Highway 83 on the north perimeter of the municipality. The expected requirement is 263 imperial gallons per minute with a peak of 393. A pressurized pipeline will range in size from 50mm to 300mm. The \$11 million estimated project cost will be funded one third by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), one third by the Province of Manitoba and one third by local R.M. of Wallace residents. The construction of this project will happen in stages as quickly as PFRA commits more money to this project. It is expected that \$2.6 million will be spent on construction in each of the years 2004 and 2005 with initial hookups starting in 2004.

### **Well Water Testing**

In Virden-Wallace, private water wells are the responsibility of the owner. It is recommended that individuals using a private well have the water tested for bacteriological quality at least once a year. Results are reported directly to the individual. The local Ag office and the Health Unit provide information on well water testing and bottles in which to submit well water samples to an accredited laboratory.

## **Waste Management**

### **Waste Disposal**

The Virden Industrial Waste Treatment and Disposal Site is located approximately 10 kilometres north of the Town of Virden, in the R.M. of Wallace. The facility has a permit to operate a Class 2, Waste Disposal Ground (total weight exceeds 1000 tonnes but less than 4000 tonnes per year) issued by Manitoba Conservation, which has been amended to include petroleum contaminated soils and other petroleum industry waste. The Virden Petroleum Industry Waste Treatment & Disposal Site is capable of managing petroleum-contaminated soils resulting from industrial and petroleum activities in the Manitoba and Saskatchewan areas. Hazardous wastes, biomedical wastes and radioactive wastes are not accepted.

The Town of Virden, Manitoba and HAZCO Environmental Services Ltd. of Calgary, Alberta entered into an agreement to jointly develop, manage and operate the Petroleum Industry Waste Treatment and Disposal Site at the existing location of the Virden Waste Disposal Ground. The Town of Virden has operated the Waste Disposal Ground since 1986. In conjunction with HAZCO, they began operating the Petroleum Industry Waste Treatment and Disposal Site in August 1996.

The site is located on 80 acres of non-productive, non-agricultural land and is not located in a groundwater pollution hazard area (in an area zoned for this usage). The surrounding land is used for pasture, croplands and intensive oilfield activity. The nearest residence is 2 km away, thus the facility is separated so that no objectionable odors or noise are apparent to the neighbors. The property is bermed to prevent surface water from entering or leaving the site. An evaporation pond to collect surface water runoff is utilized. The facility has a natural clay base with low permeability and seven ground water monitoring wells are located throughout the facility. (Source: <http://www.wasteworks.net/virden.html>)

Two garbage dumps service the R.M. of Wallace: Kola and Hargrave. In 1995 a used oil recycling depot was opened at the Hargrave dump (NW 34-10-27). Eco Centre has a 1000 gallon tank and the R.M. of Wallace has a 4000 gallon tank on site to collect used motor oil and a separate area for the containers. Enviro-Tech is the company responsible for the pick up of the oil and also removes the used tire collection.

### **Sewage Treatment**

The Town of Virden provides the sewage treatment system for the businesses and residents in the Town. Their deep-shaft sewage system, which was completed in 1977, was the first of its kind to be built in North America. The biological aeration single shaft system treats approximately 220,000 gallons of waste per day. The sewage treatment plant does not cover any of the rural area. Rural residents in the area use septic tanks and fields. (Source: [www.virden-wallace.mb.ca](http://www.virden-wallace.mb.ca))

## **Recycling**

The recycling depot in Virden is located at 260-5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Residents can drop off their recyclable materials into labeled bins at any time of the day or night.

The recycle depot in Virden is operated under the direction of Bridge Street Enterprises, linked with the Association for Community Living. The Town of Virden owns the building and funds the project. The bulk of the recycling depot employees are residents of the Bridge Street group home. The depot provides employment for clients of the Association for Community Living while also providing an outlet in the Town for recycling.

Effective the April 2004 the recycling program in Virden will have a change of management and will be called Virden and District Recycling. Two new employees will be hired to operate the facility and curbside collection is expected to commence in June 2004. Each homeowner in Virden will be supplied with a “blue box” for pick-up every two weeks in conjunction with regular garbage pick-up. The current buildings will be updated to allow the acceptance of more and different recyclable materials including commercial cardboard. Slots will be built into the walls of the building for the placement of recyclables, eliminating the current situation of outside storage bins. Plans are to also extend the recycling services to the surrounding area. It is hoped that these changes will greatly reduce the material in the landfill site and improve the current Recycling Report Card grade.

The amount of recycled material for the fiscal years of April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002 and April 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003 is presented in Table En-1. The data includes Town of Virden, R.M. of Wallace, Town of Oak Lake and R.M. of Sifton (total population 5,781). The total amount of recycled material for the area in 2002/2003 was 158,349 kilograms, which calculates to 27.4 kilograms of recycled material per person. This amount of recycling per person was lower than the average of 36 kilograms per person for the South West Manitoba Region and the Manitoba average of 42.9 kilograms.

This area was graded by the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation on the amount of material recycled per resident. The area received a “C” grade. The grade breakdown is as follows:

- A+ Above 75 kgs/person
- A 50-74 kgs/person
- B+ 40-49 kgs/person
- B 30-39 kgs/person
- C Under 30 kgs/person

**Table En-1: Kilograms of Recycled Material by Type for Virden, R.M. of Wallace, Oak Lake & Sifton, 2001-2002 & 2002-2003**

Eligible material	Total Kilograms	
	2001-2002	2002-2003
Aluminum	2,424	2,860
Glass	25,400	22,160
HDPE (#2 plastic)	2,865	2,232
OMG (magazines)	0	2,073
ONP (newspapers)	83,860	88,037
PET (#1 plastic)	3,220	2,681
Steel	4,709	10,229
OCC (corrugated cardboard)	18,593	24,058
OTD (telephone directories)	962	4,019
OBB (boxboard)	0	0
Gable Top Cartons	0	0
Aseptic Containers	0	0
#4, #5, #7 Plastics	0	0
<b>Total recycled</b>	<b>142,033</b>	<b>158,349</b>

*Source: Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation Community Recycling Reports, 2002 and 2003*

The largest amount of material (measured in kilograms) recycled in the area was in 2002/2003 fiscal year. Amounts of material recycled increased from 1996-1997 to 1999-2000. In 2000-2001, the amount of material recycled decreased, however increases in the amount of material recycled were experienced in the next 2 years.

**Table En-2: Recycling Trends for Virden, R.M. of Wallace, Oak Lake & Sifton, 1996-1997 to 2002-2003**

Year	Kilograms Recycled
1996-1997	92,000
1997-1998	137,720
1998-1999	142,654
1999-2000	144,617
2000-2001	120,965
2001-2002	142,033
2002-2003	158,349

*Source: Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation Community Recycling Report, 2002 and 2003*

### **Air Quality**

A Town of Virden by-law, effective January 1, 1996, bans smoking in Town-owned buildings, workplaces, recreational facilities, vehicles and equipment. While the Town of Virden has no by-law regarding smoking in public places, several facilities have decided to institute a no smoking policy. According to the town office, no indoor air quality monitoring is required by town by-laws. Manitoba Hydro will provide indoor air quality testing on request.

Manitoba Conservation along with the Petroleum Branch of Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines monitored the ambient air for sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide in selected areas of the oilfields of southwestern Manitoba. The monitoring was conducted during various periods between June 2000 and July 2001 in Virden, Pierson, Waskada and Deloraine. The sulphur dioxide levels measured were largely undetectable and below Manitoba air quality objectives. Hydrogen sulphide was detected, on occasion, at all sites and most frequently at the Virden location. Virden was also the site with the only two exceedences of the Manitoba ambient air quality guideline of 11 parts per billion averaged over one hour. (Source: Manitoba Conservation, 2002)

Sulphur dioxide is a colourless gas with a pungent odour that has been linked to an increased frequency of respiratory disease symptoms and lung disease, as well as having a marked effect on vegetation. Sulphur dioxide levels did not reach detectable levels in Virden. Hydrogen sulphide is a toxic foul smelling gas well-know for its rotten egg odour at very low concentration. The concentration of hydrogen sulphide in the ambient air is rarely high enough to harm either vegetation or man. However, at high concentrations, it will produce a loss of sense of smell and severe respiratory tract irritation. The hydrogen sulphide levels in Virden were recorded as having exceeded the provincial air quality guideline on 2 occasions. The provincial air quality guideline is based on managing annoyance from odour and is about 100 times lower than levels reported in literature to cause direct health effects such as irritation. Hydrogen sulphide levels were therefore substantially less than levels at which health effects have been reported.

## **Health**

The rate of health problems attributed to water, air quality or waste management practices shows potential health problems arising out of environmental management practices. According to the local Regional Health Authority there is no documentation regarding health problems associated to water, air quality or waste management. No known incidences were identified.

## **Farming Practices**

### **Crop Inputs**

Many types of pesticides are used in farming and crop inputs can be divided into three types: herbicides (weed control), insecticides (bug control) and fungicides (disease control). According to the 2001 Statistics Canada Agricultural Census, 173 farms in the R.M. of Wallace used herbicides on a total of 130,732 acres, 29 farms used fungicides on a total of 18,925 acres and 28 farms used insecticides on a total of 11,766 acres. Additionally, 161 farms used commercial fertilizer on a total of 123,045 acres.

One pesticide container disposal site licensed by the Province is located in the R.M. of Wallace at Hargrave. Producers can take their empty pesticide containers to these sites for proper disposal. Producers are encouraged to use up all the spray in each can, then triple rinse to reduce environmental contamination. The empty containers are stored at the site until enough material is collected for shipment. The plastic containers are taken to an incinerator at Selkirk for final disposal and the tin pails are recycled.

### **Intensive Livestock Operations**

The number of livestock operations in the area can indicate the potential for air, soil and water environmental contamination. In Manitoba, an intensive livestock operation (ILO) is considered to be 400 or more animal units per location. According to the local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives representative, in their opinion, there would currently be 6 beef operations in R.M. of Wallace that meet the criteria of ILO with the largest being 2500 animal units and 7 hog operations with 400 to 750 animal units. According to the representative, all cattle numbers have recently dropped in the past months due to BSE.

New provincial legislation is expected to be passed that will change the definition of an ILO from 400 animal units to 300 animal units and these operators will have to file manure management plans with their respective rural municipality. Presently, operations that have been in existence prior to ILO legislation were not required to file for technical review, but this will change with the new legislation.

### Soil Conservation Practices and Weed Control

According to Statistics Canada's 2001 Agricultural Census, the most common type of soil conservation practice used in the R.M. of Wallace was crop rotation (65% of reporting farms used this as a soil conservation method). Permanent grass cover (33%), windbreaks or shelterbelts (18%) and grassed waterways (15%) were other soil conservation practices used. Overall, percentages of farms using particular soil conservation practices in the R.M. of Wallace are similar to those of farms across the Province.

**Table En-3: Farms in the R.M. of Wallace, by Soil Conservation Practices Used, 2001**

Soil Conservation Practice	R.M. of Wallace		Manitoba	
	# of Farms	% of Farms	# of farms	% of Farms
Crop Rotation	199	65%	13,344	63%
Permanent Grass Cover	100	33%	7,207	34%
Windbreaks or Shelterbelts	56	18%	4,072	19%
Grassed Waterways	47	15%	2,577	12%
Winter Cover Crops	14	5%	783	4%
Contour Cultivation	14	5%	798	4%
Green Manure Crops for Plough-down	12	4%	543	3%
Mechanical or Hand Weeding of Crops	11	4%	1,327	6%
Strip-cropping	6	2%	294	1%
Total number of farms	305	100%	21,071	100%

*Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census*

In the 2001 Agricultural Census, farm owners were asked to indicate the form(s) of weed control used on their summerfallow land. Summerfallow land is land that has been plowed but left unseeded during a growing season. The most common method reported in the R.M. of Wallace was 'tillage only', which was reported for 52% of summerfallow land, followed by 'tillage and chemical combination on the same land' (36%) and 'chemical only' (12%). The proportion of summerfallow land each soil conservation method was used on was similar for the R.M. of Wallace and Manitoba.

**Table En-4: Form(s) of Weed Control Used on Summerfallow Land, R.M. of Wallace, 2001**

Weed Control Method	R.M. of Wallace		Manitoba	
	# of Acres	% of Total Acres	# of Acres	% of Total Acres
Tillage Only	8,959	52%	318,196	50%
Tillage and Chemical Combination on the Same Land	6,155	36%	237,280	38%
Chemical Only	2,095	12%	76,454	12%
Total Summerfallow Land	17,209	100%	631,930	100%

*Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Agricultural Census*

### **Organic Farms**

The Organic Producers Association of Manitoba Co-op Inc. is a member-owned, independent certification body that is affiliated with the Canadian Organic Advisory Board (COAB). OPAM certifies over 100 growers and processors of organic food across Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. The OPAM office is located in Virden.

The number of organic farms in a region can measure the use of alternative farming practices. According to OPAM, five certified organic farms are located in the R.M. of Wallace.

### **Stubble Burning**

The amount of stubble burning shows the potential for respiratory problems for nearby residents. The number of hectares burned is not recorded for the R.M. of Wallace. Due to the presence of the intensive livestock population in the area most straw is baled for livestock bedding and feed. The only burning that takes place in the area is flax straw. In 2002, Manitoba Crop Insurance reported that 10,868 acres of flax was grown in the R.M. of Wallace. Using a rough estimate of half of this flax straw being burned, approximately 5,000 acres or 2,050 hectares were burned.

### **Community Appearance**

In 1996, the town of Virden received the prestigious Communities in Bloom award for “Most Beautiful Town in Canada” for the population category 1,505 to 3,000. In the Communities in Bloom contest, Virden was also awarded the titles of “Most Outstanding Floral Displays in Canada” and “Tidiest Town in Canada”. In 1997, Virden was represented in Madrid, Spain at an international beautification competition. Virden was recognized as one of three of the most beautiful communities in the world. The town was judged and recognized for its outstanding heritage management, environmentally sensitive practices, community involvement and effort to plan for the future.

### **Community Beautification Planning**

The Town of Virden works in conjunction with the Virden in Bloom Committee for community beautification. The Town has its own tree nursery and replaces older trees and plants new

boulevard trees on an annual basis. The town is also a member of the Provincial Dutch Elm Disease Prevention Program. In the spring, on National Earth Day, the Virden students take a day to clean up the school yards, parks and creek beds by removing garbage and dead plant debris.

To encourage homeowners to maintain, upgrade and repair their property, local competitions are held annually for residents and businesses. A “Yard of the Week” is featured weekly in the local newspaper, the Virden Empire Advance. An annual “Planter Day” is held in the lot by the CP Station every May. Local nurseries are on hand with their wares and a pile of potting soil is free to fill baskets and pots. In 1997, a joint project with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and Enbridge (a local pipeline company) established one of the first orchards of its kind in Manitoba by planting 3,500 fruit-bearing trees. The Community Orchard and fish pond are located in the south end of Virden, off of Government Road.

Every spring brings forth plans for the Virden in Bloom Committee to expand and plant a new flower bed or other beautification project.. In the past the Committee has developed beautiful flower gardens and green spaces such as those at the tourist booth on King Street and the Virden in Bloom planted logo on the corner of King Street and Eighth Avenue.

### **Green Space**

Green space includes playgrounds, parks and campgrounds. In Spring 2004 the Town of Virden and Virden in Bloom will be placing planters, benches, new flower beds and shrubs to develop a new green space in a currently empty lot space on Nelson Street.

Green space in the Town of Virden includes:

- Victoria Park;

- Centennial Park;

- a community orchard;

- a community fish pond;

- 3 minor playgrounds; and

- 2 playgrounds at elementary schools.

A Town representative indicated that with the increase in liability issues related to playgrounds, playgrounds might be phased out in the near future.

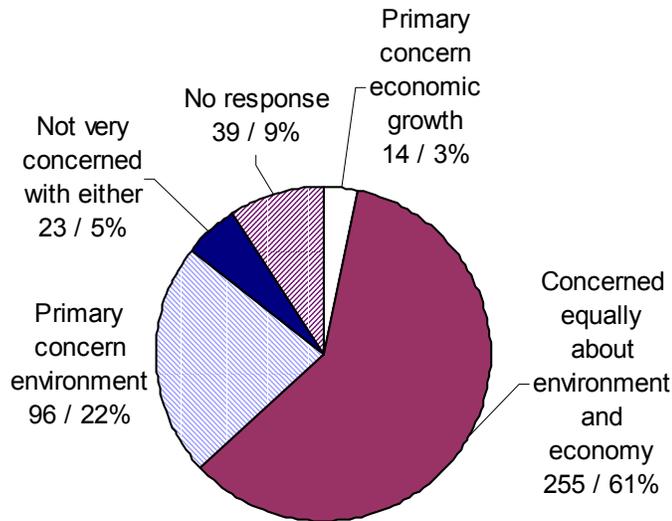
A campground called Lions Park, operated by the local Lions Club is located on the edge of town in the R.M. of Wallace. This pretty, well-treed campground offers approximately 45 sites with electricity and water hookups. Approximately 12 of these sites are full service with water, electrical and sewer services. This campground also offers new washroom facilities including showers.

### **Community Survey Findings**

In the community survey, residents were asked to share their views on the economy of their community and the quality of the environment. Sixty percent of respondents (255) indicated equal concern for the economy and the environment. Three percent of respondents (14) reported that they were most concerned with economic growth even if the quality of the environment was reduced and 22% respondents (96) reported concern with the quality of the environment

even if economic growth was reduced. Five percent of respondents (23) indicated that they were not very concerned with either economic growth or environmental quality. Nine percent of respondents (39) did not complete the question.

**Figure En-I: Respondent Views on the Economy and the Environment (n=427)**



*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## Chapter 9: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE



Accessible and affordable transportation to and from rural communities, formal and informal communication systems, housing, industrial infrastructure, availability and access to public services are all important to rural residents. Community infrastructure including roads, water and sewer services and effective municipal services including waste management are increasingly important to rural communities. The availability of affordable housing has an impact on the health and well-being of the population. Infrastructure such as high-speed Internet service can provide communication, business and education options to residents. Accessible and available public meeting places can facilitate community communication and social/recreational opportunities. Existing industrial infrastructure can be an indicating factor in the community's ability to attract new or expanding industries.

Useful indicators to measure the level and quality of the Community Infrastructure include:

Transportation – *public transportation, private transportation, wheelchair accessibility, sidewalks, walking/bicycle paths.*

Communication – *local, regional, national, international news and entertainment media, Internet access.*

Housing – *home ownership, housing affordability, subsidized housing, seniors housing.*

Public, Business and Industrial Infrastructure – *public meeting spaces, public library, land dedication.*

## Highlights

- ✓ Public transportation is provided locally by a taxi service and the Handi-Van Transportation to other communities. Public transportation to other communities is available by bus. The airport is available for private planes and emergency use (see page 104).
- ✓ Virden's public and business sector is approximately 75% wheelchair accessible (see page 104).
- ✓ Approximately one mile of walking trail is located in Virden. No paved walking paths or bicycle paths are available (see page 104).
- ✓ High-speed Internet is available in both Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. Three public Internet service locations are available in Virden: the Border Regional Library, The Post Office and a local coffee shop (see page 106).
- ✓ According to Statistics Canada, in 2001, 74% of dwellings in Virden and 93% of dwellings in R.M. of Wallace were owner-occupied (see Table CI-2).
- ✓ The average housing costs per month are \$607 for owners and \$524 for renters in 2001 (see Table CI-3).
- ✓ There are 2 personal care homes and 5 seniors housing facilities (3 being life-lease facilities) are available in Virden. Waiting times for entry into seniors' housing range from "depending on need" (personal care homes) to 4 years (Princess Lodge) (see pages 98-99).
- ✓ There are more than a dozen public meeting places are available in the community with seating capacity ranging from 10 – 18 people (The Elegant Moose Restaurant) to 467 people (The Auditorium Theatre) (see Table CI-6).
- ✓ The Border Regional Library, serving the communities of Virden, Elkhorn, McAuley, and R.M.s of Archie and Wallace, held 38,329 materials and had 42, 939 transactions in 2002 (See Table CI-7).

## Community Survey Highlights

- ✓ Community respondents are generally satisfied with Handi-Van services (see Table CI-8).
- ✓ Some 15% of respondents indicated that availability of housing needs improvement (see Table CI-8).
- ✓ Meeting facilities and halls in the community were perceived to be adequate by 69% of the survey respondents (see page 112).

## **Transportation**

### **Public Transportation**

In Virden-Wallace, one taxi service and a handi-transit service are available. The Virden Taxi Service runs 24-hours on Friday and Saturday, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Monday through Wednesday and until 2:30 a.m. on Thursday. The Sherwood Handi-Van has three volunteer drivers and is available as needed to the “mobility disadvantaged.” The Handi-Van also brings adult day program participants to the Sherwood three days a week and can be contacted through the Sherwood personal care home.

The Greyhound Bus Line provides a bus service traveling east and west from the Greyhound Bus Depot in Virden. Buses leave the depot up to 8 times per day (4 times east, 4 times west) connecting the community to others along the Trans Canada Highway. Although a rail line runs through the town of Virden, the nearest passenger rail service is the town of Rivers. The airport is available for private planes and emergency use. The airport has been extensively developed within the past five years. Upgrades include a new 4,000 foot paved and lighted runway, a new terminal building, a gas refueling tank for airplanes and a paved tarmac. One of the main reasons for the upgrades was to ensure access for medical emergency planes (the airport has been used for this service since completing the upgrades).

Virden is located at the junction of the Trans Canada Highway and Provincial Highway 83, which is a major north/south corridor highway connecting Swan River to the Gulf of Mexico. The Trans Canada Highway spans east/west from coast to coast and is four-lane from several hundred kilometers to the east of Virden and presently as far as Hargrave (10 kilometers) to the west. Four-lane highway to the Saskatchewan border (70 kilometers to the west) is to be completed by 2007.

### **Private Transportation**

According to the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, as of July 31, 2001, residents with a Virden area postal code registered 3,455 motor vehicles. Some 955 trailers and 113 off-road vehicles were also registered. This number suggests that most residents in the area have access to a vehicle.

### **Wheelchair Accessibility**

The sidewalks in downtown Virden are wheelchair accessible at every corner. An estimate provided by the town office is that the rest of Virden is approximately 75% wheel chair accessible. In a survey of business owners, 47% (33 of 71) indicated that their business was wheelchair accessible.

### **Sidewalks and Walking/Bicycle Paths**

The staff of Town of Virden report that they do not have an accurate measurement of the distances of sidewalks that are available. Sidewalks are common downtown, however, few are located in the rest of the community. No formal bicycle paths have been developed in the community to date, but approximately one mile of walking trail is located along Scallion Creek.

## Communication

Regional, national and international news sources available in the community are presented in Table CI-2. Newspapers, radio and television broadcasts from outside of the community are available in Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. Locally, a weekly newspaper, a number of community newsletters, Access 12 and a number of bulletin boards provide local news and information. A local radio station is not present in Virden-Wallace. Local media sources are presented in Table CI-2.

Three non-cable television stations can be received in Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. In the Town of Virden, Westman Cable provides 18 channels to subscribers. Both in town and in the rural areas, residents can choose to subscribe to digital wireless cable by SkyCable or satellite systems by StarChoice or Bell Expressview.

**Table CI-1: Availability of Regional, National, and International Channels of Communication**

Media	Source(s)
Newspapers	Brandon Sun Winnipeg Free Press Winnipeg Sun Globe and Mail
Agricultural Newspapers	Cooperator Western Producer Corner Pocket Cross Border Advertiser
Radio	Radio broadcasts on AM and FM can be received from Brandon, Dauphin, Winnipeg, Yorkton, Regina, Minot and Boissevain.
Television (non-cable)	CKX (Brandon) CKY (Winnipeg) CKND (Winnipeg)
Cable	Westman Cable TV of Brandon (18 channels) is available in the town of Virden. Digital wireless cable by Skycable available in Virden and most rural areas (over 40 channels)
Satellite	StarChoice and Bell ExpressView are the most common satellite systems and can be used both in town or rural areas.

*Source: Virden-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team, 2003*

**Table CI-2: Availability of Local Channels of Communication**

Type of News or Media	Source(s)
Newspapers	Virден Empire Advance (published in Virден every Saturday) Circulation of 2,700
Radio	--
Community Newsletters	News In A Minute (daily) Recreation Office newsletter to all non-business mailboxes (3 times / year) School newsletters sent home with students (5 times per year per school)
Community Access Cable TV	Access 12 – provides community service announcements and local media reports and productions to Westman Cable subscribers
Bulletin Boards	Several in town are well-used: Valley-view Co-op, Bruce’s Fine Foods, The Highway Grocery, Chicken Chef, Virден Credit Union and the Central Hotel

*Source: Virден-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team, 2003*

### **Internet Access**

High-speed Internet is available to all residents and businesses in the Virден and R.M. of Wallace areas. The two main providers are Manitoba Telecom Services (MTS) for Virден residents only and within the past 2 years, by the Virден based business RF Now for both in town and rural residents. Dial-up service is also available in Virден and the R.M. of Wallace. All schools in Virден and the R.M. of Wallace have high-speed Internet access.

Three locations in Virден offer public Internet service. The Border Regional Library offers four computers for Internet use and reports that they are well used by the community (no official data recorded). A local coffee house, Timothy Beans, offers one computer for public use and reports that this computer receives moderate use. One computer is also available at the post office.

### **Housing**

#### **Percent of Home Ownership**

According to the 2001 Census, 74% of private dwellings in the town of Virден (985 of 1335) were owned, compared to 26% (345 of 1335) that were rented. For the R.M. of Wallace, 93% of private dwellings (465 of 500) were owner-occupied, compared to 7% (35 of 500) that were rented. Compared to 1996, the same numbers of dwellings in the Town of Virден (985) were owner-occupied, however the number of rented dwelling had increased by 65 from 280. A direct comparison of number of dwellings in the R.M. of Wallace is not possible due to changes in the census boundaries, however the proportion of owner-occupied dwellings has increased from 82% in 1996.

**Table CI-3: Home Ownership for the Town of Virden, R.M. of Wallace and Province of Manitoba, 2001**

	Town of Virden		R.M. of Wallace		Manitoba	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Occupied Private Dwellings	1335	100%	500	100%	432,550	100%
Owned	985	74%	465	93%	293,295	68%
Rented	345	26%	35	7%	128,930	30%

*Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 95F0487XCB01001*

### **Affordability of Private Dwellings**

According to the Manitoba Community Profiles website, the cost of a 1000 square foot detached single family dwelling in Virden was \$100,000 new or \$65,000 existing. The cost of a 1500 square foot detached single-family dwelling was \$150,000 new or \$100,000 existing. However, these prices seemed low for the present markets and it was suggested that these figures could be increased by \$10-20,000 to be more realistic for the times. A town owned lot in Virden's Kenderdine subdivision costs between \$16,000 and \$26,500 and according to people in the local building industry, the cost of building a new dwelling generally costs \$125 per square foot.

According to Statistics Canada, the allocation of 30% or more of a household income to housing expenses provides a useful benchmark for assessing trends in housing affordability. While housing costs have increased, the proportion of households spending 30% or more on household costs remained stable between 1996 and 2001. According to the 2001 Census, for Virden-Wallace, the average homeowner is spending \$607 per month on housing costs, which is lower than the provincial average of \$685. Nine percent of homeowners in Virden-Wallace are spending more than 30% of their household income on housing costs. Provincially, 11% of homeowners spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs. For tenant households in Virden, the average rent (including utilities) was \$524, which is very similar to the provincial average of \$523. Some 30% of tenant households in Virden were spending more than 30% of their household income on housing costs. Provincially, 37% of renters spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs. Those recently looking for housing indicate that limited rental housing is available. It was noted that limited availability of rental housing and the high costs of buying a home made it difficult for young people to find housing in the community.

**Table CI-4: Affordability of Private Dwellings, 2001**

	<b>Owner households</b> <i>Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace</i>	<b>Tenant Households</b> <i>Town of Virden only</i>	<b>Owner Households</b> <i>Manitoba</i>	<b>Tenant Households</b> <i>Manitoba</i>
Total Number	1185	345	276,530	126,655
Average major payments (owned)/ rent (tenant)*	\$607	\$524	\$685	\$523
# of households spending 30% or more on housing costs	110	105	31,335	46,985
% of households spending 30% or more on housing costs	9%	30%	11%	37%

*Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada Catalogue #95F0492XCB01001*

\* *Owner's major payments includes electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services, mortgage payments, property taxes, and condominium fees. Tenant's gross rent includes electricity, fuel, water and monthly cash rent.*

### **Subsidized Housing**

In Virden, 15 single houses and 2 duplexes for a total of 19 family units are available as subsidized housing in the community. As of December 2003, one approved application was on the waiting list for a 2-bedroom unit. Some units, however, were also vacant. The Princess Lodge and Evergreen Place are subsidized housing units for seniors with 40 and 38 one-bedroom suites respectively.

### **Personal Care Homes**

Two personal care home facilities are available in Virden. The total occupancy, availability and average cost of these facilities are presented in Table CI-5. Both facilities have 50 beds and an average cost of \$26.40 to \$62.10 per day.

**Table CI-5: Affordability and Availability of Personal Care Homes in Virden, 2003**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Occupancy</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Average Cost</b>
Sherwood (Level 1 & 2 residents*)	50 beds	Waiting period depends on individual needs	\$26.40 to \$62.10 per day
Westman Nursing Home (Level 1, 2, 3 & 4 residents*)	50 beds	Waiting period depends on individual needs	\$26.40 to \$62.10 per day

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

\* *All personal care home residents are assessed at one of four levels of care, depending on the number of nursing hours they require per day. Level 1 is the lightest at 0.5 hours, level 2 at 2 hours, with levels 3 and 4 at least 3.5 hours, with level 4 being the highest level of care.*

## Seniors' Housing

The Princess Lodge and Evergreen Place are subsidized seniors housing units. The waiting list for Princess Lodge is about 4 years with approximately 65 people on the waiting list. The waiting list for Evergreen Place is about 2 years with approximately 30 people on the waiting list. Individuals who have reached the top of the waiting list but are not yet ready to move into seniors housing can decline the unit and have their name placed back on the list. Affordability and availability details of these senior's housing units can be found in Table CI-6. Meal programs are available at both locations. At Princess Lodge, tenants pay 26% of their income, up to \$429, for rent. At Evergreen Place, rental amounts are based on 27% of tenants' incomes.

Virден Kin-Place is a Seniors Life Lease Apartment facility funded by the Kinsmen Club. These are condominium type units available through a life-lease plan. A minimum down payment of \$31,500 is required, plus \$666 to \$800 per month. The down payment is redeemable if the resident should move. Additionally, 2 four-plexes that serve as seniors housing on a life-lease plan, have been constructed in Virден in the past few years.

**Table CI-6: Affordability and Availability of Seniors Housing in Virден, 2003**

Facility	Occupancy	Availability	Average Cost
Princess Lodge (seniors low cost housing)	40 one-bedroom suites (3 handicap suites)	Waiting time of approximately 4 years (About 65 people on waiting list)	Income-based at 26% to a maximum of \$429 Noon meal program available 5 days a week
Evergreen Place	38 one-bedroom suites (3 handicap suites)	Waiting time of approximately 2 years (About 30 people on waiting list)	Income based at 27% with no maximum amount. Evening meal program available 3 days per week
Virден Kin-Place (Life-Lease Apartments)	12 two-bedroom suites	All presently occupied. (No waiting list kept)	Minimum down payment of \$31,500 plus \$666 to \$800 / month upkeep charges

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

## **Public Infrastructure**

### **Availability of Public Meeting Spaces**

A number of meeting facilities are available in Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. A listing of meeting facilities is provided in Table CI-7. The largest capacity facility is the Auditorium Theatre with a seating capacity of 375.

**Table CI-7: Availability of Public Meeting Spaces in Virden-Wallace, 2003**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Details</b>
The Auditorium Theatre	467 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage with piano, audio and visual equipment</li> <li>• no catering or banquet facilities</li> </ul>
Clae Mar Inn	60 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• licensed banquet room</li> <li>• complete dining services</li> </ul>
Canadian Pacific Station	15 – 20 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• upper floor meeting room</li> </ul>
The Elegant Moose Restaurant	10 – 18 persons (theme meeting room)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete dining services</li> </ul>
Elks Lodge Hall	250 (main hall) 40 (meeting room)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stage with piano, audio visual equipment</li> <li>• kitchen with available catering</li> </ul>
Hargrave School Building	100 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kitchen facility</li> </ul>
Jays Inns & Suites	40 – 60 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• audio visual equipment available</li> <li>• catering available</li> </ul>
Royal Canadian Legion	230 persons (hall) 50 persons (meeting room) 30 persons (meeting room)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has stage with piano, audio visual equipment</li> <li>• kitchen with available catering</li> </ul>
Sacred Heart Parish Hall	150 persons (hall) 4 additional rooms available for meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stage with piano, audio visual equipment</li> <li>• kitchen with available catering</li> </ul>
School Gymnasiums and Classrooms	Varying from small rooms to large gymnasiums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 school gymnasiums available in Virden-Wallace</li> <li>• A school use policy is in place and these facilities are well used</li> </ul>
Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room	50 persons	
Virden Central Hotel	100 persons (banquet room) 60 persons (dining room)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audio and visual equipment</li> </ul>

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

### Availability and Use of Public Library

Border Regional Library is a regional library system serving the Town of Virden, Villages of Elkhorn and McAuley and the R.M.s of Wallace and Archie. Branches are located in Virden, Elkhorn, and McAuley. In Table CI-8, details about the availability and use of the public library are provided. The library is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays to Saturdays and hours extend to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Seven computers are available to the public. Time on the computers is limited to one half hour per visit.

**Table CI 8: Availability and Use of Border Regional Library, 2002**

Indicator	Detail
Number of materials held by library	38,329
Number of circulation transactions	42,939
Number of reference requests	398
Number of library memberships	2,789
Number of memberships held by people outside the community	43
Number of interlibrary loans requested	1,134 per year
Number of interlibrary loan requests filled	1,215 per year
Programs/activities	Summer Reading Program Big Little Story Club (preschool group) Share the Stories (8 week program for Junior High age) Family Literacy Program
Does the library have internet access?	Yes – 4 computers available

*Source: Border Regional Library, 2002*

### Industrial Infrastructure

#### Land Dedication

A plan for an industrial subdivision has been in place since 1995. An area approximately one kilometre from town (near the airport) has been designated as an industrial site. An engineer was contracted by the town to draw a plan with lots and proposed servicing in place. Forty-two lots are available in this subdivision. To date this subdivision has not been developed.

#### Utility Lines

Appendix D shows existing water, natural gas and electricity transmission lines running through Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. Additional water lines to run through the R.M. of Wallace are being constructed and initial hookups are expected in 2004 (see Environment Chapter).

## Community Survey Findings

### Transportation and Housing

In the Virden-Wallace community survey, residents were asked to rate housing and transportation in the community, as well as the adequacy of meeting facilities and halls. Community survey information on Virden’s walking paths is presented in the Recreation, Culture and Leisure section.

Respondent satisfaction with access to housing and transportation is presented in Table CI-9. Some 57% of respondents (242) perceived access to housing to be ‘excellent’ or ‘satisfactory’, while 15% (64) indicated that access to housing ‘needs improvement’. In a separate question asking for respondent input regarding other programs or services of importance, 8 respondents suggested that additional senior housing was needed in the community.

Access to Handi-Transit was rated quite positively, as only 2 respondents indicated a need for improvement. Some 49% of respondents (211) rated access to other transportation in the community as ‘excellent’ or ‘satisfactory’, while 8% (34) stated that access to other transportation ‘needs improvement’. Of the 34 respondents who indicated that access to ‘other’ transportation needed improvement, eight indicated the specific mode of transportation they were considering in their ratings. Of these 8 respondents, 4 indicated that air service and 4 indicated that taxi service ‘needs improvement’.

**Table CI-9: Respondent Satisfaction with Housing and Transportation (n=427)**

	Needs Improvement		Satisfactory		Excellent		Not Applicable		No Response	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Access to Housing	64	15%	186	45%	56	13%	70	16%	51	12%
Access to Handi-Transit	2	.5%	91	21%	78	18%	199	46%	57	13%
Access to other* transportation	34	8%	161	38%	50	12%	114	27%	68	16%

Source: *Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

\* Of respondents indicating a specific mode of ‘other’ transportation, 4 indicated air service and 4 indicated taxi service ‘needs improvement.’

### Public Infrastructure

Meeting facilities and halls in the community were perceived to be adequate by 69% of respondents (294), compared to 16% of respondents (68) who indicated that they were not adequate. Some 42 respondents (10%) indicated that although the facilities were adequate, some improvement would be beneficial.

Respondents frequently commented that the community needed a larger hall (72) and suggested hall capacities ranging from 200 to 500 people. Respondents indicated that a larger hall could be used for wedding receptions, trade shows and conventions. Some respondents indicated that existing facilities could use maintenance or upgrading (14) as some buildings were aging.

Residents (12) recommended that the meeting facilities and halls be designated non-smoking. Suggestions for improving community meeting facilities and halls are presented in Table CI-10.

**Table CI-10: Respondents Suggestions for Improvement of Community Meeting Facilities and Halls**

Suggestion	# of responses
A larger hall (200 to 500+ capacity)	72
Existing facility upgrades (including bathrooms and kitchens)	14
Non-smoking facilities	12
More small meeting space	3
Rental cost reduction	2
Improved access to school facilities	1

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## Chapter 10: COMMUNITY PROCESSES



Leadership, volunteerism, opportunities for participation in decision making and community spirit all contribute to the health and well-being of rural communities. Who the leaders are, the roles they play and their ability to lead and mentor others in the community has a far-reaching impact. The numbers of younger adults undertaking leadership positions in the community demonstrates interest by younger residents and builds future community capacity. The percentage of positions that were filled by acclamation as well as the percentage of residents voting in civic and school board elections shows the degree of participation of community residents in selecting representation to lead them and may be an indicator of active involvement or apathy. Leadership in a community is provided by more than just elected positions; service clubs, volunteer organizations and religious establishments also provide community leadership.

Indicators relating to Community Processes include:

Leadership – *elected leadership roles, voter turnout, positions filled by acclamation.*

Local Policies and By-laws – *number of Town and Municipal violations.*

Volunteerism – *service clubs, volunteer organizations, religious establishments, registered charities.*

### Highlights

- ✓ A high proportion of leadership positions in the last elections were filled by acclamation, with 6 of the 7 Councillor positions in the Town of Virden, 7 of the 9 Trustee positions in the Fort La Bosse School Division, and 4 of the 7 Councillor positions in the R.M. of Wallace (see page 115).
- ✓ No member of the Virden Town Council, R.M. of Wallace Council or Fort La Bosse School Division Board is under the age of 35 (see Table CP-1).
- ✓ More than 60 service clubs and volunteer organizations operate in the community (see pages 117-118).
- ✓ Residents have their choice of 8 religious establishments in the Town of Virden and 4 in the R.M. of Wallace (see page 118).
- ✓ There are 34 registered charities in the Town of Virden and 6 in the R.M. of Wallace (see page 119).

## Community Survey Highlights

- ✓ Some 247 (58%) of community respondents indicated that they currently volunteered for at least one local organization, The most commonly mentioned organizations were churches (39) and the Legion and Legion Auxiliary (19) (see page 121).
- ✓ Some 50 community survey respondents who indicated that they do not currently volunteer in the community expressed an interest in volunteering (12% of all respondents). One-third of these respondents were under the age of 35 (see page 121).
- ✓ Community members suggested increasing volunteerism in the community by advertising of volunteer groups and positions, increasing personal contact, encouraging the involvement of young people, being more considerate of volunteers' time commitments and giving volunteers local recognition and incentives (see page 121).
- ✓ Some 41% of the male community survey respondents and 24% of female respondents indicated that they sit on the executive of an organization (see page 122).
- ✓ Some 69% of community survey respondents indicated that they belonged to an organized faith/religion (see page 122).

## Leadership

### Elected Leadership Roles

The Virden Town Council consists of a Mayor and 6 Councilors, the R.M. of Wallace Council consists of a Reeve and 6 Councillors and the Fort La Bosse School Board is made up of 9 trustees, one of whom serves as chairperson. In the Town of Virden, one Councillor is female, as are 3 of the 9 Fort La Bosse School Division Trustees. None of the positions in the area are held by members of visible minorities, however, only 3% of the area's population is visible minorities. Also, young adults under the age of 35 did not hold any of the positions. Lack of young people in leadership positions suggests mentoring and succession planning in the community could potentially be improved.

**Table CP-1: Elected Leadership Roles**

Role	Town of Virden	R.M of R.M. of Wallace	Fort La Bosse School Division
Mayor	1	--	--
Reeve	--	1	--
Councillors	6	6	--
Trustees	--	--	9
Females	1 of 7 (14%)	0 of 7 (0%)	3 of 9 (33%)
Young Adults (under 35 years of age)	0	0	0

*Source: Community Assessment Coordinator*

### **Civic and School Board Elections**

In the last Town of Virden election, 6 of the 7 positions (86%) were filled by acclamation, as were 7 of the 9 trustee positions (78%) in the last Fort La Bosse School Division election. Four of the 7 positions (57%) in the R.M. of Wallace Council were filled by acclamation in the last election, 1 was filled by appointment and 2 positions were decided by vote, with 2 names on each ballot.

In 1998, the last full election for the Town of Virden, there was a 53% voter turn out. A bi-election for the Town of Virden in 2002 saw only a 4% turnout. The last municipal election for the R.M. of R.M. of Wallace was held in October of 2002. In this municipal election, 56% of eligible residents voted for a Reeve, 50% voted for a Ward 1 Councilor and 64% voted for a Ward 3 Councilor. A 78% voter turnout was seen for the last election for Ward 2 of the Fort La Bosse School Division in October 2002.

### **Local Policies and By-laws**

In 2002, the Town of Virden issued 30 parking tickets and 5 animal control fines. A number of zoning by-law violations were committed, however these are not documented. These violations include the building of fences and sheds and renovations done without a permit. The R.C.M.P. reported that 52 municipal by-law offenses were recorded for 2002. This was up from 41 offenses recorded for 2001.

## **Volunteerism**

### **Service Clubs**

Twelve service clubs were identified in the community, ranging in membership from 8 to 500 participants. These service clubs are listed in Table CP-2. Of the service clubs, the Royal Canadian Legion had the largest membership with 500 members.

**Table CP-2: Service Clubs**

<b>Service Club</b>	<b># of Members</b>
BPO Elks	104
Countess of Rebekah Lodge	32
Kinsmen	10
Knights of Columbus	40
Legion Ladies	43
Leos (Lions youth club)	25
Lions Club	30
Odd Fellows	8
Optimist Club	11
Order of the Royal Purple	47
Royal Canadian Legion	500
United Commercial Travelers	55

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

### **Volunteer Organizations**

Numerous groups and organizations in the community operate with volunteer boards or committees. These include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Association of Parents and Professionals for Literacy Education | Minor Baseball                          |
| Border Regional Library   | Minor Hockey                            |
| Cemetery Association  | New Horizon Center                      |
| Chevron Arena Committee   | Pacific Willing Workers                 |
| Christian Women's Club  | Pioneer Home Museum                     |
| Christmas Cheer Board   | Prairie West Recreation                 |
| Donor's Choice  | Princess Lodge Seniors Housing          |
| Evergreen Place Seniors Housing                                 | Promise Keepers (Christian Men's Group) |
| Funshine Day Care Centre Inc.                                   | Rifle and Pistol Club                   |
| Girl Guides, Brownies, Pathfinders                              | Seniors Access to Independent Living    |
| Horticultural Society   | Special Olympics                        |
| Justice Committee   | Synchronized Skating Club               |
| Lawn Bowling  | T.O.P.S.                                |
| Maples Society  | Terry Fox Run Committee                 |
|   | Virden & Area Food Cupboard             |

Virден 4-H Light Horse and Pony Club  
 Virден Access T.V.  
 Virден Ag Society  
 Virден Ag Society – Ladies Division  
 Virден and District Hospital Auxiliary  
 Virден Area Foundation  
 Virден Art Club  
 Virден Chamber of Commerce  
 Virден Community Arts Council  
 Virден Community Recreation Commission  
 Virден Cubs & Scouts Movement  
 Virден Curling Club  
 Virден Dance Club  
 Virден Ducks Unlimited  
 Virден Figure Skating Club  
 Virден Gymnastics Club  
 Virден Home & School Association

Virден in Bloom Committee  
 Virден Indoor Rodeo  
 Virден Music And Arts Festival  
 Virден Prarieland Chorus  
 Virден Riding Club  
 Virден Theatre Board  
 Virден Wellview Golf Club  
 Virден-Wallace Community Development Corporation  
 Wallace Community 4-H Beef Club  
 Wallace Community Club  
 Weight Watchers  
 Welcome Wagon  
 Westman Nursing Home Ladies Auxiliary  
 Woodnorth 4-H Activity Club  
 Youth For Christ

### **Religious Establishments**

Town of Virден residents have their choice of 8 religious establishments in the community and 4 religious establishments are found in the R.M. of Wallace.

#### **Town of Virден**

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses  
 Oxford Assembly Pentecostal Church  
 Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
 St. Mary’s Anglican Church  
 St. Paul’s United Church  
 Virден Alliance Church  
 Virден Baptist Church

#### **R.M. of Wallace**

Hargrave United Church  
 Kola Church of the Advent  
 Kola Evangelical Mennonite Church  
 Wallace United Church

## Registered Charities

Thirty-four charities are registered for the Town of Virden and 14 charities are registered for the R.M. of Wallace. The registered charities in Virden are:

Association of Parents and Professionals For Literacy Education	The Virden and Area Foundation Inc.
Border Regional Library Board	The Virden Cemetery Improvement Association
Canadian Association of Community Living – Virden Branch	The Virden Donor’s Choice
Farmers with Disabilities in Manitoba	Virden & District Hospital Auxiliary
Funshine Day Care Centre Inc.	Virden Alliance Church
Kelchris Inc.	Virden & District Playground Development Fund
Kinsmen Foundation (Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Inc.)	Virden & Area Food Cupboard
Manitoba Oil Museum	Virden and Area Wildlife Association
Oxford Assembly Pentecostal Church	Virden Auditorium Restoration Committee Inc.
River Valley Historical Society	Virden Baptist Church Inc.
Sacred Heart Parish	Virden C I L Officers Association Inc.
Seniors Access to Independent Living	Virden Community Art’s Council Inc.
St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church	Virden Community Recreation Commission
St. Andrew’s United Church (Hargrave)	Virden Music & Arts Festival
St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church	Virden Pioneer Home Museum
St. Paul’s United Church	Youth Training Centre
The Currahee Military Museum	
The Fort La Bosse School Division Foundation	

The registered charities in the R.M. of Wallace are:

Evangelical Mennonite Church	St. Mary’s Anglican Church
Kola Church of the Advent and Cemetery Corporation	The Manitoba Automobile Museum Foundation
Kola Community School Inc.	R.M. of Wallace United Church

## **Community Events**

Volunteer committees plan a number of annual community events in Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. These events include:

- The Virden Music and Arts Festival;
- The Virden Fair;
- The Virden Rodeo; and
- Virden in Bloom activities.

The Virden Music and Arts Festival is an annual two-week cultural event held in Virden the last two weeks of April. A core committee of 35 people organizes the event and is assisted by approximately 100 volunteers. Local businesses contribute to assist the event. For more information on the Virden Music and Arts Festival see Recreation, Culture and Leisure.

The Virden Fair is held the first weekend in July. The event features a horse show, cattle show, petting zoo, horticultural fair, parade and social evening. The Ag Society, which is a volunteer organization of 50 people, organizes the event and the event activities utilize approximately 100 volunteers.

The Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze is perhaps the premier event for the community. Held in the Virden Arena in mid August, the rodeo attracts competitors from all across Canada and the United States. The event features bull riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling and team roping. The business sector becomes involved by closing off the main street to traffic and hosting a variety of events such as sidewalk sales, human chuckwagon races, a chili cook-off, pancake breakfast, parade and social evening. A committee of 20 people oversees all events such as the dance and demo derby, while another committee of 20 people organizes the actual rodeo. Approximately 400 volunteers provide their time to the Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze.

The Town of Virden works in conjunction with the Virden in Bloom Committee for community beautification. The Virden In Bloom Committee is made up of 9 core people and doubles in the summer months with volunteers assisting with weeding and watering. For more information on Communities in Bloom see Environment.

## **Community Survey Findings**

Respondents of the Virden community survey were asked questions in four areas related to community process: volunteerism, leadership, organized religion/faith and the continued success of the community.

### **Volunteerism**

Some 58% (247) of respondents volunteer for at least one local organization. The most commonly mentioned organizations that respondents volunteered with included their church (39), the Legion and Legion Auxiliary (19), Seniors Access to Independent Living (SAIL) (14) and the Elks and Royal Purple (14). In all, respondents indicated 68 local organizations with which they volunteered. The ten most frequently identified volunteer organizations are presented in Table CP-3. Fifty respondents who indicated that they do not currently volunteer in the community expressed interested in volunteering. Areas of interest included church groups and activities (7), children's activities (5) and volunteering with seniors (4). Some potential, therefore, exists to attract more community residents to participate as volunteers in various sectors and contribute to the community. One-third of those respondents who indicated an interest in volunteering were under the age of 35.

Community members indicated that advertising of volunteer groups and positions, increasing personal contact, encouraging the involvement of young people, being more considerate of volunteers' time commitments and giving volunteers local recognition and incentives are ways to increase volunteerism in the community.

**Table CP-3: Ten Most Frequently Identified Volunteer Commitments**

<b>Organization</b>	<b># of responses</b>
Church	39
Legion and Legion Auxiliary	19
Seniors Access to Independent Living (S.A.I.L.)	14
Elks and Royal Purple	14
School Activities	13
Minor Hockey	10
Scouting Movement/Girl Guide Movement	10
Agricultural Society	10
Meals on Wheels	9
Virden Music and Arts Festival	8

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## **Leadership**

Forty-one percent of male respondents (43 of 105) and 24% of female respondents (70 of 294) indicated that they sit on the executive of an organization. The most commonly mentioned organizations that respondents held executive positions on included church groups (7) and the Legion (5). Respondents who sat on the executive of an organization were asked if the organization had a leadership-training program and if the organization encouraged young people to become members. Of the 122 respondents, 40% (49 of 122) stated that their organization had a leadership-training program in place and 87% (106 of 122) stated that the organization encouraged young people to become members.

Respondents indicated that participation in community leadership could be increased by increasing personal contact and advertising, reducing the time commitments of being involved, respecting and encouraging those serving in these positions, providing enumeration, outlining duties clearly and encouraging young people to become involved. The identification of strategies that have been successful for organizations in attracting the participation of young people may be useful to be shared with other community groups.

## **Organized Religion / Faith**

Sixty-nine percent of respondents (295) indicated that they belong to an organized religion/faith. Of the respondents who belonged to an organized religion or faith, 16% (46 of 295) attended a local worship service 'more than 4 times a month', 27% (81 of 295) attended '3 to 4 times a month', 20% (59 of 295) attended '1 or 2 times a month' and 35% (104 of 295) attended 'rarely or only on special occasions'.

## **Continued Success of the Community**

Respondents were asked to rank 10 factors on their importance to the continued success of their community with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important. A complete list of factors and their rank are presented in Table CP-4. The three factors ranked most important were: local availability of health care services (average rank of 2.4); an aggressive business center (average rank of 3.3); and a good town/municipal council (average rank of 3.4).

**Table CP-4: Factors for the Continued Success of the Community (n=176)**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Overall Rank</b>	<b>Average Rank 1=most important, 10=least important)</b>
Local availability of health care services	1	2.4
An aggressive business center	2	3.3
A good town/municipal council	3	3.4
Recreation facilities	4	4.5
Potential for growth (e.g., residential and industrial lands)	5	4.9
Attractive community appearance	6	5.1
Cultural facilities (e.g., library)	7	5.3
Useful service clubs	8	5.5
Tourist attractions and facilities	9	5.8
Continuing adult education opportunities	10	6.2

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*



## Chapter 11: RECREATION/CULTURE/LEISURE

Recreation and leisure opportunities and options, access to the arts, libraries, museums, churches, activities for all ages and links to neighbouring communities all are important to rural residents. As physical activity is increasingly recognized as contributing to health, the importance of services and programs for sports and recreation grows. Opportunities for recreational and cultural activities have an impact on the quality of life for residents of the community. Preservation of historical items provides residents with the opportunity to learn about their community's past.

The indicators relating to Recreation, Culture and Leisure include:

Recreation – *recreation facilities and activities, provincial and national parks.*

Heritage – *museums, heritage buildings and farms.*

Culture – *cultural events and activities.*

### Highlights

- ✓ There are 21 recreational facilities within the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace. There were 34 recreational activities, with a numbers of participants ranging from 8 (Golden Seals Swim Club) to 360 (Golf, men's, women's, seniors') reported in 2002. (see Tables RCL-1, RCL-2).
- ✓ There are a number of historic buildings in the community. Two buildings have provincial heritage designations and one building has a municipal heritage designation (see page 128).
- ✓ The Manitoba Historical Society has designated 18 farms in the R.M. of Wallace are Century Farms. This award is presented to descendents of pioneers who have continued on the land for more than 100 years (see page 128).
- ✓ A variety of cultural events such as the Virden Music and Arts Festival, the Concert Series and the Indoor Rodeo and cultural activities such as choir for youth, drama club for adults, and art club and chorus for seniors are offered throughout the year (see pages 128-129).

## Community Survey Highlights

- ✓ Generally community survey respondents indicated that if their children were not participating in a recreational activity it was due to lack of interest. However, 16 households indicated that children were not participating in minor hockey because it was too costly, as did 10 households for figure skating (see Table RCL-6).
- ✓ The recreational and leisure facilities were reported to be adequate by 61% of the community survey respondents. Some 26% of survey respondents indicated that the recreational and leisure facilities were not adequate for their needs (see page 131).
- ✓ Some 59% of the community survey respondents indicated that there was enough variety of recreational programs in the community, while 19% of respondents reported that not enough variety of recreational programs was offered (see page 133).
- ✓ Although 67% of survey respondents (324) indicated that walking was part of their regular activity, only 23% of respondents used Virden's walking paths (see Table RCL-10).

## Recreation

### Recreational Facilities and Activities

The Town of Virden has a number of recreation facilities available to community members for both summer and winter activities. A listing of recreation facilities within the Town of Virden and the R.M. of Wallace can be found in Table RCL-1.

**Table RCL-1: Recreational Facilities Within Town of Virden and R.M. of Wallace**

Athletic Tracks (2)	Rifle & Pistol Range
Baseball Diamonds (10)	Soccer Fields (2)
Chevron Outdoor Rink (Natural Ice)	Victoria Park Horseshoe Pit & Lawn Bowling (2)
Fishing/Boating Area	Victoria Park Tennis Courts (2)
Fitness Centres (2)	Virden Curling Rink (Artificial Ice)
Groomed Snowmobile trail	Virden Indoor Arena (Artificial Ice)
Hellman's X-Country ski trails (groomed)	Virden Outdoor Pool & Waterslide
Hiking/Walking/Bike Path	Virden Wellview Golf Course (9 holes)
Horse Race Track	Willowspring Driving Range
Horse Riding Arena	
Kola Skating Rink (Natural Ice)	
Playgrounds (5)	

*Source: Manitoba Community Profiles website*

A number of recreational activities for preschoolers, children, youth, adults and seniors are available in the Virden-Wallace community. A listing of many of these programs, the number of people who participate and the target age group of the activity are presented in Table RCL-2.

**Table RCL-2: Participation in Recreational Activities, 2002**

Activity	# of Participants	Age Group
Pre-School Skating	10	2-5
Blast Ball	36	2-5
Gymnastics	18	2-5
Can Skate Program	54	4-8
Virден Dance Club	51	3-18
Cubs/Scouts	10	5-10
Soccer	101	5-13
Youth Recreational Hockey	15	5-14
Brownies/Guides	38	5-16
Synchronized Skating (youth)	45	5-18
Minor Ball	120	5-18
4-H Club	24	6-18
Golden Seals Swim Club	8	8-13
Jr. Curling	52	8-14
Jr. Golf	40	8-14
Minor Hockey	125	8-16
Figure Skating Club	38	8-18
High School Curling	36	15-18
High School Hockey	20	16-18
High School Ball	18	16-18
Senior Hockey	20	18-35
Senior Ball	18	18-35
Adult Recreational Hockey	15	18-40
Slo Pitch	60	18-50
Men's Curling	76	18-65
Synchronized Skating (adult)	18	20-50
Ladies Curling	36	20-55
Lineament League Hockey	60	20-65
Running Club	18	25-50
Riding Club	25	3-70
Virден Karate Club	32	6-50
Golf (men's, women's, seniors)	360	18-80
Lawn Bowling	20	50-80
Senior's Curling	108	55-80

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

Prairie West Recreation also offers a variety of recreation and leisure activities for Virden-Wallace. The recreation director organizes these activities based on interest in the community. Each summer a variety of week long camps are offered for children ages 5 to 12. Programs offered by Prairie West Recreation and attendance numbers for 2002 are listed in the following two tables.

**Table RCL-3a: Activities for Any Ages Offered by Prairie West Recreation in 2002**

Activity	# of Participants
Babysitter Training Course (ages 12+)	23 (offered 2 times in 2002)
Seniors Walking Program	30
Cedar Chest Construction Course	13
Making a Stepping Stone Course	35 (offered 3 times in 2002)
National Coaching Certification Program Level 1	32 (offered 3 times in 2002)
Dog Obedience Course	5
Willow Furniture Construction Course	12
Safe Boating Course	23 (offered 2 times in 2002)
Pioneer Day at the Museum	25

*Source: Prairie West Recreation*

**Table RCL-3b: Summer Camps for Children (5-12) Offered by Prairie West Recreation in 2002**

Activity	# of Participants
Adventure Camp	21
Mad Scientist Camp	27
Sports Camp	23
Junior Olympic Camp	13
Golf Camp	20
Gymnastics Camp	20
Little Critters Camp	28
Mini Soccer Festival	5

*Source: Prairie West Recreation*

In addition to ongoing activities, Prairie West Recreation plans to offer a number of new activities and courses in 2004. Some of the new activities planned for 2004 include:

Yoga	Overnight Spa Trip
Infant Massage Workshop	Playhouse Theatre Bus Trip
Stamping Workshop	Basic Car Maintenance
Kids Making Christmas Gifts	Reflexology/Massage
Chocolate for Kids	Cooking
Blue Bomber Football Bus Trip	Paper Tole Painting

## **Heritage**

Two museums can be found in the community: Virden Pioneer Home Museum and Elkhorn Automobile Museum. Heritage buildings in the community include the Virden Civic Centre and Aud Theatre (built 1911), St. Mary's Church (built 1885), The "Round" building at the fair grounds (built 1904), the CP Railway Station (built 1900), the Virden Lyon's Home and the Kola Church of the Advent. The Civic Centre/Aud Theatre and the CP Railway Station have provincial heritage designation and the Tapp House (Pioneer Home Museum) has a municipal heritage designation.

"In recognition of those pioneers whose descendants have continued on the land for 100 years or more", the Manitoba Century Farm Award is presented to families by the Manitoba Historical Society. Over 1,200 farms within the Province of Manitoba have achieved this 100 year designation. Eighteen of these farms are located within the R.M. of Wallace.

## **Culture**

A number of cultural events are held in the community throughout the year. The Virden Community Arts Council sponsors a Concert Series each year. For the year 2002-2003, 7 different performances were held in the Virden Aud Theatre. The Virden Community Arts Council also sponsors an average of 12 art exhibitions throughout the year. These exhibitions are usually on display at the CP Station Galleries. The Virden Drama Club puts on a performance each year with two showings of each performance being held in the Virden Aud Theatre. Approximately 8 performances per year (combination of choirs, variety concerts and other entertainment events) are also held at the Aud Theatre.

The Virden Music and Arts Festival is an annual two-week cultural event held in Virden the last two weeks of April. The Festival features competitive and non-competitive events in vocal, dance, piano, instrumental, speech arts and visual arts. The Music and Arts Festival always concludes with a Hi-Lites Concert, which features event winners in each discipline.

**Table RCL-4: Number of Cultural Events within the Community per Year**

Type of Event	Sponsor	Location	Number of Times per Year
Concert series	Virden Community Arts Council	Virden Aud Theatre	7
Art exhibitions	Virden Community Arts Council	CP Station Galleries	12
Theatrical	Virden Drama Club	Virden Aud Theatre	1 (2 performances)
Concerts, choirs and other entertainment	Various Groups	Virden Aud Theatre	8
Virden Music and Arts Festival	Community volunteers and businesses	Virden Aud Theatre	1

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

A number of cultural activities are available in the community. The Virden Music and Arts Festival draws approximately 500 participants in a year, generally ranging from 3 years of age to 40 years. Three youth choir groups are active in the community, the Virden and District Youth Choir for ages eight to fourteen, Sweet Debut for ages fifteen to eighteen and the Virden Collegiate Choir for Senior 1 to Senior 4 students. A drama club for adults, recently called the Phoenix Players, has been active in the community for over 60 years. Adults of any age can participate in the Art Club or Prairieland Chorus Barbershoppers, however seniors are the main participants in these activities. While there is no art club for children, Prairie West Recreation offers craft sessions during the year.

**Table RCL-5: Cultural Activities**

Activity	# of Participants	Age range
Music & Arts Festival	Approximately 500	3 – 40
Virden & District Youth Choir	55	8 – 14
Sweet Debut	15	15 – 18
Virden Collegiate Choir	30	14 – 18
Drama Club	25	18+
Art Club	20	18+
Prairieland Chorus Barbershoppers	12	18+

*Source: Personal Communication with Community Assessment Coordinator*

The Virden Community Arts Council operates the Costume Closet out of the basement of the Aud Theatre. Opened in 1991 as a place to store costumes on loan, the Costume Closet now contains over 12,000 items. The Costume Closet now provides services not only to Virden but also to Southwest Manitoba and Southeast Saskatchewan for costumes for school productions, drama clubs, choirs, skating clubs and other groups for their performances. The organization is operated by 6 volunteers and is open Mondays 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and also by appointment. No charge is issued for signing out a costume, however a donation is appreciated to cover operating expenses. The organization reports that they are presently looking for a new venue due to their cramped quarters.

### ***Community Survey Findings***

Community survey respondents were asked a number of questions relating to recreation, culture and leisure. Respondents were asked about the participation of the children living in their households in recreational activities. Respondents were asked for their perceptions of gaps or deficiencies in available activities and facilities within the community for children, youth, adults and seniors, as well as for suggestions to improve identified deficiencies. Specific questions were asked to seek opinions about Virden's walking paths.

In Table RCL-6, a list of activities and the numbers of children and youth (under 18) in responding households who participated in specific activities is presented. If children were not participating, the reason is also presented. Highest indicators of participation were found in swimming (91), school sports (46), golf (46), minor baseball (45) and church groups (45). Top participation in school sports was badminton (17), volleyball (13) basketball (11) and football (10).

Generally, respondents indicated that if their children were not participating in an activity it was because of a lack of interest. However, 16 respondents indicated that a child was not participating in minor hockey because it was too costly and 10 respondents indicated that a child was not participating in figure skating because it was too costly. Twelve respondents listed 'not available' as a reason for a child not participating in gymnastics. Eight respondents indicated that a child did not participate in a youth centre due to lack of availability.

**Table RCL-6: Child/Youth Participation in Recreational Activities**

	Number of Households Reporting Participation	Reasons for Not Participating		
		Not interested	Not available	Too costly
		#	#	#
Team Sports				
School Sports	46	12	3	0
Minor Baseball	45	43	3	3
Minor Hockey	33	43	1	16
Soccer	31	57	4	0
Curling	24	57	1	1
Individual sports				
Swimming	91	17	3	0
Golf	46	40	2	3
Figure skating	24	53	1	10
Dance classes	15	64	2	3
Gymnastics	14	51	12	1
Karate/Tae Kwon Do	8	72	3	0
Child/Youth Groups				
Church groups	45	43	2	0
Youth Centre	24	39	8	0
Nursery School	19	13	1	0
Girl guide movement	18	52	1	1
Scouting movement	12	61	1	1
4-H	10	69	2	0
Cadets	5	66	1	2

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

The recreational and leisure facilities in the area were reported to be adequate for respondent's needs by 61% of respondents (259), and not adequate by 26% of respondents (109). Fourteen percent (59) of respondents did not answer this question.

In response to an open-ended question, participants suggested improving the recreational and leisure facilities in the community by building an indoor pool (48) and a bowling alley (38). Other suggestions included building a sports arena (9) or expanding and upgrading the current skating (11) and curling rinks (6). A full list of the suggestions can be found in Table RCL-7.

**Table RCL-7: Suggestions for Improving Recreational and Leisure Facilities**

Facility Suggestion	# of responses
Indoor pool	48
Bowling alley	38
Expanded/additional skating rink	11
Sports centre/arena	9
Upgraded/additional curling rink	6
Fitness centre	6
Walking/hiking paths	6
Larger community hall	5
Improve/expand existing facilities	5
Racquetball court	4
A youth centre	4
Bike/rollerblading paths	4
A seniors centre	3
School gym usage	3
More facilities	3
Skate board facility	3
Mini golf	2
More variety	2
A marked snowmobile trail	1
Dance facility	1
18 hole golf course	1
Drive-in	1
Whirlpool	1
Paint ball centre	1
Shuffleboard	1
Motorcross track/race events	1
More camping on sports ground	1
More playgrounds suitable for toddlers	1

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Fifty-nine percent of respondents (252) agreed that enough variety of recreational programs is offered in the community compared to 19% of respondents (82) who did not. Twenty-two percent of respondents (93) did not answer this question.

Consistent with the findings regarding facilities, top choices for improving programs included bowling (27) and indoor swimming (10). Other suggestions for improving recreational programs in the community can be found in Table RCL-8.

**Table RCL-8: Suggestions for Improving Recreational Programs**

<b>Program Suggestions</b>	<b># of responses</b>
Bowling	27
Indoor swimming	10
More for youth	7
More for adults (volleyball, baseball, floor hockey, etc)	7
More for seniors	5
More arts programs (young and adult)	5
Volleyball / basketball / soccer	5
Non-competitive sports	4
Day trips (musical, theatre)	3
Public/leisure skating	2
Cross country skiing	2
Racquetball, tennis, squash	2
Something for kids not involved in hockey/skating	2
Organized indoor exercise program	2
Walking program (indoor)	2
Gymnastics	2
Lawn bowling	1
Free for low income families	1
Yoga / Tai Chi	1
Dancing	1
Shuffleboard	1
Scuba diving	1

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Respondents were asked to indicate gaps in recreational and leisure facilities and activities. Overall, gaps seemed to be distributed fairly evenly over the age categories of children/youth, adults and seniors. Lack of cultural activities or facilities in the community was identified by 4% to 6 % of respondents depending upon the age category. Respondents identified a slightly higher deficiency in sports facilities than sports activities or events in the community; 12% to 15% indicated a deficiency in the sports facilities while 9% to 11% noted a deficiency in sports events or activities. Gaps in recreational and leisure activities and facilities ranked higher for children/youth (17% to 18%) and adults (16%) than for seniors (12% to 13%). In the following table breakdowns of perceived gaps by age category are provided.

**Table RCL-9: Perceived Gaps in Community Facilities and Events (n=427)**

	Children / Youth		Adults		Seniors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sports activities / events	45	11%	41	10%	39	9%
Sports facilities	66	15%	54	13%	52	12%
Cultural activities/events (e.g., music, arts)	23	5%	26	6%	22	5%
Cultural facilities	23	5%	21	5%	18	4%
Recreational / leisure activities / events	75	18%	67	16%	56	13%
Recreational / leisure facilities	72	17%	70	16%	52	12%

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Although 76% of respondents (324) indicated that walking was part of their regular activity, only 23% of respondents (99) used Virden’s walking paths. In response to whether they would change or improve the walking paths in any way, 28% of respondents (118) indicated that they would make changes and 24% (104) would not. The remainder of respondents (48%, 205) did not answer this question.

Respondent suggestions for improving the walking paths are summarized in Table RCL-10. The most frequently cited suggestion to improve the walking paths was to have more and longer paths covering a greater area of the community (84). Respondents suggested extending the paths along the creek, along Cemetery Road and in areas where people are currently walking along the roads. Other suggestions included paving the walking paths (19) to make it easier for walking, biking and rollerblading; maintaining the paths (10); making visual improvements such as cleaning the creek area, adding fountains, ponds and benches (10); and adding lights to improve the safety of walking at night (7).

Twenty respondents indicated that they were not aware of the location of the walking paths. The suggestion to develop a route map and promote it with in the community (11) with maps, signs and advertisements may help build awareness of the walking paths and increase their use.

**Table RCL-10: Respondents Suggestions for Improvement of Walking Paths**

<b>Suggestion</b>	<b># of responses</b>
More / longer / cover a greater area	84
Pave the walking paths	19
Develop a route map and promote the paths	11
Maintenance of the paths	10
Visual improvements (clean creek area, fountains, benches, ponds)	10
More lighting	7
Make more accessible	2
Public toilets	2

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## Chapter 12: SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS



Support from families, friends and communities is associated with better health. The caring and respect that occurs in social relationships and the resulting sense of satisfaction and well-being act as buffers against stressors. Social stability, recognition of diversity, good working relationships and cohesive communities provide a supportive society that reduces or avoids many potential risks to good health. Investing in the social capital of the community will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of the community.

The indicators collected relating to Social Support Networks include:

Opportunities for Peer Contact and Social Support – *children’s organizations, youth centre, seniors’ centre, adult day program, preschool groups.*

Childcare – *day care availability and cost.*

Community Support Programs – *Christmas Cheer, meal programs, food bank.*

### Highlights

- ✓ The Hide Out Youth Centre, operated by Youth for Christ, is attended by up to 100 youth each Friday evening (see page 137).
- ✓ Seniors Access to Independent Living (SAIL) offers over 15 services including Meals on Wheels, housecleaning assistance, foot care clinics and exercise programs to enable seniors to remain independent in their homes (see page 139).
- ✓ Two nursery school groups operate in Virden, and as of December 2003, space was available for additional children in both programs (see page 139).
- ✓ One group Day Care and two licensed Day Care facilities are located in Virden. Funshine Day Care Centre reports that while the facility runs close to capacity, on some days staff have to turn children away, while on other days they do not have enough children to warrant the staffing levels. They believe this is due to higher numbers of “part-timer” clients. One of the private licenced Day Cares reports a waiting list of 2 babies. Subsidized Day Care spaces are available in the community (see page 140).
- ✓ Community support programs include Christmas Cheer (80 hampers annually), Meals on Wheels (16-17 participants/day), Virden and Area Food Cupboard (12-15 hampers monthly), Donor’s Choice (\$55,389 in 2003) and Palliative Care (see pages 140-141).

## **Community Survey Highlights**

- ✓ Awareness of community support programs ranges from 57% for the Palliative Care Program to 91% for Donor's Choice (see Table SSN-1).
- ✓ Drug and alcohol abuse programs, respite care, palliative care, child day care and a youth centre received ratings of 'high' importance to the well-being of the community by 44% to 47% of respondents (see Table SSN-2).
- ✓ Some 48% of households with children aged birth to four years and 21% of households with children aged five to fourteen years reported that they used Day Care (see page 145).
- ✓ Suggestions for improving Day Care in the community included: extended hours for shift workers, before and after school programs for school aged children and a larger Day Care facility (see page 145).

## ***Opportunities for Peer Contact and Social Support***

### **Children's Organizations**

A number of recreational programs are available for children in Virden-Wallace. These programs are detailed in Recreation, Culture and Leisure.

### **Youth Centre**

The Hide Out is a youth centre managed by Youth for Christ in Virden. The Hide Out is located in the basement of the Old Credit Union Building on the corner of Nelson Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is open Friday evenings on a drop-in basis for children 12 to 19 years of age. This program has no cost to participants and between 80 and 100 youth attend each Friday evening. Although not advertised, the Hide Out is also open on a more casual basis to youth who need a place to go after school. Dependent on available human resources, Youth For Christ is looking at extending the hours to open another evening during the week and have a scheduled after-school program.

Youth for Christ also offers a group for single mothers between the ages of 15 and 30 years. This support group of 12 to 15 moms' gets together once a week. This group has opened a used clothing store called Little Lambs, which sells used baby and children's clothing with proceeds going to defray the costs of their programs.

Youth for Christ is planning on offering a 6-week program called the Quest Program in 2004. Two sessions for high school aged youth and one session for junior high aged boys are being planned. The program will be offered for 2 hours a week at the Youth for Christ building. Each week a half-hour video on life issues such as relationships and acceptance by peers will be watched and discussed by the group.

### **Seniors' Centre**

The New Horizon Seniors' Centre in Virden is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. On average 10 to 20 seniors gather to enjoy card games and shuffle board. The Centre is also open every Friday evening for an evening of socialization while playing cards.

The Princess Lodge, Evergreen Place and Kin Place are seniors' housing units (see Community Infrastructure) and all have their own "common areas" where residents organize and participate in a variety of activities. Seniors Access to Independent Living has organized exercise programs at the Princess Lodge and Evergreen Place 3 days per week that are well attended by the residents.

### **Adult Day Program**

The Adult Day Program is a service to the community that provides an opportunity for socialization in a supportive environment. The participants are involved in an activities program, which includes crafts, games, exercises, sing-songs, devotions, special discussion groups and outings. The program is designed to assist participants with remaining independent in their home environment and to provide relief and respite for caregivers. Presently, approximately 8 to 10 individuals participate in the Adult Day Program on a regular basis. Assessment for participation in the program is managed through Homecare and the Homecare Case Coordinator meets with clients and their families to plan for attendance in this program. Manitoba Health provides funding for the program through the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority and clients contribute \$5.60 toward the costs. The program is offered 2 days per week at the Sherwood Personal Care Home and 1 day per week at the Westman Nursing Home.

### **Association for Community Living**

The Association for Community Living is a non-profit organization working with people living with a disability, primarily mental challenges, by advocating for full inclusion in the community and providing individuals with supportive, quality services. The Association for Community Living owns 5 houses in the Town of Virden and provides residential support for 20 people. The Association also runs a day service support in which 24 individuals participate. The day service has 2 programs that incorporate the capabilities of the clients to assist them in being functioning members of society. These two programs are the New To You second-hand clothing store and the Recycle Depot.

## **Seniors' Access to Independent Living**

The Seniors Access to Independent Living (SAIL) organization provides assistance to seniors to enable them to remain independent in their homes for as long as possible. SAIL operates out of an office in the Virden Medical Centre. Some services are available with users paying fees for services while volunteers provide other services. Rates are considered reasonable and effort is made to maintain a balance between meeting the financial needs of the users and the providers. Some of the programs that SAIL offers are:

Meals on Wheels

Congregate Meals

Transportation and Escort – transportation or accompaniment to appointments, shopping and meals are provided by volunteers.

Housecleaning assistance – cleaning and laundry services in the home.

Friendly Visiting – for those who would like an organized but casual visit from time to time.

Foot Care Clinics – held every 6 weeks at the Princess Lodge and Evergreen Place provided by trained personnel. Clinics are held in private residences upon special request.

Seniors' Walking Program – for 1 hour, 3 mornings per week at Goulter School. Between 15 and 20 walkers attend each session.

Exercise Program – at the Princess Lodge and Evergreen Place 3 days per week. Sessions are well attended by most residents of these facilities.

Flu Immunization Clinics

Lifeline Program – links seniors to quick response should they experience a fall or other sudden crisis.

ERIK (Emergency Response Information Kits) – contain information about seniors' health, allergies and medication use. Kits are to be placed in a conspicuous place such as the front of the fridge with ready access by emergency personnel.

55 Alive – Seniors' driver training and re-training courses.

Diabetes/Alzheimer clinics to provide information and support.

Counselling services

Handicap parking permits

## **Preschool Groups**

Presently two nursery school programs are offered in Virden: Virden Nursery School and Rhythm and Glue Nursery School. Both programs run every Tuesday and Thursday from October 1 to June 30. Participants have a choice of mornings (9:30 – 11:30) or afternoons (1:00 – 3:00). Each program reports an average participation of 15 to 20 children per session. The cost of the program is \$55.00 per month per child and as of December 2003 space was available for additional children in both programs.

## **Childcare**

One group Day Care, the Funshine Day Care Centre Inc. is available in Virden. Funshine Day Care can accommodate up to 35 children. It has a staff of 6 full-time and 4 part-time employees and operates at the direction of a volunteer board. As a group, the Board is continually fundraising to subsidize costs. The cost of attendance is \$28.00 per day for infants (under the age of 2) and \$18.80 per day for children aged 2 to 6 years. No limit is placed on the number of subsidized spaces available.

Funshine Day Care Centre staff report that occupancy for the day care has changed drastically over the past years. With so many parents currently working part-time the bulk of Funshine's clients are "part-timers". This situation has caused much confusion for the system. While the facility generally runs close to capacity, some days staff have to turn children away and other days they do not have enough children to warrant the level of staffing. The staff and the Board are seeking solutions to this problem and are aware that day cares in larger centres often accept only full-time children for this reason.

The staff at Funshine Day Care Centre strongly believes that a need exists for before and after school child care to accommodate school age children. A separate summer program would also be of benefit to the community. The Board and staff of the day care would like to look at operating a before and after-school program under the Funshine "umbrella", possibly at one of the schools. The program would provide a morning breakfast and an after school snack program. This type of care is already in place in other communities.

Two licensed Day Cares are run out of private homes in Virden. Legislation dictates that the largest number of children that can be accommodated by this type of facility is 8. The owner of one of these facilities reports that 2 babies are currently on the waiting list.

## **Community Support Programs**

For more information on Social Support Programs see the Health and Social Services chapter.

### **Christmas Cheer**

The Christmas Cheer organization is thriving in Virden. The organization has a board of 7 members and a volunteer base of approximately 30 people. Other organizations such as the Girl Guides provide additional help during the month of December. On average 80 hampers are distributed to families in Virden and area. The Christmas Cheer Board collects donations all year round in monetary donations and goods, however the majority of donations are realized in November and December. The Christmas Cheer Committee reports that donations increase every year and community support is second to none.

### **Meal Programs**

The Westman Nursing Home staff prepares suppers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays that are delivered by volunteers through the Meals on Wheels program. On average, meals are delivered to 8 or 9 individuals each day.

For a more social aspect, congregate lunches are provided at the Princess Lodge Tuesday to Saturday each week. This provides an opportunity for seniors living in their own homes to enjoy lunch with the residents of Princess Lodge. Approximately 16 to 17 participants attend each day.

The Princess Lodge staff also prepares lunches on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays that are delivered by volunteers to seniors in their homes. Approximately 12 lunches are delivered on these days.

### **Food Bank**

The Virden and Area Food Cupboard has been in place for 3 years. Monetary and food donations are collected from all churches and food donation bins are in place at the Valleyview Co-op and Bruce's Fine Foods Grocery stores. The organization reports substantial support and generosity from the community. The above grocery stores, plus The Bread Box take turns providing bread for the hampers and Sacred Heart Catholic Church provides a space for storage of dry goods. The Food Cupboard has 10 to 12 regular volunteers and they feel that this number is sufficient. Out of sensitivity and respect for users of the service and in an effort to maintain their confidentiality, a small number of volunteers is maintained.

The Food Cupboard prepares hampers twice a month from January to November. Christmas Cheer usually picks up the December needs. The request for hampers varies from month to month. For October 2003 the request was for 7 hampers whereas for November 2003 the request was for 22 hampers. The average number of hampers per month has been 12 to 15.

### **Donor's Choice**

The Donor's Choice program was first started in 1985 with charitable organizations consolidating their canvass to hold one appeal annually in late April. The number of organizations represented on the appeal sheet is limited to 20. To qualify the charitable organization must provide a representative to attend three Donor's Choice meetings throughout the year and be prepared to canvass one of the 17 designated areas in Town of Virden or R.M. of Wallace. Approximately 15 organizations are on the waiting list to join the program. In 2003 the total of donations received through the Virden Donor's Choice program was \$55,389.

### **Palliative Care**

Palliative care is for those people and families who are facing a life-threatening illness, which has reached the point, where a cure is no longer possible. The goal of palliative care is comfort and dignity of the person – to achieve the best quality of life possible based on his or her unique physical, psychosocial, cultural, emotional and spiritual values and needs. Volunteers are an important part of the Palliative Care Program. Trained volunteers provide compassionate care for clients and their families at home, in a hospital or in a personal care home. Volunteer services include home visits, social activities, transportation, providing time off for caregivers, errands such as shopping and support in time of grief.

## Community Survey Findings

In the Virden-Wallace community survey, residents were asked to indicate their awareness and support of a number of community donation and food programs. They were also asked to rate a number of programs on their importance to the well-being of the community. Usage of and opinions about childcare care in the community were also queried. These perspectives are included in this chapter. The availability and affordability of recreation and leisure programs for children are related to social support networks and survey information on these programs can be found under Recreation, Culture and Leisure.

### Community Donation and Food Programs

Ninety-one percent of respondents (390) were aware the Donor's Choice program and 69% (296) supported the program financially or provided volunteer time. Eighty-three percent of respondents (356) were aware of the Christmas Cheer program and 57% (242) supported the program. Seventy-nine percent of respondents (337) were aware of the Virden and Area Food Cupboard and 38% (163) supported the program. The Meals on Wheels program was recognized by 78% of respondents (334) and supported by 23% (99). Some 57% of respondents (244) were aware of the Palliative Care program and 7% (32) supported the program. The number of respondents aware of the listed programs and the number of respondents who support the programs either financially or through volunteer time are presented in the following table.

**Table SSN-1: Awareness and Support of Community Donation and Food Programs (n=427)**

Program	Aware		Support					
			Financial		Volunteer		Financial and Volunteer	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Donor's Choice	390	91%	255	60%	19	4%	22	5%
Christmas Cheer	356	83%	193	45%	36	8%	13	3%
Virden and Area Food Cupboard	337	79%	154	36%	9	2%	0	0%
Meals on Wheels	334	78%	24	6%	75	18%	0	0%
Palliative Care	244	57%	17	4%	14	3%	1	--

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## Importance of Community Programs

Respondents rated a list of programs regarding their importance to the well-being of their community. Drug and alcohol abuse programs, respite care, palliative care, child day care and a youth centre received a rating of ‘high’ importance by 44% to 47% of respondents (189 to 201). A rating of ‘high’ was also given to adult day programs by 37% of respondents (156), to stop smoking programs by 35% of respondents (151) and to nutrition and healthy eating programs by 31% of respondents (131). Respondent ratings for the listed programs are presented in Table SSN-2.

**Table SSN-2: Importance of Programs and Services to the Well-being of Your Town or Community (n=427)**

Program	Low Importance		Medium Importance		High Importance		Don't Know		No response	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Drug & alcohol abuse	23	5%	81	19%	201	47%	49	11%	73	17%
Palliative Care	5	1%	83	19%	198	46%	60	14%	81	19%
Respite Care	4	1%	97	23%	197	46%	55	13%	74	17%
Child Day Care	31	7%	65	15%	191	45%	64	15%	76	18%
Youth Centre	17	4%	93	22%	189	44%	54	13%	74	17%
Adult Day Program	27	6%	89	21%	156	37%	85	20%	70	16%
Stop-smoking	42	10%	93	22%	151	35%	62	14%	79	18%
Nutrition/Healthy Eating	25	6%	127	30%	131	31%	63	15%	81	19%

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

In response to an open-ended question asking respondents to list other important services, numerous services were mentioned. This listing can be found in Table SSN-3. While some respondents specified that they were referring to programs that exist in the community, others focused on and specified that they were referring to programs that did not exist in the community. Many respondents did not specify if the service they listed existed in the community or not.

**Table SSN-3: Other Important Programs and Services**

<b>Program / Service</b>	<b># of responses</b>
Youth recreational and leisure services	14
Recreational programs and facilities	13
Churches and church groups	7
Adult education and literacy	7
Counselling services (family, grief)	6
Support groups (disease, abuse, etc)	5
Volunteers in the community	4
Gambling addictions and awareness programs	3
SAIL (Seniors Access to Independent Living)	3
Cultural programs	3
Hospital services	3
Community policing	2
Homecare	2
Library services	2
Information on services for the aging	2
Employment programs	2
Economic development	1
Viriden Food Cupboard	1
Foster care	1
Mental health services	1
Seniors for Seniors	1
Promise years programs	1
Farmer's market	1
Veterans programs	1
Welcome Wagon	1

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

## Day Care

Residents were asked to indicate their usage of Day Care. Forty-eight percent of households with children aged birth to four years (21 of 44) and 21% of households with children aged five to fourteen years (18 of 87) reported that they used Day Care. Reasons cited for not using Day Care included having a stay at home parent (12), having children who were too old for Day Care (12) and using private babysitters (8). Other reasons for not using day care included: Day Care being too expensive and Day Cares not being open during the times that care is required.

Of the 39 households who indicated that they used child care, 26% (10) used family or friends only, 28% (11) used private Day Care only, 26% (10) used licensed Day Care only, 15% (6) used both family or friends and licensed day care and 5% (2) used both family or friends and private day care. The type of Day Care used most often was distributed fairly evenly. Of the 39 households who used child care, 36% (14) used family or friends most frequently, 33% (13) used private Day Care most frequently, and 31% (12) used licensed Day Care most frequently. The number of children receiving care and the average days per week in care, by age group and type of childcare, are presented in Table SSN-4.

**Table SSN-4: Childcare Service Utilization by Ages of Children**

Age Group	Family or Friend Care		Private Day Care		Licensed Day Care	
	# of children	Average days per week	# of children	Average days per week	# of children	Average days per week
Age 0 to 1	5	2.5	5	4	4	3
Age 2 to 4	13	2.5	7	3.5	10	3
Age 5 to 12	9	3	13	3.5	4	3
Total	27	2.5	25	3.5	18	3

*Source: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey, June 2003*

Survey respondents were asked “Is sufficient licensed Day Care available in your town or community?” In response, 10 respondents stated a need for more Day Care in the community. Four of those respondents specified that more licensed day care is needed and two specified a need for more private Day Care. One respondent commented, “Since moving to Virden three years ago, finding reliable Day Care has been an ongoing struggle.” Six respondents commented that the quality of Day Care in the community is very good. Four respondents indicated that having Day Care available in the community is a necessity; one respondent stated, “Day Care services are necessary to allow young members of the community opportunities to work and give back to the community”. Four respondents indicated that Day Care is expensive; specifically “anyone working part-time for minimum wage cannot afford Day Care” and “most Day Cares are very expensive for low income families and families with more kids find it hard to pay the price also.”

Some respondents provided suggestions for improving Day Care in the community. These suggestions included having extended hours for shift workers (4) to be able to use the Day Care, having programs before and after school for school aged children (2) and having a larger Day Care facility (2). Others suggested that large businesses could provide Day Care for their employees, a list of private Day Cares should be available in the community and income tax

deductions should be increased for families choosing to manage with a single salaried income. One respondent indicated dissatisfaction with a Day Care policy of paying a set fee that included days when the Day Care is not open.

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*The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas: Population Based Comparisons of health and Health Care Use* Manitoba Centre for Health Policy June 2003.

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# Appendix A: Well-Being and Quality of Life Community Assessment Survey

June, 2003

You are being asked to complete a survey to provide information about your well-being and quality of life. Please select one adult over the age of eighteen in your household to complete this survey and return it in the enclosed post-paid envelope by **June 30, 2003**.

The Virden –Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team, in conjunction with the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University, is conducting this survey to learn about the well-being and quality of life within our community. “Community” for the purpose of this study, means anyone residing in The Town of Virden and the RM of Wallace. It also includes the people who work, go to school, utilize local recreational facilities or access health services on a regular basis within these locations.

Your participation is voluntary. You may refuse to participate, withdraw, or refuse to answer certain questions. The Virden team and the Rural Development Institute assure confidentiality of the information that you provide. Answers will not be shared or presented in any way that would identify you as the source.

The attached survey is a residential survey. There is also a business survey. If you own a business and have not received a copy please call the Project Coordinator to obtain one.

The results of this study will be presented to the community in aggregate form in the fall of 2003 through a report that will be available at various locations including the library and the Town Office. Also, findings will be shared at a community function such as a town hall meeting. If you have questions or concerns about the project itself or the methods used contact, Leanne Kalynuk Project Coordinator, at 748-1535.

Sincerely,

Virden-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team:

Joanne Baker, Tiffany Burgess, Maxine Chacun, Christine Cross, Thelma Forbes, Shirley Gibson, Lana Hutchison,

Leanne Kalynuk, Barb Maynes, Jeff McConnell, Carol Anne Trowell, Heather Van Teeling

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*Answer the following questions as they pertain to your household:*

1. Where do you currently live, and how long have you lived in this location? \_\_\_\_\_ years  
 Town of Virden    RM of Wallace    Other: please specify \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many people, including yourself, are members of your household? \_\_\_\_\_
3. State the number of people in your household in each the age range.  
\_\_\_\_ 0-4                      \_\_\_\_ 20-24                      \_\_\_\_ 55-64                      \_\_\_\_ 85+  
\_\_\_\_ 5-14                      \_\_\_\_ 25-44                      \_\_\_\_ 65-74  
\_\_\_\_ 15-19                      \_\_\_\_ 45-54                      \_\_\_\_ 75-84
4. Are there members in your household with a chronic illness or disability that limits their daily activities:

At home  Yes  No      At work  Yes  No *If No, proceed to question number 6.*

Are there sufficient support services in the community to help you or your family deal with this chronic illness or disability?  Yes  No  Not Applicable

Do members of your household access health services outside of the community?  Yes  No  
*If No, proceed to question number 7.*

	<b>How many visits were made in 2002?</b>	<b>Distance traveled in kilometers for each visit.</b>	<b>Did you stay overnight?</b> ✓ if Yes
Dental			
Eye care			
Chiropractor			
Hearing			
General Practitioner/ Family Physician			
Occupational Therapist			
Physiotherapist			
Specialist (specify)			

7. What additional health services/ health programs/health facilities would improve life for people in your town or municipality? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Would you consider your town or municipality a healthy place to live?  Yes  No
9. Are members of your household covered by health insurance other than Manitoba medical? (eg: Blue Cross)  
 Yes  No
10. Is sufficient licensed day care available in your town or municipality?  Yes  No Not Applicable   
*(proceed to question #16)*
11. Do members of your household currently use day care?  Yes  
 No Why don't you use child care? \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Proceed to question #16)*
12. What type of day care does your household currently use? Select all that apply. Place a ' \* ' beside the service used most often.  
 Family or friend       Private day care       Licensed day care

13. How many children in each age range use child care? How many days per week?

	Family or Friend		Private Day Care		Licensed Day Care	
	How many?	Number of days/week?	How many?	Number of days/week?	How many?	Number of days/week?
0-1						
2-4						
5-12						

14. Does the current availability of day care limit your employment opportunities?  Yes  No

15. What are your thoughts or suggestions regarding day care in the community? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Are members of your household aware of or do they support the following? Check all that apply.

	Aware Of	Support	
		Financial	Volunteer time
Virten and Area Food Cupboard			
Meals on Wheels			
Christmas Cheer Program			
Donor's Choice			
Palliative Care Program			

17. Indicate which of the following children/youth (under 18) activities members of your household participate in your community. If not participating, indicate reasons why. Check all that apply. (If you do not have children under age 18 living in your household proceed to question #18.)

	Not Applicable	Not Available	Participate	Choose not to /Not interested	Too Costly	Other Reason (Specify)
Nursery School						
Minor Hockey						
Minor Baseball						
Figure Skating						
Curling						
4-H						
Girl Guide Movement						

Scouting Movement						
Cadets						
Dance Classes						
Gymnastics						
Karate/TaeKwonDo						
Church Groups						
Soccer						
Golf						
Swimming						
Youth Centre						
School Sports (specify)						
Other (specify)						

18. On a regular basis during the past 12 months, did you travel outside the community for the following services?

Yes If so where?       No

	Where – (community)?
Groceries	
Apparel & Accessories	
Automobile sales	
Automobile services	
Furniture & Appliances	
Other (specify)	

19. How many members of your household work within Virden-Wallace? \_\_\_\_\_

20. How many members of your household work outside Virden-Wallace? \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the following questions, based on your personal opinions:**

21. Do you feel safe residing in your community?  Yes  No
22. What do you feel is the greatest safety concern in your community? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Are you aware of the Youth Justice Program in Virden?  Yes  No
24. If yes, do you think this program has been a benefit to the town?  Yes  No  Not Sure
25. Indicate your satisfaction with the following:

	<b>Needs Improvement</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
Handi Van				
Access to other transportation (e.g. taxi, air, volunteers) specify				
Ambulance service				
Police service				
Fire Department				
Housing				

26. Indicate the importance of the following programs and services to the well being of your town or municipality:

	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Child Day Care				
Adult Day Program				
Youth Centre				
Nutrition/Healthy eating programs				
Stop-smoking programs				
Drug & alcohol abuse programs				
Respite care				
Palliative Care				

27. Are there other programs or services that are important?  Yes  No  
 Specify \_\_\_\_\_

28. Indicate if you feel there are gaps/deficiencies in your community for the following areas in your community:

	Children/Youth	Adults	Seniors	Don't know
Sports activities/events				
Sports facilities				
Cultural activities/events (e.g. music, arts)				
Cultural facilities				
Recreational/leisure activities/events				
Recreational/leisure facilities				

29. Are the recreational or leisure facilities in this area adequate for your needs?  Yes  No  
 If not, what would you like to see different?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

30. Do you feel there is enough variety of recreational programs offered in the community?  Yes  
 No What programs would you like to see offered? \_\_\_\_\_

31. Is walking a part of your regular activity?  Yes  No

32. Do you use Virden's walking paths?  Yes  No

33. Would you change or improve the walking paths in any way?  Yes  No  
 If yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_

34. Regarding meeting facilities and halls in the community:  
 Are the facilities adequate?  Yes  No  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do they need improvement?  Yes  No

35. Please rank the following items you feel are important to the continued success of your community, with **1** being

the **most** important factor and **10** being the **least**.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____ A good town/municipal council           | _____ Continuing Adult Education Opportunities                    |
| _____ An aggressive business center           | _____ Attractive community appearance                             |
| _____ Useful service clubs                    | _____ Potential for growth (eg., residential and industrial land) |
| _____ Cultural facilities (eg. library, etc.) | _____ Tourist attraction and facilities                           |
| _____ Recreation facilities                   | _____ Local Availability of Health Care Services                  |

36. If you were to leave the community, what would be your **most** important reason for moving away?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment-related                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortage of facilities in the community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To be nearer to relatives or friends<br>(specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of opportunities (specify)<br>_____                |  |

37. If you were to leave the community, where would you **prefer** to move to?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A farm                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> A town                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A small city (10,000 to 100,000 people) | <input type="checkbox"/> A larger city (100,000 or more people) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)<br>_____                |   |

38. Which of the following best describes your concerns with the economy and environment?

- I am most concerned with economic growth even if the quality of the environment is reduced.
- I am about equally concerned with economic growth and the quality of the environment.
- I am most concerned with the quality of the environment even if economic growth is reduced.
- I am not very concerned with either economic growth or environmental quality.

Answer the following questions as they relate to your personal health and well-being:

39. How would you rate your overall health?  Excellent  Very Good  Good  Fair  Poor

40. When you call for a regular short appointment with your physician in Viriden, how many business days do you wait for an appointment?

- 1-3  4-6  7-9  10-15  more than 15  not applicable

41. If you have been referred to a specialist, how long did you wait for an appointment? Specify number of

- \_\_\_\_\_ days \_\_\_\_\_ weeks \_\_\_\_\_ months  more than a year  not applicable

42. How long did you wait for the following health services:

- Surgery \_\_\_\_\_ Surgery (specify type) \_\_\_\_\_  
CT Scan \_\_\_\_\_  
MRI \_\_\_\_\_  
Physiotherapy \_\_\_\_\_  
Ultrasound \_\_\_\_\_

Not applicable \_\_\_\_\_

43. Do you smoke?  Yes  No

If Yes, How many cigarettes a day? \_\_\_\_\_ For how many years? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to quit? \_\_\_\_\_

44. Did you quit smoking?  Yes  No

If Yes, How many cigarettes a day did you smoke? \_\_\_\_\_ For how many years? \_\_\_\_\_ not applicable

45. Do you consume alcoholic beverages?  Yes  No

If yes, how many drinks per week? \_\_\_\_\_

46. Do you play VLT's  Yes  No

If yes, \_\_\_\_\_ daily \_\_\_\_\_ weekly \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_ rarely

47. Overall, do you consider the amount of physical activity you usually get to be:

Too little  Just the right amount  Too much

48. For your age and height, do you consider yourself to be:

Underweight  Normal/Average weight  Overweight

49. Do you belong to an organized religion/faith?  Yes  No

If yes, how often do you attend a local worship service?

Once a month  More than four  
 Twice a month  Special occasions only

Three to four times a month  Rarely

50. Do you volunteer for any local organizations?  Yes please specify \_\_\_\_\_

No If you were able to volunteer, what would interest you \_\_\_\_\_

51. Do you sit on the executive for any organizations?  Yes please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  No

a. Do any of these organizations have a Leadership training program?  Yes  No

b. Are young people encouraged to become members?  Yes  No

52. How can we increase volunteerism in our community? \_\_\_\_\_

53. How can we increase participation in community leadership? eg: town/municipal council, community development, school board etc. \_\_\_\_\_

54. Indicate the type of education/training course(s), including the **primary delivery method** that you took in 2002. State whether you considered it affordable. *If you did not take any courses proceed to question 55.*

	Location (specify)	In-class	Via the Internet	Correspondence	Provider
Grade 12 or equivalent					
University					
Community College					
Technical					
General interest, i.e computer, painting, etc.)					
Other (specify)					

55. Would you take education/training courses in the next 12 months?  Yes  No If yes, specify the course and check the type of education/training courses you would take if they were available within the community over the next 12 months.

	Specify Course	In-class	Via the Internet	Correspondence
Grade 12 or equivalent				
University				
Community College				
Technical				
General interest,(i.e painting, etc.)				
Other (specify)				

56. What are the biggest challenges for upgrading skills and education? (Please check all that apply)

- Children at home
- Distance/lack of availability
- Affordability
- In-flexibility of personal/work schedule
- Lack of information on programs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Finally, we have some background questions:**

57. Gender:  Male  Female

58. What year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

59. What is your highest level of education?

- No schooling
- Some junior high school, grade 7-9
- Completed high school
- Completed a diploma from a community college, trade school or business college
- Some elementary school, grade 1-6
- Some high school, grade 10-12
- Some community college, trade school, business college

- Some university teachers college                       Completed a bachelor or undergraduate degree or  
 Completed postgraduate degree

60. During the last 12 months what **best** describes your **main** activity.

- Working at a job or business     Part-time     Full-time  
 Looking for work    Student    Homemaker    Retired    Other (specify)
- 

61. What is your gross family income?

- Less than \$10,000    \$10,000 - \$19,999    \$20,000 - \$29,999    \$30,000 - 39,999  
 \$40,000 - 49,000         \$50,000 - 59,000         \$60,000 +

62. What advice would you give the Virden –Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment team to assist them in improving quality of life in the community?

***Thank you for participating in this important community project.***

# Appendix B: Business Survey

June, 2003

You are being asked to complete a survey to provide information about your business in relation to the well-being and quality of life in the community. Please complete this survey and return it in the enclosed post-paid envelope by **June 30, 2003**.

The Virden Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team, in conjunction with the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University, is conducting this survey to learn about the well-being and quality of life within our community. "Community" for the purpose of this study, means anyone residing in the Town of Virden and the Rural Municipality (RM) of Wallace. It also includes the people who work, go to school, utilize local recreational facilities, or access health services on a regular basis within these locations.

Your participation is voluntary. You may refuse to participate, withdraw, or refuse to answer certain questions. The Virden-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team and the Rural Development Institute assure confidentiality of the information that you provide. Answers will not be shared or presented in any way that would identify you as the source.

If you own more than one business please base your response on your main business.

The results of this study will be presented to the community in aggregate form in the fall of 2003 through a report that will be available at various locations including the library and the Town and RM Offices. Also, findings will be shared at a community function such as a town hall meeting. If you have questions or concerns about the project itself or the methods used contact Leanne Kalynuk, Project Coordinator, at 748-1535.

Sincerely,

Virden-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Team

Joanne Baker, Tiffany Burgess, Maxine Chacun, Christine Cross, Thelma Forbes, Shirley Gibson, Lana Hutchison,

Leanne Kalynuk, Barb Maynes, Jeff McConnell, Carol Anne Trowell, Heather Van Teeling

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1. Where is your business located?

Town of Virden

RM of Wallace

Other

please

specify

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is your business (check all that apply)

A franchise? \_\_\_\_\_

Sole Proprietor \_\_\_\_\_

Home Based? \_\_\_\_\_

Partnership \_\_\_\_\_

Owned outside the Community? \_\_\_\_\_

Corporation \_\_\_\_\_

Other? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Number of employees, including yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Number of employees commuting from outside the community to your business to work? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Number unfilled jobs? \_\_\_\_\_ Job Category? (eg. Administrative, Laborer) \_\_\_\_\_

Part-time  Full-time  Seasonal



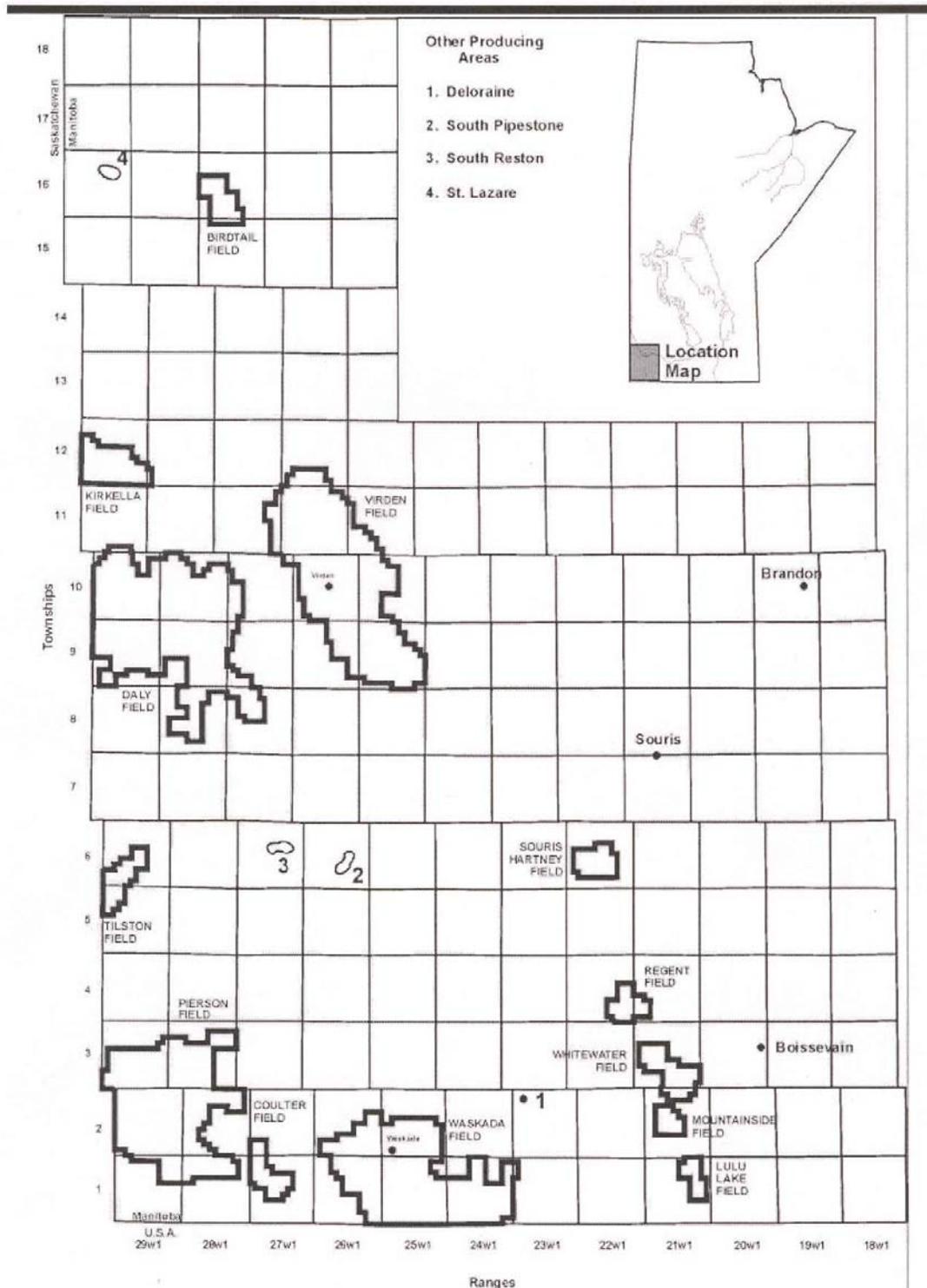
17. Does your business offer a benefit plan to employees?  Yes  No  
If yes,  Health  Pension

18. Is your business wheelchair accessible?  Yes  No

Do you have any suggestions for Virden-Wallace Rural Lifestyle Assessment Program to help them in assessment of issues important to improving quality of life in Virden and Wallace?

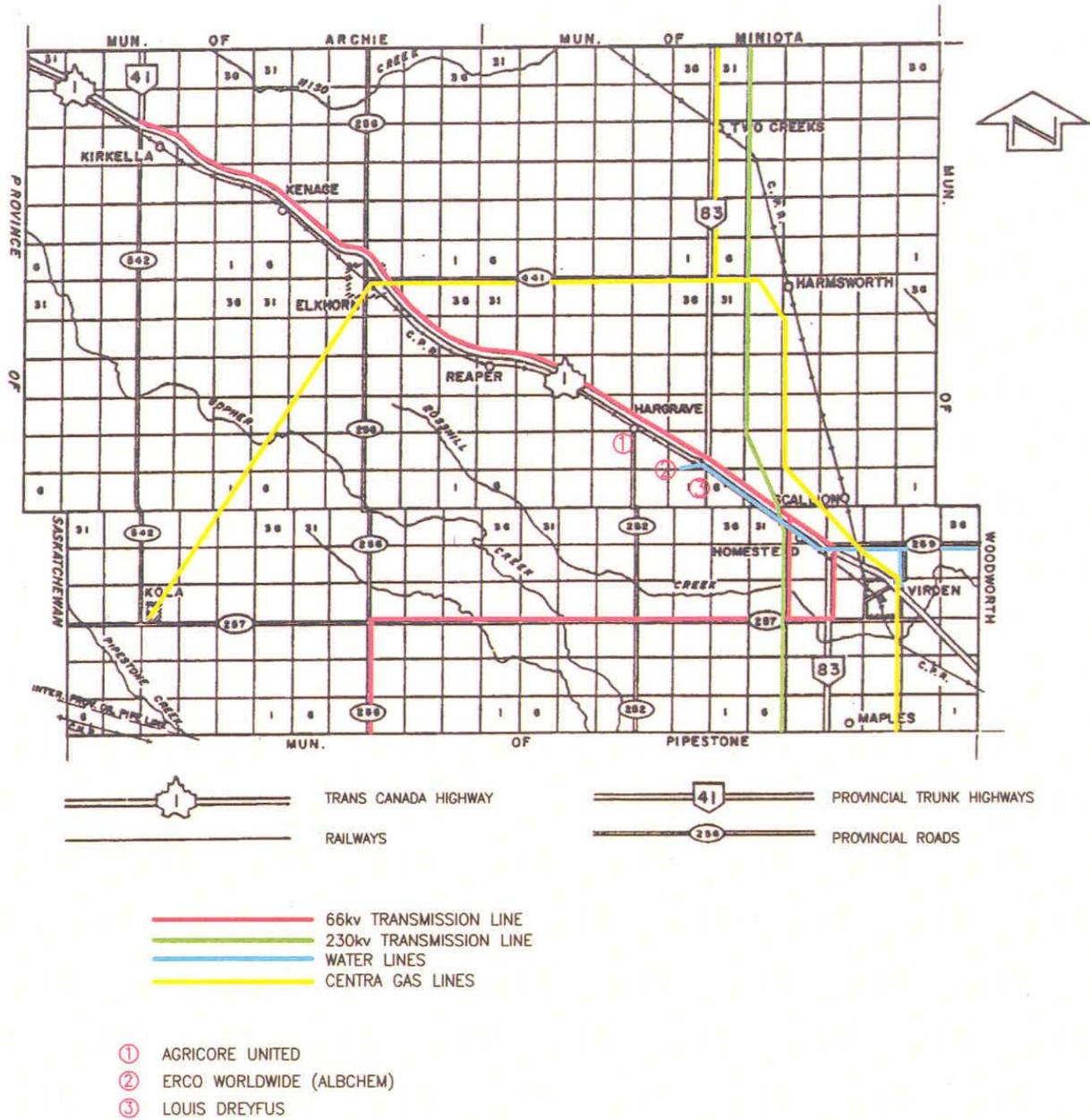
***Thank you for participating in this important community project.***

# Appendix C: Map of Oil Fields



Source: Manitoba Industry, Economic Development and Mines

# Appendix D: Map of Existing Water, Gas and Electricity Lines in the R.M. of Wallace



Source: Virden-Wallace Community Development Corporation

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