



Initiative on the New Economy

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

**Services Research Centre
University of Northern British Columbia**

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

The *Initiative on the New Economy* project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) works closely with residents, service providers, voluntary organizations, business members, and decision makers to identify factors that contribute to building capacity in rural and small town places across Canada. This new endeavour, referred to as NRE2, follows an earlier CRRF project called *New Rural Economy* (NRE).

Capacity is the ability of people residing in a place to mobilize their assets and resources to cope with stress and transition, or to capitalize on opportunities. Such capacity is built from trust and relationships grounded in institutions, organizations, businesses, and services alike. The Initiative on the New Economy (NRE2) builds on four key themes to explore capacity including *local governance, communications, services, and the environment*. This report explores the relationship between services and capacity.

This report looks at services available to site residents as one way to measure standard of living, which is part of local capacity. We focus on the current levels of services provided (i.e., service provision) in rural and small town places that are used for NRE2 research across Canada. In particular, this document compares services available in Tweed, Ontario (a former village now part of the Municipality of Tweed) with those found in other NRE research sites across Canada, including Ontario. One benefit of this analysis is that it enhances our understanding of site resources so that residents, researchers, and policy-makers can assess levels of need and potential strengths for development.

The data used for this report are based on site profile surveys conducted in the summer of 2003--the third site assessment conducted since 1998.

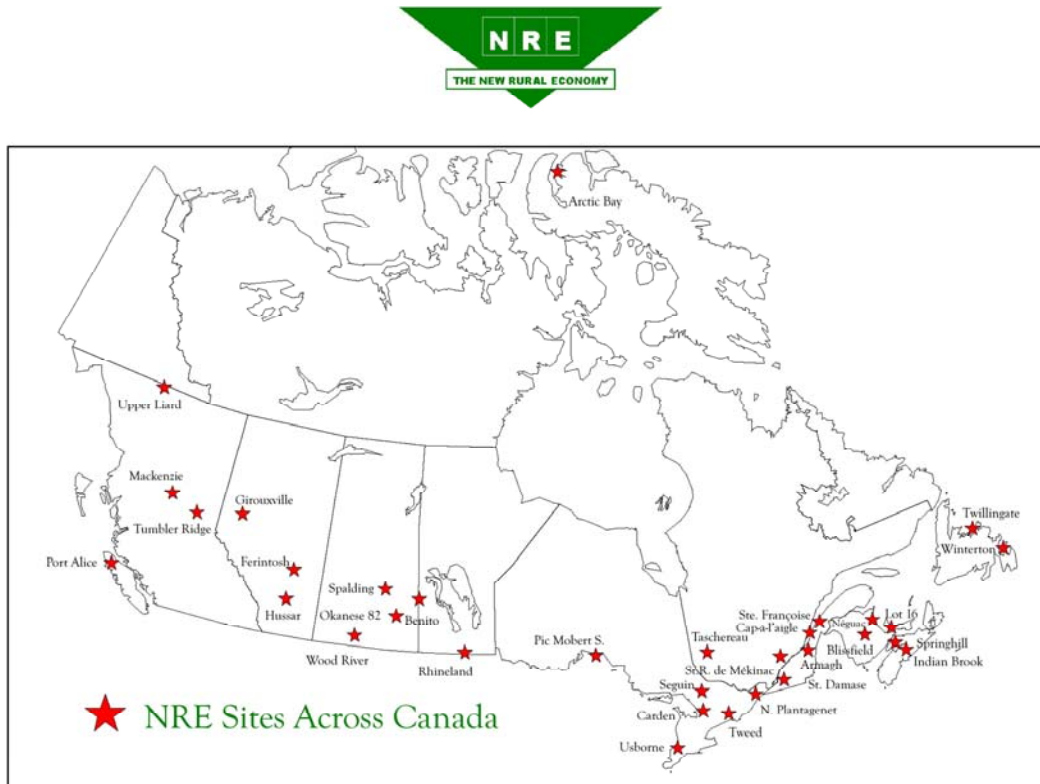
ABOUT THE SERVICE INVENTORY

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

In the summer of 2003, researchers visited 22 sites across Canada to update a service provision inventory. Data were collected to examine the availability of a range of services including:

education
health
protection services
legal
business services
communication
elderly and childcare
government

community
transportation
recreational
basic shopping
commercial shopping
economic development organizations
housing



AVAILABILITY

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

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

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

Geography Program
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, B.C.
V2N 4Z9

Telephone: (250) 960-5826
E-mail: halseth@unbc.ca

For further information about other INE reports, please contact:

Bill Reimer
Initiative on the New Economy
Dep't of Sociology and Anthropology
1455 boul. de Maisonneuve O.
Concordia University
Montréal, Québec
H3G 1M8

Telephone: (514) 848-2424
E-mail: reimer@vax2.concordia.ca

Ellen Wall
Environmental Sciences
University of Guelph
Blackwood Hall - Room 202
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 2W1

Telephone: (519) 824-4120 ext. 58480
E-mail : ewall@uoguelph.ca

Site Researchers: David J. Connell, B. Leigh Golden, and Ellen Wall.

Booklet Contributors: B. Leigh Golden, Greg Halseth, Laura Ryser, Nora King, Kelly Giesbrecht, Ellen Wall, and David J. Connell.

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

Site Description – Tweed, Ontario

Tweed is a village with a population of 1,540 in 2001. It is located in Hastings County, 38 km north of Belleville, on a route between Toronto and Ottawa. Tweed acts as a service centre for the surrounding farm and rural non-farm area. Tweed's manufacturing industry and public service sectors have declined in an economy that is mixed, based on tourism and retirement functions, as well as retail and agricultural services. Recent changes related to loss of services have created some stress for the community.

In 2001, Tweed had a relatively large percentage (23%) of its population over 65 years of age, which contributes to the fact that employment income constitutes only 54.8% of the village's total income while government transfer payments and other income made up approximately 43%. There was no employment in the primary sector; trade, manufacturing, and other categories represent main areas of employment. Statistics also reveal that 38% of Tweed's labour force commutes out of the village for employment. For those that remain, self-employment, especially for males, is relatively high compared to national standards. Numerous opportunities for employment appear to exist in the village's private and public service establishments. Given that 122 of these have been identified, it appears that Tweed enjoys an important role in its economic and social maintenance.



POPULATION PROFILE - TWEED, ONTARIO

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

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

Source: Statistics Canada 2001.

SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES

Services play an important role in retaining and attracting residents and businesses as they enhance local standards of living. However, rural and small town places across Canada are experiencing tremendous change stemming from economic and social restructuring in an increasing global economy. Some places have been experiencing population declines since 1960. At the same time, federal and provincial government policies have been withdrawing some of the service infrastructure that can provide a foundation for revitalizing rural and small town places and assist residents to cope with stress. Some rural and small town places adjust by establishing innovative services or diversifying their local economies. These types of innovation suggest one way by which services help to build capacity within a place.

Services also help to build capacity by providing opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust, which subsequently can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. Together, services can help to enhance local standards of living and reduce out-migration from rural and small town places.

NOTE:

- In this analysis of service availability in NRE research sites, the term “local” refers to services located within site boundaries; the term “within 30 minutes” refers to services existing outside the site boundary that residents can get to by car/transportation in approximately 30 minutes or less.
- Tables presented contain 2 columns for comparison with Tweed. One is the percentage of NRE sites across Canada where the specific service is locally available, the other is the percentage of NRE sites in Ontario where the specific service is locally available.

Educational Services

Educational institutions play a role in maintaining a standard of living in rural and small town places. Besides formal education, schools provide amenities through their libraries, theatres, and art galleries in places that would otherwise not have access to such services. Such establishments also contribute to economic development. For instance, community colleges can provide skilled and professional workers, act as a broker of services, and be a repository of information. They can also have facilities for designing programs and services, responding to the changing labour market conditions of small places.

When compared with other NRE sites across Canada, the availability of early childhood educational facilities in Ontario sites resembles the national average (Table 1). However, other educational services, such as high schools and post secondary facilities are not available in rural and small town research sites in Ontario.

Residents of Tweed have access to pre-school/kindergarten, elementary school, and continuing education services locally. One service of particular interest is the CAP Centre, which offers computer/office job skills training to residents of all ages, business owners, and others interested

in learning. All other education services are available within 30 minutes of the site. The local high school is in a neighbouring town within the Municipality of Tweed. Loyalist College is located in Belleville.

Table 1: Availability of Education Services – 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Pre-school/kindergarten	50.0%	50.0%	✓	
Elementary school	63.6%	50.0%	✓	
High school	27.3%	0.0%		✓
CEGEP / College	18.2%	0.0%		✓
Continuing Education	27.3%	0.0%	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Health Services

Health services play an important role in attracting and retaining new workers and residents. During times of economic and social restructuring, closures in hospitals and the centralization of physical and mental health services can be difficult for the elderly and the poor who do not have access to a vehicle or who live in a place with limited transportation services. The loss of health care jobs may also lead to a further decline in the local economy and population.

Health facilities are limited in most of the rural and small town places examined for NRE2 (Table 2a). Of particular interest is that fewer than 40% of sites have a health centre, hospital, or pharmacy, and just over one-third of the sites across Canada have ambulance services located in the site. This carries important implications for residents commuting for medical emergencies or health care reasons. The lack of health facilities within Ontario research sites may not be a fair representation of the general availability of these services. In fact, with the exception of a CT scan, all of the health facilities listed in Table 2a and most health services listed in Table 2b are within 30 minutes of all the sites in Ontario.

Table 2a: Availability of Health Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Hospital	18.2%	0.0%		✓
Health centre / CLSC	27.3%	25.0%	✓	
Medical clinic	40.9%	25.0%		✓
Blood / urine testing facility	36.4%	0.0%		✓
X-ray facility	22.7%	0.0%		✓
Baby delivery facility	4.5%	0.0%		✓
CT scan facility	0.0%	0.0%		✓
Pharmacy	40.9%	25.0%	✓	
Ambulance	36.4%	0.0%		✓
Emergency services	18.2%	0.0%		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Residents of Tweed have local access to a health care centre and a pharmacy. All other health services are available within 30 minutes. This situation is consistent with other rural Ontario sites, however, other NRE research sites in Canada have greater access to health services. For example, 36.4% of the NRE sites sampled in rural Canada have local blood/urine testing facilities as well as ambulance services locally available.

Table 2b: Availability of Health Services – 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Doctors	36.4%	0.0%		✓
Nurses	36.4%	25.0%		✓
Dentists	27.3%	25.0%	✓	
Dental surgeons	9.1%	0.0%		✓
Optometrists	18.2%	0.0%		✓
Home care visits	54.5%	25.0%		✓
VON (Victorian Order of Nurses)	13.6%	0.0%		✓
Social workers	22.7%	25.0%	✓	
Public health nurse	31.8%	0.0%		✓
Physiotherapy	22.7%	25.0%	✓	
Speech therapy	31.8%	0.0%		✓
Occupational therapy	13.6%	0.0%		✓
Respite care	22.7%	0.0%		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

It is well known that the availability of health care professionals is limited in rural areas. Even those services deemed as essential, such as doctors, are available locally in just over 36% of the sites across Canada. Overall, there are fewer health care professionals within the Ontario NRE sites.

Residents of Tweed have local access to dental, social work, and physiotherapy services. All other health services listed in Table 2b are available within 30 minutes of the site. These findings are relatively consistent with other rural Ontario sites, however, other NRE research sites in Canada have greater access to health services. For example, 54.5% of the sites sampled in rural Canada have home care services located within the site; 31.8% have local access to a speech therapist as well as a public health nurse. Not having services within site boundaries does not mean residents are denied access. For instance, even though the main regional VON office is not in Tweed, staff do visit residents regularly. Also, the Gateway Community Health Centre was built within the last decade to service the health needs of residents. Doctors and nurses are available at Gateway, however, not all residents have access to them given a doctor shortage and numerous people on waiting lists.

Protection Services

Protection services contribute to community capacity in a number of ways. In essence they provide a basic sense of security and comfort for residents. Volunteer fire departments and various crime watch programs also create opportunities for individuals to be involved with each other in pursuit of common service goals. Such experiences can build trust and leadership.

Protection services are more available in NRE research sites than most other services. Most notably, as shown in Table 3, fire departments and 911 are in more than half the NRE sites across Canada; however local police or RCMP services are limited in these sites overall. While there are fewer protection services located within Ontario sites, they are more likely to have a fire department and a neighbourhood watch program.

Table 3: Availability of Protection Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Police (Local / RCMP)	22.7%	0.0%		✓
Fire department	68.2%	75.0%	✓	
911 emergency line	86.4%	75.0%	✓	
Neighbourhood Watch	31.8%	50.0%		
Rural Crime Watch	13.6%	0.0%		

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Residents of Tweed have a local fire department and 911 access. The police department is located within 30 minutes of Tweed, however, there is no Neighbourhood Watch or Rural Crime Watch. The above findings are consistent with other rural Ontario sites, however, other sites in rural Canada appear to have access to different protection services.

Legal Services

Legal services are another example of specialized services that are often not found in rural areas. The absence of legal services means rural residents must commute to use legal services for personal and business matters.

Overall, legal services are very limited in the NRE sites across Canada (Table 4). In Ontario, with the exception of lawyers, legal services are more limited locally when compared to the sites across Canada. Residents of Tweed have access to lawyer and notary services locally. The Court is located within 30 minutes of the site, in Belleville.

Table 4: Availability of Legal Services – 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Lawyer	18.2%	25.0%	✓	
Notary	40.9%	25.0%	✓	
Court	18.2%	0.0%		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Financial Services

Businesses also play a role in providing a range of activities that enhance the standard of living for rural residents, as well as enhancing the viability and stability of their communities.

Business members often play an important role in community development when they contribute to voluntary associations either as members or in a leadership role. Small local businesses are also an important source for fundraising and sponsoring specific local organizations or events.

Table 5: Availability of Business Services – 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Banks	36.4%	25.0%	✓	
Credit Union / Caisse Populaire	50.0%	0.0%		✓
ATM	50.0%	50.0%	✓	
Micro-financing	9.1%	0.0%		
Insurance office	50.0%	50.0%	✓	
Industrial park	22.7%	0.0%		✓
Real estate	18.2%	50.0%	✓	
Accounting	45.5%	50.0%	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Overall, credit unions, ATMs, and insurance offices are located in half the NRE study sites across Canada (Table 5). While fewer Ontario NRE sites offer local banking services, half of them have an ATM, an insurance office, a real estate office, and accounting services.

Residents of Tweed have local bank and ATM access, as well as local insurance, real estate, and accounting services. The majority of other business services are located within 30 minutes of the site, with the exception of micro financing. Like the majority of rural residents in the NRE sites across Canada, residents of Tweed have to travel further than 30 minutes to access micro financing.

Communications

Communication services allow residents to maintain contact with family and friends. With improved communication infrastructure, such as telephone services, Internet, and cell phone service, rural and small town places can attract businesses that no longer have to be located in cities, and therefore can improve local employment opportunities. They can also use communications services to support business networks. As Table 6 indicates, communication services are substantial in Tweed and across NRE research sites.

Table 6: Availability of Communication Services - 2003

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

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Elderly and Childcare Services

Childcare services are an important element of the educational and care services in rural and small town places. They also enhance adult residents' ability to participate in the labour force. Nursing and retirement homes are an important consideration for elderly residents. As the Canadian population ages, the needs for such services also rises and many rural and small town places may find they are not well equipped to deal with seniors' needs.

Many NRE sites across Canada are not well equipped to meet the needs of young families or seniors (Table 7). In Ontario where half the sites offer daycare locally, nursing and retirement homes are found only outside site boundaries.

Table 7: Availability of Child and Elderly Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Daycare	45.5%	50.0%	✓	
Senior citizen's nursing home	18.2%	0.0%		✓
Senior citizen's retirement home	31.8%	0.0%		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Residents of Tweed have local access to daycare services, however, seniors must relocate to Belleville or other surrounding towns for retirement or nursing home services. This finding is consistent with the other rural Ontario sites. Since more than 31% of Tweed's population is 55 years of age and older, access to retirement and nursing homes is an important local issue.

Government Services

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

The NRE sites examined across Canada offer few government services to their residents (Table 8). Of particular concern to sites experiencing social and economic restructuring is that none or few of the sites have HRDC or Employment Insurance offices. Furthermore, few sites have social assistance offices. Consequently, during economic and industrial restructuring or plant closures, households experiencing stress will have to go outside the site for services to help them cope.

Table 8: Availability of Government Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Human Resources Dev. Canada	0.0%	0.0%		✓
Employment Insurance	4.5%	0.0%		✓
Provincial Auto License Office	18.2%	0.0%		✓
Social Assistance Office	22.7%	0.0%		✓
Town hall	68.2%	25.0%	✓	
Post office	81.8%	50.0%	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Overall, fewer NRE sites in Ontario have government services compared to all rural Canada sites. Post offices are the exception as half the sites in Ontario offer local mail services.

Residents of Tweed have a local town hall and post office. All other government services/offices listed in Table 8 are located in Belleville (within 30 minutes of the site). The above findings are consistent with other rural Ontario sites, however, other NRE sites in rural Canada appear to have greater access to government services.

Community Services

Community services can provide an important foundation from which to build relationships, and can be important sources to draw upon during times of economic and social stress. The availability of community services in rural and small town places varies considerably (Table 9).

Table 9: Availability of Community Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Food bank	31.8%	25.0%	✓	
Clothing exchange / depot	18.2%	25.0%	✓	
Second hand stores	40.9%	25.0%	✓	
Youth drop-in centre	22.7%	0.0%		✓
Women's drop-in centre	22.7%	0.0%		✓
Senior's drop-in centre	31.8%	0.0%		✓
Half-way house	4.5%	0.0%		
Women's resource centre	9.1%	25.0%	✓	
Personal aid services	31.8%	25.0%	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Overall, the location of community services within NRE Ontario sites is limited when compared with the national sample. However, a clothing exchange and a women's resource centre are more likely to be available locally in Ontario when compared to other sites across Canada.

Residents of Tweed have local access to a food bank, clothing exchange depot, second-hand store, women's resource centre, and personal aid services. All other community services listed in Table 9 are available in Belleville (within 30 minutes from Tweed), with the exception of a halfway house. There has been mention of a halfway house within the municipality of Tweed, however, the proposals have never been approved. However, as Table 9 indicates, lacking a halfway house is not uncommon with the majority of NRE sites throughout Canada. Also missing in Tweed compared to NRE Canadian sites are youth, women's, and senior's drop-in centers.

Transportation

Transportation infrastructure has important implications not only for attracting economic activity to a place, but also for enhancing the standard of living of residents in rural areas and small town places. Freight services are especially important for attracting industry by providing additional options to export products. Without adequate, affordable transportation options, mobility can be difficult for youth, seniors, those with disabilities, and/or those unable to afford a vehicle. Thus they are compromised regarding movement within and without the site for using necessary services in adjacent centres. Being mobile enables citizens to be more involved in the community, to develop local friendship ties and support networks, and to engage in social activities.

The number of sites with gas stations and automobile repair services compared to those with other forms of transit reflects Canada's general reliance on the automobile (Table 10). Other transportation services are less frequently available, most notably local transit service, passenger rail service, boat / ferry services, and airport service.

Table 10: Availability of Transport Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Local bus transit	0.0%	0.0%		✓
Inter-community bus station	31.8%	0.0%		✓
Train – passenger	4.5%	0.0%		✓
Train – freight	36.4%	0.0%		✓
Airport	18.2%	25.0%		
Helicopter port	22.7%	25.0%		✓
Boat / ferry terminal	13.6%	0.0%		✓
Taxi	27.3%	50.0%	✓	
Gas station	86.4%	100.0%	✓	
Automobile repair	63.6%	75.0%	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

The availability of transportation services varies in Ontario NRE sites. All of them have a gas station and are more likely to have an automobile repair shop, taxi service, airport, and helicopter port when compared to NRE sites across Canada.

Residents of Tweed have local access to taxi service, gas stations, and automobile repair. All other transportation services are available in Belleville (within 30 minutes from Tweed), with the exception of an airport (located approximately 2 hours away in Ottawa and Toronto). The availability of transportation services in Tweed is relatively consistent with the other Ontario sites but falls slightly behind most NRE sites across Canada.

Recreation Services

Based on a review of all NRE sites, recreational services are widely available compared to any other service category. This bodes well for the retention and attraction of residents, as well as the overall standard of living of these places. More notable recreational services available include community playing fields, community centres, libraries, municipal parks, hiking trails, and campgrounds (Table 11). Many of these services can be important places where events foster a sense of community.

Across Canada, most sites are able to offer either an indoor skating rink or an outdoor skating rink. Recreational services less frequently available across Canada included fitness facilities, such as athletic clubs, as well as entertainment features such as live theatre or cinemas.

Table 11: Availability of Recreation Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:		
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes	
Curling rink	31.8%	25.0%	✓		
Bowling lanes	22.7%	25.0%	✓		
Indoor municipal swimming pool	13.6%	0.0%		✓	
Outdoor municipal swimming pool	18.2%	25.0%		✓	
Indoor municipal skating rink	50.0%	50.0%	✓		
Outdoor municipal skating rink	31.8%	0.0%		✓	
Community playing field	81.8%	100.0%	✓		
Community gym	50.0%	50.0%	✓		
Community centre	81.8%	100.0%	✓		
Municipal athletic club	18.2%	0.0%		✓	
Theatre (live performance)		13.6%	0.0%		✓
Cinema (movie theatre)	4.5%	0.0%		✓	
Museum	36.4%	50.0%	✓		
Library	77.3%	100.0%	✓		
Municipal parks	77.3%	75.0%	✓		
Provincial parks	22.7%	25.0%			
Tennis courts	31.8%	25.0%	✓		
Skiing trails	50.0%	50.0%	✓		
Hiking trails	63.6%	75.0%	✓		
Golf courses	36.4%	50.0%		✓	
Campgrounds	68.2%	75.0%		✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

The availability of recreational services varies in NRE research sites in Ontario. However, all of the Ontario sites have a community playing field, a community centre, and a library. Furthermore, at least half of these sites have an indoor skating rink, a community gym, a museum, skiing trails, or a golf course.

Residents of Tweed have local access to a curling rink, bowling lanes, a municipal indoor skating rink, community playing fields, a community gym, a museum, a community centre, a library, municipal park, hiking trails, tennis courts, and skiing trails. All other recreation

services are available within 30 minutes of the site with the exception of a provincial park, although there are 12 provincial parks within two hours of Tweed.

Shopping

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

The NRE2 service inventory indicates that most sites across Canada are able to offer shopping services that residents would need to access on a more frequent basis, notably grocery stores (Table 12). With the exception of grocery stores, the availability of basic shopping services in Ontario resembles the national sample.

Table 12: Availability of Basic Shopping Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Grocery store	68.2%	50.0%	✓	
Farmer's market	13.6%	25.0%		✓
Liquor store	54.5%	50.0%	✓	
Bakery	27.3%	25.0%		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Residents of Tweed have local access to a grocery store and liquor store. All other basic shopping services are available in Belleville or within 30 minutes of the site. The basic shopping services available in Tweed are consistent with other NRE sites across rural Canada.

Most NRE sites across Canada have minimum convenience service centres (Table 13). These places generally offer a hardware store, a drug store, a bank, and two other convenience functions such as a variety store. About one-third of the sites function as a full convenience centre. These places offer all the services of a minimum convenience centre, plus a laundry or dry cleaning store, jewelry, appliances, or furniture, clothing, lumber, building materials, shoes, garden supplies, and a motel or hotel. Finally, just under 20% of the sites fulfill the role of a partial shopping centre. These towns carry all the services of a full convenience centre plus some specialty services such as a camera shop, a floral store, radio or television store, or women's accessories.

Table 13: Availability of Commercial Shopping Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Minimum Convenience Centre	86.4%	100.0%	✓	
Full Convenience Centre	36.4%	50.0%	✓	
Partial Shopping Centre	18.2%	25.0%	✓	
Complete Shopping Centre	0.0%	0.0%		✓
Secondary Wholesale Retail Ctr	0.0%	0.0%		✓
Primary Wholesale Retail Centre	0.0%	0.0%		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

When compared to NRE sites across Canada, an asset of sites in Ontario is the availability of commercial shopping services. All of the Ontario sites function as a minimum convenience centre, and these sites are more likely to function as a full convenience centre or a partial shopping centre when compared to the national sample.

Residents of Tweed have local access to a minimum convenience centre, full convenience centre, and partial shopping centre. All other commercial shopping services are available in Belleville or within 30 minutes of the site. The commercial shopping services available in Tweed are consistent with other rural Ontario sites.

Economic Development Organizations

Economic development organizations can play an important role in promoting the community to attract not only additional businesses, but also a wider population base. While there is not a broad range of economic development organizations in NRE sites, it may be of particular importance to note that only 20% of the sites across Canada have local business development corporations and Rotary Clubs (Table 14). Such organizations are comprised of local business owners and constitute important resources for economic development opportunities.

Table 14: Availability of Economic / Development Organizations - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Community Business Dev. Ctrs	0.0%	0.0%		
Fed / Prov Econ. Dev. Agencies	0.0%	0.0%		
Chamber of Commerce	18.2%	25.0%	✓	
Local Business Dev. Corporation	18.2%	25.0%		
Economic / Community Trust	4.5%	0.0%		
Career Training / Placement	13.6%	25.0%	✓	
Financial / Business Consulting	27.3%	25.0%		✓
Real Estate Boards	0.0%	0.0%		✓
Tourism Associations	27.3%	25.0%		✓
Rotary clubs	18.2%	25.0%	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

As with most of the NRE Canada sites, economic development organizations are limited for Ontario NRE sites. However, the Chamber of Commerce, local business development corporations, career training, and rotary clubs are more available.

Residents of Tweed have local access to a Chamber of Commerce, a career training and placement service, and a Rotary Club. Financial/business consulting, real estate boards, and tourism associations are located in Belleville or within 30 minutes of the site. A Community Futures office (local business development corporation) located in Bancroft (more than 30 minutes from the site) services Tweed. Similar to other NRE sites in Ontario and Canada, Tweed residents must travel more than 30 minutes to access other business and economic development services.

Housing

Housing has been used as an incentive to attract residents to rural and small town places and has significant impact on residents' standard of living and attachment to place. Lack of housing options can be a problem in rural and small town places and may contribute to out-migration patterns. Social service housing is a new category added to the NRE service inventory for 2003.

Although subsidized housing does not appear to be widely available in sites across Canada (Table 15), there are strong regional differences. Overall, in Ontario NRE sites, social housing is limited.

Table 15: Availability of Social Housing Services - 2003

Services	NRE Sites:		Tweed:	
	Canada % Yes	Ontario % Yes	Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
Co-op Housing	13.6%	0.0%		✓
Rent Supplement Units	22.7%	0.0%		✓
Subsidized Housing - Seniors	31.8%	25.0%	✓	
Subsidized Housing - Families	31.8%	0.0%		✓
Subsidized Housing - Single People	9.1%	0.0%		✓
Subsidized Housing - Special Needs	13.6%	0.0%		✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003 Site Profile.

Given that Tweed is the only NRE site in Ontario that corresponds to a village, it is not too surprising that it is also the only one with any kind of subsidized housing for senior citizens. All other housing services listed in Table 15 are available in Belleville or within 30 minutes of the site.

Challenges and Opportunities for Tweed, Ontario

Tweed, like many other rural Ontario towns, wants to increase its economic base in order to support local employment and keep their young people from moving away. Tweed relies upon tourism and is looking to build upon this resource by partnering with neighbouring towns for mutual benefit. The Tweed Chamber of Commerce is presently developing a strategy to build upon its reputation as the 'gateway to the land o'lakes,' which refers to Tweed's location in relation to the wide range of recreational opportunities of the area. The strategy focusses upon collaborating with other towns of the area in order to present a more comprehensive package of services and a united image to tourists.

Another positive development is that Victoria Street has become the first area of the village to get access to high speed Internet. (Victoria St. is where most of the local businesses are located). Metcalf Street and the municipal offices are expected to be connected next, however, no one knows for sure if or when the rest of the village will have access.

Challenges are centred on two issues. One is a proposal to build an intensive livestock operation (large hog farm) within the Municipality of Tweed. This development has created a great deal of tension and was a sensitive issue during the November 2003 municipal election. Although the new farm is not located within the village, many residents express opinions about it. They are divided between two positions: some support the farm (creates some job opportunity, new business, a lot of publicity, etc); others strongly oppose it (due to environmental damage/pollution, big business farming in rural Ontario, etc.).

Another concern for Tweed is the state of the local “built” infrastructure. Soon, aging roads and bridges will need to be upgraded or replaced. Presently, many large trucks are not able to use municipal roads because of low weight restrictions. Such infrastructure issues will be a significant financial issue in the near future.

As with all NRE sites, service provision remains an important element for Tweed’s prosperity. This report provides a brief synopsis of services available for Tweed residents’ compared to the situation in other NRE sites in both Ontario and across Canada. Such information makes a contribution to Tweed’s knowledge base for the township and its residents as they endeavour to maintain and develop local economic and social resources.

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