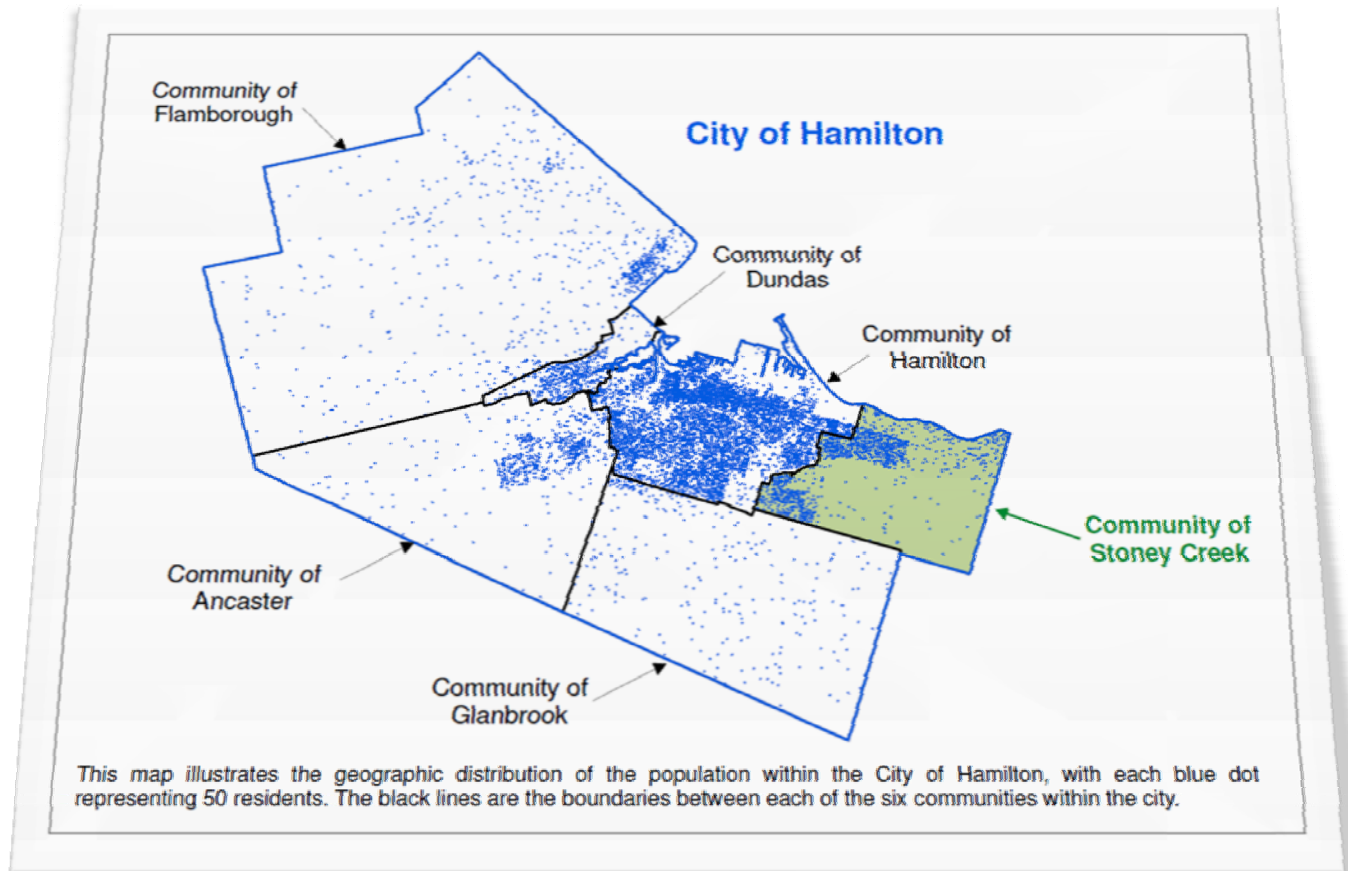




Community Profiles



Stoney Creek



November 2009

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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We would also like to acknowledge members of the Canadian Social Data Consortium in Hamilton and the Social Planning Network of Ontario for their support in making in-depth census data available locally.

Finally, thanks to all members of the SPRC staff team who have contributed to the development of these profiles.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

These Community Profiles have been developed to aid in understanding the unique social characteristics important to each community within the City of Hamilton. This series of reports will look at a number of demographic variables across each community within the City of Hamilton. This edition focuses on the Community of Stoney Creek. The information provided can be used by community members to identify actions that might be taken to respond to changing conditions and to continue to improve city life.

On January 1 2001, the six municipalities of the Hamilton-Wentworth Region (Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook, Hamilton, and Stoney Creek) were amalgamated into the new City of Hamilton. The former municipalities continue to hold their unique character, population and geography and are now official Communities within the City of Hamilton. The City of Hamilton now has a population of over 504,000 people, and covers a vast and diverse geographical area – from rural Flamborough to the urban centre of the former municipality of Hamilton. There is also diversity among the people who live in the City of Hamilton. A growing population, increased immigration, growing numbers of seniors and a range of incomes – from rich to very poor characterize some of the differences that exist across the new city.

(For clarity, in this report the entire City of Hamilton will always be referred by its full name. References to Hamilton will indicate the former municipality of Hamilton, now officially the Community of Hamilton within the City of Hamilton. Please see the front cover for the boundaries of all the communities within the City of Hamilton.)

The information in this report is presented in five sections. In the first section, the selected characteristics of Stoney Creek are reviewed and illustrated with charts and maps. The second section presents information about the changing labour force characteristics in the entire City of Hamilton, including Stoney Creek. The fourth section provides information about food security issues in the City of Hamilton, and the fifth provides information about United Way agencies and clients in Stoney Creek.

The information provided in Section 2.0 of this report is primarily based on the 2006 Census of Canada (Statistics Canada), with additional data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses used as points of comparison¹. Map 1 shows the roads and landmarks in Stoney Creek to help readers orient themselves for the maps throughout this document. The legends for the maps are based on the values for the entire City of Hamilton, so in some cases the legends in this report display classes that are not present on the maps for Stoney Creek. Configuring the legends in this manner was done to allow for easy comparisons of maps between different reports in this series of Community Profiles.

¹ At the time of publication of parts of this report, Statistics Canada had not yet made available data grouped by former municipalities in the City of Hamilton. Instead, this report summarizes data from the census tracts within Stoney Creek (these combined census tracts have the exact same boundaries as Stoney Creek). However, due to rounding that Statistics Canada applies to data in each census tract, this method creates an error of approximately one half a percentage point for the data that is presented in this report, compared to the more accurate data that Statistics Canada will release at a later date.

Section 3.0 of this report addresses the changing labour force characteristics for the entire City of Hamilton with an emphasis on changes since the economic downturn that began in 2008. Data is from Statistics Canada’s most recent indicators, and the City of Hamilton.

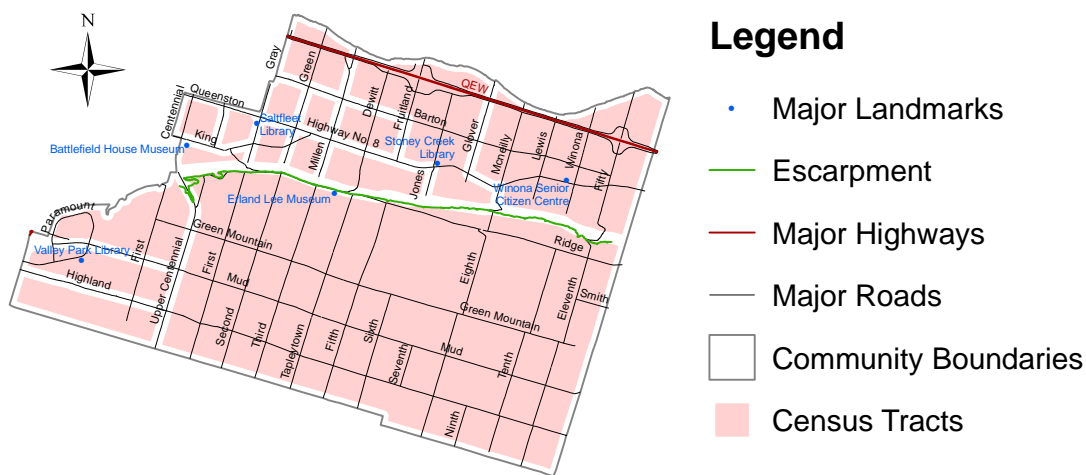
The information in Section 4.0 is from the Ontario Association of Food Banks, Statistics Canada’s Consumer Price Index, and the City of Hamilton’s Food Access Guide.

The data presented in Section 5.0 of this report has been provided by the United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton. The number of clients shown includes information collected from those agencies that track clients by residence in each former municipality. Some agencies do not collect data by client location because of their unique service characteristics; as a result, some client data is not included in this report. Over the coming years, the SPRC will continue to work with the United Way and its agencies to develop client and community service databases to ensure the best possible report of service to the community supported by the United Way. In the coming months, the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton will be publishing a profile of the social landscape for the City of Hamilton. This report will include many of the same demographic variables as found in this Community Profile, but for the entire city and with comparisons to other cities. It is our hope that these reports will complement each other.

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At the end of this report, we have included an evaluation questionnaire. We encourage readers to complete this survey to help us improve future editions of this report. Respondents will be entered in a prize draw for a \$50 gift certificate for Bryan Prince Bookseller in Hamilton, which will be drawn at the SPRC’s Annual General Meeting in June of 2010.

Map 1: Reference map for Community of Stoney Creek, City of Hamilton



2.0 POPULATION

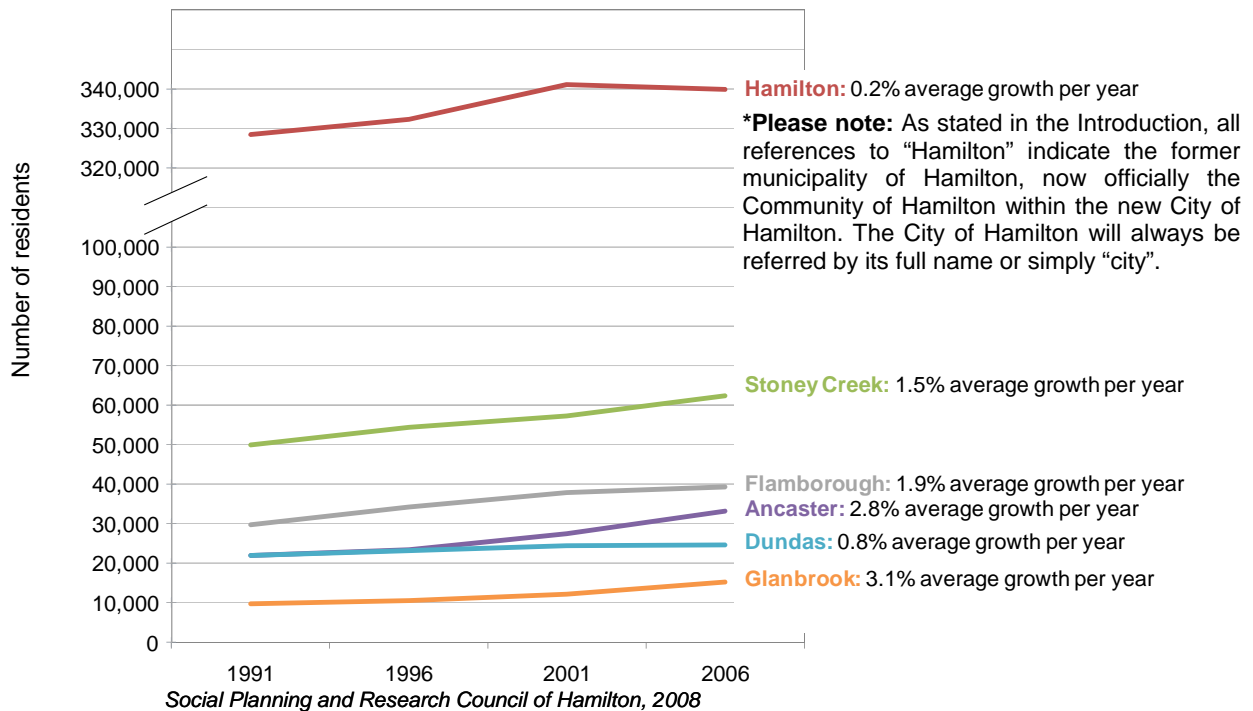
Almost one in 8 City of Hamilton residents live in Stoney Creek

At 62,290 persons in 2006, Stoney Creek is the 2nd largest community in the City of Hamilton, with 12% of the total population.

Stoney Creek is growing steadily

The Community of Stoney Creek had a population of 62,290 people in 2006, an increase of 12,322 persons since 1991 (Chart 1). The average annual growth rate over the last 15 years in Stoney Creek has been 1.5%, higher than the average of 0.7% per year for the City of Hamilton (formerly the Hamilton-Wentworth Region) for that same period. By comparison, the average annual increase in population for the province of Ontario has been 1.3% since 1991. The growth in Stoney Creek has been the most constant of all the communities.

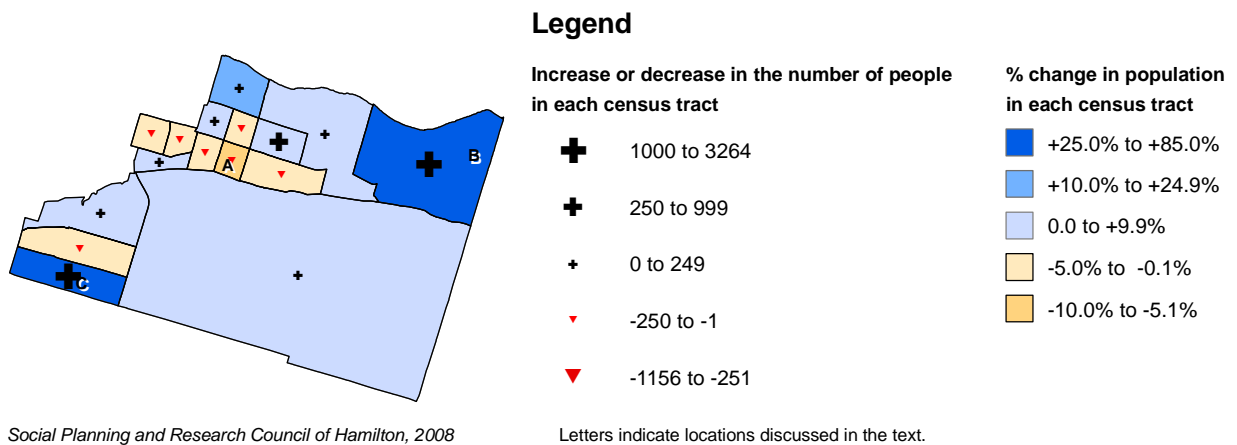
Chart 1: Population Growth, Communities with the City of Hamilton, 1991-2006



Winona and part of Stoney Creek mountain are centres of growth in Stoney Creek

Map 2 shows that the growth is not evenly spread across Stoney Creek. Unlike the trends in Ancaster and Flamborough, where the most rapid growth is in the more densely populated parts of the community, some of the most populous parts of Stoney Creek are either growing more slowly or declining in population. For example, the most central part Old Stoney Creek has lost 5% of its population (122 fewer residents in location A). The area of Stoney Creek that gained the most residents is the easternmost part of Stoney Creek (location B), which includes Winona. This area gained 2,294 residents between 2001 and 2006, which is a 57% population increase. Stoney Creek mountain also has some areas of high growth (2,138 new residents in the southernmost area identified by location C) while a neighbouring area on Stoney Creek mountain is losing residents (56 fewer residents between Highland and Mud Streets). The growth in Stoney Creek mountain and in Winona can be attributed in large part to the high rate of new home construction in these areas.

Map 2: Population Change in Stoney Creek, 2001-2006

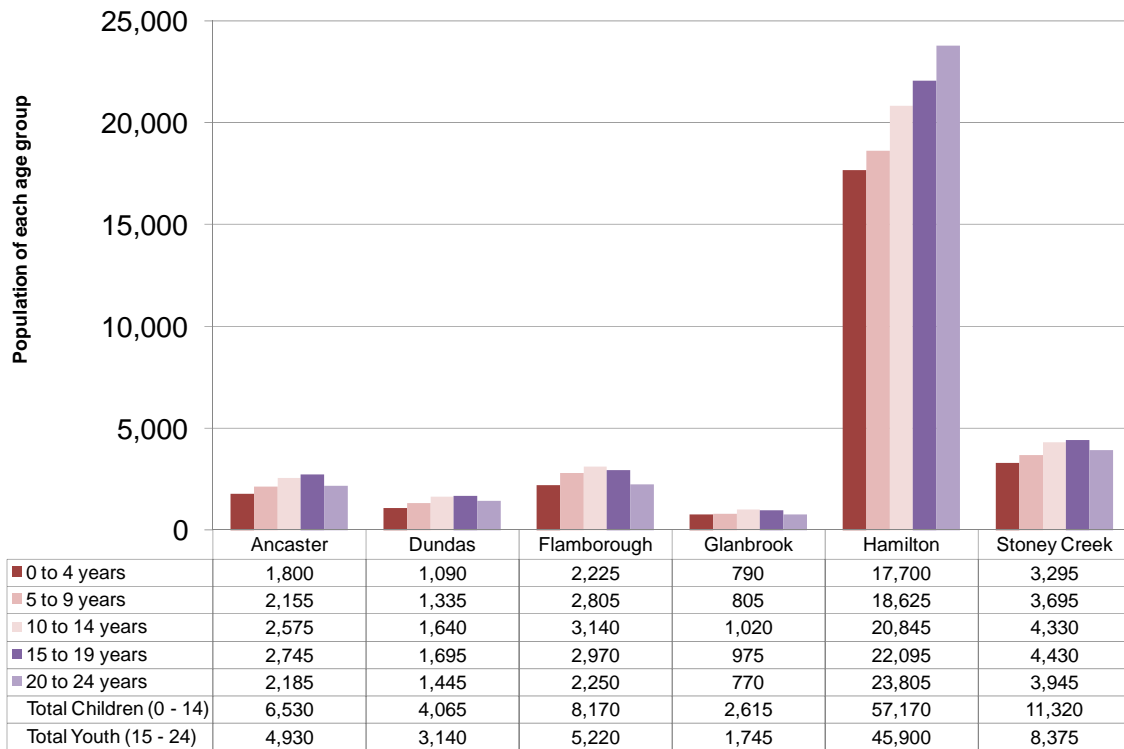


2.1 Children and Youth

More than 1 in 6 residents of Stoney Creek are children

In 2006, there were 11,320 children 0-14 years of age in Stoney Creek (Chart 2), which represents 18% of Stoney Creek's population. This is the same as the average for the City of Hamilton.

Chart 2: Children and Youth, Communities within City of Hamilton, 2006

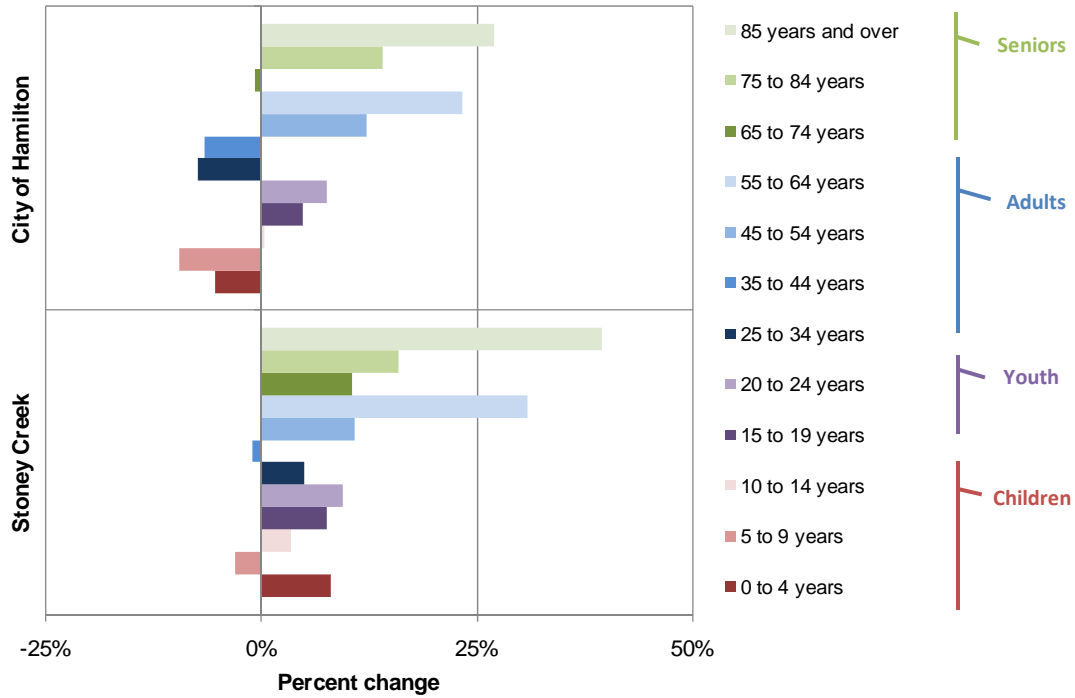


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Small increases in all children and youth age groups, but fewer children per family

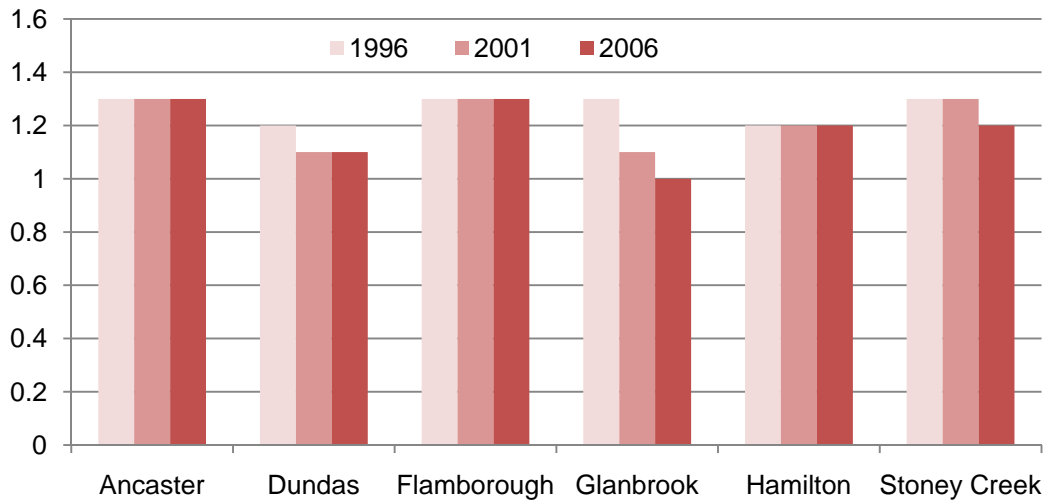
Between 2001 and 2006, there were 245 more children between the ages of 0 and 4 in Stoney Creek, an 8% increase (Chart 3). However, the number of children per family has decreased from 1.3 in 1996 and 2001 to 1.2 in 2006 in Stoney Creek (Chart 4). This is the same as the average for the City of Hamilton.

Chart 3: Population change by age groups, 2001-2006



Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Chart 4: Number of children living at home per family, 1996-2001

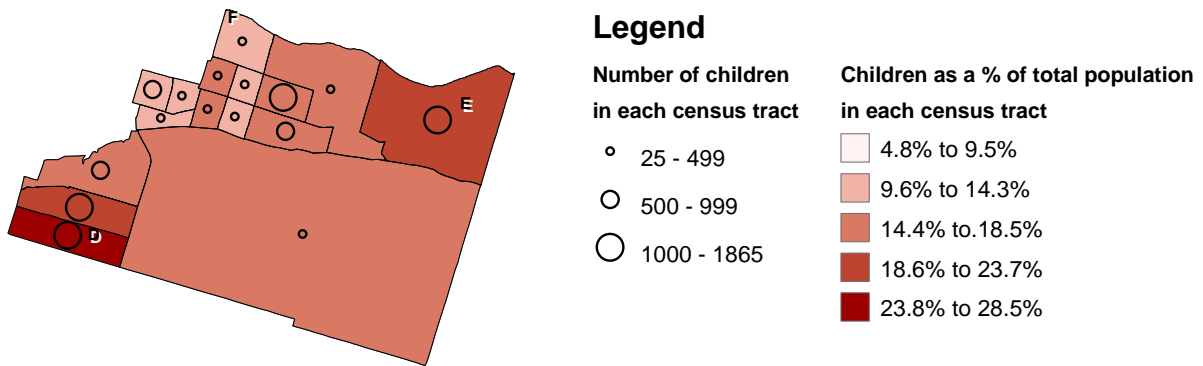


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Children are a large proportion of residents on Stoney Creek mountain

Map 3 shows that the greatest proportion of children is found on southern Stoney Creek mountain (530 children under 15, which is 28% of residents in the area identified by location D). The Winona area also has a high number of children: 520 children aged 0-14, which is 23% of residents (location E). The northwestern parts of Stoney Creek have fewer children, ranging as low as 215 children 0-14 (11% of residents) in the sparsely populated area bordering Hamilton below Barton Street (location F).

Map 3: Children 0-14 years of age in Stoney Creek, 2006



Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

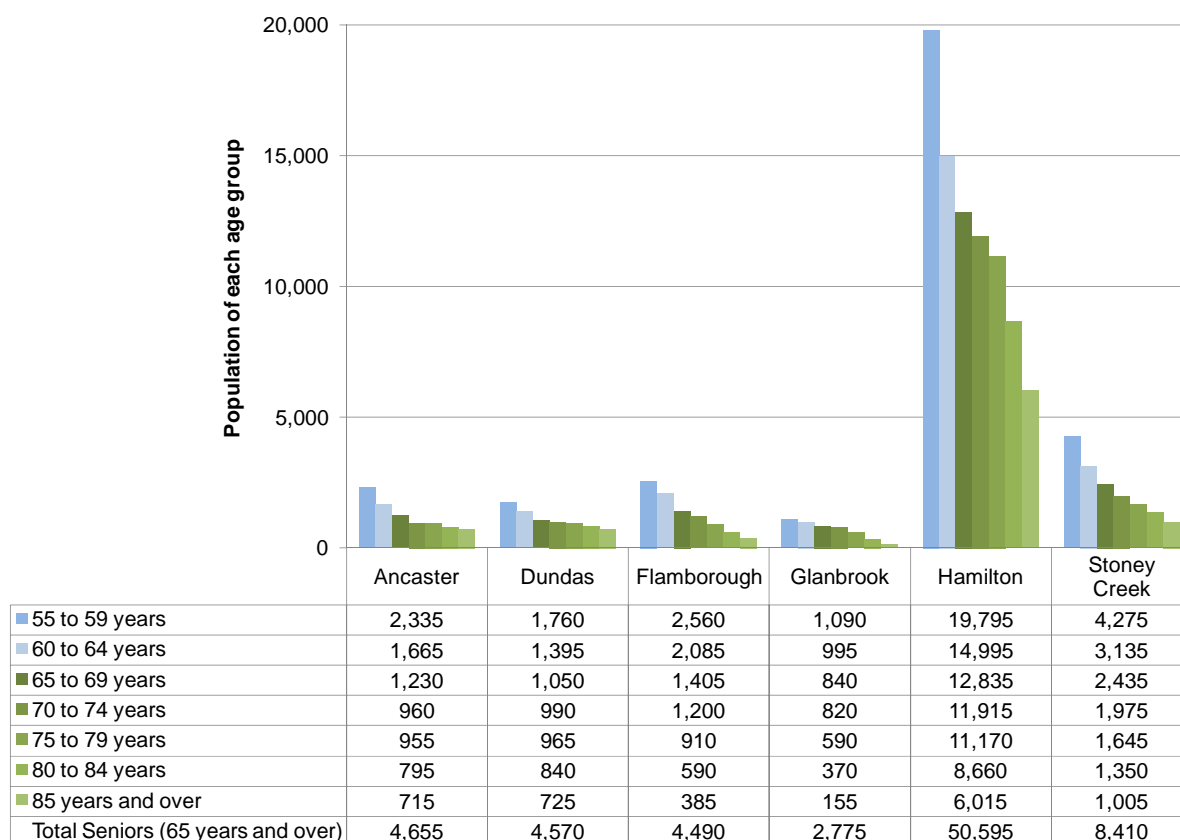
Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

2.2 Seniors

Stoney Creek has the second lowest concentration of seniors in the City of Hamilton

In 2006 there were 8,410 persons aged 65 and over living in Stoney Creek (Chart 5) – 3,705 men and 4,705 women. This represents 14% of the population, lower than all the other communities, except Flamborough. But the proportion of seniors in Stoney Creek is still only slightly lower than the overall average for the City of Hamilton (15%).

Chart 5: Older Adults, Communities within City of Hamilton, 2006

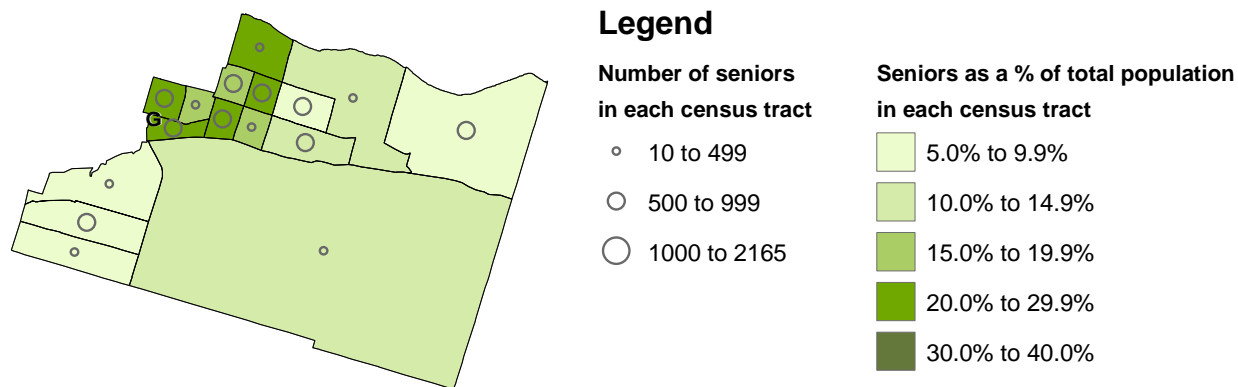


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Downtown Stoney Creek has higher concentrations of seniors

Map 4 shows that within Stoney Creek, most seniors live in the west, particularly in the neighbourhoods bordering Hamilton both south and north of King Street (the two areas identified by location G combined have 1590 seniors, which is 27% of residents in the area). Conversely, the Winona and Stoney Creek mountain areas have much lower proportions of seniors.

Map 4: Seniors (65 and over) in Stoney Creek, 2006



Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

The senior population is increasing in all age groups

Between 2001 and 2006 all age groups of seniors in Stoney Creek increased in population (Chart 3). The oldest age group grew most rapidly, increasing by 40% (285 additional persons for a total of 1,005 persons over age 85 in 2006). The other senior age groups increased as well, but below the average growth rate in Stoney Creek for all age groups (which was 25%). The increases in the number of seniors could be a combination of seniors moving to Stoney Creek, seniors living longer, and increases in population decades ago now being reflected in the older age groups.

Evidence that the senior population will continue to grow

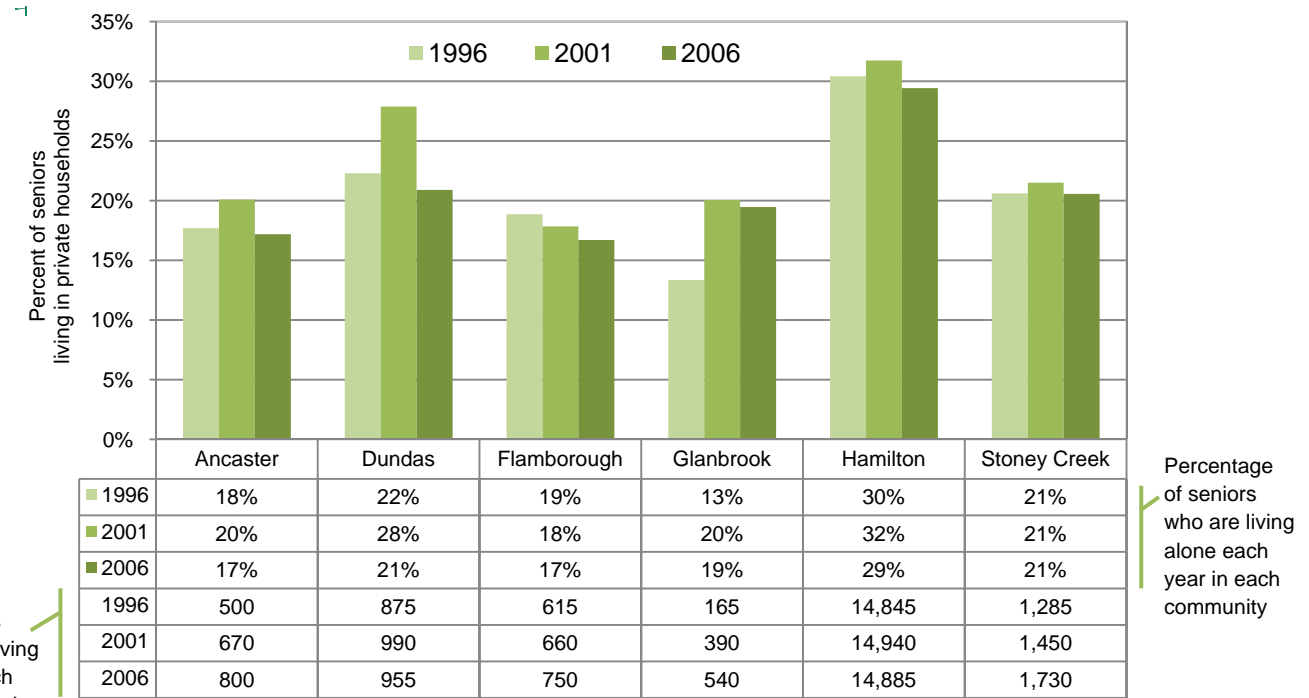
The breakdown of Stoney Creek older adults (Chart 5) shows that the senior population is set to continue to grow as there are large numbers of persons aged 60-64 living in Stoney Creek in 2006 (3,135 versus 2,435 seniors aged 65-69 years). Some of these people may move away from Stoney Creek as they grow older, but the current growth rate of seniors suggests many will stay within the area.

Number of seniors living alone is increasing

Seniors living alone generally have less access to support if they face illness or disability compared to seniors living with a spouse, with family or in institutional care². In Stoney Creek, the number of seniors living alone increased by 35% from 1996 to 2006 to a total of 1,730 persons. However, as Chart 6 illustrates, the percentage of seniors living alone in Stoney Creek was fairly stable, hovering around 21%. This is tied with Dundas for the second highest percentage in the City of Hamilton behind the Community of Hamilton (29%).

² Statistics Canada. 2007. A Portrait of Seniors in Canada. Catalogue no. 89-519.

Chart 6: Seniors living alone, Communities within City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



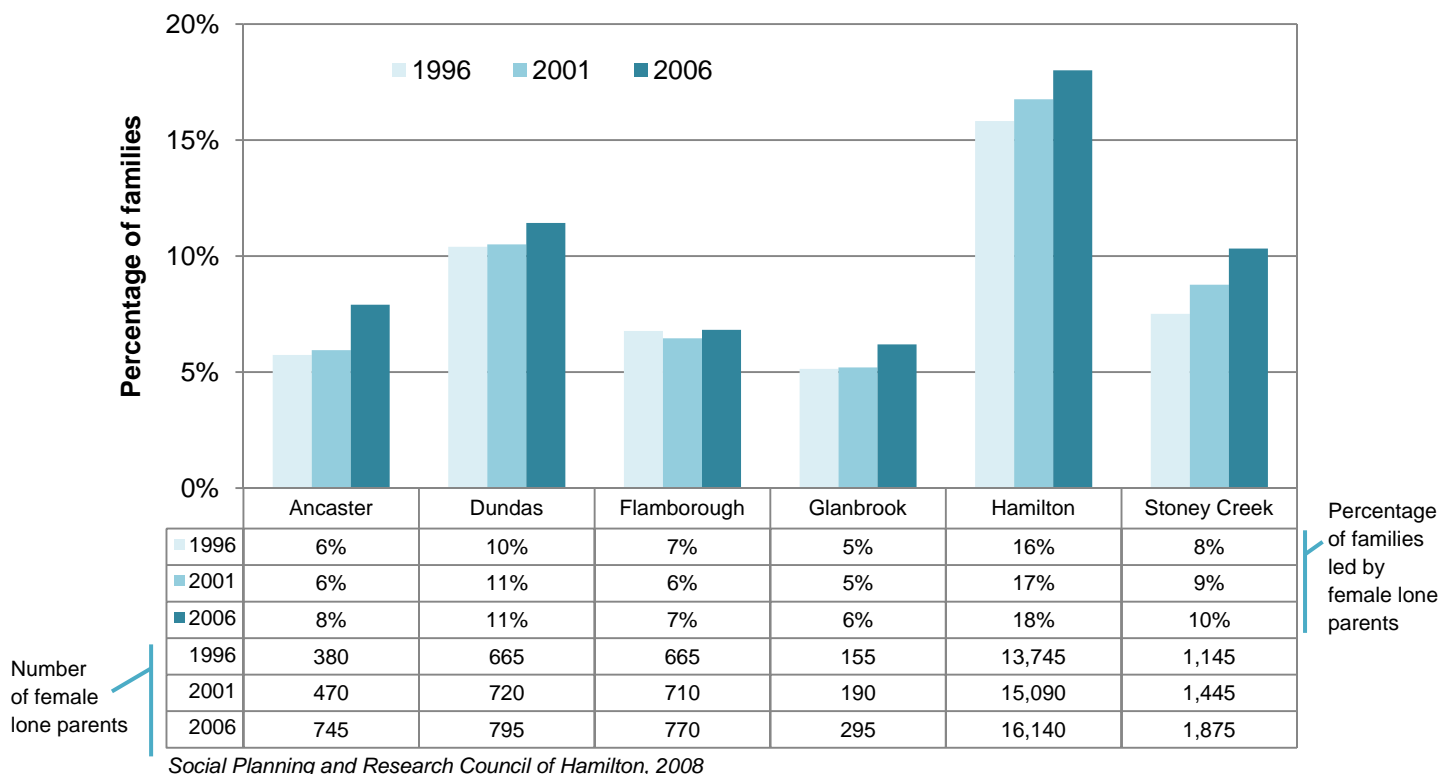
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

2.3 Female Lone Parents

Stoney Creek has the third highest proportion of single moms

Female lone parent-led families have traditionally reported a disproportionately high rate of poverty, reflecting the challenge of running a household and raising kids with a single income. The particular challenges that women face in the labour market has also meant that single moms are more likely to live on a low income than single dads. In 2006, Stoney Creek had the third highest proportion of families led by female lone parents at 10% (Chart 7), after Hamilton (18%) and Dundas (11%). The proportion of female lone parent-led families in Stoney Creek has been increasing at a rapid pace, and could overtake Dundas by the next census in 2011.

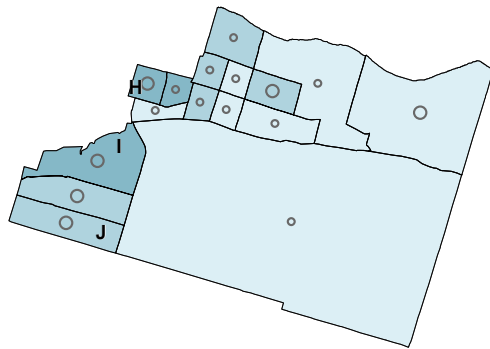
Chart 7: Families led by Female Lone Parents, Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



Higher concentration of female lone parents in western parts of Stoney Creek

The rate of female lone parent-led families varies considerably across Stoney Creek, with the highest concentrations appearing just east of Centennial Parkway near Battlefield Park (location H on Map 5) and in the most northwestern part of Stoney Creek mountain (location I). The census tract with the largest number of families led by single mothers is in the southeastern Stoney Creek mountain (240 persons in location J).

Map 5: Female Lone Parents in Stoney Creek, 2006



Social Planning Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Legend

Number of female lone parents

- 0 - 125
- 126 - 250
- 251 - 350
- 351 - 510

Female lone parents as a % of total families

- 0 - 8%
- 8.1% - 14%
- 14.1% - 19%
- 19.1% - 25%
- 25.1% - 32%

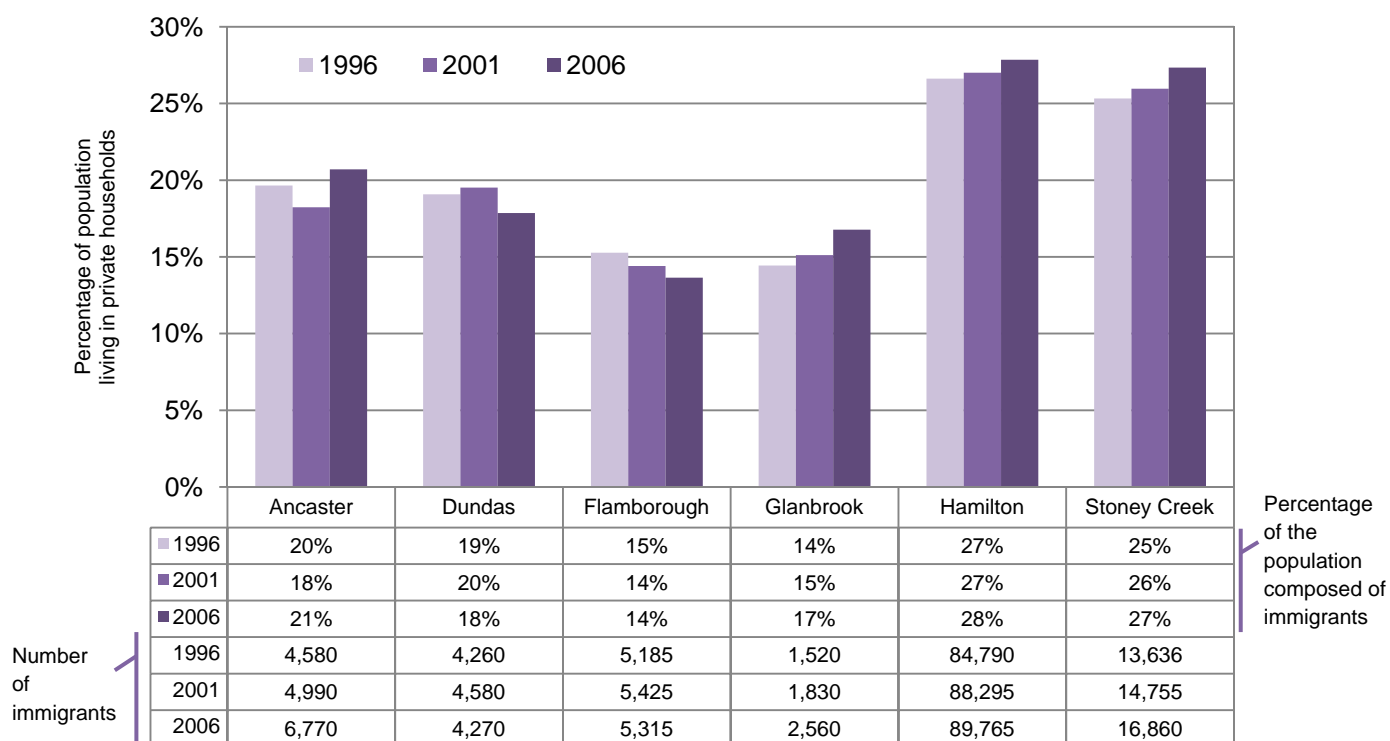
Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

2.4 Immigrants and Visible Minorities

The proportion of Stoney Creek's population that was born outside of Canada is increasing

Stoney Creek's proportion of immigrants has increased slightly from 25% in 1996 to 27% in 2006 (Chart 8). Stoney Creek's proportion of immigrants is second only to the proportion of immigrants in the Community of Hamilton (28%). In 2006, there were 16,860 immigrants in Stoney Creek, up almost a quarter since 1996, while Hamilton's larger population of immigrants (89,765) is growing more slowly (6% increase since 1996). Stoney Creek could overtake Hamilton as the Community with the greatest proportion of immigrants by the next census in 2011. The top three regions of birth of Stoney Creek's immigrants are Southern Europe, Eastern Europe and Northern Europe.

Chart 8: Immigrants, Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006

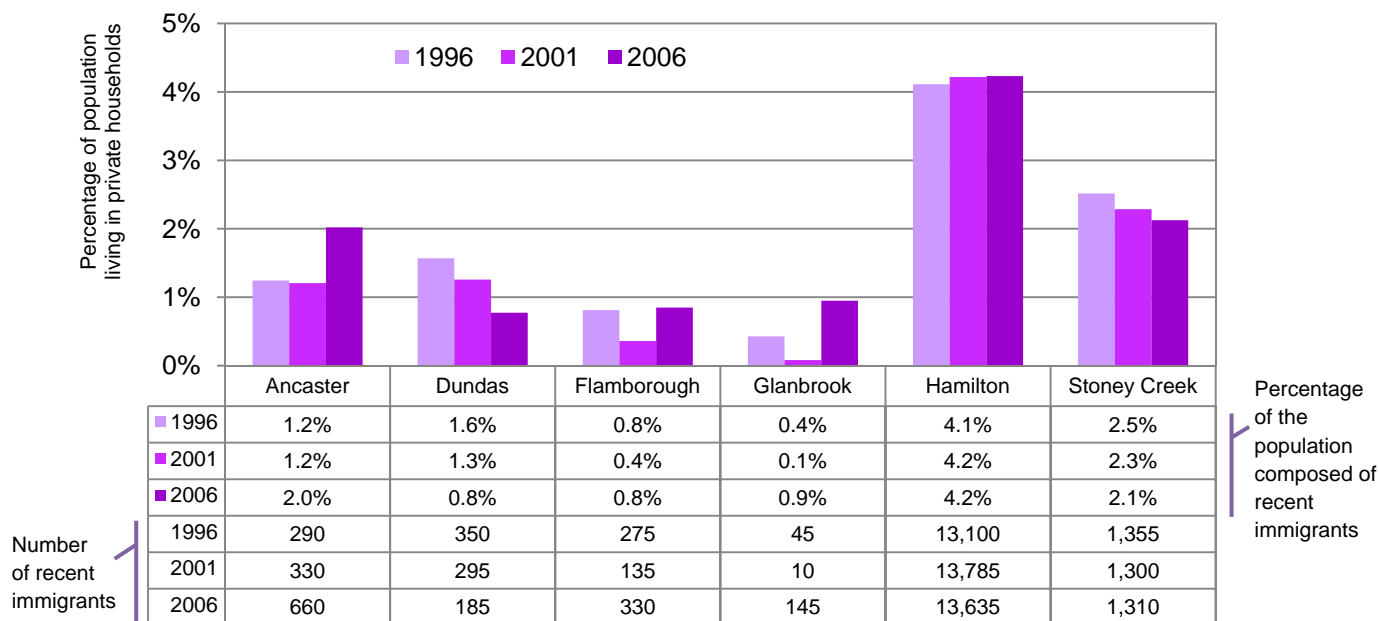


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Stoney Creek is chosen by fewer recent immigrants as a place to live

Recent immigrants are defined by Statistics Canada as arriving in Canada in the previous five years of any given census year. Recent immigrants can be a population with high needs as they are less familiar with the community services and supports available, and often face language and labour market barriers. As Chart 9 illustrates, Stoney Creek has had a slight decline in both the percentage of its population composed of recent immigrants (from 2.5% in 1996 to 2.1% in 2006) and the actual number of recent immigrants, standing at 1,310 in 2006 (down 3% or 45 persons from 1996). The top three regions of birth of recent immigrants in Stoney Creek in the 2006 census were Southern Asia, Southern Europe and Eastern Europe.

Chart 9: Recent Immigrants (arriving to Canada in the previous five years), Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006

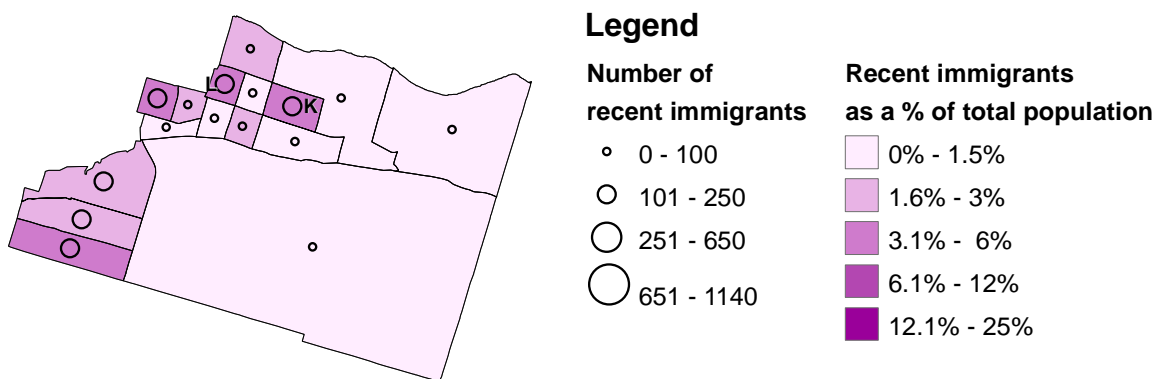


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Western Stoney Creek has highest proportions of recent immigrants

The recent immigrant population is largest in the Guernsey and Westmeria neighbourhoods (near the Stoney Creek Library) with 215 persons there (location K on Map 6). The highest proportion of the population composed of recent immigrants is in the Eastdale area (5%), located next to the Riverdale neighbourhood in the Community of Hamilton, which has the highest concentration of recent immigrants in the whole city.

Map 6: Recent Immigrants (arriving in Canada between 2001 and 2006) in Stoney Creek



Social Planning Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

Stoney Creek has fallen to third place in proportion of visible minorities

The proportion of visible minorities in Stoney Creek’s population increased from 5% in 1996 to 9% in 2006, with the actual number of visible minorities more than doubling to 5,690 (Chart 10). But this growth was not enough to keep pace with Ancaster, which has now surpassed Stoney Creek, making Stoney Creek the community with the third largest proportion of visible minorities. South Asian is by far the largest visible minority group in Stoney Creek, representing 44% of the visible minority population (Chart 11).

Chart 10: Visible Minorities, Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006

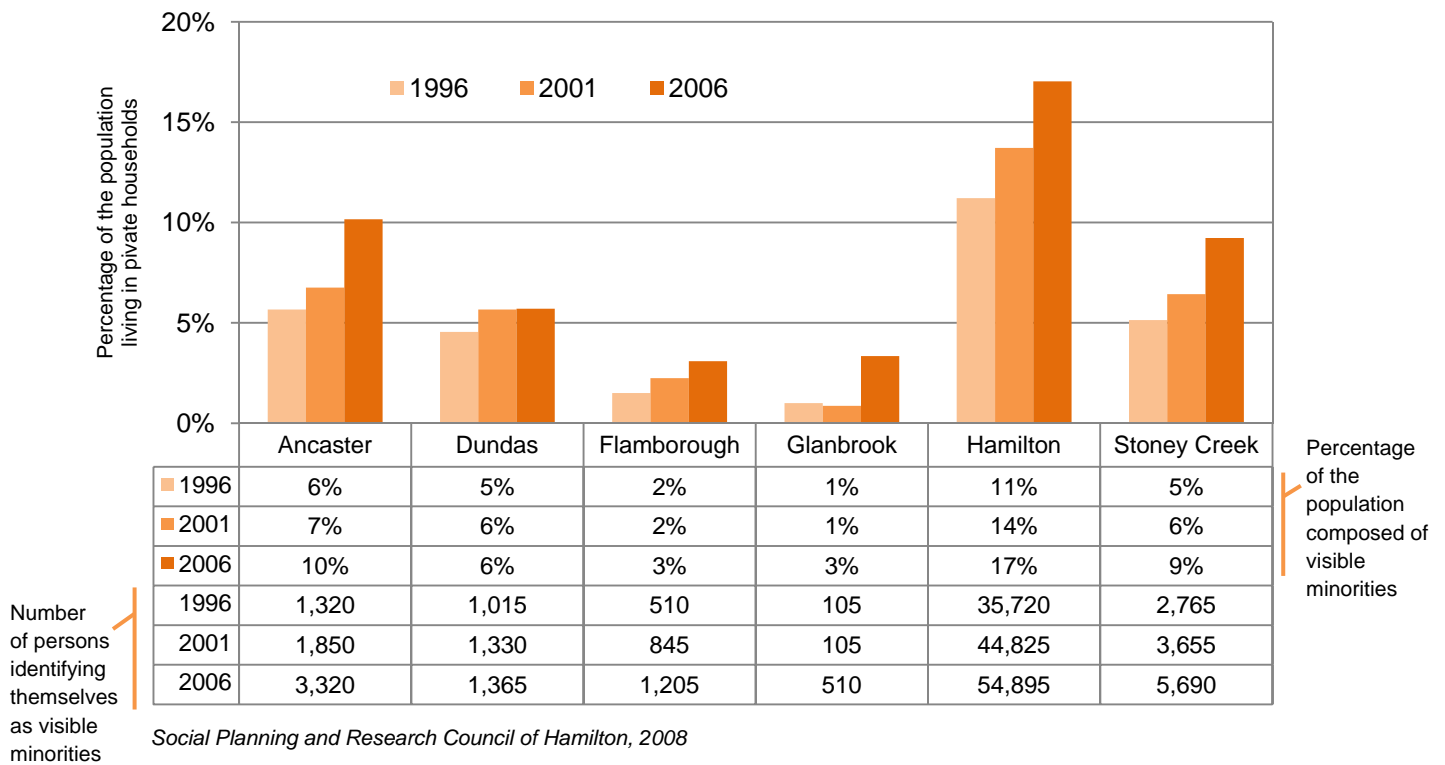
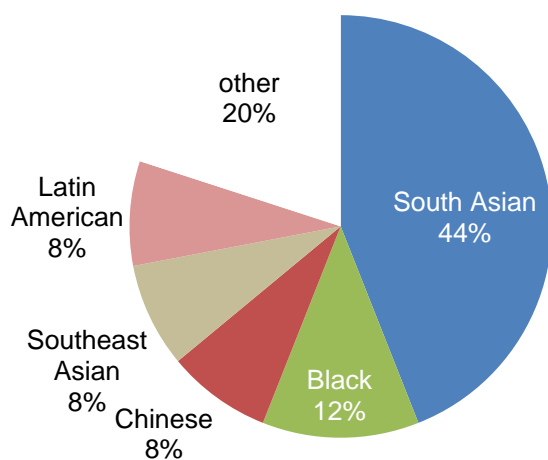


Chart 11: Visible Minority Groups, Stoney Creek, 2006



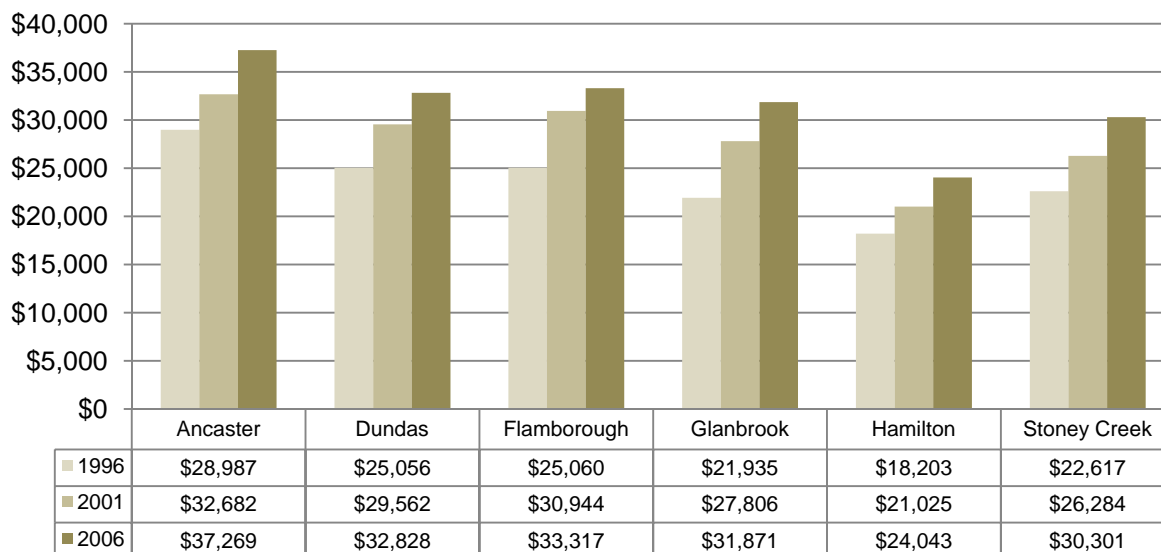
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

2.5 Incomes and Poverty

Stoney Creek has the second lowest median income

Median income is the point at which half the population earns more and half the population earns less. It is a better measure than average income as it is not inflated by a few residents earning 10 or 20 times what others in the area earn. The median income in Stoney Creek (over \$30,000) is the second lowest of all the city's communities (Chart 12), only higher than Hamilton's (which is just over \$24,000).

Chart 12: Median Individual Income (aged 15 and over), Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

The following section of the Community Profile considers the level of poverty in the City of Hamilton based on the most commonly reported measure – Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). The LICO measure is a relative measure of poverty introduced in Canada in 1968. When researchers or the media refers to "poverty lines" or "incidence of low-income", they are generally referring to the LICO measure.

The LICO considers the average cost of basic necessities (including housing, food, and clothing) for different sized households in different sized communities. The measure then adds an additional 20% to determine the low-income cut-off for the specific group. A Statistics Canada survey of family expenditure in 1992 determined that the average Canadian family spent about 35% its income on food, clothing and shelter. Statistics Canada concluded that a family that spent significantly more (i.e., 20 percentage points more) of its income on essentials was living in straitened circumstances. As a result, it has adopted 55 per cent of income as the cutoff point: families that spent more than 55% of their income on essentials would have little or no income left to spend on transportation, health, personal care, education, household operation, recreation, insurance and other unexpected expenses.³

³ The Canadian Fact Book on Poverty 1994, by David Ross, E. Richard Shillington and Clarence Lochhead. Canadian Council on Social Development http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/archive/fb94/fs_povbk.htm

Table 1 shows the LICO for the City of Hamilton. Please note that the LICO presented here represents before tax household incomes. The data presented were collected during the 2006 census and represent 2005 household incomes.

Family Size	Low-Income Cut-Off
1 person	\$20,778
2 person	\$25,867
3 person	\$31,801
4 person	\$38,610
5 person	\$43,791
6 person	\$49,389
7+ person	\$54,987

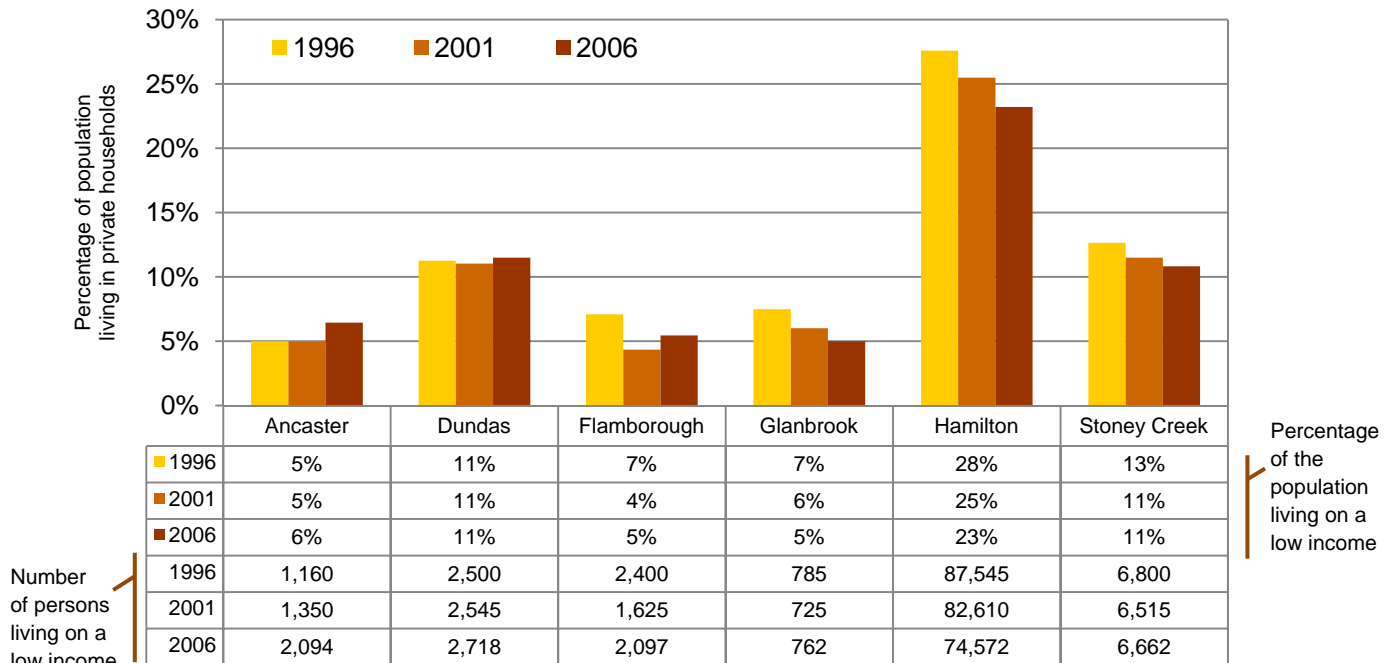
Poverty rate is decreasing

Stoney Creek’s low income rate has seen a small decrease in its poverty rate in the 1996-2006 period going from 13% to 11% (Chart 13). This downward trend is similar to that seen in most other communities within the city.

In 2006, the poverty rate for young children in Stoney Creek was 15%, almost double the poverty rate for the general population (Chart 13). Similarly, the poverty rate for seniors in Stoney Creek (14%) is much higher than for the general population. The poverty rates for seniors and young children are the second highest after the Community of Hamilton.

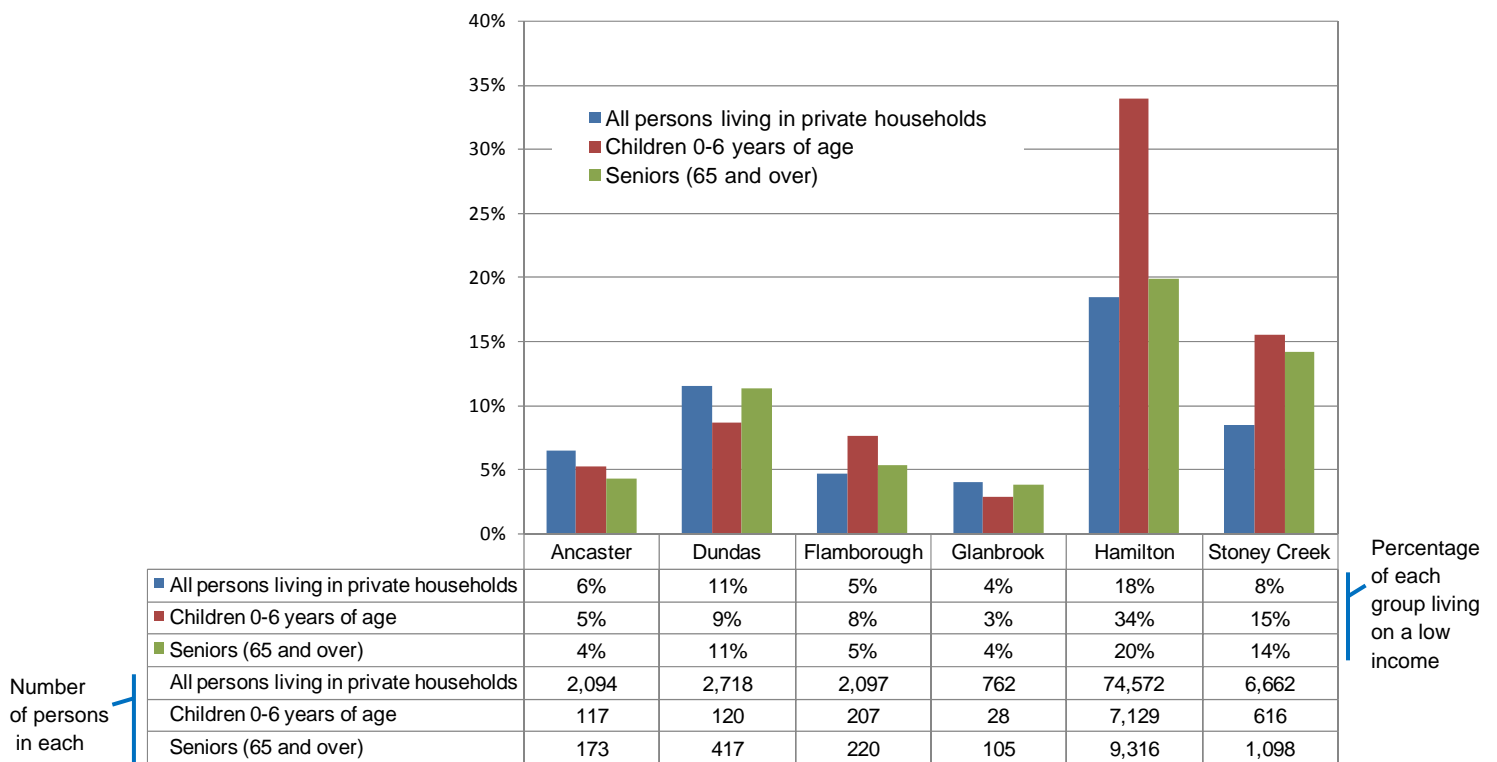
⁴ Statistics Canada varies its LICO calculation based on population size and density parameters for five different community sizes which they define and identify. Their definitions of urban and rural communities are different than municipal boundaries. The values in the table above are for an urban area with a population of 500,000 or more. For detailed information, please see this Statistics Canada document: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/75F0002MIE/75F0002MIE2006004.pdf>

Chart 13: Poverty Rates (before tax), Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Chart 14: Poverty Rates (before tax) for selected groups, Communities within the City of Hamilton, 2006

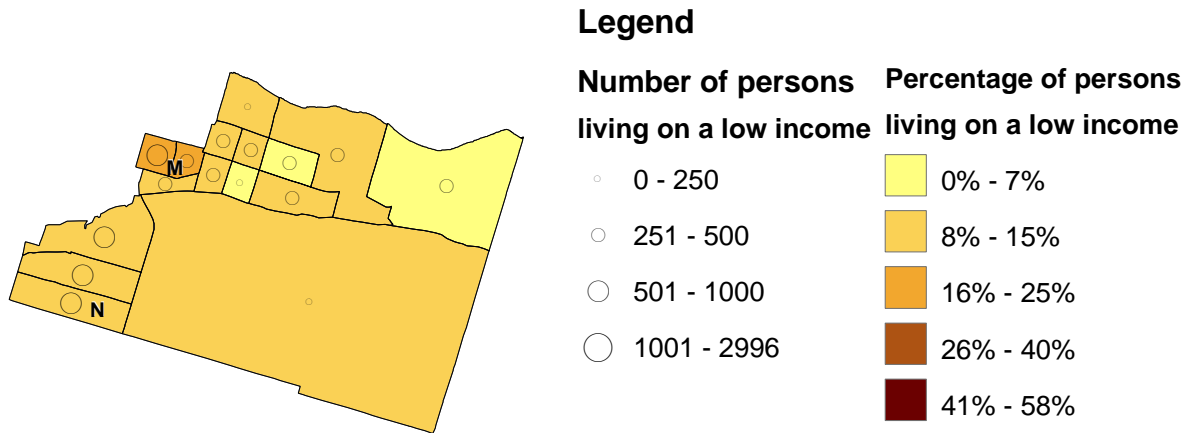


Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Poverty rates somewhat constant across Stoney Creek

The distribution of poverty rates in Stoney Creek is fairly constant, with only a few areas significantly higher or lower (Map 7). The highest concentrations of poverty are in the areas just north of King Street in easternmost Stoney Creek near Battlefield Park (16% and 17% in the 2 census tracts identified by location M). As in other maps, mainly due to higher populations in the Stoney Creek mountain areas, the Trinity and Highland neighbourhoods in the southeastern part of Stoney Creek has the highest number of persons living below the poverty line (almost 800 in the census tract identified by location N).

Map 7: Poverty (Before Tax) in Stoney Creek, 2006



Social Planning Research Council of Hamilton, 2008

Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

3.0 LABOUR FORCE

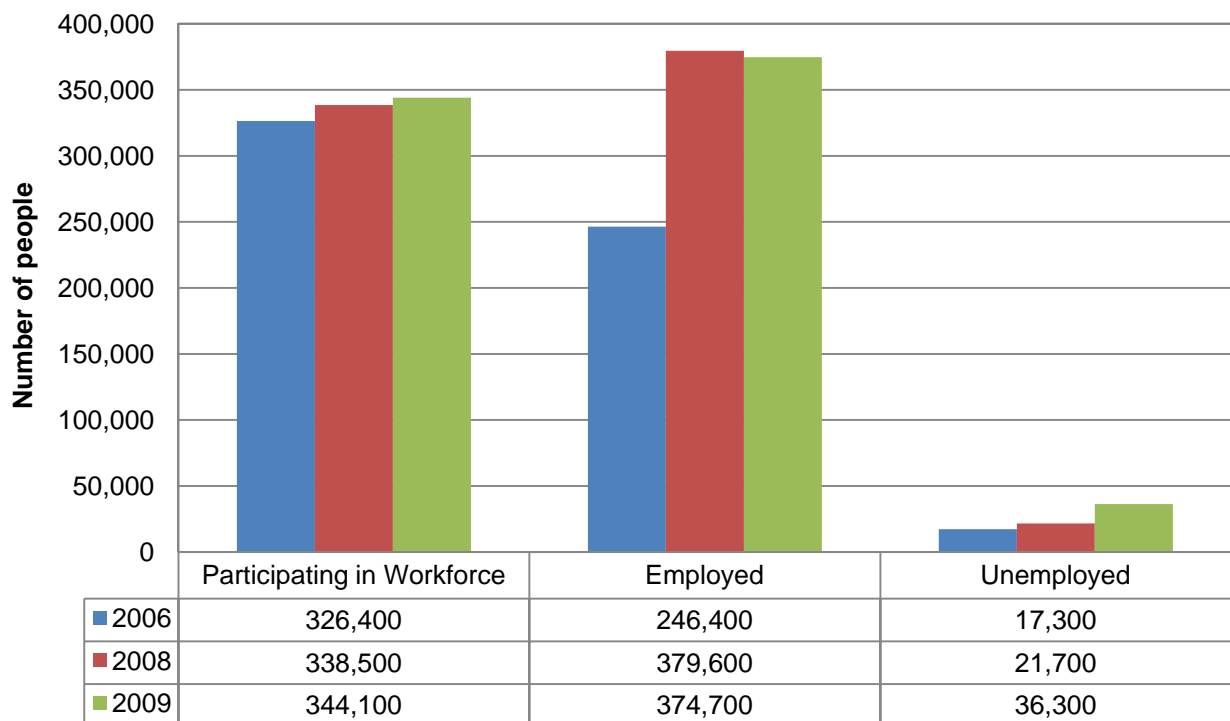
3.1 Changing Labour Force Characteristics

The City of Hamilton has a labour force in flux: the economic downturn has hit the city and local industry particularly hard, and 2009 saw the downsizing and/or closure of a number of manufacturing operations, leading to a drastic increase in the number of unemployed persons, number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries, and number of Ontario Works cases.

Increasing unemployment in the City of Hamilton

The City of Hamilton has seen a 67% increase in unemployed individuals from 2008 to 2009, and a 110% increase from 2006 to 2009. The number of people employed shrank by 4,900, although the total number of individuals participating in the work force has increased 1.6% from 2008 to 2009.

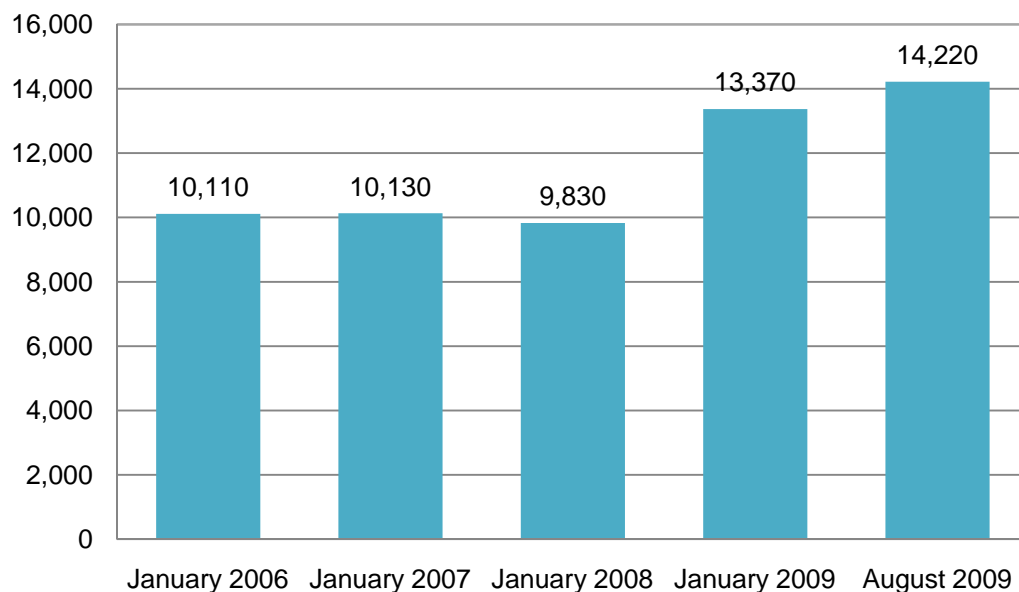
Chart 15: Unadjusted labour force characteristics for the City of Hamilton, 2006, 2008 and 2009



The City of Hamilton has seen an increase in the number of EI beneficiaries

The number of people receiving Employment Insurance has risen sharply since 2008. From January 2008 to August 2009, Employment Insurance beneficiaries in the City of Hamilton increased by 4,390 people, or 45%.

Chart 16: Employment Insurance Beneficiaries, City of Hamilton, 2006-2009

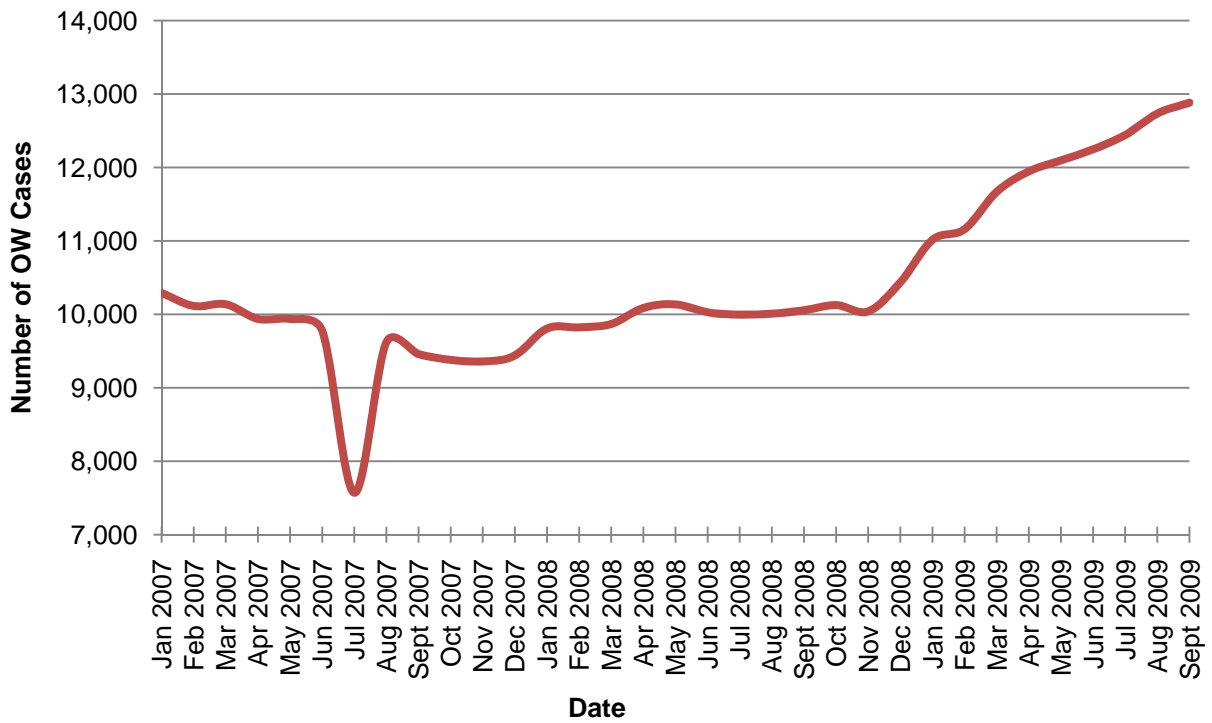


OW Caseload numbers in the City of Hamilton are rising

The number of Ontario Works caseloads in the City of Hamilton has also seen an increase over the past twelve months: from September 2008 to September 2009, the number of caseloads has risen by 28%. This trend is expected to continue into 2010, especially as Employment Insurance (EI) applications increase and people require emergency supplemental income while waiting for their first EI payments, or as EI benefits expire and individuals are still in need of income support. In addition to a rising number of caseloads, the City of Hamilton reports that fewer people are leaving the caseload for employment or other reasons.⁵

⁵ City of Hamilton. Community Services Department, Employment and Income Support Division. June 2, 2009 Implementation of Phase 2 Ontario Works Caseload Contingency Plan (CS09021(a)) (City Wide). Available online at: <http://www.myhamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/6B0367B7-11F1-41F0-BFDC-B6978E4506DC/0/Jun17Item84CS09021aREPORTImplementationOWContingencyPlan.pdf>

Chart 17: Ontario Works Caseloads, City of Hamilton 2007-2009⁶



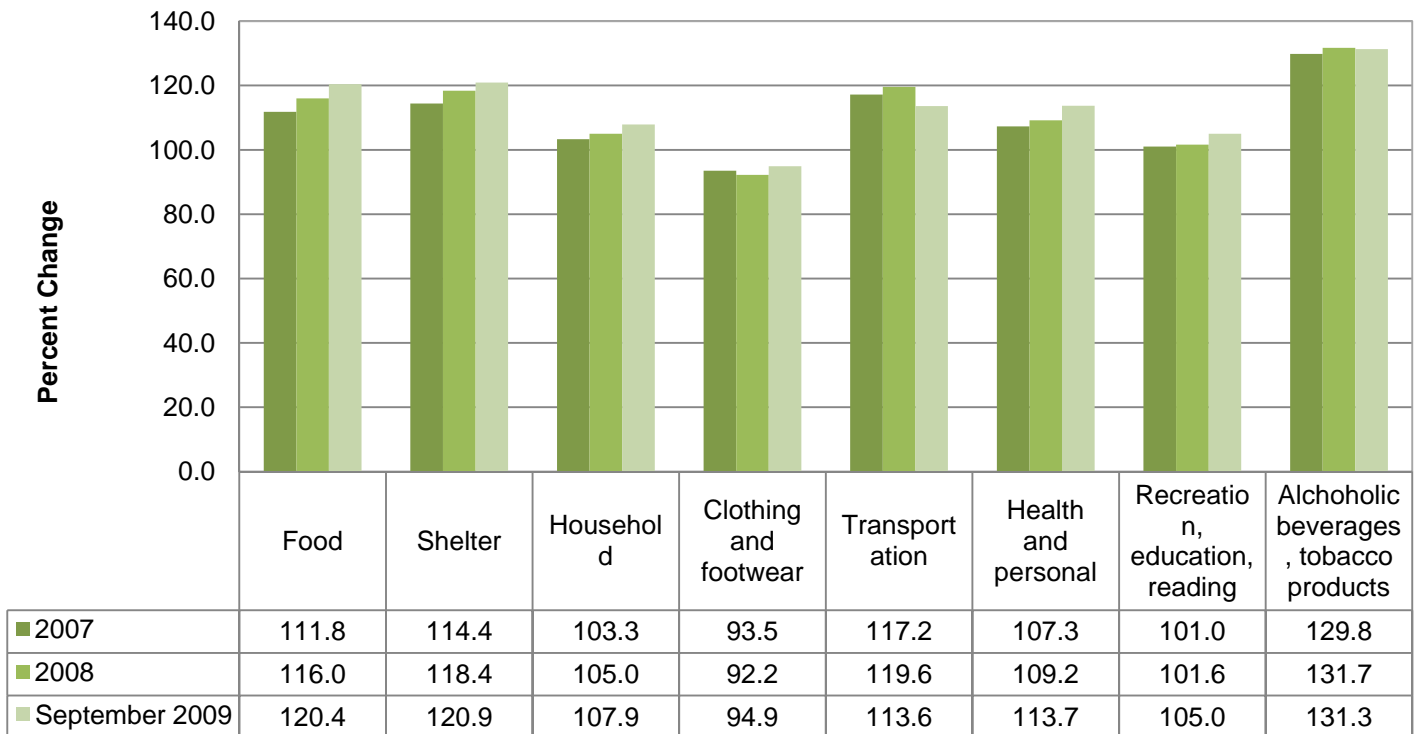
⁶ Data courtesy of the City of Hamilton's Community Wellness Indicators. Available online at: <http://www.myhamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/17F5D3A4-E0AB-423F-8D2A-22E3AA603C1A/0/HCWSep01.pdf>

4.0 FOOD SECURITY

The Ontario Association of Food Banks is reporting that Ontario's food banks are increasingly stressed due to rising unemployment, high food prices, and increased demands for their services. Many food banks have experienced a decline in both financial and food donations in the past year, and existing food reserves are precariously low.⁷

Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index shows that the price of food has been rising significantly. A 3.8% increase in food prices from January 2008 to September 2009 combined with increased costs for shelter, household expenses, clothing and footwear, health and personal items, and a failing economy means that Canadian families are increasingly in need of social supports like food banks and meal programs.

Chart 18: Consumer Price Index, Statistics Canada 2006-2009



⁷ Ontario Association of Food Banks (2009). Special Report: In the Midst of the Storm: the Impact of the Economic Downturn for Ontario's Food Banks in 2009. Available online at: <http://www.oafb.ca/assets/pdfs/SpecialReport.pdf>

4.1 Food Access Sites in Stoney Creek⁸

1	Student Nutrition Program – Green Acres Elementary School 454 Randall Ave., Stoney Creek, ON L8G 2K8 http://www.partnersinnutrition.ca	Provides breakfast, early morning meal, lunch or snack programs for elementary and secondary students.
2	Food Bank -Stoney Creek Food Bank 13 Lake Ave. South, Stoney Creek, ON L8C 5C9 Phone: (905) 664-2252 Mon. 1-3:30PM; Wed. 9:30-3:30PM; Fri. 9:30AM-1:00PM	Emergency food, baby food and formula offered once a month per family. For Stoney Creek residents only. Must register and have a permanent residence and proof of address.
3	Food Bank - St. John's Community Support Programs 1258 Highway #8, Winona, ON L8E 5K5 Phone: (905) 643-2052 Mon.-Thu. 1:00 – 4:00PM	No cost food assistance offered once a month. Baby food and formula are provided as available. Two pieces of ID for adults and one piece of ID for children required.
4	Meal Program – Salvation Army: Mountberry Adult Day Service 300 Winterberry Dr., Hamilton ON L8J 1P8 Phone: (905) 573-0635 Mon.-Fri. 12:30-1:30PM	Full course meal provided Mon. – Fri. Referral required. \$17.00 cost includes meal, program, and transportation.
5	Student Nutrition Program – Saltfleet Secondary School 108 Highland Road, Stoney Creek, ON L8J 2T2 http://www.partnersinnutrition.ca	Provides breakfast, early morning meal, lunch or snack programs for elementary and secondary students.

Map 8: Locations of Food Access Sites in Stoney Creek, 2009



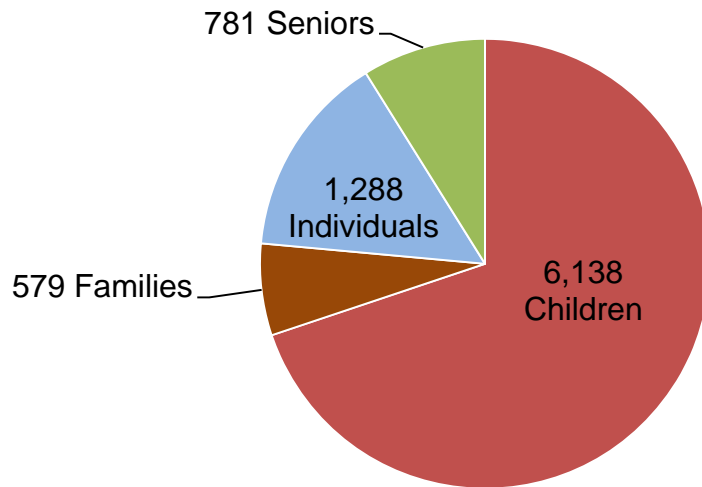
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2009

⁸ All information about food access sites was collected from the City of Hamilton's 2009 Food Access Guide, which is a comprehensive listing of places in the City of Hamilton where free or low cost food or meals are available. Electronic copies can be found at the City of Hamilton website: <http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/HealthandSocialServices/TopicsAtoZ/#F>

5.0 UNITED WAY SERVICES

5.1 Who is served by the United Way in Stoney Creek?

In 2008 over **8,831*** individuals and families from the Stoney Creek community accessed United Way funded services.



5.2 Some examples of United Way funded services and programs accessed by Stoney Creek residents

Children & Youth accessed recreational and day camp programs; counselling supports; leadership and training; good beginnings; group work; matching and mentoring. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Alternatives for Youth
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hamilton and Burlington
- Catholic Youth Organization
- Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club
- Navy League
- VON Hamilton
- Workers Art and Heritage Centre/HYSO
- YMCA Hamilton/Burlington
- YWCA of Hamilton

Families and individuals accessed counselling programs and practical assistance. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Catholic Family Services
- Elizabeth Fry Society, Hamilton Chapter
- John Howard Society
- VON Hamilton

Individuals accessed information and referral services; literacy and basic skills; services for those in conflict or at risk of conflict with the law; counselling; health supports; education & awareness on violence and sexual assault; women transitional housing; employment services; adult health fitness and recreation. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Community Information Hamilton
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Hamilton Literacy Council
- Hamilton & District Ostomy Association
- John Howard Society
- Multiple Sclerosis Society, Hamilton Chapter
- Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton and Area
- Volunteer Hamilton
- YWCA of Hamilton

Seniors accessed programs and services that allow them to continue to live inpedependantly, i.e. meals on wheels, homemaking, friendly visiting, telephone care, transportation, case management and information & referral; services for the hearing impaired, hard of haring; services for the visually impaired, blind; dog therapy visits to long term care and retirement homes. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Canadian Hearing Society
- CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind)
- Canadian Red Cross Society
- Catholic Family Services
- Dundas Community Services
- St. John Ambulance
- St. Joseph's Villa
- VON Hamilton
- Wesley Urban Ministries

* The numbers above include information collected by the United Way from those agencies that continue to track clients that reside in the former municipalities.

6.0 SUMMARY

This overview of key census indicators indicates that Stoney Creek faces multiple challenges and opportunities. An aging population is one trend that is constant in all parts of the City of Hamilton. In Stoney Creek, as elsewhere, the senior age groups are growing faster than the child age groups. While the growth in the youngest age groups (0-14) is higher in Stoney Creek than the average for the City of Hamilton, the average number of children at home per family in Stoney Creek has decreased slightly to 1.2 children per family, tied for second place in the city. The seniors' population is growing rapidly, but Stoney Creek has the second lowest proportion of seniors (at 14% in 2006 - although it has the second highest population of seniors at 8,410 in 2006). The proportion of seniors living alone is now tied for second with Dundas (at 21% in 2006).

The proportion of female lone parent-led families in Stoney Creek has been increasing in every census year since 1996 and could overtake Dundas as the community with the second highest proportion of female lone parents in City of Hamilton. On the immigration side, Stoney Creek is almost tied with Hamilton for the highest proportion of residents born outside of Canada. Yet the proportion of recent immigrants choosing to live in Stoney Creek has been steadily decreasing (from 2.5% in 1996 to 2.1% in 2006).

Stoney Creek has the second lowest median income at just over \$30,000, although this is still over \$6,000 more than the median income in the Community of Hamilton. The poverty rate in Stoney Creek has been decreasing, now standing at 11%, tied for second place with Dundas, behind Hamilton. This represents, however, over 6,600 persons living on incomes below the poverty line. The poverty rate for both children (15%) and seniors (14%) are both higher than for the general population.

In order to respond to the community conditions outlined in this report, the United Way has established that its priorities for investment in the City of Hamilton are Poverty Prevention (children, youth and families), Strengthening Neighbourhoods (children, youth, families and individuals) and Supporting Seniors. In addition the United Way asks that submissions for funding consider how the unique challenges of women, visible minorities, recent immigrants and aboriginal groups can be addressed. In Section B, we have given a glimpse into the United Way's system of service and the number of Stoney Creek residents that are served by a United Way funded program. The United Way's priorities are reflected in the services and programs funded in Stoney Creek, and are an important part of the community's response to the challenges and opportunities that Stoney Creek faces.

This picture of Stoney Creek only shows part of the issues facing this community and further investigations are necessary to identify and understand more clearly the reasons behind some of these trends. However, it is hoped that this Profile can be used a starting point for planning purposes by social service agencies, community groups and citizens.

EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Did you find information clear and easily understandable?

Very clear Mostly clear Somewhat clear Not clear

2. Were there any difficulties in understanding definitions, charts, maps, in this report?

3. How did you use this report? (Circle all that apply)

Personal use General background reading for work Quoted data, maps or charts for presentation/program/proposal This information will help guide my organization's response to community conditions

4. What other information were you looking for but didn't find in this report? What other data, maps, graphs, analysis of demographic conditions would have been useful to you in this report?

5. How would you rate this report?

Excellent Very Good Good Satisfactory Unsatisfactory

Please return it by fax to: 905-522-9124

Or by mail to:

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
162 King William St. Suite 103, Hamilton, ON L8R 3N9



Respondents who return this survey by February 2, 2009 will be entered in a prize draw for a \$50 gift certificate for Bryan Prince Bookseller in Hamilton. If you would like to be entered in our prize draw, please enter your contact information:

Name: _____ Email or Phone: _____

Thank you for completing this survey!