This map illustrates the geographic distribution of the population within the City of Hamilton, with each blue dot representing 50 residents. The black lines are the boundaries between each of the six communities within the city.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton for its continued support to the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and for commissioning this report. In particular, we are grateful for the aid of Monica Quinlan in the preparation of this report.

The support of the Trillium Foundation has been invaluable in the development of the SPRC’s Community Mapping Service, which was used for parts of this report.

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, yet distinct about, 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 the Community of Hamilton. 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, or simply as “city”. 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 two sections. In the first section, the selected characteristics of Hamilton are reviewed and illustrated with charts and maps. The second section presents information about United Way agencies and clients in Hamilton.

The information provided in Section A of this report is based primarily on the 2006 Census of Canada (Statistics Canada), with additional data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses used as points of comparison. The boundaries in the maps are census tract boundaries used by Statistics Canada. Census tracts are small and relatively stable areas that usually have a population of 2,500 to 8,000 people. Map 1 shows the roads and landmarks in Hamilton to help readers orient themselves for the maps throughout this document.

The data presented in Section B 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 due to their unique service characteristics do not collect data by client location; 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.

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1 At the time of publication 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 the Community of Hamilton (these combined census tracts have the exact same boundaries as Hamilton). 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.
In the coming months, the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton will be publishing a profile of the social landscape for the entire 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.

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.

Map 1: Reference Map for the Community of Hamilton
2.0 SECTION A.

2.1 Population

Hamilton is largest community within City of Hamilton
At 329,770 persons in 2006, Hamilton represents 65% of the city’s total population.

Hamilton has experienced a slight decline in population recently
The Community of Hamilton had a population of 329,770 people in 2006, an increase of 11,271 persons since 1991 (Chart 1). The average annual growth rate over the last 15 years in Hamilton has been 0.2%, the lowest of all the city’s communities. By comparison, the average annual increase in population for the City of Hamilton (formerly the Hamilton-Wentworth Region) for that same period has been 0.7% per year, and for the province of Ontario the growth has been 1.3% per year since 1991. In recent years, the slow growth in Hamilton’s population has changed into a slow decline – between 2001 and 2006 there was a drop of 1,315 residents in the Community of Hamilton.

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

*Please note: As stated in the Introduction, all references to “Hamilton” indicate the former municipality of Hamilton, now officially the Community of Hamilton within the new City of Hamilton. The City of Hamilton will always be referred by its full name or simply “city”.

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2008
South Mountain is fastest growing area in Hamilton

In Map 2, we can see that there are very different growth rates within the different parts of this Community. Some areas bordering the fast growing Communities of Ancaster and Glanbrook are growing quickly. For example, the largest growth by percentage between 2001 and 2006 has been in the South Mountain area (identified by location A), which increased by 49% (1,324 additional residents). The area bordering Ancaster near San Pedro Drive (location B) has also experienced high growth: a 33% increase due to 1,349 additional residents. These areas are both in the top 10 most rapidly growing areas within the City of Hamilton. The downtown area (location C) has seen small increases in population in most areas. Conversely, the Ainsley-Wood area between Main St West and the escarpment west of the Highway 403 (location D) has lost the greatest number of residents (1,156 fewer residents, which is a 24% drop in population) according to the 2006 census. This area, however, has many university students, and students are supposed to fill out census forms at their permanent home (often their parents), therefore this finding may just be a reflection of the change in the composition of the population of this neighbourhood, (i.e. more students) and not an actual decline in number of residents.

Map 2: Population Change in Hamilton, 2001-2006

Legend

Increase or decrease in the number of people in each census tract

- 1000 to 3264
- 250 to 999
- 0 to 249
- -250 to -1
- -1156 to -251

% change in population in each census tract

- 25.0% to 85.0%
- 10.0% to 24.9%
- 0.0% to 9.9%
- -5.0% to -0.1%
- -10.0% to -5.1%

Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.

2.2 Children and Youth

More than 1 in 6 residents of Hamilton are children

In 2006, there were 57,170 children aged 0-14 years of age in Hamilton (Chart 2), which represents 17% of Hamilton's population. The proportion of children in Hamilton is just below the average for the the City of Hamilton (18%).
Hamilton’s population of young children is decreasing

Between 2001 and 2006, there were 1,770 fewer children aged 0-4 in Hamilton, which represents a 9% decrease (Chart 3). Only Flamborough had a higher percentage decline in this age group. The age group of 5-9 year olds decreased even more substantially (2,875 fewer children, a 13% decrease). This percentage decrease in this age group is is tied with Dundas. The change in the number of children in Hamilton is a factor that caused the overall population decline in Hamilton between 2001 and 2006. The decrease in the number of young children could be due to fewer families with young children moving to Hamilton and a decline in the number of children born to current Hamilton residents, among other factors.
Hamilton family size has been constant since 1996
The average family in Hamilton has 1.2 children living at home in 2006 (unchanged since 1996). This is tied for second place with Stoney Creek.
Census tract with greatest number of children is McQuesten, largest proportion of children on south mountain

The greatest number of children under 15 years of age is found in McQuesten (1,620 children under 15, which is 23% of the population in the area identified by location E on Map 3). The areas on the South Mountain) also have large number of children, although each individual area doesn't have more than McQuesten. The South Mountain area south of Rymal road bordering Glanbrook between Upper James and Upper Gage (location F) has the highest percentage of children of all areas in the City of Hamilton (29% of population is under the age of 15 which is 1,140 children). Many areas bordering this one also have high percentage of children.

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

2.3 Seniors

Hamilton has the third highest concentration of seniors in the City of Hamilton

In 2006 there were 50,595 persons age 65 and over living in Hamilton (Chart 4) – 21,155 men and 29,440 women. This represents 15% of the population, only surpassed by Dundas and Glanbrook with 18% seniors. Overall, the City of Hamilton is composed of 15% seniors.
Large number of seniors on mountain

The mountain area of Hamilton has many individual areas with both high numbers of seniors and a high proportion of seniors (Map 4). In particular, the area just to the northeast of Limeridge Mall (location G) has 38% seniors (955 residents 65 and older) and one area on the west mountain (location H) 35% seniors (590 persons 65 and older). But the area in Hamilton with the largest concentration of seniors is in the lower city in the census tract bordering Stoney Creek between Queenston and King surrounding Eastgate Mall (location I). In that area, 39% of the population is 65 or older (755 seniors) – this is the highest proportion of seniors of all areas in the entire city of Hamilton.
Older senior age groups are growing fastest
As can be seen in Chart 3, between 2001 and 2006 the youngest age group of seniors (aged 65-69) decreased in population by 5% (1,430 fewer seniors in that age group). But similarly to all other Communities except Dundas, the older age group (over age 85) is increasing most rapidly on a percentage basis. In Hamilton this age group increased by 980 people, which is a 20% rise. Even though this age group is growing fastest amongst Hamilton’s three senior age groups, the growth rate for this age group is slower than all other Communities except Dundas. The increase in the overall number of seniors could be a combination of seniors moving to Hamilton, seniors living longer, or increases in population decades ago now being reflected in the older age groups.

Evidence that Hamilton seniors population may grow more quickly
The breakdown of Hamilton older adults in Chart 5 shows that the senior population is set to grow more quickly as there are large numbers of persons aged 55-59 and 60-64 living in Hamilton in 2006 (19,795 persons aged 55-59, 14,955 persons aged 60-64 compared to 12,835 seniors aged 65-69). It is important to keep in mind that there are other factors in the growth of a senior population, such as immigration from and to other area of the City (or other cities or countries), and the changing mortality rates of the senior population.

The number of seniors living alone is decreasing slightly in Hamilton, but proportion still highest of all Communities
Seniors living alone generally have more difficult access to support if they face illness or disability as compared to seniors living with a spouse, with family or in institutional care. The number of seniors living alone in Hamilton has been almost constant in the 1996-2006 period at just under 15,000 persons (Chart 6). All other Communities except for Dundas are experiencing increases in their population of seniors living alone. Hamilton continues to have the highest

---

proportion of seniors living alone: 29% of the senior population (down from 32% of seniors in 2001).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancaster</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundas</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flamborough</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glanbrook</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoney Creek</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
<td><strong>875</strong></td>
<td><strong>615</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1996</strong></td>
<td><strong>165</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,285</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,450</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2001</strong></td>
<td><strong>390</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,490</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,730</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2006</strong></td>
<td><strong>750</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,885</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,845</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Female Lone Parents

Hamilton has highest proportion of single moms

Female lone parent-led families have traditionally reported a disproportionally 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 in low income than single dads. In 2006, Hamilton had the highest proportion of families led by female lone parents (18%), and the rate has been steadily increasing since 1996 (Chart 7). While Hamilton has the largest number of female lone parent-led families (16,140 in 2006), the growth in the size of this population, a 17% increase since 1996, is among the lowest in the City of Hamilton.
Larger concentrations of female lone parents in lower city
Map 5 shows that the lower city in Hamilton has many more neighbourhoods with very high percentages of female lone parent-led families than the mountain area. The census tract with the greatest number of single mothers in the city covers the McQuesten neighbourhood (510 persons in location J).

Map 5: Female Lone Parents in Hamilton, 2006
2.5 Immigrants and Visible Minorities

The proportion of Hamilton’s population that was born outside of Canada is increasing. Hamilton’s proportion of immigrants has increased slightly from 26% in 1996 to 28% in 2006 (Chart 8). Hamilton’s proportion of immigrants is the highest in the city, but Stoney Creek is a close second at 27%. Stoney Creek has a slightly higher growth rate in its immigrant population, which means it could possibly overtake Hamilton as the Community with the greatest proportion of immigrants by the next census in 2011. Hamilton will still have the greatest numbers of immigrants, which was 89,765 in 2006 (compared to 16,860 for Stoney Creek). The top three regions of birth of Hamilton’s immigrants are Southern Europe, Northern Europe and Eastern Europe.

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

**Hamilton has largest concentration of recent immigrants, but proportion is stagnant**

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. In 2006, the Community of Hamilton had 65% of the city’s population however 82% of the city’s recent immigrants chose to live in this Community. The proportion of recent immigrants in Hamilton’s population has stayed almost constant at 4% between 1996 and 2006, increasing by one tenth of a percentage point in that time (Chart 9). The number of recent immigrants living in Hamilton is also the highest of any of the Communities, standing at 13,625 in 2006. The top three regions of birth of recent immigrants in Hamilton in the 2006 census were West Central Asia and the Middle East, Southern Asia and Eastern Asia.
Downtown and Riverdale are poles of attraction for recent immigrants

There are two nodes of high concentrations of seniors one in and around Hamilton’s downtown (location K on Map 6) and much further east in the Riverdale West neighbourhood just east of Centennial parkway (location L). Between the two the central Hamilton area from Sherman to Parkdale (location M) has very few recent immigrants. An initial investigation into possible reasons for this shows that this area has a smaller proportion of rental housing, favoured by most newcomers to Canada, than the downtown and Riverdale neighbourhoods. Most of the census tracts on the mountain have concentrations in the midrange for the city.

Map 6: Recent Immigrants (arriving in Canada between 2001 and 2006) in Hamilton
Hamilton has largest proportion of visible minorities
The proportion of visible minorities in Hamilton’s population increased from 11% in 1996 to 17% in 2006 (Chart 10), with the actual number of visible minorities increasing by more than 50% to 35,720. Hamilton has the highest proportion of visible minorities of any of the other communities but it is still lower than Ontario’s proportion (23%). Black and South Asian are the largest visible minority groups in Hamilton, with each representing almost one quarter of the visible minority population in Hamilton (Chart 11).

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

Chart 11: Visible Minority Groups, Hamilton, 2006
2.6 Incomes and Poverty

Hamilton has 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 Hamilton (just over 24,000) is the lowest of all the city’s communities (Chart 12). Hamilton’s median income in 2006 was 65% of the median income Ancaster, the wealthiest community in the city.

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

The following section of this report 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% of 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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Low-Income Cut-Off</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$20,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 person</td>
<td>$25,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 person</td>
<td>$31,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 person</td>
<td>$38,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 person</td>
<td>$43,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 person</td>
<td>$49,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7+ person</td>
<td>$54,987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty rate has decreased by 5 percentage points since 1996
Hamilton’s low income rate has decreased in the 1996-2006 period going from 28% to 23%. This is a similar trend seen in most other communities within the city. Hamilton remains the community with the highest poverty rate within the city. In 2006, the poverty rate for young children in Hamilton at 34% is double the poverty rate for the general population, and 14 points higher than the rate for seniors (20%).

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
Downtown has high poverty rates
The downtown area has large numbers of people living under the poverty line, ranging as high as 58% of the population in southern part of Beasley neighbourhood and 57% of the population in the southern part of Central neighbourhood. Another a node of higher than average poverty on the mountain just north of the Lincoln Alexander Parkway (location P).

Map 7: Poverty (Before Tax) in Hamilton, 2006

Legend

Number of persons living on a low income
- 0 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 2996

Percentage of persons living on a low income
- 0% - 7%
- 8% - 15%
- 16% - 25%
- 26% - 40%
- 41% - 58%
- No data available

Letters indicate locations discussed in the text.
3.0 SECTION B.

3.1 Who is served by the United Way in the Community of Hamilton?

In 2007 over **120,770*** individuals and families from the Community of Hamilton accessed United Way funded services.

- 55,340 children
- 47,047 individuals
- 10,819 seniors
- 7,564 families

3.2 Some examples of United Way funded services and programs accessed by Hamilton residents

Children and youth accessed recreational and day camp programs; early years and parenting programming; counselling supports; leadership and training; good beginnings – early years and parenting; mentoring and matching; after school programs and homework clubs. Agencies that provided these services include:

- Alternatives for Youth
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Hamilton and Burlington
- Catholic Youth Organization
- Community Living Hamilton
- Dawn Patrol Child and Youth Services
- Dr. J. Edgar Davey School
- Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club
- Jamesville Community Association
- Lake Avenue School
- Living Rock Ministries
- Navy League
- Robert Land Community Association/Eva Rothwell Resource Centre
- Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SISO)
- VON Hamilton
• Welcome Inn Community Centre
• Wesley Urban Ministries
• Workers Art and Heritage Centre/Hamilton Youth Steel Orchestra
• YMCA Hamilton/Burlington
• YWCA of Hamilton

Families accessed counselling programs and practical assistance. Agencies that provided these services include:
• Catholic Family Services
• John Howard Society
• Hamilton Jewish Social Services
• St. Matthew’s House
• Schizophrenia Society of Ontario, Hamilton Chapter

Individuals accessed information and referral services; volunteer opportunities; literacy and basic skills; services for the hearing impaired, hard of hearing; services for those in conflict or at risk of conflict with the law; counselling; health supports; education and awareness on violence and sexual assault; social and recreational activities; women transitional housing; employment support services; adult health fitness and recreation; volunteer opportunities; health support services; and participated in community development initiatives. Agencies that provided these services include:
• Community Information Hamilton
• Dundas Community Services
• Elizabeth Fry Society
• Hamilton and District Ostomy Association
• Hamilton Jewish Social Services
• Hamilton Literacy Council
• John Howard Society
• Multiple Sclerosis Society, Hamilton Chapter
• Schizophrenia Society of Ontario, Hamilton Chapter
• Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton and Area
• Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
• Volunteer Hamilton
• YWCA of Hamilton

Seniors accessed programs and services that allow them to continue to live independently, i.e. meals on wheels, home support services, friendly visiting, telephone care, transportation, case management, home health care equipment, dog therapy visits to long term care and retirement homes, fitness and recreation; and information and referral. 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
• Hamilton Jewish Social Services
• St. John Ambulance
• St. Joseph’s Home Care
• St. Joseph’s Villa Day Program
• St. Matthew’s House – Roxborough Park
• Urban Native Homes
• 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.
4.0 SUMMARY

This overview of key census indicators indicates that the Community of Hamilton faces multiple challenges and opportunities. An aging population is one trend that is constant all parts of the city, including in the Community of Hamilton where the senior age groups are growing faster than the child age groups. Hamilton’s proportion of children and seniors is ranked right in the middle of all the communities with the city. While there has been a decrease in the number of young children (not as great as in Flamborough, however), the number of children at home per family has remained constant at 1.2 while in other faster growing communities this number has decreased. Hamilton’s population of seniors has increased since 1996, but not as rapidly as in other communities. The large population of soon-to-be-seniors (55-64 year olds), however, indicates that the senior population in Hamilton is set to grow even faster, assuming they continue to live in this community. The proportion of seniors living alone is highest in Hamilton at 29%, but the number of persons in this situation has remained relatively constant (hovering at just under 15,000 seniors).

Hamilton has the highest proportion of families led by female lone parents in its population, standing at 18% in 2006 (up from 16% in 1996). Hamilton also has the highest proportion of residents born outside of Canada at 28%, but this is only 1% higher that the proportion of immigrants in Stoney Creek. The proportion of recent immigrants is more clearly highest in Hamilton at 4.2% in 2006 (the next highest Community was Stoney Creek with 2.1%). But the proportion of recent immigrants in Hamilton has remained constant the 2001-2006 period. Hamilton is also the most diverse community within the city with 17% of its population belonging to a visible minority group.

The overall growth rate for the Community of Hamilton has been the lowest in the city, averaging just over 0.2% per year. Not only is this low compared to other parts of the city, the rate has been much less constant than in most other communities. Following a period of relatively high growth in 1996-2001, Hamilton experienced a drop in population from 2001-2006. One major contrast with other communities is that the Community of Hamilton has fewer new “greenfields” for developers to build new subdivisions, unlike most other parts of the City. While the City has made efforts to steer developers to the opportunities available in “brownfields” within Hamilton, developers have tended to favour the more suburban communities for their investment in new housing starts. This distinction is reflected in the differing population growths across the city. The province’s new Places to Grow Act may increase the population growth in the Community of Hamilton in the coming years, as intensification within currently built-up areas is favoured by this legislation.

Finally, Hamilton has the lowest median income of all the communities at just over $24,000 in 2006. While the poverty rate in Hamilton continues to be the highest in the city, it has dropped significantly since 1996 going from 28% to 18% in 2006. The number of people this represents is still much too high at almost 75,000 people (more people that in all of Stoney Creek). The poverty rate for young children is another indicator that must be noted, as it is double the rate for the general population, standing at 34% in 2006.

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 residents of the Community of Hamilton that are served by a United Way funded program. The United Way’s priorities are reflected in the services and programs funded in Hamilton, and are an important part of the community’s response to the challenges and opportunities that Hamilton faces.

This picture of Hamilton only shows part of the issues facing this community, and further investigations are necessary to more clearly identify and understand the reasons behind some of these trends. But it is hoped that this Community Profile can be used a starting point for planning purposes by the United Way, 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 June 15 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!