
Introduction

This profile contains information and statistics about the City of Welland, Ontario, Canada, that we hope is useful to those involved in making a location decision or seeking general information.

Welland is a component community within the Regional Municipality of Niagara in the Province of Ontario. The City is governed by a twelve member council and Mayor. The administration of the City is under the direction of a City Manager who reports to the Mayor and Council.

The city is responsible for revenue collection, local planning, local economic development, building permits, local water and sewer mains, local streets, fire protection, parks and recreation, and public cemeteries. The regional government is responsible for regional planning, regional economic development, water and sewage treatment, major water and sewer mains, solid waste, police, major roads and social services.

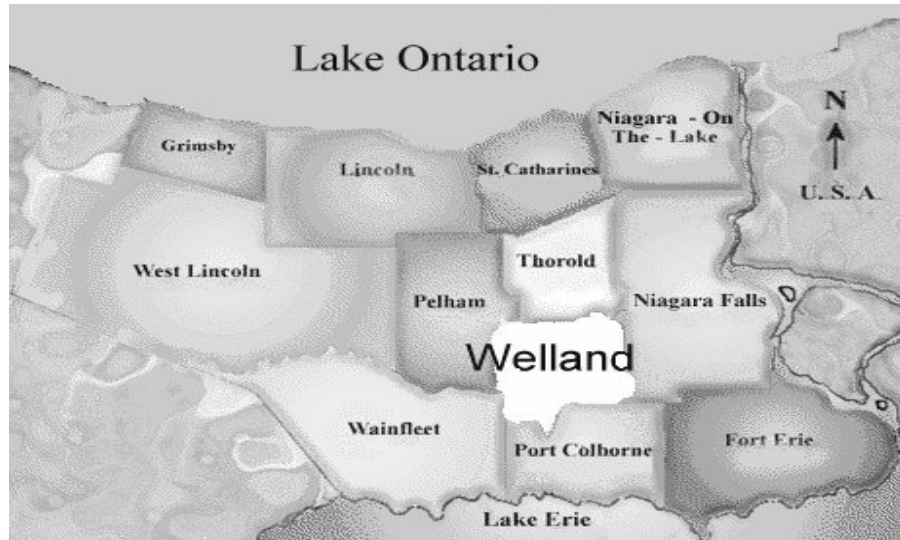
The ensuing pages present services provided for the City and the demographic characteristics of its people.

Welland's Location Advantage

The location of Welland is enviable in terms of business and personal fulfillment. The City is strategically and conveniently located within Ontario's "*Golden Horseshoe*" region. The Golden Horseshoe is centered by Metropolitan Toronto, which is Canada's largest consumer market and an integral part of its industrial heartland. Welland is approximately ninety minutes from Toronto via superhighways, and within thirty minutes by excellent highways from the United States' port of entry; Buffalo, New York.

Welland is approximately one and one-half hours by automobile from Toronto's Pearson International Airport and forty-five minutes from the Buffalo airport.

Welland is within 900 kilometers (500 miles) of half of



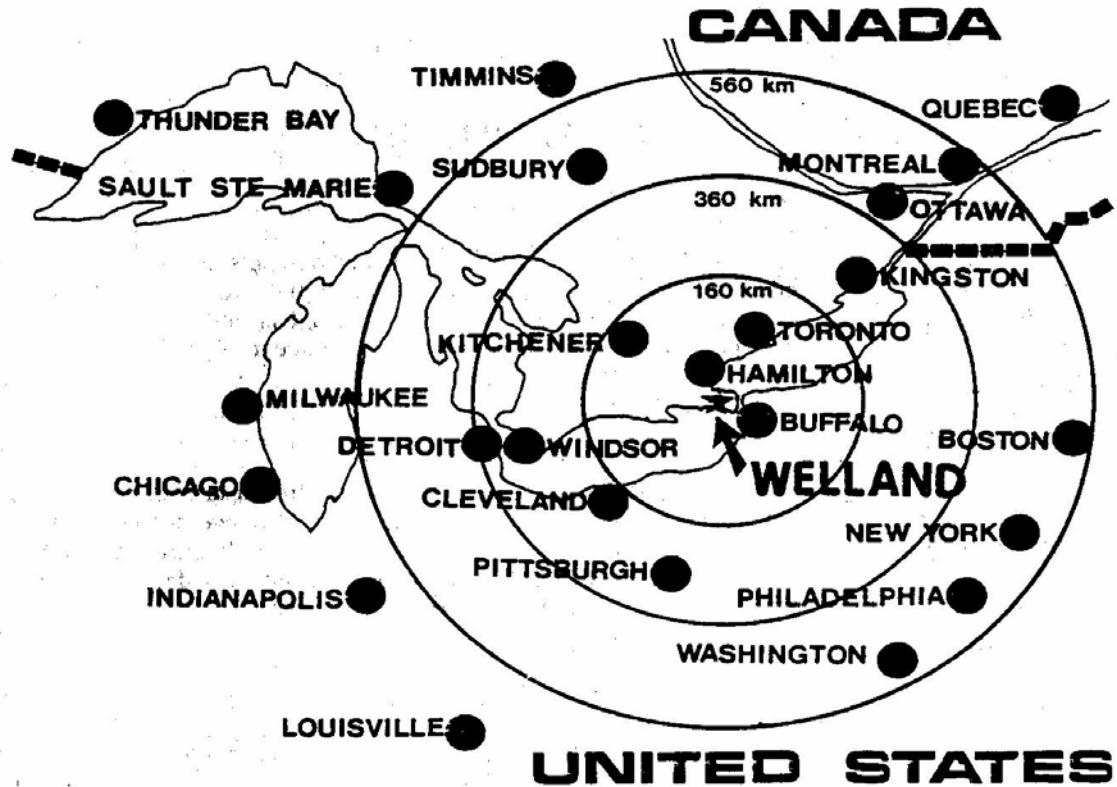
the population of the United States and Canada, and 60 percent of the North American industrial market. This market area comprises three-quarters of the purchasing power of Canada and the United States. As well, seven of the top ten U.S. industrial states are within one day's trucking of Welland. ***Welland is closer to the bulk of the U.S. market than Florida, Texas or California!***

The City's location on the St. Lawrence Seaway links Welland to ocean ports in such places as Hong Kong, the Pacific Rim, Europe, and North and South America. There is space on Welland's harbor on the Welland Canal for warehousing of goods to be loaded onto and received from ocean going ships.

Welland has rail linkage to major Canadian and U.S. centers, and its airport offers service to both business and leisure travelers, and accommodates both freight and private jet passenger crafts on a regular basis.

Location – *Proximity to Major Centres from Welland*

Centres	Kilometers	Miles
Buffalo, NY	55	34
Chicago, Ill.	929	577
Detroit, Mich.	390	242
Hamilton, Ont.	53	33
Montreal, Que.	689	428
New York, NY	750	466
Philadelphia, Pa.	720	447
Pittsburgh, Pa.	428	266
Toronto, Ont.	111	69
Washington, D.C.	802	498



Living Amenities

Population Mosaic

Welland is one of Canada's cultural mosaic cities. The City contains mostly European first and second-generation ethnic groups. Its larger ethnic communities are: Italian, British, German, Dutch and Ukrainian, in addition to a substantial number of English and French Canadians. Welland's French Canadian population represents over thirteen percent of the total.

Education

Wellanders have a variety of educational choices in both English and French. The Niagara Catholic District School Board and District School Board of Niagara offer grades kindergarten through high school in general curriculum. In Welland there are a total of 12 nursery schools/day care facilities, 21 elementary schools, 5 secondary schools, 2 college, 1 adult school, 3 music schools, 4 trade/training schools and 4 driver education schools. There are also two public libraries located within the city.

Local post secondary institutions include Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology, Collège Boréal, and Brock University.

Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology

Welland is the home of Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology. The College is bilingual and its curriculum includes more than 90 post secondary diploma and certificate programs. It also features skills and apprenticeship training. Programs range from one year in length to four years. There are currently over 6,300 full time students and 18,000 continuing education students.

Collège Boréal

Collège Boréal is one of the 24 Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology. Since 2001 and with a strong 10 year experience in Northern Ontario, Collège Boréal continues to take a growing and important place in Southwestern Ontario. The Niagara Region Centre, located in Welland, provides employers with competent bilingual graduates they can count on. It offers postsecondary and continuing education programs and specializes in French as a Second Language.

Brock University

A modern institution of higher learning, nearby Brock University offers both undergraduate as well as graduate programs in Art, Mathematics, Science, Business, Education, and Applied Health Science. Currently, the enrollment at Brock University is over 16,000 students.

Residential Living

Welland boasts pleasant and neatly kept tree-lined residential neighbourhoods. There are a variety of living choices for any desired living style in Welland, ranging from bachelor apartments to high-rises, bungalows, semi-detached houses, as well as seniors' complexes. Welland also boasts a low crime rate, making residential living in the City safer than in larger metropolitan centres.

In addition, the City is famous for its abundance of parks. A beautiful well kept park is always just a short walk away.

All in all, Welland makes for an exciting, safe and affordable place to live, work and/or raise a family.

Shopping

Welland has excellent shopping facilities available in several areas: the Central Business District, a regional shopping mall, the Seaway Mall in the Northern part of the City, and several small shopping centres throughout the City.

Services

The urban area of the City is serviced by modern piped water, piped sanitary and storm sewerage systems with treatment facilities, high voltage electrical power, natural gas, telephone (including fibre optic cable), and cable television service. Welland is also the proud home of Giant 91.7 FM; a radio station serving listeners and advertisers in the Niagara Region and Upstate New York.

There are a variety of excellent transportation systems in and around Welland including a local bus and taxi service. Rail services are provided by the Port Colborne Harbour railway, operating Monday to Friday and servicing the major industry in Welland, and the Canadian National Railway, CP Rail System, Norfolk & Southern Corp. a service for car load freight only. There is also excellent highway and bus access provided by Highway 406, a controlled access freeway connecting Welland to the Queen Elizabeth Way freeway, the Greater Toronto Area and Buffalo, New York.

Low Cost of Living

Cost of living expenses, including prices paid for transportation, housing (i.e. mortgage cost, homeowner insurance, real estate taxes, utilities and maintenance) and prices paid for goods and services, are lower in Welland than in larger centres such as London, Kitchener – Waterloo and Toronto.

A beautiful detached home in Welland's pleasant residential neighbourhoods is lower in price than a similar home in Toronto. Homes in Welland are also minutes away from shopping, schools, recreation and work, with no hectic rush hour traffic. This allows Welland based employees to minimize their commuting costs and maximize their leisure and family activities.