

# Huron County Immigration Partnership

## 2024 | NEWCOMER GUIDE



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# Welcome to Huron County!

Welcome to Huron County! We have some of Canada's best beaches, the prettiest sunsets and stunning hiking trails. Our farmers' markets and tasting trails are a great way to discover one of Ontario's most agriculturally productive regions.

Huron County is divided into nine municipalities and is home to five towns: Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Seaforth, and Wingham. There are five villages: Bayfield, Blyth, Brussels, Hensall, and Zurich, along with more than 60 hamlets.

## About Huron County Immigration Partnership

The Huron County Immigration Partnership aims to build a welcoming community where newcomers feel supported, have a sense of belonging, and are integrated through participation in all areas of life. Huron County's Immigration Partnership collaborates with community members, organizations and business partners to create a welcoming community for newcomers to Canada.

## Land Acknowledgement

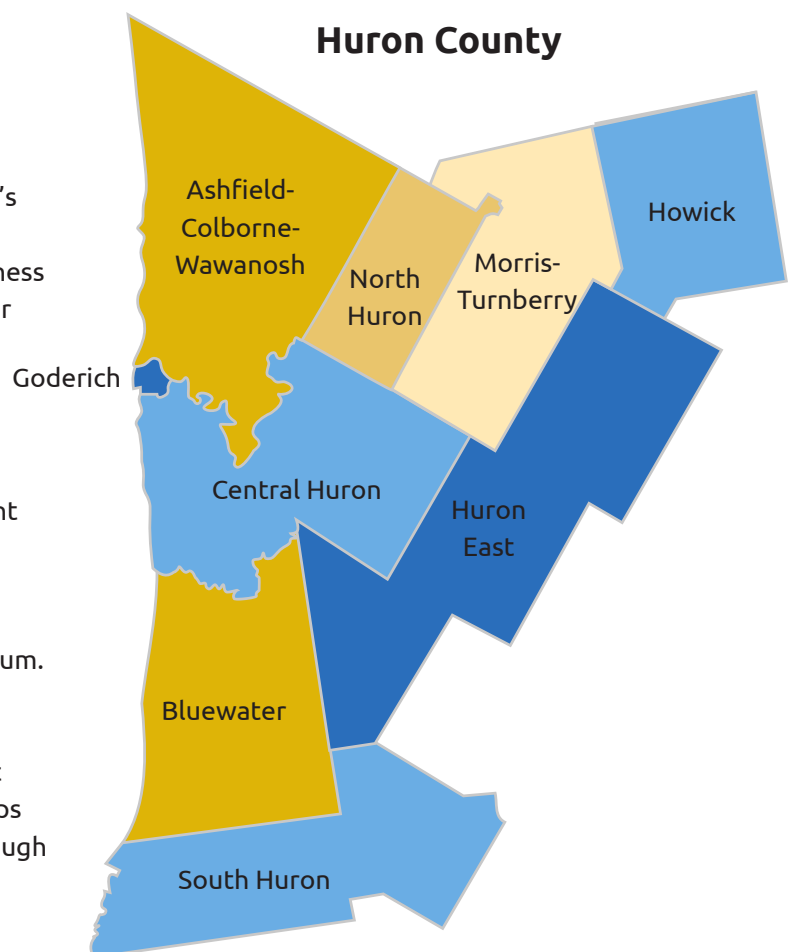
As a newcomer to Huron County it is important to know that the land we stand upon is the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Neutral Peoples and is connected to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum.

We recognize the First Peoples' continued stewardship of the land and water and accept responsibility to renew respectful relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit People through reconciliation and community service.

## Who this guide is for:

This guide is intended to be a resource for immigrants, permanent residents, temporary workers, international students, refugees, refugee claimants, and their families.

If you have questions about immigration related matters or the resources for immigrants in Huron County, please email the Huron County Immigration Partnership: [home@huroncounty.ca](mailto:home@huroncounty.ca) or visit their website: [www.huroncounty.ca/immigration-partnership](http://www.huroncounty.ca/immigration-partnership)



# Your First Week in Canada

## Set up an appointment with an immigrant-serving organization

Settlement workers help newcomers settle in their community. They can assist with things like:

- Completing forms and documents
- Referrals and help navigating systems such as health care, recreation services, education and taxes
- Referrals to services and programs
- Learning about Canadian life and culture
- Connections to interpretation services

Settlement support is funded by the government and is provided at no cost to newcomers.

For settlement services in Huron County, contact:

**The YMCA of Southwestern Ontario**  
[www.YMCAswo.ca/programs/education-enrichment/new-canada](http://www.YMCAswo.ca/programs/education-enrichment/new-canada)

The settlement worker for Huron County:

Firas Sefian

Email: [firas.sefian@swo.ymca.ca](mailto:firas.sefian@swo.ymca.ca)

Phone: 226-973-7572

## Apply for a Social Insurance Number

### Apply in-person:

Service Canada Centre

52 East Street, Goderich, ON

Drop-in appointments available

### Apply online:

<https://sin-nas.canada.ca/en/Sin/>

(Proof of address is required when you apply online)

For more information, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/apply.html>

## Apply for a government health card

Canada's health insurance system is designed to ensure that all residents of Canada have access to health care. People can apply for public health insurance. When you have public health insurance, you do not pay directly for most health-care services. Instead, all Canadians share in paying for them through taxes. When you use public health-care services, you must show your health card to the hospital or medical clinic.

Sign up for the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) in person at:

### Service Ontario

38 North Street, Goderich, ON

(Services for new health cards only available at Goderich office)

For more information about OHIP, visit:

[www.Ontario.ca/page/apply-ohip-and-get-health-card](http://www.Ontario.ca/page/apply-ohip-and-get-health-card)

## Open a bank account

You will need to open a Canadian bank account to be able to be paid for work in Canada, and/or apply for financial assistance. To open a bank account, you will need both of the following:

- Your temporary resident status document [copy of your temporary resident permit]
- Your passport

There are many different banks in Canada.

If you want to save money, look for one that offers chequing and savings accounts for free.

Learn more about how to open a bank account:

[www.Canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/banking/opening-bank-account.html](http://www.Canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/banking/opening-bank-account.html)

## Enroll your children in school

Children aged 6 to 18 are required to attend school in Ontario. Many children can begin full day kindergarten programs beginning at age 4.

Enroll your child(ren) in the nearest school with **Avon Maitland District School Board:**  
[www.amdsb.ca/apps/pages/newtocanada](http://www.amdsb.ca/apps/pages/newtocanada)

**Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board:**  
[www.HuronPerthCatholic.ca/our-schools/registration/](http://www.HuronPerthCatholic.ca/our-schools/registration/)

## Provide your address

Provide **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada** with your Canadian address. Your current address helps make sure important documents are not delayed or lost.

Fill out the address change form at:  
[www.Canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/change-address.html](http://www.Canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/change-address.html)

## Learn about your community

Obtain a map and walk around to get to know your new home and the local services available.  
[www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps)

Also, research the best way of getting from one place to another using public transportation, taxis, or cars (see page 10).

## In case of emergency

**Dial 911.** Fire, ambulances, and police can be dispatched by dialing 911 during an emergency. Learn your residential address so that you can direct emergency responders to your home.

If you need to reach the police and it is not an emergency, call the **non-emergency line 1-888-310-1122**



## Get a Canadian phone number

Get a local phone number. There are pre-paid and monthly contracts available.

There are many different types of plans available depending on your needs and how much you want to pay per month. Special plans are available for people who make many long-distance calls (within Canada or internationally). Certain plans require you to agree to a long-term contract in exchange for cheaper service. Always find out the financial penalties for ending the service contract early and do not make any long-term commitments that you may not be able to keep. The federal government’s Office of Consumer Affairs has published a useful guide to answer common questions and help consumers make informed decisions.

This guide is available at [www.ic.gc.ca/consumer](http://www.ic.gc.ca/consumer)

Some of the largest providers of cellular plans in the area are: Rogers, HuronTel, and TCC. You can evaluate cellular plans on their websites listed below:

- Bell: [www.bell.ca](http://www.bell.ca)
- Fido: [www.fido.ca](http://www.fido.ca)
- HuronTel: [www.hurontel.on.ca](http://www.hurontel.on.ca)
- Rogers: [www.rogers.com](http://www.rogers.com)
- TCC: [www.tcc.on.ca](http://www.tcc.on.ca)

There are other phone companies available as well. Research online to find a suitable phone service.

# Your First Month in Canada

## Learn or improve your English

You can enroll in adult English As a Second Language classes. Sign up at the

**Centre for Employment & Learning:**

[www.thecentreforemploymentandlearning.ca](http://www.thecentreforemploymentandlearning.ca)

### Clinton location

60 Mary St,  
Clinton, ON  
519-482-1700

### Seaforth location

9 Goderich St, W.,  
Seaforth, ON  
519-527-2288

### Exeter location

349 Main St,  
Exeter, ON  
519-235-0471

### Wingham location

152 Josephine St,  
Wingham, ON  
519-357-4995

### Goderich location

41 West St,  
Goderich, ON  
519-524-2515

## Join a Conversation Circle:

Conversation Circles give newcomers an opportunity to connect with each other and practice speaking English with an English-speaking volunteer. Ask about joining in-person sessions at the following locations:

### Exeter – Huron County Library,

330 Main St S, Exeter, ON  
519-235-1890

### Goderich – Huron County Library,

52 Montreal St, Goderich, ON  
519-524-9261

## Get ready to work

Community agencies provide employment services for newcomers to Ontario at no cost.

**The Centre for Employment and Learning** sites previously mentioned, offer:

- Support to update your resume and cover letter for the Canadian job market
- Interviewing techniques
- Job search strategies and more

**WILL employment solutions** connect immigrant job seekers to employers who are looking to hire qualified workers: [www.willemployment.ca/](http://www.willemployment.ca/)

**To find local job advertisements visit:**

- **Job Board - Ontario's West Coast:**  
[www.JobsInHuron.ca](http://www.JobsInHuron.ca)

**Technical Training Group** offers in-person courses to learn skilled trades. Past courses have included welding, metal fabrication, working at heights training and more. Courses are offered at low or no-cost.

Learn more: [www.technicaltraininggroup.org](http://www.technicaltraininggroup.org)

Contact: [info@technicaltraininggroup.org](mailto:info@technicaltraininggroup.org)

or call 519-801-8641

## Learn about your rights at work

Find out what to expect in an Ontario workplace and what your rights are, by visiting this website for newcomers moving to Ontario:

[www.Settlement.org/ontario/employment](http://www.Settlement.org/ontario/employment)

Additional information about worker rights in multiple languages can be accessed from

**Community Legal Education Ontario:**

[www.cleo.on.ca/en/publications/rightswrk/all](http://www.cleo.on.ca/en/publications/rightswrk/all)



## Get your credentials accredited

Certain jobs require your skills and training to be assessed. Regulated jobs, including work in the trades, are controlled by provincial or, sometimes, federal laws. They are governed by a regulatory body or apprenticeship authority.

To learn more visit:

[www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/prepare-life-canada/prepare-work/credential-assessment.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/prepare-life-canada/prepare-work/credential-assessment.html)

## Find childcare

In Huron County, there are many types of child care options for families. These include:

- Huron EarlyON
- Licensed Centre-Based Child Care
- Licensed Home Child Care Agencies
- Unlicensed Child Care
- Nursery Schools
- Before and After School Programs

To learn more, visit:

[www.HuronCounty.ca/social-services/childrens-services/](http://www.HuronCounty.ca/social-services/childrens-services/)

## Book an immigration medical exam

Some immigration applicants who enter Canada are required to take a medical exam as part of Canada's immigration process. This exam must be performed by a physician who has been approved by the government to do these medical exams.

The following service providers have been identified:

### Immigration Medical Examiners

751 Victoria St S, Suite B 106, Kitchener, ON

[www.imemed.ca](http://www.imemed.ca)

Phone: 519-748-8510

### Dr. Edgard A. Arcia Bravo MPC

750 Baseline Rd E, Suite #104, London, ON

Phone: 519-850-3335

### Panel Doctors Kitchener-Waterloo

430 The Boardwalk, Suite 308, Waterloo, ON

[www.paneldoctors.ca](http://www.paneldoctors.ca)

E-mail: [info@paneldoctors.ca](mailto:info@paneldoctors.ca)

Phone: 519-744-5932

### McDonagh Immigration Medical Services

279 Wharnccliffe Rd N, Suite 225, London, ON

[www.sites.google.com/view/mcdonagh-immigration-medicals](http://www.sites.google.com/view/mcdonagh-immigration-medicals)

E-mail: [mcdonaghimmigrationservices@gmail.com](mailto:mcdonaghimmigrationservices@gmail.com)

Phone: 519-859-898

## Get your Ontario Driver's Licence

When you move to Ontario, you can use a valid licence from another country for 60 days. After 60 days, you must switch to an Ontario driver's licence.

To switch your licence, you must complete testing required by Ontario's Licensing System. You can review the requirements at: [www.drivetest.ca/licences/exchanges-foreign-licences/](http://www.drivetest.ca/licences/exchanges-foreign-licences/)

Tests can be completed at:

### Huron County DriveTest Centre

154 Beech St,  
Clinton, ON  
1-888-570-6110

You can find other test locations online at: [www.drivetest.ca/find-a-drivetest-centre/alphabetical\\_list/#western\\_ontario](http://www.drivetest.ca/find-a-drivetest-centre/alphabetical_list/#western_ontario)

## Using a foreign licence

You can exchange a foreign licence for an Ontario driver's licence if it is from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, the Isle of Man, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Taiwan, United States.

For more details visit: <https://drivetest.ca/licences/exchanges-foreign-licences/>

If your country of origin is not listed above, you must do the following to get a licence:

1. Go to a licensing centre and present your foreign driver's licence to a customer service agent. There is no need to pre-book an appointment. Additionally, you will be asked to complete and pass:

- a. A vision test
- b. A knowledge test\*

- c. Pay all applicable fees
- d. Provide acceptable proof of identity

\*The knowledge test requires you to study The Official Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Driver's Handbook which is available online: [www.ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook](http://www.ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook)

The knowledge test is available in multiple languages.

If you successfully pass the knowledge test, vision test, pay applicable fees and provide proof of identity, you will be eligible to acquire your G1 licence. Note that this licence only lets you drive if you are accompanied by a driver who has had a G2 or G licence for four years or more.

There are two other levels of driver's licences to drive a car independently. Road tests are required for the additional two levels of driver's licences. Learn more at: [www.drivetest.ca/licences/drivers-licences-cars/](http://www.drivetest.ca/licences/drivers-licences-cars/)

2. Once you pass the knowledge test, you can sign up for a road test which will grant you a G2 licence. If you are exchanging your licence for a foreign one, you can do the road test immediately. If not, there is a waiting period of 12 months, or 8 months if you go to a certified driver's education course. Sign up at [www.drivetest.ca](http://www.drivetest.ca)

## Get support about immigration matters

For clarification on immigration related matters or processes, you can make an inquiry at Ben Lobb's office, the Member of Parliament representing the riding of Huron-Bruce within the federal government.

### Goderich Office

30 Victoria St  
Goderich, ON  
519-524-6560



# Housing

## Finding a home

**Realtor.ca** is the official website of the Canadian Real Estate Association. It is an interactive website where you can find homes and businesses for sale or rent that are available in the area. You can also find local real estate agents who may know about other properties that are not yet listed online.

[www.realtor.ca](http://www.realtor.ca)

## Buying a home

You need to think about financing, finding the right type of home and going through the process of purchasing your home. To learn more about this it is best to make an appointment at a local bank. Search the internet for “banks near me”.

More details can be found in *Buying Your First Home in Canada: What Newcomers Need to Know* available in multiple languages at:

[www.settlement.org/ontario/housing/buy-a-home/buying-basics/buying-your-first-home-in-canada-what-newcomers-need-to-know/](http://www.settlement.org/ontario/housing/buy-a-home/buying-basics/buying-your-first-home-in-canada-what-newcomers-need-to-know/)

## Renting a home

The best way to find housing and apartments for rent is to use local online forums such as Facebook and Kijiji. Many communities throughout Huron County have their own Facebook groups where people post available housing. Use common search terms such as “Goderich and Area Homes For Rent” or “Real Estate Rentals - Huron and Perth County.” Once you have joined the group, you will be able to see available rentals or post an ad describing what type of housing you are in search of.

There is a lot to know about renting a home in Canada. You can find the following resources and more, in multiple languages at: [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/consumers/home-buying/newcomers](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/consumers/home-buying/newcomers)

- Renting in Canada: What Newcomers Need to Know
- Signing a Lease
- Keeping Your Home in Good Condition
- Checking out a Home or Apartment

## Before you move in checklist

- **Have a signed Residential Tenancy Agreement** <https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/047-2229>
- **Check for damage**  
Ask the landlord to look at the rental unit for damage with you. Take photographs of any damage you see, like holes or stains. Use the Initial Inspection Worksheet found here: [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/consumers/renting-a-home/i-am-renting/inspections](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/consumers/renting-a-home/i-am-renting/inspections)
- **Arrange for services and utilities**  
Services (internet) and utilities (hydro and gas) are sometimes included in your rental fee, check your tenancy agreement. If they are not included, you will need to call to have the services connected and will have to pay for them separately.
- **Buy tenant's insurance**  
This pays for damages to your belongings in the rental unit if there is ever a fire or robbery.
- **Ask your landlord about garbage and recycling**  
Many towns have waste collection services, and some apartments have large bins for tenants to use. Talk with your landlord about how to dispose of your garbage and recycling.

# Transportation

## Buses

A bus is available in some communities within Huron County through Huron Shores Area Transit. For up-to-date schedules and fares, visit their website to plan your next trip.

Grand Bend to Goderich with stops along the way.  
[www.Huronshoresareatransit.ca/schedules/route-3-grand-bend-to-goderich-2/](http://www.Huronshoresareatransit.ca/schedules/route-3-grand-bend-to-goderich-2/)

London to Grand Bend via Exeter  
[www.Huronshoresareatransit.ca/schedules/route-2-london-grand-bend-via-exeter/](http://www.Huronshoresareatransit.ca/schedules/route-2-london-grand-bend-via-exeter/)

## Taxis

### Goderich:

Goderich Taxi – 519-524-6594  
Anytime Taxi – 519-524-8888

### Exeter:

Star Taxi – 519-235-2255  
Exeter Taxi – 519-235-1013

### Clinton:

Clinton Taxi – 519-482-7433

### Wingham:

TJ'S Taxi – 519-531-0910  
Wingham Taxi – 519-357-1234

### Seaforth:

Blue Heron Taxi – 519-949-7433

## Cars

You can buy a car new or used from a car dealer. Search online for a car dealership in your community.

You can also buy a used car from another person who is selling his or her car. In Ontario, used cars must pass a safety certification before they can be driven by a new owner. If the car is not sold with a valid safety certificate, it is your responsibility to arrange certification from a

licensed mechanic. You are also responsible for paying for any repairs that are necessary for the car to pass the certification. After you buy a car (new or used), it must be registered with the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario. At the time of registration, you will also need to get a license plate. To get new license plates, visit your local Service Ontario location.

As an alternative to buying a car, many people in Canada lease a car from a car dealer. A lease is a legal agreement between you and the dealer in which you agree to pay them a fee to use the car for a specific period of time (usually several years). After this period ends, you must return the car to the dealer in good condition. Since a lease is a legal agreement, make sure you understand the terms and conditions of the lease before signing.

For information on buying a vehicle, consult the Canadian Consumer Handbook produced by federal, provincial and territorial governments at [www.consumerhandbook.ca](http://www.consumerhandbook.ca)

A list of local car dealerships can be found online: [www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/live-here/transportation/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/live-here/transportation/)

## Winter Driving

During the winter months the weather can make driving dangerous in Huron County. Sometimes roads are even closed by police because they are unsafe to drive on. When a road is closed it is against the law to drive on it. Find out more: [www.huroncounty.ca/public-works/winter-road-conditions/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/public-works/winter-road-conditions/)

# Labour Market Statistics

## Top in-demand skills (Jan-Nov 2023)

Employers frequently seek people with these skills in their job advertisements:

- Communication
- Customer Service
- Management
- Support
- Interpersonal

## Key job requirements (Jan-Nov 2023)

Employers are frequently looking for people with the following experience or certificates:

- Microsoft Office experience
- First Aid certificate
- Criminal Record Check
- Regular Access to a Vehicle
- Food Safety certificate

## Sectors frequently hiring in Huron County:

- General hospitals
- Supermarkets and grocery stores
- Schools
- Community care facilities for the elderly
- Administrative roles

## Top industries to find employment in Huron County:

- Agriculture
- Health care
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Retail trade



### Find a job online

Locally-focused employment services for job seekers and employers in Bruce County, Grey County, Huron County, and Perth County.  
[www.employmentbghs.ca](http://www.employmentbghs.ca)

# Financial Support and Taxes

## Federal funding programs

- There are a variety of financial support programs provided by the government for people in need. In most cases, you must meet certain criteria to benefit from these programs. You can obtain information on what support is available by visiting: [www.canadabenefits.gc.ca](http://www.canadabenefits.gc.ca)

## Provincial funding programs

- **Emergency assistance:** Up to \$733 is available for temporary financial support through emergency assistance. Visit: [www.ontario.ca/page/apply-emergency-assistance](http://www.ontario.ca/page/apply-emergency-assistance)

## Municipal funding programs

- **Ontario Works:** is a program that provides income support to assist with the cost of basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter, as well as health benefits for people in temporary financial need. Visit: [www.huroncounty.ca/social-services/ontario-works/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/social-services/ontario-works/)
- **Discretionary benefits:** Covers short-term emergency assistance if you are in a crisis or emergency situation. Call 519-482-8505 or 1-888-371-5718 or visit: [www.huroncounty.ca/social-services/ontario-works/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/social-services/ontario-works/)
- **Pathways to Self-Sufficiency:** Up to \$750 per calendar year for rent, heat or housing or up to \$500 per calendar year for health-related items. Call 519-482-8505 or 1-888-371-5718 or visit: [www.huroncounty.ca/social-services/ontario-works/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/social-services/ontario-works/)
- **Subsidy Program:** Supports eligible families with the cost of child care expenses. Call 519-482-8505 or 1-888-371-5718. The application is available at: <https://occms.huroncounty.ca/olaf/en-ca/welcome>

- **Recreation, Arts, Sports Program:** Up to \$800 per child in funding is offered to support participation in recreation, arts and sports program through a Huron County partnership with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario. Call 519-453-8858 ext. 1104 or [www.ymcaswo.ca/rasp-yrasp](http://www.ymcaswo.ca/rasp-yrasp)

## Local not-for-profit funding programs

- **Huron Area Newcomer Fund - Goderich Lions:** Up to \$1,500 for emergency expenses or unforeseen needs is available for people during their first 18 months in Canada. Visit: [www.Goderichlions.ca/abouthuronareanewcomerfund](http://www.Goderichlions.ca/abouthuronareanewcomerfund)

## Taxes

Residents of Canada pay a variety of taxes to all three levels of government: federal, provincial or territorial, and municipal. By filing an income tax and benefit return you may qualify for various government benefits, such as the Canada Child Tax Benefit, the Universal Child Care Benefit, and the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax credit. You may also qualify for benefits from provincial or territorial government programs. For more information, visit: [www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes.html)

## Community volunteer income tax clinic

Volunteers will help newcomers file taxes if you have a modest income and a simple tax situation. Learn more about the Community Volunteer Income Tax program: [www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program/need-a-hand-complete-your-tax-return.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program/need-a-hand-complete-your-tax-return.html)

# Assistance with Food and Clothing

## Food banks, community meals, and other support

Several food banks, community meals and resources are available as you resettle and for emergency use. Each organization offers different support including food, hot meals, clothing, household supplies and school supplies.

### Food banks

- Bayfield: **Bayfield Food Bank** - monthly food bank. Trinity St. James Anglican Church, 10 Keith Cres, Bayfield, ON, 519-525-8286
- Centralia: **Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre** - mobile food bank truck with pick-up locations in Brussels, Blyth, Dungannon, Huron Park, Lucknow, and Vanastra. 39978 Crediton Rd, Centralia, ON, 519-913-2362
- Clinton: **Salvation Army** - monthly food bank, regular support with clothing and household items, transportation assistance, rent and utility assistance and more. 32 Albert St, Clinton, ON, 519-482-8586
- Exeter: **Exeter and Area Food Bank** - monthly food bank. 249 Andrew St, Exeter, ON, 519-860-4104
- Goderich: **Salvation Army** - monthly food bank, regular support with clothing and household items, transportation assistance, rent and utility assistance; store selling used clothing and more. 309 Suncoast Dr E, Goderich, ON, 519-524-4188
- Goderich: **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** - community food bank; store selling used clothing, household items and furniture; support for health related issues, emergency shelter, rent assistance, and more. 441 Macewan St, Goderich, ON, 519-524-1087
- Seaforth: **Seaforth and District Food Bank** - monthly food bank. 72 Main St, Seaforth, ON, 519-527-0281
- Wingham: **North Huron Community Food Share** - monthly food bank. 405 Josephine St, Wingham, ON, 519-357-2277
- Wingham: **Salvation Army** - monthly food bank, regular support with clothing, rent and utility assistance; store selling used clothing and more. 205 Josephine St, Wingham, ON, 519-357-3757
- Zurich: **Blessings Community Store** - monthly food bank; store selling used clothing and household items. 45 Main St, Zurich, ON, 519-236-4376

### Community meals

- Brussels: **Soup n' More** - weekly community meal by donation. Melville Presbyterian Church, 55 Dunedin Dr, Brussels, ON, 519-887-6820
- Clinton: **Soup and More** - weekly community meal. 243 Princess St, Clinton, ON, 519-482-5264
- Exeter: **The Community Table and Noah's Ark Family Apparel** - regular community meals; store selling used clothes. Exeter Pentecostal Tabernacle, 70670 London Rd, Exeter, ON, 519-235-2991
- Goderich: **Goderich Fishes and Loaves** - weekly free meal pick-up program. Locations vary, get more information here: [www.facebook.com/fishesmeals/](http://www.facebook.com/fishesmeals/)

### Emergency housing assistance

- Clinton: **Salvation Army** 519-482-8586
- Goderich: **Salvation Army** 519-524-4188
- Goderich: **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** 519-524-1087
- Wingham: **Salvation Army** 519-357-3757
- **Ontario Works**: see page 12, Municipal Funding programs or [www.huroncounty.ca/social-services/ontario-works/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/social-services/ontario-works/)

# Healthcare Support

## Emergency services

Call **911** if you are in an emergency, if you require an ambulance or police assistance.

## Huron County hospitals

- Clinton: **Clinton Public Hospital** 98 Shipley St, Clinton, ON, 519-482-3440
- Exeter: **South Huron Hospital Association** 24 Huron St W, Exeter, ON, 519-235-2700
- Goderich: **Alexandra Marine General Hospital** 120 Napier St, Goderich, ON, 519-524-8323
- Seaforth: **Seaforth Community Hospital** 24 Centennial Dr, Seaforth, ON, 519-527-1650
- Wingham: **Wingham and District Hospital** 270 Carling Terrace, Wingham, ON, 519-357-3210

## Walk-in clinics

Walk-in clinics provide medical care for people who do not have a family doctor or have one and are unable to reach them. You can see a nurse or doctor, often without an appointment at a walk-in clinic, and get advice, assessment and treatment for minor illnesses and injuries

- Blyth: **Blyth Walk-In Clinic** 442 Queen St, Blyth, ON, 226-532-9500 Check Facebook page for dates, times: [www.facebook.com/blythwalkinclinic/](http://www.facebook.com/blythwalkinclinic/)
- Exeter: **South Huron Medical Centre Walk-in Clinic** 23 Huron St. W., Exeter, ON, 519-235-3343 Check website for available dates, times: [www.shha.on.ca/shmc](http://www.shha.on.ca/shmc)

## Find a family health provider

Many Canadians have a health practitioner (family doctor or nurse practitioner) they go to whenever they need medical care. Register for a family health provider by visiting a local community health centre:

## Huron County health clinics

- Clinton: **Clinton Family Health Team** 105 Shipley St, Clinton, ON 519-482-3000, [www.clintonfht.ca](http://www.clintonfht.ca)
- Exeter: **South Huron Medical Centre** 23 Huron St W, Exeter, ON, 519-235-3343, [www.shha.on.ca/shmc](http://www.shha.on.ca/shmc)
- Goderich: **Maitland Valley Family Health Centre** 180 Cambria Rd N, Goderich, ON, 519-524-6060, [www.mvfht.ca](http://www.mvfht.ca)
- Grand Bend: **Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre** 69 Main St E, Grand Bend, ON, 519-238-2362, [www.gbachc.ca](http://www.gbachc.ca)
- Hensall: **Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre** 122 King St, Box 159, Hensall, ON, 519-262-3140, [www.gbachc.ca](http://www.gbachc.ca)
- Seaforth: **Huron Community Health Team** 32B Centennial Dr, Seaforth, ON, 519-600-2273, [www.hcfht.ca](http://www.hcfht.ca)
- Wingham: **Wingham Listowel Healthcare Alliance** 270 Carling Terr, Wingham, ON, 519-357-3210, [www.lwha.ca](http://www.lwha.ca)
- Zurich: **Bluewater Area Family Health Team** 6 Goshen St. S, Zurich, ON, 519-236-4314, [www.bluewaterareafht.ca](http://www.bluewaterareafht.ca)

## Helplines

### Telehealth Ontario

Telehealth Ontario is a free, confidential telephone service providing health advice or general health information.

A Registered Nurse will take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The nurse will help you decide whether to care for yourself, make an appointment with your doctor, go to a clinic, contact a community service or visit a hospital emergency room. Interpreters are available. Call **1-866-797-0000**

### Refugee HealthLine

The Refugee HealthLine is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at **1-866-286-4770**. This toll-free, multilingual service offers support for refugees and people arriving through other exceptional humanitarian authorizations (such as the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel). Goderich Lions are able to assist newcomers with funding for medical check-ups.

## Mental health support

### Huron Perth Helpline and Crisis Response Team

If you or someone you know needs urgent mental health and/or addictions support, please call the Huron Perth Helpline and Crisis Response Team at 1-888-829-7484.

If you are looking for long-term support and resources for mental health and/or addictions, visit:

- Goderich: **Canadian Mental Health Association**  
29 Kingston Street, Goderich, ON, (519) 271-6730

## 211 Ontario

**211 Ontario** is a free, confidential service that connects people to programs and services. 211 is available by phone in multiple languages or by text, online search, email, or chat in French and English. [www.211ontario.ca/](http://www.211ontario.ca/)

## Financial support for children's dental assistance

**Healthy Smiles Ontario** is a government-funded dental program that provides free preventive, routine, and emergency dental services for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households.

The program includes regular visits to a licensed dental provider and covers the costs of treatment including:

- Check-ups
- Cleaning
- Fillings (for a cavity)
- X-rays
- And more

Learn about this program at:

[www.ontario.ca/page/get-dental-care](http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-dental-care)



# Community Connections

## Connecting with others

Immigrant-serving organizations offer support with all your settlement needs, including making recommendations on different places to make community connections. In Huron County, the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario offers settlement services. Contact Settlement Manager, Firas Sefian for an appointment.

Email: [firas.sefian@swo.ymca.ca](mailto:firas.sefian@swo.ymca.ca)

Phone: 226-973-7572

## Volunteering

Volunteering your time is an excellent way to meet people, contribute to your community and gain your first Canadian work experience. You can volunteer in many places, including community centres, schools, charitable organizations, hospitals, retirement homes, and other organizations. To find more information about local volunteer opportunities, visit the **Centre for Employment and Learning** (see page 6 for contact information).

## Sports teams and sports centres

In most communities, there are organized leagues for many sports. For each sport, there are different age groups (adults, teenagers and children). There are also sports centres where you can enjoy fitness classes, swim, work out and do other sports-related activities. To find a sports club, go online and search your nearest town's name and the sport you wish to play.

## Joining social clubs or associations

There are also many opportunities for people with common interests to gather. Examples include joining book clubs, game clubs, and music, arts or dance clubs. You can find out about associations and clubs in your area by consulting a local library staff member or inquiring at a Town Hall.

## Getting involved in your child's school

In Canada, schools encourage parents to support their child's education by getting involved with the school and school board. This helps your child succeed and provides an excellent opportunity to meet people and become part of the school community.

## Your neighbourhood

Introduce yourself to your neighbours. If you have children, you can also meet other parents at the local playground. While Canadians are generally very friendly, it is important to show initiative in approaching others.





## Community Supports

- **Community Living** is a non-profit organization that provides services and supports to people with disabilities and their families residing in the communities of Huron County.  
**Community Living-Central Huron**  
Call 519-524-7362 or visit [www.clch.ca/](http://www.clch.ca/)  
**Community Living South Huron**  
Call 519-237-3637 or visit [www.clsh.ca/](http://www.clsh.ca/)
- **Rural Response for Healthy Children** serves Huron and Perth County families. They support families through education and support groups, activities and workshops for parents and caregivers.  
Call 226-699-0707 or visit [www.rrhc.on.ca/](http://www.rrhc.on.ca/)

## Business supports

- The **Huron Business Centre** supports people looking to start a new business or purchase an existing one. They offer a variety of no-to-low-cost resources, services, and programs. Visit [www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/our-services/business-services-support/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/our-services/business-services-support/)
- **Community Futures Huron** is an organization that supports entrepreneurs in Huron County. They provide management counselling, business loans, and support for community projects that strengthen the local economy. For more information, visit [www.cfhurion.ca/](http://www.cfhurion.ca/)

## Interpretation and translation services

- London Cross-Cultural Learner Centre  
Call: 519-432-1133 or visit: [www.lcllc.org/](http://www.lcllc.org/)
- Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington  
Call: 519-836-2222 or visit: [www.is-gw.ca/](http://www.is-gw.ca/)
- Kitchener Waterloo Multicultural Centre  
Call: 519-745-2531 or visit:  
<https://kwmulticultural.ca/>
- *Translation of documents*  
World Education Services Call: 1-800-361-6106 or visit: [www.wes.org/ca/](http://www.wes.org/ca/)

## Immigration consultants

Many people choose to hire an immigration consultant to help with their applications to become a temporary resident, permanent resident, or citizen in Canada. To learn more please visit: [www.settlement.org/ontario/immigration-citizenship/immigrating-to-ontario/general-information-about-applying/should-i-get-help-with-my-immigration-application-from-an-immigration-consultant-or-lawyer/](http://www.settlement.org/ontario/immigration-citizenship/immigrating-to-ontario/general-information-about-applying/should-i-get-help-with-my-immigration-application-from-an-immigration-consultant-or-lawyer/)

To find a registered immigration consultant visit: [www.college-ic.ca/protecting-the-public/find-an-immigration-consultant](http://www.college-ic.ca/protecting-the-public/find-an-immigration-consultant)

## Huron County Immigration Partnership newsletter

The **Huron County Immigration Partnership** collaborates with organizations and service providers to host events for newcomers. Learn about upcoming events. Sign up for their newsletter: [www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/our-services/immigration-partnership/resources/newsletter/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/our-services/immigration-partnership/resources/newsletter/)



# Recreation

## Huron County Library

The Huron County Library has branches in 12 communities: Bayfield, Blyth, Brussels, Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Hensall, Howick, Kirkton, Seaforth, Wingham and Zurich. Each library branch offers an outstanding selection of resources, services and programs, along with free wifi, public access computers, books and materials to borrow, events, classes and clubs.

[www.HuronCountyLibrary.ca](http://www.HuronCountyLibrary.ca)

- **Bayfield:** 8 Bayfield Main St N, Bayfield, ON (519) 565-2886
- **Blyth:** 392 Queen St, Blyth, ON (519) 523-4400
- **Brussels:** 402 Turnberry St, Brussels, ON (519) 887-6448
- **Clinton:** 27 Albert St S, Clinton, ON (519) 482-3673
- **Exeter:** 330 Main St S, Exeter, ON (519) 235-1890
- **Goderich:** 52 Montreal St, Goderich, ON, (519) 524-9261
- **Hensall:** 108 King St, Box 249, Hensall, ON, (519) 262-2445
- **Howick:** 45088 Harriston Rd, RR 1, Gorrie, ON, (519) 335-6899
- **Kirkton:** 70497 Perth Rd 164, RR 1, Kirkton, ON (519) 229-8854
- **Seaforth:** 108 Main St S, Seaforth, ON, 519-527-1430
- **Wingham:** 281 Edward St, Wingham, ON, 519-357-3312
- **Zurich:** 10 Goshen St N, Zurich, ON, 519-236-4965

## Sports

Communities throughout Huron County have sports clubs and facilities that you can enjoy. Join hockey leagues, figure skating clubs, curling groups, soccer clubs, baseball leagues, swimming groups, karate clubs, pickleball leagues, volleyball, dance, yoga, fitness centres, equestrian sports and more.

For a list of local sports groups in your community, visit:

- **Ashfield Colborne Wawanosh**  
[www.acwtownship.ca/residents/recreation-facilities](http://www.acwtownship.ca/residents/recreation-facilities)
- **Bluewater**  
[www.municipalityofbluewater.ca/parks-recreation-and-culture/](http://www.municipalityofbluewater.ca/parks-recreation-and-culture/)
- **Central Huron**  
[www.centralhuron.ca/en/recreation-and-events/sports-groups.aspx](http://www.centralhuron.ca/en/recreation-and-events/sports-groups.aspx)
- **Goderich**  
[www.goderich.ca/en/my-goderich/community-organizations.aspx](http://www.goderich.ca/en/my-goderich/community-organizations.aspx)
- **Howick**  
[www.howick.ca/departments/recreation](http://www.howick.ca/departments/recreation)
- **Huron East**  
[www.huroneast.com/en/being-active/sports-organizations.aspx](http://www.huroneast.com/en/being-active/sports-organizations.aspx)
- **Morris-Turnberry**  
[www.morristurnberry.ca/community/](http://www.morristurnberry.ca/community/)
- **North Huron**  
[www.northhuron.ca/en/living-here/community-groups-and-clubs.aspx](http://www.northhuron.ca/en/living-here/community-groups-and-clubs.aspx)
- **South Huron**  
[www.southhuron.ca/en/things-to-do/programs-and-recreational.aspx](http://www.southhuron.ca/en/things-to-do/programs-and-recreational.aspx)

## Recreation Funding Available

Up to \$800 per child in funding is offered to support participation in recreation, arts and sports programs through a Huron County partnership with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario.

For more information, visit: <https://www.ymcaswo.ca/rasp-yrasp>

# 5 Reasons you'll fall in love with Huron County!



## 1. Lake Huron Beaches

Watch some of the world's best sunsets on Huron County's beaches! Build a sand castle, swim, paddleboard or walk along the shoreline. Be sure to explore all that Lake Huron has to offer.



## 2. Farmers' Markets

Find a variety of local Farmers' Markets featuring fresh vegetables, fruit and products throughout Huron County. Huron's Farmers' Markets are a great opportunity to connect with local farmers and learn more about the community.



## 3. Festivals, Fairs and Events

There is a lot to celebrate in Huron County! Enjoy outdoor music festivals, arts and cultural festivals, sporting events, rodeos and agricultural fairs. There's something for everyone.



## 4. Nature Trails and Outdoor Adventure

Huron County is home to beautiful nature trails and conservation areas that are perfect for hiking, cycling, canoeing or fishing. Explore one of the 30+ outdoor trails that are available for all ages and skill levels.



## 5. Farm to Table Dining

Finding local, fresh, and delicious food doesn't get any easier than in Huron County. The diversity of food and beverage products grown and produced in Huron is remarkable!

Learn more about things to see and do in Huron County at:

[www.OntariosWestCoast.ca](http://www.OntariosWestCoast.ca)

# HURON COUNTY



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