



*Live the life you've
always wanted...*



DISCOVER A VIBRANT COMMUNITY ON THE EDGE OF LAKE HURON

A photograph of a lighthouse silhouette against a sunset sky over the ocean. The sky is filled with warm, golden clouds, and the ocean reflects the light. The lighthouse is a dark, triangular structure on the right side of the frame.

Welcome

We acknowledge the traditional lands and treaty territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, which consists of the Chippewas of Saugeen and the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

We understand this land holds immense significance to the people of Saugeen Ojibway Nation. We appreciate those who live and work alongside us today and who continue the traditions of their ancestors as stewards of the land we are privileged to inhabit. We thank them for the contributions they have made in both caring for the land and in shaping this community.

We commit to truth and reconciliation.

To acknowledging the truth about what happened to Indigenous peoples because of colonization, and to reconciliation — which begins with each and every one of us.

As a local government and public organization, we are dedicated to learning about Indigenous culture, to fostering a better relationship with First Nations and their people, and we commit ourselves to actions that move us forward on a path to healing along with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.



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Message from the Mayor

Welcome to Saugeen Shores: a growing and vibrant community and a place for you to call home.

Located on Ontario's Lake Huron shoreline, Saugeen Shores is situated along Provincial Highway No. 21, encompassing Port Elgin, Southampton, and Saugeen Township.

For the last five years, we have attracted a substantial base of knowledge workers and tradespeople who are implementing the Life-Extension Program at Bruce Power. We are also seeing more young people arriving here because they want a more balanced way of life on their terms and who are using technology to work remotely while enjoying the healthy and vibrant lifestyle that Saugeen Shores offers. What they find is a community whose leaders are also neighbours, teachers, teammates, and store owners who remember your name.

Our Town sits on the edge of one of the world's largest freshwater lakes, where you can watch sunsets that are the stuff of photographers' dreams.

We have two bustling downtowns with great shops and restaurants, and multiple roads and trails that connect the two year-round.

We provide all this while being just a morning's drive to Ontario's major urban centres, including Toronto, Hamilton, Waterloo, and London.

We place an emphasis on healthy and active lifestyles, and that's why we've significantly invested in two major recreational facilities: a world-class multi-diamond baseball park and an aquatic and wellness centre with an eight lane pool. Both will make us a hub for regional sporting events while providing space for local physical and social activities.

Our beaches and natural assets offer an outdoor "cottage life", while providing a cutting-edge business environment, high-paying jobs, and economic opportunities.

It is all happening in Saugeen Shores, right here, right now. I invite you to come visit our beautiful Town, and to work, play, and live the life you've always wanted.

Luke Charbonneau
Mayor, Town of Saugeen Shores

Mayor@SaugeenShores.ca
519-832-2008 x 142

Community Profile



The community of Port Elgin in Saugeen Shores boasts a recreational waterfront, a bustling downtown, and a robust, active trail system. Port Elgin is a popular destination for tourists to enjoy the clear waters of Lake Huron and is home to a full-service harbour accommodating seasonal and transient boaters.

In downtown Port Elgin you can find a variety of specialty shops and diverse dining opportunities. **Centennial Pool** is also located in Port Elgin. The community pool is home to the Saugeen Shores Lifesaving Club — an award-winning club focused on water safety. A new Aquatic and Wellness Centre is under construction to accommodate the growing community.

Port Elgin's major recreation facility, **The Community Complex**, offers a seasonal ice pad as well as hall space for booking. The **Port Elgin Curling Club** has hosted provincial curling events, including the Tankard in 2022 and the Tankard and Scotties tournaments in 2023.



Southampton

The community of Southampton in Saugeen Shores boasts a sandy beachfront, a picturesque downtown, and an active arts and culture community, anchored by the **Southampton Arts Centre**. Southampton is a popular tourist destination to enjoy a laid-back, and friendly experience. Southampton is home to unique shops and restaurants and is a self-defined "foodie destination."

The community continues to celebrate its rich marine heritage through events, branding, and the annual **Marine Heritage Festival**. The historic Town Hall in Southampton is now used as a rental venue for community events and is also home to the **Bruce County Playhouse**, Southampton Arts Centre, and the Southampton Business Improvement Area (BIA).

Just off of the main intersection is the **Southampton Coliseum**. This building serves as an ice pad in the winter and a main floor rental space in the summer. The **Annex (Curling Club)** is attached to the Coliseum and serves as a recreational hub for the community.

Historic Southampton also boasts a small inland lake behind the **Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre**. **Fairy Lake** offers a walking trail around the lake with the opportunity to feed the ducks, watch the carp, and see the turtles. Built by local high school students, the **Fairy Lake Rotary Pavilion** is a popular destination for a picnic or wedding.



Location

Saugeen Shores is located in Bruce County. It's accessible via Provincial Highway 21, county roads, by boat, and by recreational flight into the Port Elgin Airport.

DISTANCE FROM CITY CENTRES

Tobermory	118 km
Waterloo	147 km
London	187 km
Hamilton	196 km
Toronto	220 km
Windsor	349 km
Sudbury	440 km
Kingston	476 km
Ottawa	595 km

DISTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL AIRPORTS

Port Elgin Recreational Airport – 0 km

Wiarton Keppel International Airport – 53 km

Waterloo International Airport – 155 km

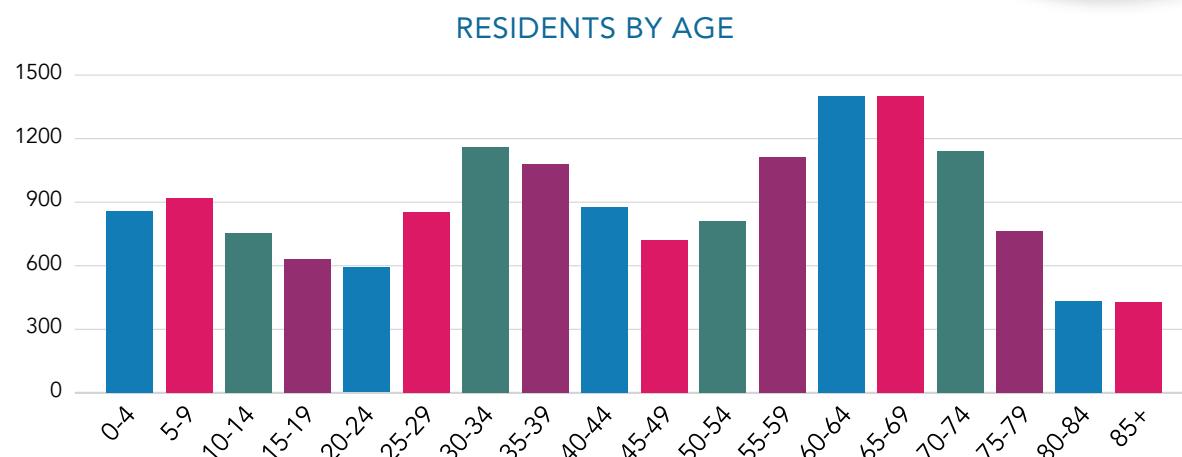
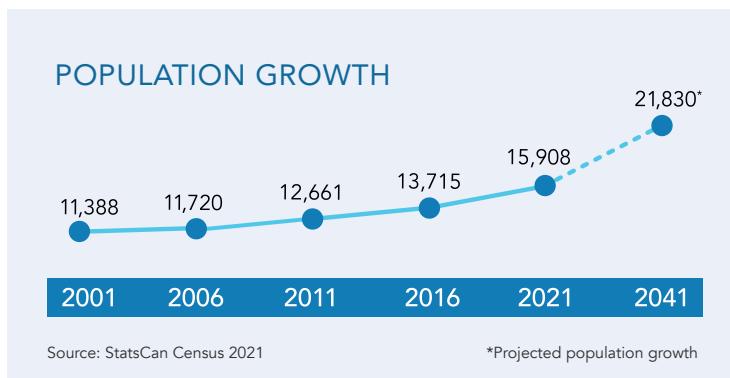
Toronto Pearson International Airport – 203 km

John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport – 210 km





Demographics



Lifestyle



Five minutes from work to a pristine sand beach? Yes, please! With kilometres of shoreline and acres of open wilderness, Saugeen Shores is a virtual paradise.

The Rail Trail is popular with those who walk, cycle, jog, cross-country ski, or snowshoe. Covering the eight-kilometre distance between Southampton and Port Elgin, the former railway bed is now a green corridor for all types of non-motorized fun. Additional trails linking the community are developed yearly as part of the Town's Parks and Trails Master Plan. For those who prefer motors, thousands of kilometres of snowmobile and ATV trails run throughout Bruce and Grey Counties.

With its complex ecosystem, the all-season MacGregor Point Provincial Park is a delight to visit. Enjoy a walk through silver maple swamps and cattail marshes in search of wildlife, or explore seven kilometres

of waterfront. Winter visitors can camp out in one of the yurts and enjoy hours of cross-country skiing throughout the park.

Saugeen Shores and boating are synonymous. Sailing or power boating: Our harbour can accommodate you, whichever you prefer. Port Elgin offers a safe port with 268 slips and all the amenities.

If five minutes to the beach isn't your thing, perhaps two minutes to the golf course will do the trick. You can get into the swing at one of our five golf courses, which range from challenging to more challenging. With ample variety, there's enough golfing in Saugeen Shores to fill up all the hours you used to spend commuting.

Looking for more activities? Don't miss out on local tennis, curling, swimming, paddle boarding, bird watching, and the amazing local fitness centres to accommodate any active lifestyle.



The Saugeen River is a top destination for canoeists and kayakers across Ontario.

Stretching 102 kilometres from Hanover to Southampton, the Saugeen River is wide and slow-moving in spots, with rapids and eddies in others; it provides a full range of experiences. Access points and parks provide facilities along the way.

If fishing is your passion, Saugeen Shores has what you're looking for. Lake Huron is teeming with fish species, including salmon, trout, pickerel, and whitefish. So use a boat or wade into the Saugeen River — we guarantee you'll hook something worth writing home about!



Arts and Culture

Visitors and residents can enjoy the arts, culture, and heritage of Saugeen Shores throughout the year. The premier cultural event in the community is **Pumpkinfest**, an annual festival that draws more than 60,000 visitors to the community during the first weekend of October. With more than 45 events and attractions, including the giant pumpkin weigh-off, the festival provides 'Family Fun Second to None'.

The Port Elgin and Southampton Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) plan events year-round; from winter dining/tasting opportunities, to spring celebrations and summer festivals, to festive holiday lighting.





MUSIC

The annual Canadian Big Band Celebration has kept the music of the Big Band Era alive in Saugeen Shores for more than a decade, while band shell concerts keep music lovers entertained throughout the summer. Once a week at the Port Elgin beach gazebo, you can watch an award-winning sunset while tapping your toes to the band of the week.

For those looking to increase their music skills, there's the Summer Music program at Saugeen District Senior School in Port Elgin. This program has been offered every summer since 1987, and brings musicians at all levels and ages to town for a week. In Southampton, enjoy a concert at the band shell by Fairy Lake.



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Organizations like the Bruce County Playhouse have been rehearsing and are ready to entertain. Stop by the historic Town Hall in Southampton to catch a performance, or check out the Bruce County Museum to discover the rich history of the area.

The nearby Southampton Art School is one of Ontario's oldest and most respected summer art schools. Since 1957, students have explored their inner artists — studying painting, drawing, sculpture, cooking, and drama. With an enrollment of over 900 students and classes from March to November, the school has enriched the lives and enhanced the skills of thousands of students — from young beginners to seasoned professionals.





Housing

With the help of knowledgeable local realtors, you'll find housing in Saugeen Shores. Whether you are seeking a family home or a modern space to rent, residential developments are rising and providing options in the Town of Saugeen Shores. The proven growth rate in the municipality speaks to the accessibility of housing and other attractive assets to help call Saugeen Shores home.

Utilities

Saugeen Shores is serviced by Enbridge Gas, Westario Power, and Hydro One. Capacity is plentiful through municipal water and sewer services. Local telecommunication services include Bruce Telecom, Bell, and Eastlink, which provide high speed internet access to residents and businesses.

Schools

The Bluewater District School Board has three elementary and one secondary school within the Town of Saugeen Shores, and includes access to french immersion programs. The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board has one elementary school. Catholic high school students travel to St. Mary's High School in nearby Owen Sound. There are many post-secondary institutions within a two-hour drive, the closest being the Owen Sound campus of Georgian College.

Childcare

There are many childcare options, including before and after-school child care, a Montessori school, licensed centres and home care options, and even a forest school.



There are currently 120 staff working at the hospital. For long-term care, there are programs available that provide in-home support, which allow elderly residents to continue living at home as long as possible as well as three retirement homes.

Health Care

The Saugeen Memorial Hospital, located in Southampton, is one of six hospitals operated by Brightshores Health System in Grey and Bruce Counties. The 24/7 emergency department has the second highest volume of emergency visits across all Brightshores' hospitals, due largely to the influx of tourists during the summer months. The hospital is well supported by family physicians in the community who also provide inpatient care and coverage in the emergency department year-round. In addition to its 20 inpatient beds, the hospital has diagnostic services, a lab, and many outpatient services.

In 2018, the Saugeen Memorial Hospital opened its new Emergency Department. This 10,000 square foot addition is modern, spacious, and bright. It has eleven treatment rooms, an ambulance bay, and a decontamination room. The laboratory underwent a significant renovation and has tripled in size. Thanks to the community's fundraising efforts, a CT scanner will be operational by 2023.



Living the life they had always dreamed of.

Why making the move to Saugeen Shores was exactly what Lindsay and Philip Darling needed.

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic emptied offices and scattered those who could work from home, Lindsay and Philip Darling also left the city — for a holiday in Saugeen Shores.

"In the summer of 2014, we decided to spend our vacation on Lake Huron. On day one, Phil tried to convince me to move to Saugeen Shores—he was sold!" said Lindsay.

The young couple had lived in Toronto for more than ten years, Lindsay working as an events coordinator and Philip as a marketing science consultant. But as Lindsay describes, they were both ready for a change from the hustle of city living.

"By the end of the summer, we had fallen in love with the area," Lindsay recalls. And by the following spring, the couple had bought their house in Saugeen Shores.



The Darlings have been residents of Saugeen Shores since 2015.

"Not having a daily commute is really a wonderful thing," says Lindsay. "Getting back that time every morning and every evening, day after day, really adds up. We're thankful to be able to spend that time playing with our son while he's still little!"

And while the couple initially was still tied to their jobs in Toronto, visiting their clients on the regular, these days Phil works entirely from Saugeen Shores — with only the occasional meeting back in the city. Lindsay has since made a big change and has started a new venture, Southampton Bagel Co.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Coulter



The Adventurer

If adventure is your passion, look no further than Saugeen Shores and area.

With 40 kilometres of trail, 18 kilometres of waterfront, and the **Saugeen River** that stretches 102 kilometres from Hanover to Southampton, Saugeen Shores is the perfect place to be active.

Have a jet ski, sail, or power boat? The **Port Elgin Marina**, including 268 slips, has you covered. And while you're out there, drop a line to catch some of the local whitefish for a delicious dinner.

Don't have a boat? Sign up for the **Chantry Island Boat tour** out to the island, where you can climb to the top of the **Chantry Island Lighthouse** for spectacular views of the Lake Huron shoreline. Or catch the view from above — recreational flying is available out of the **Port Elgin Airport**.

There are plenty of outdoor spaces to explore nearby, with windsurfing, rock climbing, scuba diving, and more all within about an hour's drive from Saugeen Shores.



The Nature Lover

If you're an outdoor enthusiast, Saugeen Shores boast hiking and walking trails for all ages. Perfect for bird watching or to get away from the hustle and bustle of city living.

Love to spend time on the water? You can rent a kayak, canoe, or paddleboard to take out onto Lake Huron or down the Saugeen River.

Enjoy one of the community's five golf courses or try your hand at tennis. There are well-established cycling routes throughout the community often featured in one of the premier events, the **Annual Gran Fondo** fundraiser for the local hospital. Grab your bike and check out the Shore Road, which stretches along the shoreline between Southampton and Port Elgin. It's a local favourite, where you can stop to take in the views of the famous Chantry Island Lighthouse.

And don't forget about the winter months. There are snowmobile and cross-country skiing trails. The hiking trails are beautiful in the winter, and snowshoes are available for rent to fully enjoy the snowy winter months. So take a break, build a snowman, or feed the birds at the local **MacGregor Provincial Park**. And while you're there, you can glide around the outdoor skating oval.





The Kids

Saugeen Shores is perfect for families with children. There are many local parks, including Rotary's Accessible Park in Southampton. There are two splash pads to keep the little ones cool in the summer months and a variety of pristine beaches along the 18 kilometres of waterfront for families to swim and splash around in. And be sure to build a sandcastle while you're there.



Fairy Lake is a great spot to feed the ducks, watch the turtles, and take in a summer band shell concert in the open air.

On rainy days, there is the local bowling alley and the **Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre** to pass the time indoors, or sign the kids up for art lessons at the local **Southampton Arts Centre**.

Once you've worked up an appetite, check out one of the many family-friendly restaurants, followed by a stroll downtown for some ice cream and a visit to the unique local shops.



The Creative Soul

Looking to get those creative juices flowing? Visit Southampton's High Street, home to the **Southampton Arts Centre and Arts School**, offering classes for both kids and adults. There are many specialty shops in town where you can buy locally handmade items.

In addition to the Southampton Arts Centre, the Southampton Town Hall is also home to the **Bruce County Playhouse**, so be sure to take in a show.

Live music is abundant at the weekly local band shell concerts in Port Elgin and Southampton. The **Sunset Piper** plays Friday nights at the big flag in Southampton, and don't miss the annual **Canadian Big Band Celebration**.

Many establishments in both communities host live music events throughout the year. Pick your favourite, grab your friends, and unwind.



Something for Everyone



Helpful Links



Find Employment
employmentbghs.ca



Find Housing
Realtor.ca



Community Information
SaugeenShores.ca



Be Social
@SaugeenShoresON



Thinking about calling
Saugeen Shores home?

Let me help you.



Heather Hyde
Economic Development Officer
Heather.Hyde@SaugeenShores.ca
519-832-2008 x 106

Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, Box 820, Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0

SaugeenShores.ca