

*Life is  
Beautiful  
in Elgin  
County*



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# Welcome to Elgin County

*Nestled along Lake Erie's north shore in the heart of southwestern Ontario's farm country, Elgin County has everything you need to live the life you've always dreamed about.*

Elgin is an oasis of rural peace and tranquility with all the amenities and conveniences of a larger urban centre without all of the hassles.

Elgin's residents enjoy a competitive cost of living, have access to first class medical facilities and can choose from a wide selection of educational institutions.

Residents and visitors alike have easy access to the area's pristine natural environment. Carolinian Forest trails, sandy beaches, conservation areas, and public parks are always just a few steps away.

The main streets of Elgin's vibrant towns and villages are lined with a myriad of innovative businesses owned and operated by dedicated entrepreneurs. Fresh local produce grown in Elgin's fertile soils is readily available at local farmers' markets; and, Elgin's small and medium-sized manufacturers continue to be at the progressive forefront of technological innovation. Beautiful homes and properties at affordable prices make Elgin an ideal place to call home. Come see why life is beautiful in Elgin County!



@elgincounty



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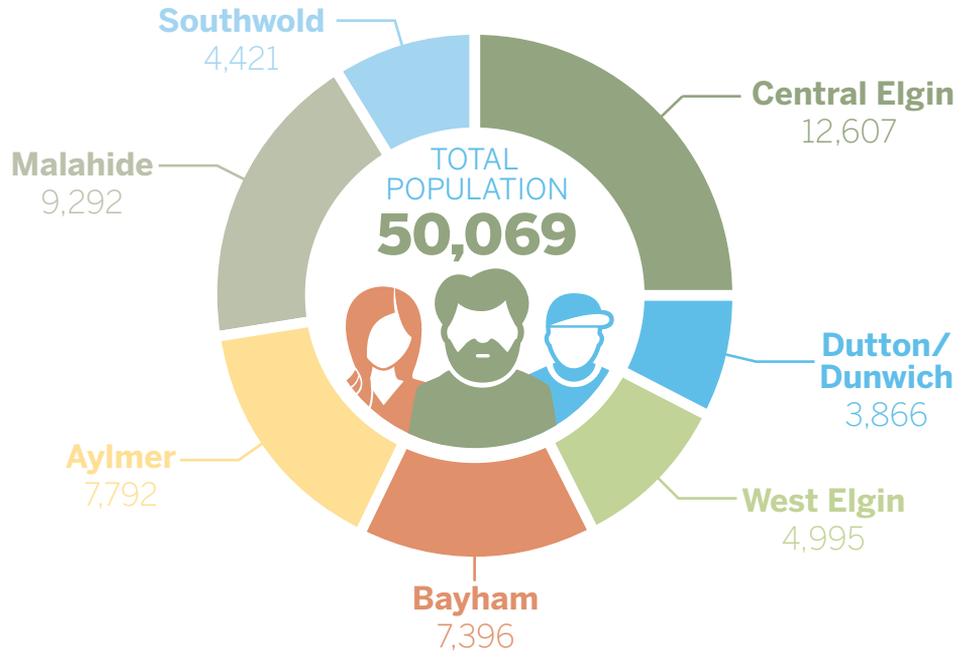
# Who We Are

*Elgin County is comprised of seven partner municipalities with a total population of approximately 50,000 residents.*

The population is dispersed throughout the County, with residents enjoying the agrarian lifestyle in towns, villages and the picturesque countryside of the area. Elgin County is a

progressive and growing community that has long been attractive to young families, business owners and retirees alike.

## Population by Municipality



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016. Revised by MDB Insights: Census Made Simple.  
 \* Excludes the City of St. Thomas.

## Age Profile

0-14

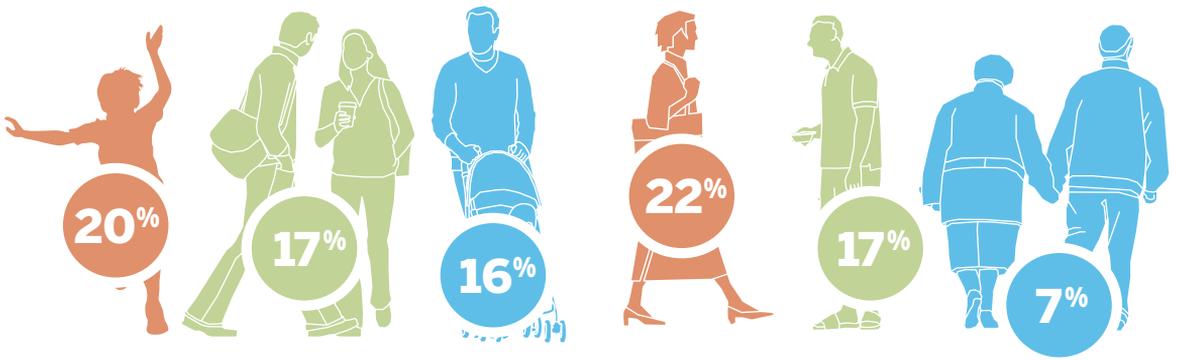
15-29

30-44

45-59

60-74

75-85+



The average age  
in Elgin County is **41**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016. Revised by MDB Insights: Census Made Simple.  
\* Excludes the City of St. Thomas.

*Young professionals, families  
and empty nesters alike  
find their niche in  
Elgin County*





# Lifestyle

*Elgin County's fresh air, tranquility and abundant access to the natural environment will enchant you. Immerse yourself in the area's vibrant arts and culture scene or indulge in cuisine that is uniquely local.*



## Traffic

Leave the congestion of city streets behind for the open roads of Elgin County. Traffic jams will be a distant memory as you commute

past sprawling country fields, lush green forests and pristine Lake Erie shoreline. Make work-life balance a priority as you reduce your commute time and your stress levels.



## Arts & Culture

Elgin County is home to a thriving arts community. Artists and performers of all mediums have been inspired by the area's considerable natural beauty. Enjoy original paintings, sculptures, photography, pottery and hand crafted items at galleries and studios across the county. Spend a summer evening taking in a professional theatre performance at The Port Stanley Festival Theatre or enjoy

the talents of community players who stage performances several times each year in Aylmer, Dutton, and Port Burwell.

Museums and cultural attractions provide an important link to the region's rich heritage and keep the stories of Elgin's past alive. The County is also home to numerous lively events and vibrant cultural festivals throughout the year that celebrate Elgin's unique rural culture.



## Shopping

Avoid long lines and crowded parking lots by shopping in the idyllic towns and villages of Elgin County. The main streets of Elgin County are the perfect places to pick up items that are truly one-of-a-kind. Explore quaint boutiques for trendy clothing and jewellery pieces, select fine local wines, and pick up handcrafted home decor pieces, fresh flowers, natural skin care products, hand-made pottery, homemade fudge, sweet local honey, artisan candles and more!



## Local Food

Restaurants, tea rooms and cafes dot the Elgin County countryside and lakeshore and line the main streets of its quaint towns and villages serving everything from hearty country fare to fine dining options. Residents and visitors alike can spend a leisurely morning browsing one of several local farmers' markets finding everything from fruits and vegetables to organic meats, eggs, herbs, and honey – all produced in



Elgin County. Learn about the source of your food at one of the area's bustling agri-tourism operations and then sit down to a hearty meal, expertly crafted with local ingredients.

Expand your palate with an afternoon of tasting wines produced with fruit grown in Elgin County or enjoy a sweet and delicious treat from one of Elgin's many ice cream parlours or bakeries.

*Indulge your senses and savour the flavours of Elgin County.*



# Housing

*When you purchase a property in Elgin County you are not only buying a house but a home, a place where you will become a member of a welcoming and friendly community.*

Get more for your money in Elgin County! The cost of an average home in Elgin County is less than in neighbouring urban centres and less than the national average. Whether it be a hobby farm in the sprawling countryside or a

family home in a charming town or village, Elgin County has plenty of existing homes and new build opportunities to suit the unique needs of any potential buyer.

## Average House Price Comparison



1. Source: London St. Thomas Association of Realtors, Residential Market Activity, October 2018.

2. Source: Kitchener-Waterloo Association of Realtors, October 2018.

3. Source: Toronto Real Estate Board, Home Price Index, October 2018 (Halton Region, Peel Region, City of Toronto, York Region, Durham Region, Dufferin Region, and Simcoe County).





# Recreation

*Being physically active is an important part of a balanced lifestyle. It is important for physical and mental well-being, and to help you lead a long and rewarding life.*

It is easy to enjoy an active lifestyle in Elgin County. With an abundance of recreational activities and high quality recreational facilities including: swimming pools, fitness centres, community complexes and arenas, Elgin is the ideal place to stay fit while having fun.

Outdoor enthusiasts and adventurers of all ages are sure to find something to thrill them in Elgin County. Safe towns and villages, 120 km of scenic shoreline and hundreds of kilometres of trails along lush Carolinian forest paths are ideal locations for runners and hikers alike.

Elgin County trails wind through the countryside connecting to the Trans Canada Trail, the longest recreational trail in the world. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, Elgin County's vibrant running community has an event for you!

If you prefer to get around on two wheels, routes through Elgin County provide some of the best terrain for cycling in North America. Ride along

the Lake Erie shoreline, through rolling hills, lush forests and picturesque countryside. The area boasts hundreds of kilometres of low-traffic country roads and paths that are perfect for short rides or longer day trips. In addition, Elgin County is part of the Waterfront Trail, a signed cycling route that travels through 27 waterfront communities in Ontario.

The sandy beaches and warm, shallow waters of Lake Erie are perfect for recreational swimming and other water-based activities. The temperate breezes that blow in off the lake provide the perfect conditions for wind surfing and kite boarding adventures.

If tranquil waters are more your style, paddling your way around the waters of several conservation areas or up the Big Otter Creek in a canoe, kayak or stand-up paddleboard are a perfect to spend a spring or summer afternoon.

# *So much to do in Elgin County!*



**8** Golf Courses

**4** Multi Purpose Arenas



**100+**

km of Hiking & Cycling trails



**53**

Playgrounds & Parks



**120 km**

of Lake Erie Shoreline

**10**

Community Centres



**9** Sandy Beaches



**9** Provincial Parks & Conservation Areas



**5** Public Pools & Splash Pads

**10**

Marinas & Boat Launches



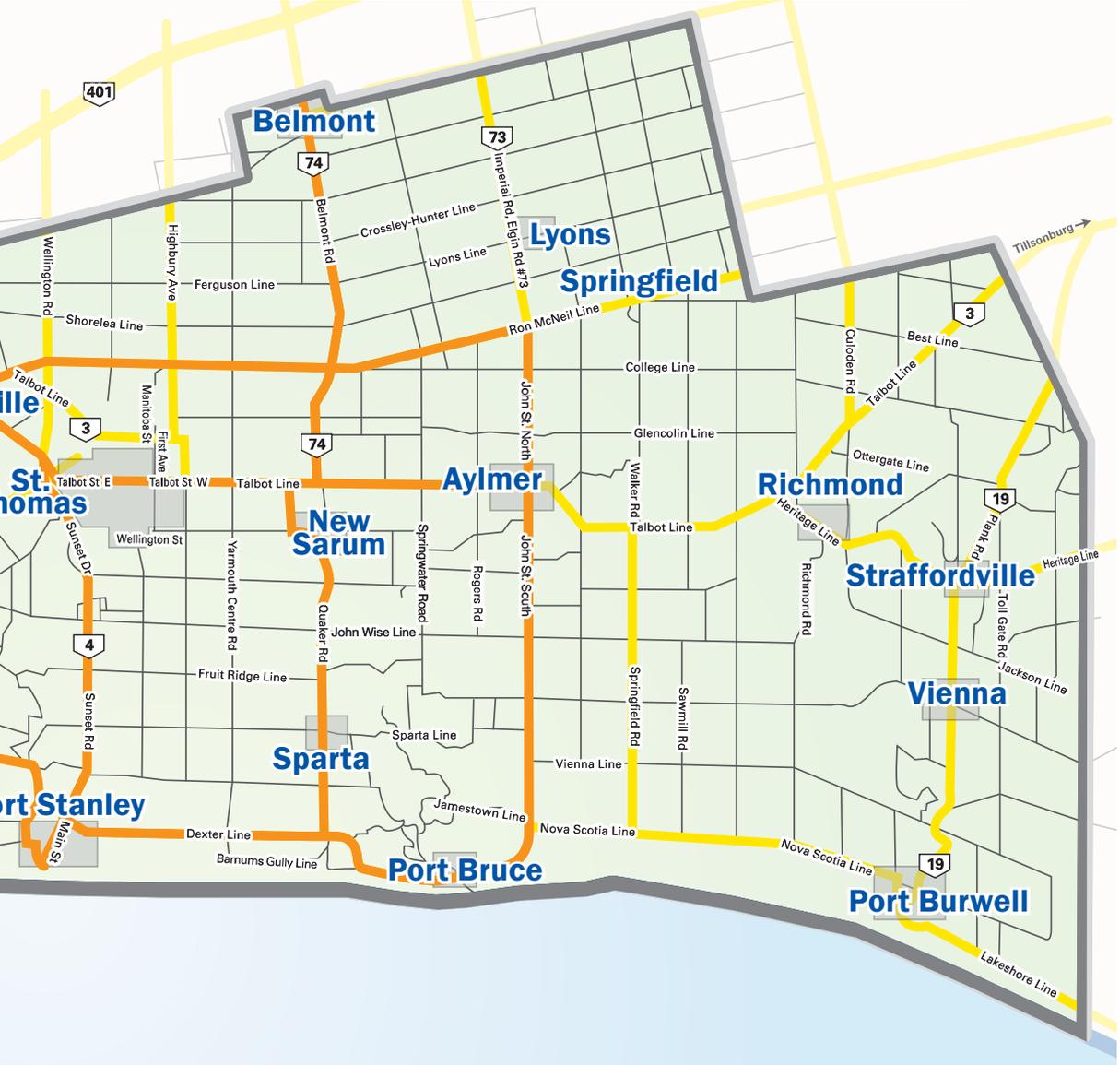
# Location

## Distance to Canada/U.S. Border Crossings

Sarnia/Port Huron . . . . . 117 km/73 mi  
 Windsor/Detroit . . . . . 185 km/115 mi  
 Niagara Falls . . . . . 230 km/143 mi

Fort Erie/Buffalo . . . . . 252 km/156 mi  
 Ivy Lea/Alexandria Bay . . . . . 520 km/ 323 mi  
 Cornwall . . . . . 631 km/392 mi







# Healthcare

*Residents of Elgin County have access to the highest quality medical professionals both within Elgin County and in the neighbouring City of London, known for its world class specialists and teaching universities.*

## **St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital**

Elgin County is home to the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH), a 157-bed facility providing comprehensive 24-hour coverage in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Anesthesia, Emergency, Mental Health and Family Medicine. This fully accredited hospital serves the seven municipalities of Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas.

There are more than 850 professionals that work at STEGH making it one of the largest employers in the area. Over 200 credentialed Professional Staff (physicians, dentists, midwives) provide in-hospital care ensuring that the highest quality of care is provided to each patient.

In 2018, after years in development, the hospital completed a \$98 million dollar expansion with a sleek new design and state-of-the-art equipment. This expansion included a new emergency department, a new medical device reprocessing department, newly designed surgical suites, and a new mental health department.



## Health Centres

Several health centres with doctors, nurse practitioners and nurses are located across Elgin County including larger centres in West Lorne (West Elgin Community Health Centre) and Aylmer (East Elgin Family Health Team). These centres offer a variety of

services including on-site lab and ultrasound facilities, pharmacies, chiropractic services, physiotherapy services, midwifery services, mental health agencies, and a variety of other community health services.

## Southwestern Public Health

Southwestern Public Health delivers health related programming to the residents of Elgin County, Oxford County and the City of St. Thomas. Its programs respond to public health emergencies; promote healthy lifestyles; help prevent injuries, illness and disease in the

community; and promote positive change and social conditions that improve health. Programs include sexual health clinics, parenting and prenatal programs, smoking cessation, food safety, dental screenings, water testing, infection control and healthy community advocacy.

*Elgin residents have abundant access to high quality medical professionals and services.*





# Education

*Elgin County is committed to providing first-rate education to anyone who lives or works in the County. Local primary and secondary schools offer a full range of programs and educational experiences, and graduates consistently go on to enter college and university programs.*

## **The Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB)**

The Thames Valley District School Board is one of the largest public boards in Ontario, spanning over 7,000 square kilometres and providing elementary and secondary public education

services to families in St. Thomas, Middlesex County, Oxford County and Elgin County. French Immersion options are available.

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## **The London District Catholic School Board**

The London District Catholic School Board provides education for Separate Catholic Schools with a complete academic program in an environment that integrates learning,

religious instruction, and spiritual formation into the curriculum. French Immersion options are available within Elgin.



## Fanshawe College

Fanshawe College has served the training and educational needs of Elgin County since 1969 both through their location in the City of London and their satellite location in Elgin County.

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Fanshawe provides diploma and certificate programs in the arts, humanities, social services, trades and a host of other disciplines.

## Ridgetown College

Located within an hour of Elgin County, Ridgetown College is part of the University of Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College. Students work and learn with outstanding faculty and

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staff who bring fresh ideas to the classroom and whose research has real-world applications.

## Western University

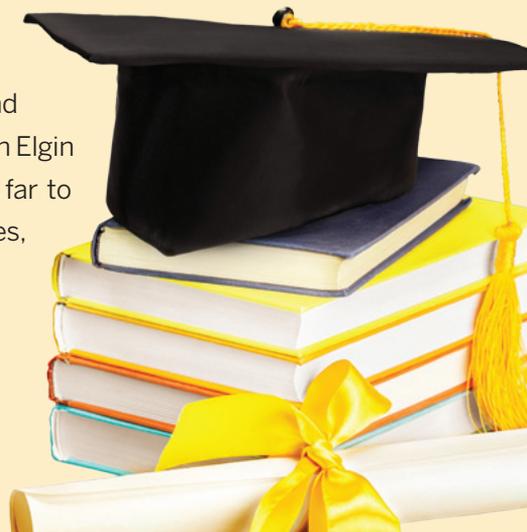
Located nearby in the City of London, Western University is one of Canada's leading research-intensive universities and students can choose

from a variety of fields such as Arts, Business, Law, Science, Health Care (medicine and dentistry) and Education.



## Post-Secondary Education

Elgin County residents have ready access to excellent post-secondary education, improving the lives of residents, strengthening the local economic base and providing a skilled workforce to the businesses operating in Elgin County. Residents of Elgin County do not have to travel far to study and upgrade skills in the areas of technology, trades, health care, computers and business.





# Labour Force

*Elgin offers a labour force ready to work, many of whom are trained in the skilled professions, including healthcare, trades, and equipment operators, business and finance as well as sales and service.*

Elgin County enjoys a diverse economy with employment stretched across a broad range of industry and business sectors. The largest number of Elgin's businesses are employed in the manufacturing sector, followed by health care and social assistance, agriculture and retail. A significant number of Elgin's residents are well-educated, with post-secondary education including university, college and trades training. Many are employed in skilled professions including trades and equipment

operators, sales and service, business and finance, and management. Elgin is proud to have local unemployment rates lower than the provincial average and over 50% of Elgin County's population is actively employed in the local labour force. Employment will continue to grow as Elgin welcomes new construction companies, tourist attractions, retail operations, and services to the area. St. Thomas and London are a short commute away, providing further employment opportunities to County residents.

There are **28,508** people aged **15** and over  
employed in the **Elgin County Labour Force**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016. Revised by MDB Insights: Census Made Simple.  
\* Excludes the City of St. Thomas.

## Top 5 Sectors by Industry



**17%**

Manufacturing



**11%**

Health Care  
and Social  
Assistance



**10%**

Agriculture,  
Forestry, Fishing,  
and Hunting



**9%**

Retail Trade



**8%**

Construction



## Top 5 Sectors by Occupation



**21%**

Trades,  
Transport and  
Equipment  
Operators



**18%**

Sales and  
Service



**12%**

Business,  
Finance and  
Administration



**11%**

Management



**9%**

Manufacturing  
and Utilities

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016. Revised by MDB Insights: Census Made Simple.  
\* Excludes the City of St. Thomas.



# Key Sectors

*Elgin County has a diverse economy rooted in tradition, yet poised for growth through the use of creative ideas and innovative technologies.*



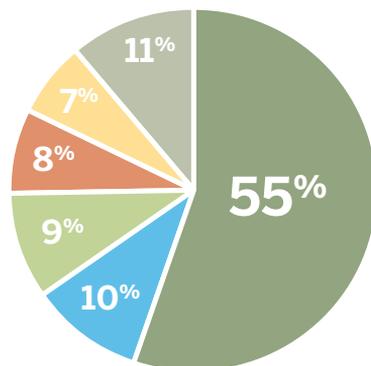
## Agribusiness

Agriculture is a vital part of Elgin County's economic success – past, present, and future. Fertile soils, a long growing season, and experienced farmers combine to make Elgin one of the most successful growing regions in Canada. Overall farm receipts in Elgin County total approximately \$432 Million annually and

approximately 10% of Elgin's labour force is employed in an agriculturally-related industry. Elgin County's local agribusiness companies and farms are on the progressive forefront of new technologies being developed and used for food processing, alternative fuel generation, greenhouse production, organic farming and aquaculture.

### Top Types of Farming Operations in Elgin

- Oilseed & Grain Farming
- Cattle Ranching & Farming
- Other Animal Production
- Vegetable & Melon Growers
- Other Crop Farming
- Other



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016. Revised by MDB Insights: Census Made Simple.  
\* Excludes the City of St. Thomas.



## *Retail/Services*

Retail Trade (8.5%) and Health Care & Social Assistance (10.8%) are two of the top employment industries in Elgin County. Nearly 20% of Elgin residents are directly employed in a Sales & Service occupation and an additional 12.1% report their occupation as Business,

Finance & Administration. Retail operations selling everything from clothing and jewellery to groceries, homewares and hardware employ a significant portion of Elgin's population. Services particularly related to banking, insurance, administration, and health care also account for some of the area's largest employers.



## *Manufacturing*

Manufacturing is the largest employment sector in Elgin County making up 17.4% of the total labour force. This compares to 9.9% in Ontario and 8.8% across Canada.

Small and medium-sized manufacturing operations are the backbone of Elgin County's economy and Elgin has enjoyed a long and successful history in manufacturing machinery, food and beverage products, plastics, rubber and wood products, and transportation equipment. Elgin is committed to sustaining and diversifying its broad-use base of manufacturing opportunities and operations while capitalizing on its skilled and dedicated workforce and strategic location.





# Tourism

Elgin County is located in the heart of southwestern Ontario, a region that receives approximately 762,112 visitors annually. Elgin County itself is visited by approximately 46,401 people every year with the peak tourism season being from May to September. Elgin County is an ideal location for tourism and recreation businesses. Bordered to the south by Lake Erie, Elgin offers beaches, conservation areas and recreational facilities for boating, fishing, and camping. The area offers hiking and cycling trails and viewing areas to watch annual bird and butterfly

migrations. Elgin has numerous museums, wineries, farm markets and agri-tourism operations for visitors to explore.

The Elgin Arts Trail is a trail that connects visual arts and performing arts attractions, such as galleries and studios, theatres and artisan crafters across Elgin.

Savour Elgin is a culinary trail that extends throughout Elgin County and highlights some of the best restaurants, farms, wineries and other culinary attractions that are local and unique to the area.

## Elgin County Tourism Statistics

# 762,112

people visited  
Ontario's Southwest



# 46,401

people visited  
Elgin County

An average stay in  
Ontario's Southwest is



# 2.6 nights

Visitor's to Ontario's  
Southwest spend

# \$98

per person,  
per day



# \$173

per person,  
per overnight stay

*Elgin County invites you  
to discover why life in  
our vibrant communities  
is thriving!*



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