

# Executive Summary



The County of Peterborough and its urban centre- the City of Peterborough, are located in the east central area of Ontario. Peterborough City-County is also part of the Greater Golden Horseshoe of Southern Ontario, one of the most rapidly growing regions in North America. Located on the north eastern edge of the GGH, Peterborough is unique among regions in this area, having a much lower commuting population and experiencing a more self-contained local/regional economy. With its many lakes and beautiful landscapes, Peterborough also attracts many people from the Greater Toronto Area who wish to indulge in summer cottages or recreational activities.

There are many characteristics of this area that make it an ideal community for walking and cycling. The median commuting distance in the City of Peterborough is only 4.2 km yet 82% of commuters use a car to get to work. Peterborough also has a high senior population (19%) and 12% of the population does not have access to a vehicle. The City is also quite compact and dense which creates ideal distances for walking and cycling. The City and County is growing in population (19% and 12% respectively by 2031) which represents a tremendous opportunity to guide future development. With the proper pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, Peterborough has tremendous potential to become a more walkable, bikeable, and people-oriented community.

On Wednesday September 30th, 2009 members of the 8-80 Cities team facilitated a full day workshop to gather ideas from stakeholders on how to improve the overall walk-ability, bike-ability, and quality of life in the City of Peterborough. That afternoon, 8-80 Cities also met with members of the Mayor's Youth Council and in the evening held a Community Forum open to the public. 8-80 Cities also facilitated a smaller workshop for the County of Peterborough on Thursday October 1st. Recommendations distilled from the discussions, surveys, Group Activity Sheets and group presentations from the various sessions are compiled and summarized in the "What You Said" section of this report.

Key recommendations from the City of Peterborough included improving the techniques of snow removal on sidewalks and bike lanes, implementing Car-Free Sundays, ensuring that cars do not park in bike lanes, and incorporating a Complete Streets Policy into the planning of new streets and reconstruction of existing streets.

Key recommendations from the County of Peterborough included integrating pedestrian and cycling trails and routes into the County's planning procedures, building the Bridgenorth trail according to plans, and implementing Community Improvement Plans throughout the county.

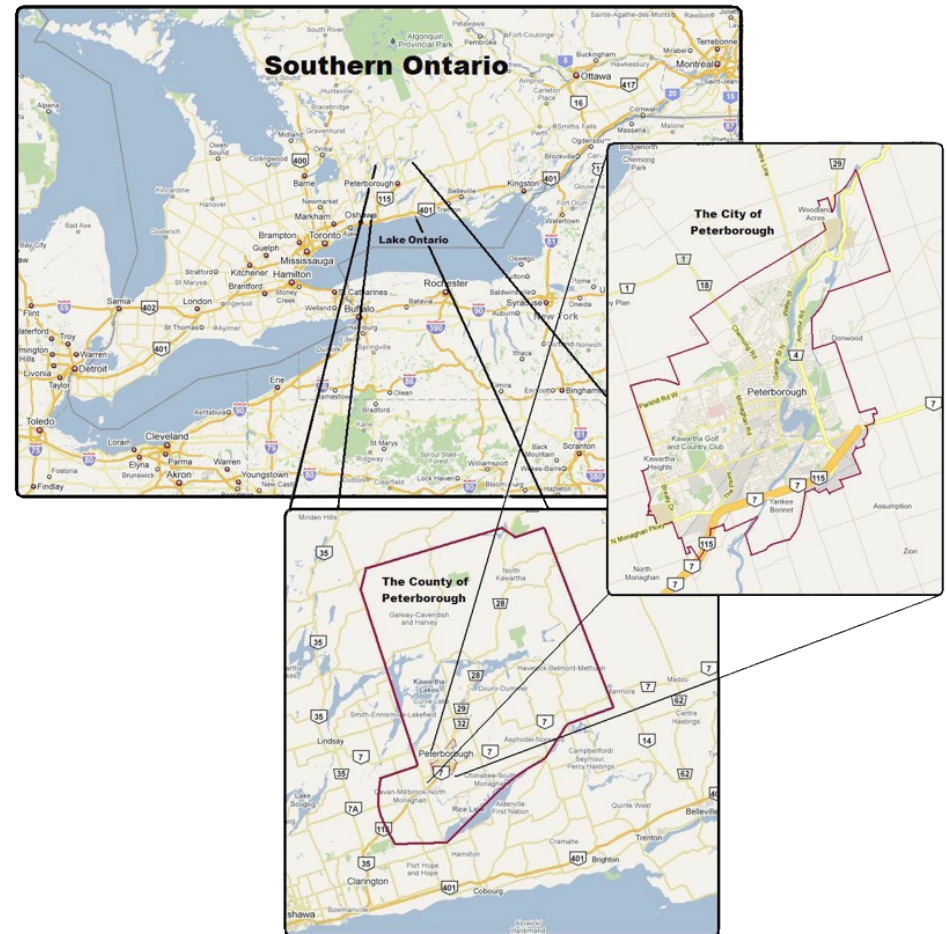


Figure 1: Map of the City and County of Peterborough. Peterborough is located in the central east area of Ontario.