

Usborne, ON

Twillingate, NF

Seguin, ON



Néguac, NB

Pic Mobert

Lot 16, PE

Benito, MB

Indian Brook, NS

Rhineland, MB

Springhill, NS

Okanese 82, SK

Blissfield, NB

Spalding, SK

Winterton, NF

Wood River, SK

Taschereau, QC

Hussar, AB

St-Roch-de-Mékinac, QC

Ferintosh, AB

Ste-Françoise, QC

Girouxville, AB

Cap-à-l'aigle, QC

Tumbler Ridge, BC

Armagh, QC

Mackenzie, BC

St-Damase, QC

Port Alice, BC

N. Plantagenet, ON

Upper Liard



Tweed, ON

Arctic Bay, NV

Carden, ON

This is booklet number 2 in the NRE “What Have We Learned” series

For information on other available booklets, please contact us at:

The New Rural Economy Project
Concordia University
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
1455 de Maisonneuve, West
Montréal QC H3G 1M8

Telephone: (514) 848-2139

Fax: (514) 848-4539

or via email at
nre@vax2.concordia.ca

or visit our website at
nre.concordia.ca

Booklet Contributors

Andy Bowers
Cindy Bryant
Mike Burns
Roger des Ormeaux
Marie-Odile Magnan
Isabelle Marceau
Andrea Sharkey
Sara Teitelbaum
Deatra Walsh
Anna Woodrow

Caution: These findings vary up to 8%!

When conducting a study that involves a sample, researchers are cautious about how they interpret the results. This is because they can never be certain that the findings will represent the whole population from which the sample was drawn.

For this survey, the ‘whole population’ is represented by the total number of households found within each selected NRE site. When you are reading these results, please keep in mind that any of these findings could vary by 8%.

WHAT DID WE LEARN IN 2001?

This is the fifth year of the New Rural Economy Project (NRE). It is an exciting time, since we are now reaping the fruits of our collaboration and hard work. This document is a small part of the harvest.

You will find two major sections in this booklet.



Ray Bollman (StatCan), Tom Beckley (UNB) and Bill Reimer (NRE)

- The NRE Household Survey 2001. This first section presents a selection of results from our household survey conducted last summer. From May to July, we knocked on doors in 21 of our NRE sites and spoke to people in just under 2000 households. They gave generously of their time and expertise to inform us about their community activities, household organization, challenges, and options regarding a range of rural issues. We have selected a few of the results so you can compare your community to others in your region and across the nation.

- The NRE in the Global context. This section fills you in on NRE events across the nation and around the world. Through its parent organization, the *Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation* (CRRF), we enjoy the support of many other national and international groups. They help us understand how local events and challenges can be rooted in more global processes such as the changing demand for our resources, the introduction of new technologies, or the implementation of policies affecting economic and social programs.

Our collaboration is long-term. After four years of working together, we are enjoying a level of exchange that is exceptional for both our research and education objectives. I was particularly pleased to meet representatives from 15 of the NRE sites who joined us at the CRRF Annual Conference in Muenster, Saskatchewan last October. For three days we compared experiences, visited local projects, and enjoyed each others' company as we searched for new ways to improve the lives of rural Canadians. We invite you to join us this fall at our next meeting in Miramichi, New Brunswick (October 26th to 29th).

This booklet is prepared as part of our continuing discussion about the condition and future of rural Canada. We ask you to read it – not as a finished document – but as a basis for discussion. Let us know whether it makes sense from your point of view – whether it helps you understand what is happening in your community or whether we have overlooked something important. Write us a letter, give us a phone call at (514) 848-2139, e-mail us with your comments (nre@vax2.concordia.ca), or leave them on our web site (<http://nre.concordia.ca>). We will visit your community whenever we can – keep an eye out for us.

Dr. Bill Reimer

NRE Project Director

The NRE Project, Concordia University, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology,
1455 boul de Maisonneuve O., Montréal QC H3G 1M8

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE NRE 2001 HOUSEHOLD SURVEY TEAM

Hussar, AB

Hussar, Alberta is a community of 160 people 100 kilometers east of Calgary. This proximity to a larger center has generated an interesting position for the community as a whole. On one hand, a number of residents are commuting to larger centers like Calgary and Drumheller for work. The possibility also exists for expansion of the village along the lines of a bedroom community. On the other hand, a large increase in population brings with it problems such as decreased community cohesiveness and increased crime. Whatever it decides, this close community will be able to retain its strong sense of self with ease. During the summer of 2001, construction was taking place for a large new skating arena facility in Hussar. Through phenomenal community support and aggressive fund raising, Hussar was able to raise \$900,000 to cover 50% of construction costs. The community also

keenly supports the annual regional rodeo and most residents are active volunteers.



Hussar is poised to look on a brighter future. Though the economy is largely based on agriculture, community members are also benefiting from Alberta's oil and gas boom as well as expansion of livestock operations in the region. As a result of good economic fortunes, people exploring the community will note a large number of new and remodel-

eled homes. The residents of Hussar are cautiously optimistic about its future and are certainly unwilling to allow the community's relative distance from larger centers impede their progress or ability to access what they need. For many, being an hour away from Calgary has given them the best quality of life they can hope for.

Anna Woodrow
NRE Research Manager

Wendy Moellenbeck
Site Researcher

Diane Martz
Site Coordinator

A Note from Myrtle Christensen:

Ab Feradi and I appreciated the cooperation we received from those of the Village of Hussar who gave of their time to take part in an interview and contribute to the bank of materials collected for the Household Survey Project. The community is hopeful that something in tangible terms will be forth coming soon from all the work and time spent in the Hussar Area doing this research. We look forward to hearing from the NRE and working together in developing solutions for the local issues as the people of Hussar see them.



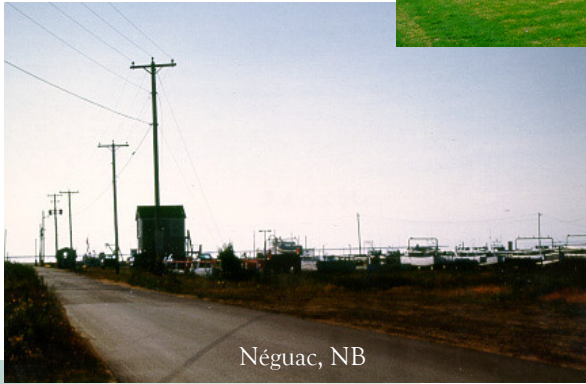
Cap-à-l'aigle, QC



Mackenzie, BC



Lot 16, PE



Néguac, NB



Springhill, NS

The NRE 2001 Household Survey



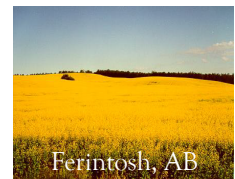
St-Damase, QC



Spalding, SK



Hussar, AB



Ferintosh, AB



Usborne, ON



Carden, ON



Twillingate, NF



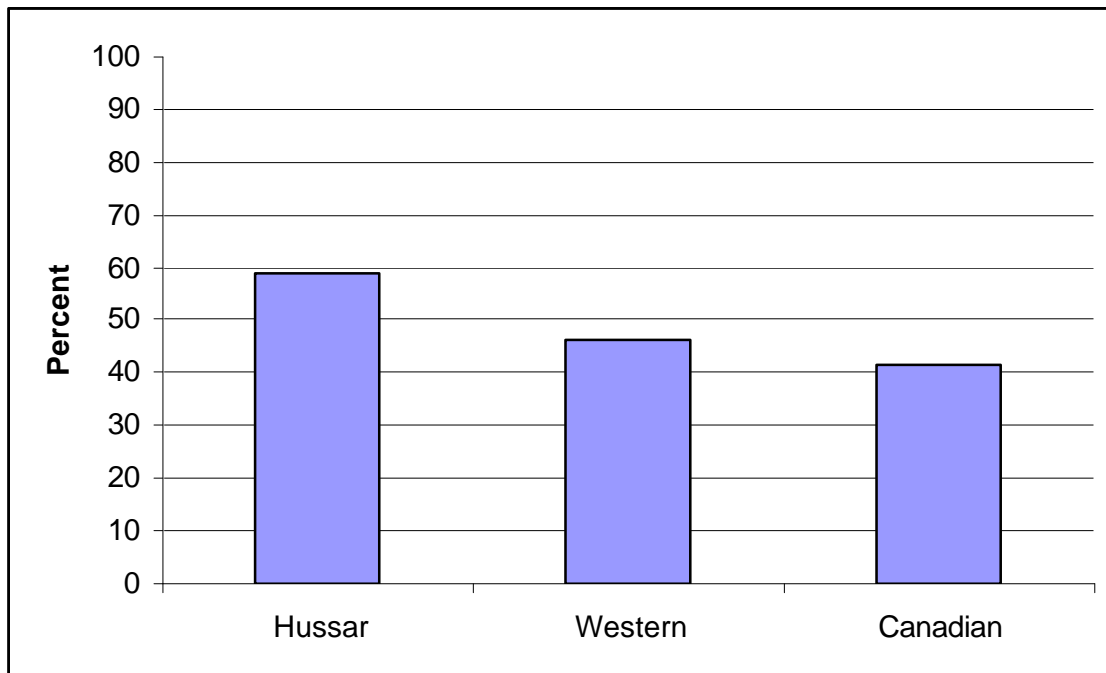
Rhineland, MB

Community Inclusion and Cooperation

One of the things that we tried to measure using the survey was ‘Social Cohesion’. By social cohesion, we mean the extent to which people respond collectively to achieve the outcomes they desire, and to deal with the economic social political or environmental stresses that affect them. It is difficult to measure this, but one way is to find out how residents feel about the cohesion within their community. Another way is to measure how the community works together to provide basic needs and services. This is discussed in the section titled ‘Doing Things for Ourselves and Others’.

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with statements such as: “I feel like I belong in this community”, “I believe my neighbours would help me in an emergency” and “I regularly stop and talk with people in my community”. The answers we received helped us to understand how the community viewed itself, and if they felt the community was able to work together to achieve success.

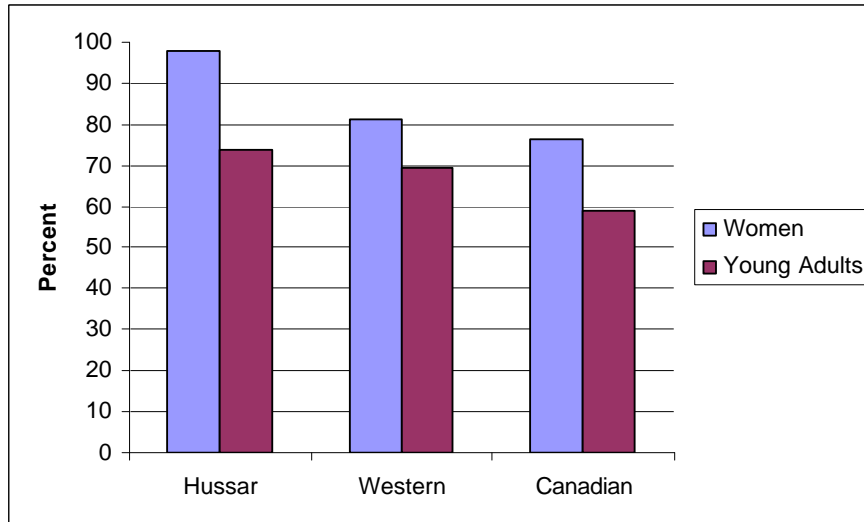
Perceived High Levels of Social Cohesion in the Community



In looking at the above bar chart we find that 59% of the respondents in Hussar feel that their community has a high level of perceived social cohesion compared to 46% for other NRE sites in the West and 42 % for the total Canadian sample.

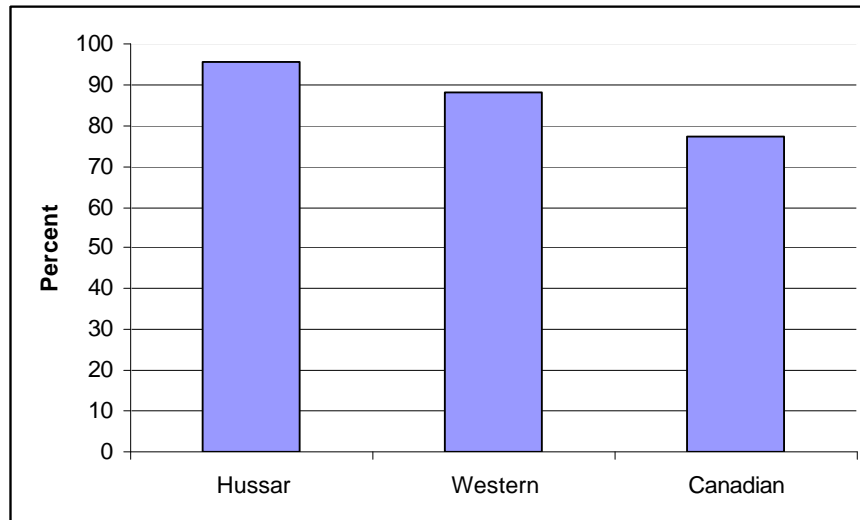
What this suggests is that a high percentage of Hussar respondents feel as though they belong in the community and that the community has a sense of fellowship. This should provide a strong basis for initiating and developing local community activities in the future. Neighbourhood activities that bring people together such as community festivals and celebrations can also potentially increase the community’s social and economic well being.

Perception of Leadership Opportunities for Women and Young Adults



As shown in the bar chart above, residents of Hussar view their community as being open to leadership opportunities for both women and young adults. 98% of the respondents say that the community has leadership opportunities for women, which is higher than both regional and national averages. 74% of respondents say that the same is true for young adults. This is similar to the average for Western Canada, and higher than the national figure.

Perceived Ability of Community to Work Together



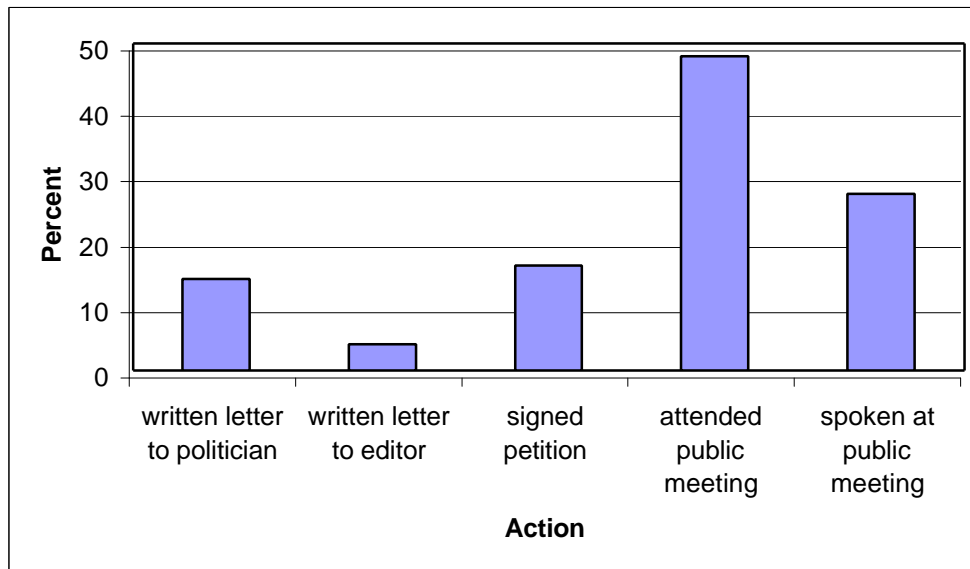
Residents of Hussar feel that community members are willing to work together towards a common goal. The above graph shows that 96% agreed that the community was able to work together, in comparison to 88% of respondents in the other Western sites and 77% of the total Canadian sites. Hussar was one of the highest ranked communities within the total sample for perceived ability to work together with only 2.3% disagreeing.

What this data suggests is that Hussar is a community that is inclusive, a community that is able to cooperate and that the leadership abilities of both women and young adults within the community can possibly contribute to the community's ongoing success.

Taking Action in the Community

As part of the summer survey, we were very interested in how people express their concerns about community issues. To measure this, we asked respondents if they had written a letter to their Mayor, Provincial or Federal government representative, or to a newspaper editor. We also asked if they had signed a petition, attended or spoken at a public meeting in the 12 months previous to the interview.

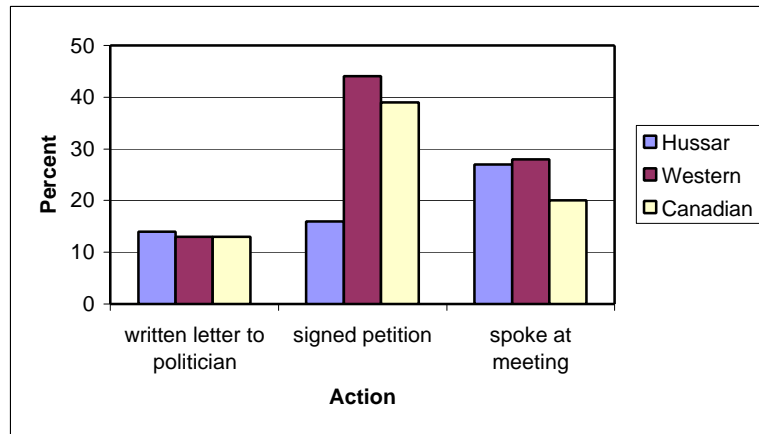
Action Taken in Hussar



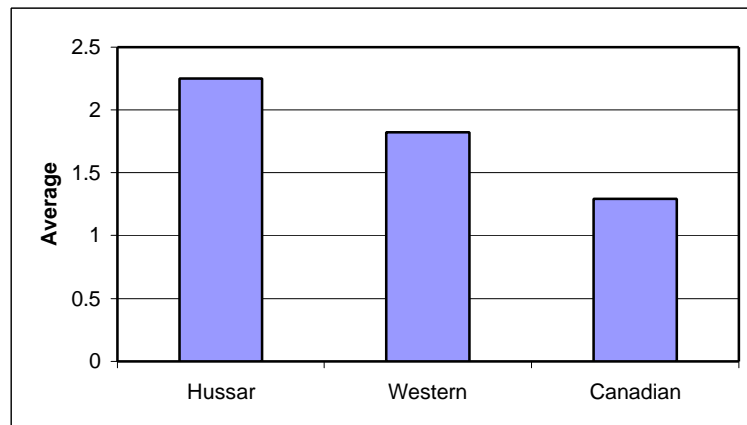
As you can see from the above graph, the results show that in Hussar, 14% of respondents wrote letters to the Mayor, Provincial or Federal representative and 4% wrote letters to a newspaper editor. In Hussar 15% of the respondents had signed a petition, 39% had attended a public meeting and 27% had spoken at a public meeting.

As can be seen in the graph below, the actions taken in Hussar are similar to those taken in Communities in both the Region and the rest of Canada, the exception being that the residents are less likely to sign petitions than other communities. In most cases, respondents were much more likely to attend and speak at meetings, or sign petitions than they were to write letters stating their opinion. Public meetings and petitions are excellent ways of sharing information, gathering public opinion, and reaching a consensus within a community. It is also important that other avenues are used to express opinion, especially those that inform external decision makers.

Action in Hussar compared to Western and Canadian Sites



Average number of organizations per person



In order to understand how a community works together, we measured how many voluntary organisations people within the community belonged to. These might be social clubs, religious groups, or any other type of organised meeting. We took an average per person of the number of groups attended, in order to make the comparison between communities shown in the graph above.

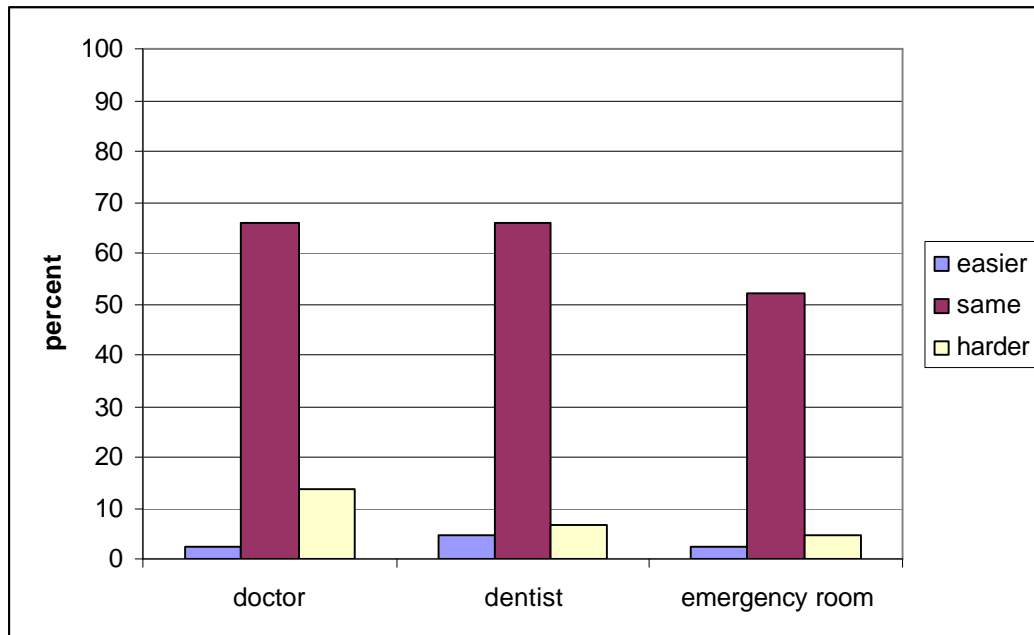
Small groups and communal activities, whether formal or informal, offer a value to the community. While the measure can never be perfect, the number of voluntary organisations that people belong to is a way of understanding the level of social cohesion in a community.

Services In The Community

The basic services that a community receives are key to the quality of life enjoyed by the members of that community. In order to understand them, we looked at the availability and use of basic services such as health care, education, safety and recreation. We asked people to rate if they considered the services to be good, and if they had improved or worsened in the last five years.

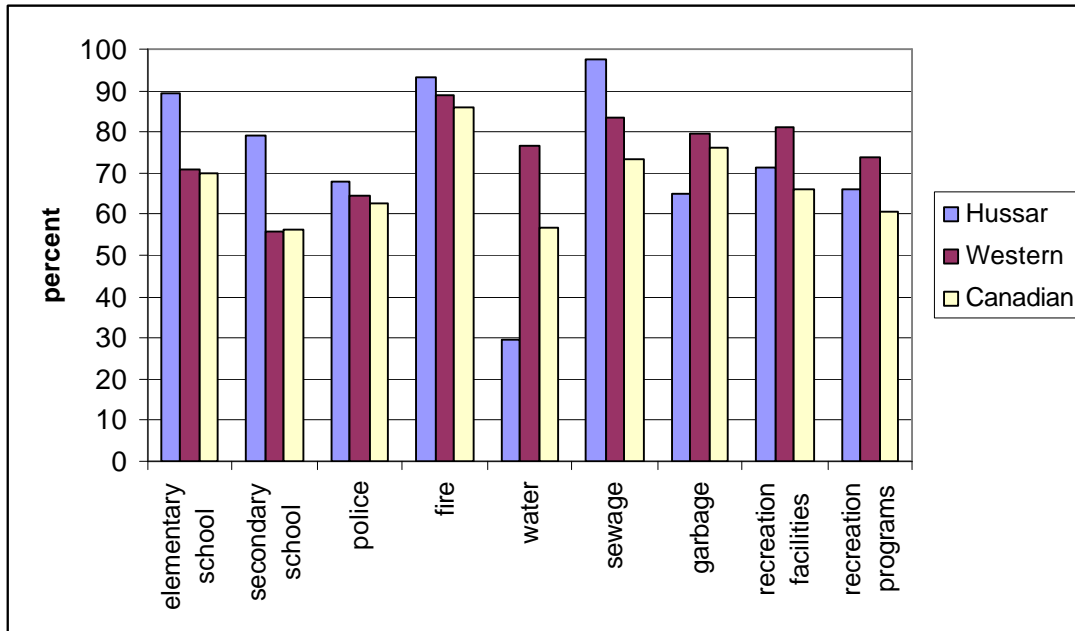
The residents of Hussar have not noticed major changes in access to health services in the past five years. As is seen in the graph below, 66% of respondents claimed their access to a doctor is the same now as five years ago while 13% said it has become more difficult. In the case of the dentist, 66% said access is the same and 7% said it has become more difficult. Although fewer respondents had experience with emergency services, most had not experienced any change. This suggests that Hussar has been able to maintain most of its essential health services during recent years.

Opinions About Health Service Access Compared to Five Years Ago



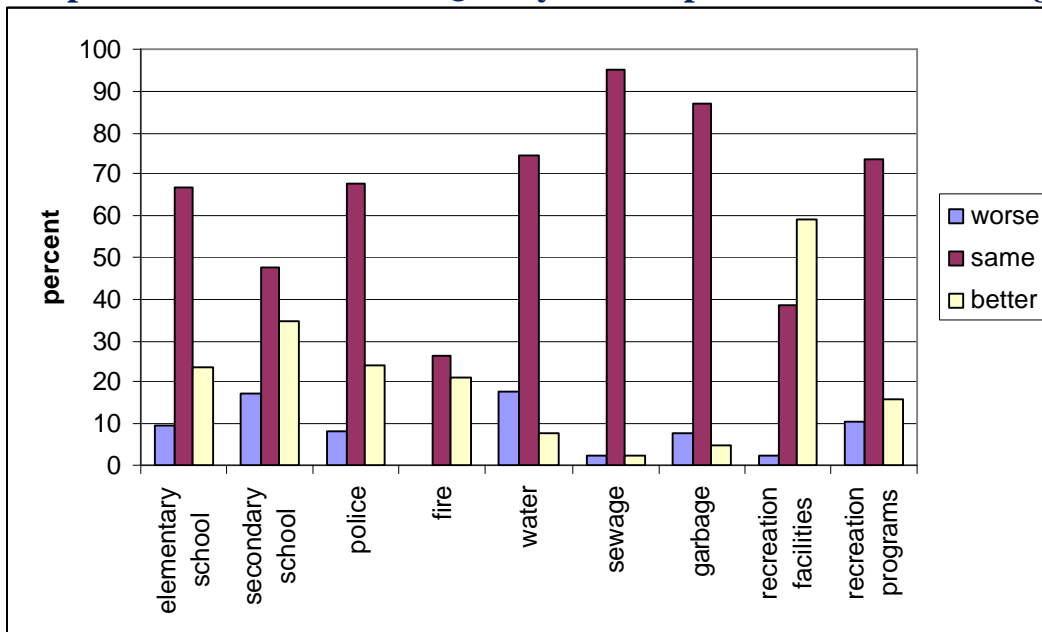
People in Hussar are, in most cases also satisfied with the quality of their local services. In fact, in the case of schools and sewage, residents are more satisfied than Western and Canadian sites surveyed by the NRE. As can be seen in the next graph, 90% of respondents described the elementary school as “good” or “very good” and 80% of respondents described the secondary school likewise. Fire and sewage services got a similarly high approval rate. The one area which showed itself to be very problematic is the water service. Only 30% of respondents were happy with the quality of water services compared to 77% approval in the Western sites and 57% in the Canadian sites.

Respondents who Describe Services as “Good” or “Very Good”



Respondents were asked how these same services have changed over the past 5 years. As is shown in the graph below, most felt that they have stayed the same. The most improvement was seen in the areas of recreation facilities, schools, and police service. For example, a total of 59% of respondents reported seeing improvements in recreation facilities. Water was pointed out as the service which had seen the highest level of reduction in the past five years. Opinion seemed to be divided in the case of the secondary school. Overall however, our results indicate that service provision is relatively non-problematic in Hussar, with the exception of the issue of water.

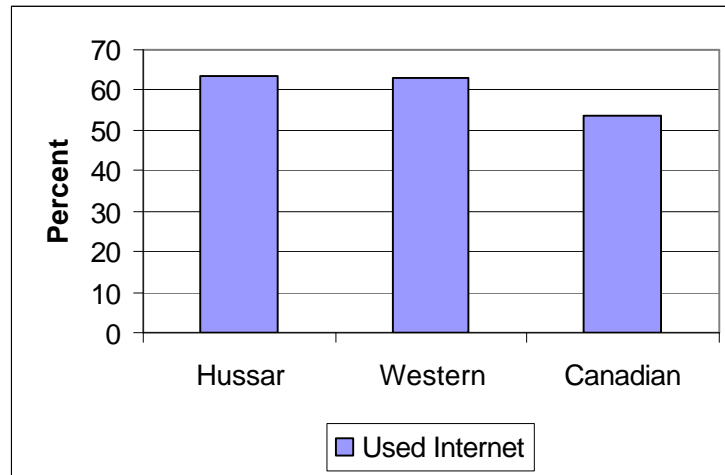
Perceptions of Local Service Quality as Compared to Five Years Ago



Internet in the Community

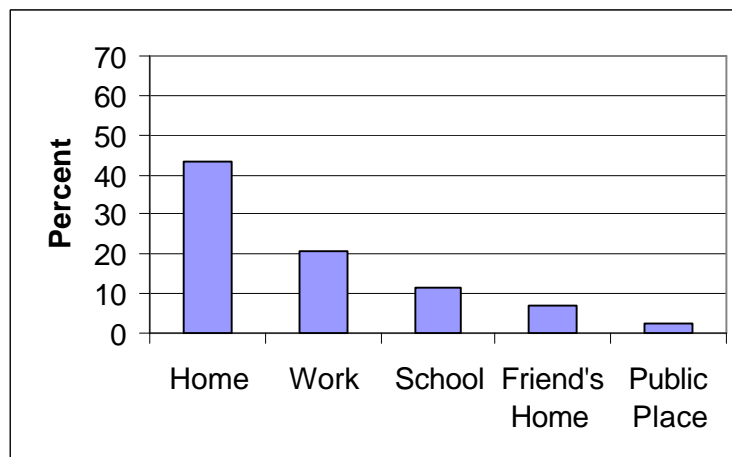
Part of this summer's survey looked at the community's use of the Internet. Questions we asked have helped us to better understand how many people in Hussar use the Internet, where it is used, what for, and opinions about it.

Internet Use in Hussar



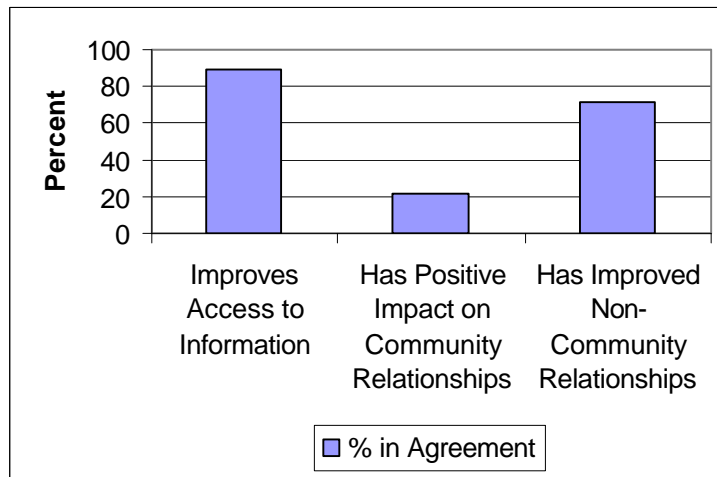
The above graph shows the percentage of people who use the Internet in Hussar, the Western sites, and in all 20 Canadian sites. Here we can see that approximately 64% of the people surveyed in Hussar use the Internet. This is similar to the regional average, and higher than the national average. By adding computers and Internet access to other locations in Hussar and promoting existing public access locations, people who may not have access within the home may be encouraged to get online. Also, by holding "How To" sessions on Internet and computer use for various groups such as the seniors club or youth groups, even more people may feel at ease using these technologies and build upon their existing knowledge.

Locations for Internet Use



The previous graph shows where people in Hussar tend to use the Internet. The most common place is at home and the least common place is in a public location such as a library or community centre. The top three locations being home, work and school suggest that people of different ages and occupations can get online and access the information they need.

Opinions About the Internet



This last graph depicts how people in Hussar feel about the Internet and its impact on their lives. 22% of those people interviewed think that the Internet has a positive impact on their relationships with people inside the community which could suggest that people prefer to communicate in different ways with other people from within Hussar. 71% of the people interviewed in Hussar felt that the Internet has improved their relationships with people outside of the community. 89% of respondents felt that the Internet has improved their access to information. The fact that so many respondents feel that the Internet has improved access to information may reflect people’s growing knowledge about navigating through the World Wide Web and an increased comfort level with this technology. Again, “How To” sessions held within the community may help even more people to learn about searching for the information they need and want, and becoming familiar with various advanced search engines, municipal, and national web sites can often help people to find what they are looking for.

Creating a community web site could further contribute to people’s positive feelings about online access as it provides a valuable source of local information. A site that includes details about local events, news, current issues, meetings, and fundraisers could help to provide community members with local knowledge. This type of access not only informs people, but also can bring people together from various parts of the community who may not normally have a chance to interact – certainly a benefit to social cohesion and community spirit.

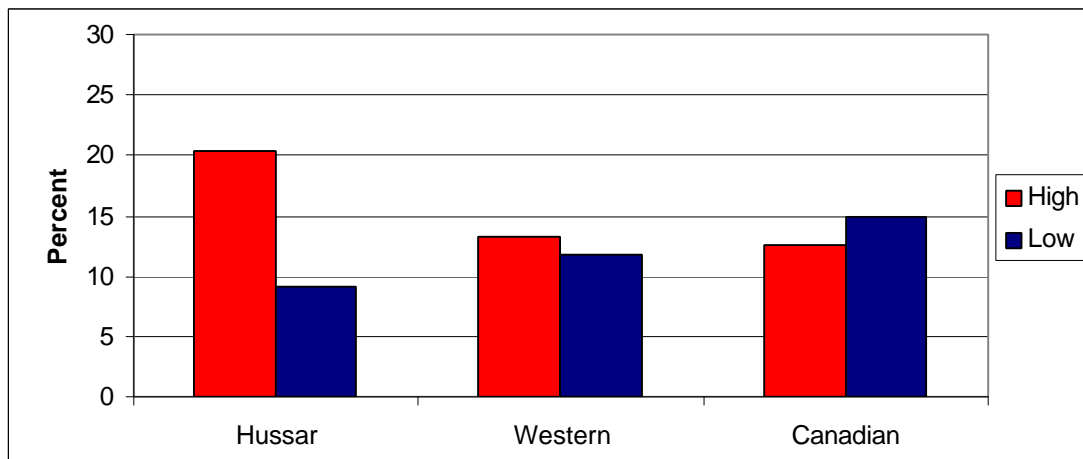
Personal Stress and Household Changes

Changes in personal circumstances, and the stresses that these cause, have a great effect on the residents of any community. In order to understand the changes in a community, and how it was dealt with by the residents, we asked a series of questions about the types of change seen in the last year, how they coped with the change, and whether life in the community was stressful or not. Examples of changes discussed included health, financial, legal, family relationship and child care.

Our survey found that 20% of residents in the community of Hussar described their lives as being very stressful. High levels of stress across the six Western rural communities surveyed ranged from a low of 4% to a high of 21%. The national average indicated that 13% of Canadians described their lives as being very stressful across the 20 rural communities surveyed.

Furthermore, 9% of respondents in Hussar indicated that they had no stress in their lives at all. This proportion is similar to the average of the Western communities and the national average of respondents who had reported no stress in their lives.

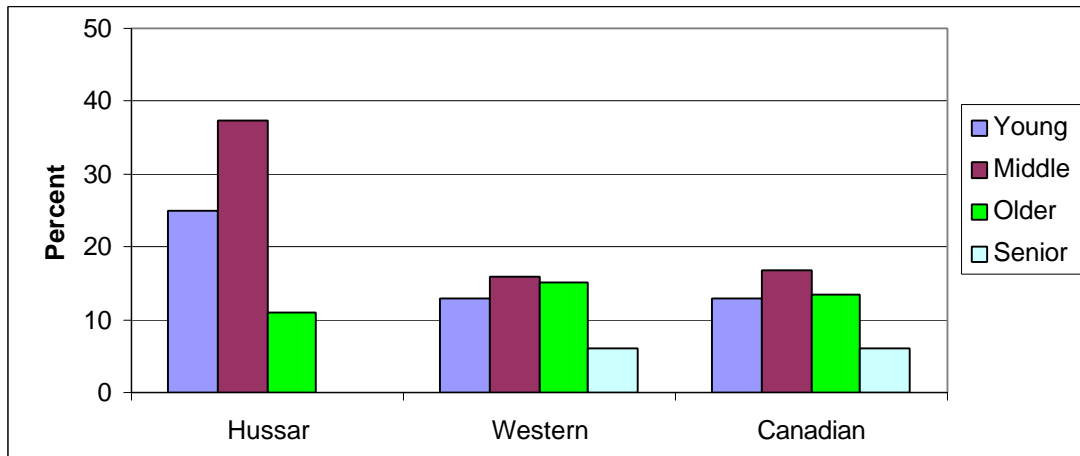
Examining the Levels of Personal Stress



The age of an individual also plays an important role in their level of personal stress. In general, our research across Canada indicated that stress levels tended to peak by middle age (35 to 49 years old) and then began to decline into the later stages of adulthood.

In Hussar, levels of stress were at their highest among middle-aged adults with 38% of middle-aged adults indicating that they were very stressed, the highest across the 20 communities surveyed (as indicated on the following graph). Remaining consistent with Canadian and Western trends, seniors (65 years old and up) in Hussar represented the smallest proportion of stressed individuals across the age groups surveyed. In fact, there were no seniors in Hussar who reported high levels of stress in their daily lives.

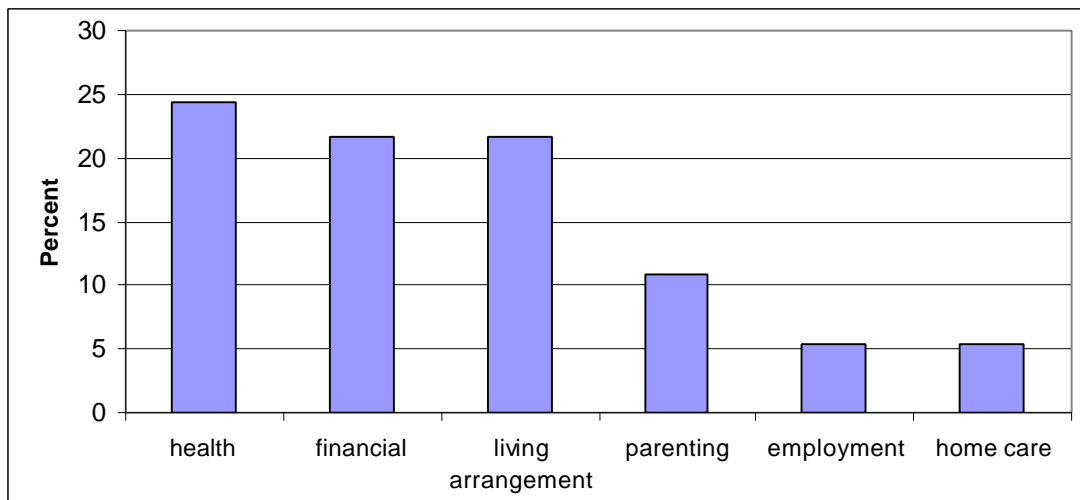
Examining High Levels of Stress Across Various Age Groups



Household Changes

Households experience many different types of changes throughout the course of a year and the impact of each of these changes varies from household to household and from one community to another. In the community of Hussar, 80% of households experienced at least one change over the past 12 months. Of these households, about 1 in 4 reported that a health change had the greatest impact on their household. Changes in living arrangements and financial changes were a close second each representing about 22% of households.

Changes That Had the Greatest Impact on Households in Hussar



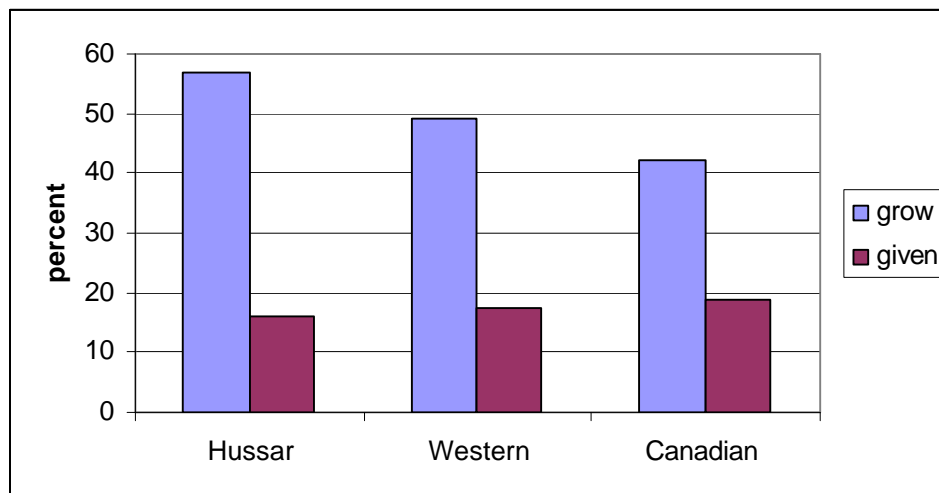
The fact that financial and living arrangement changes were among the top three major changes experienced by households in Hussar could explain why a significantly high proportion of middle-aged adults experienced high levels of stress in their lives.

Doing Things For Ourselves And Others

In the section titled ‘Community Inclusion and Co-operation’ we measured social cohesion using resident’s views of the community they live in, and how that community works together. In this section we look at how residents in the community help one another with basic needs and services. This allows us to measure cohesion within the community on a practical level. Doing things for others contributes to a community not just by providing basic needs and services, but by possibly increasing communication and understanding between residents, which may lead to greater unity.

We looked at some basic household needs, such as wood, vegetables, fruit and game. We asked if residents grew or collected these themselves, and if they gave or received them from others. We also asked about basic skills and services that people within the communities shared. The reports on each community only include those basic needs that are relevant to that community.

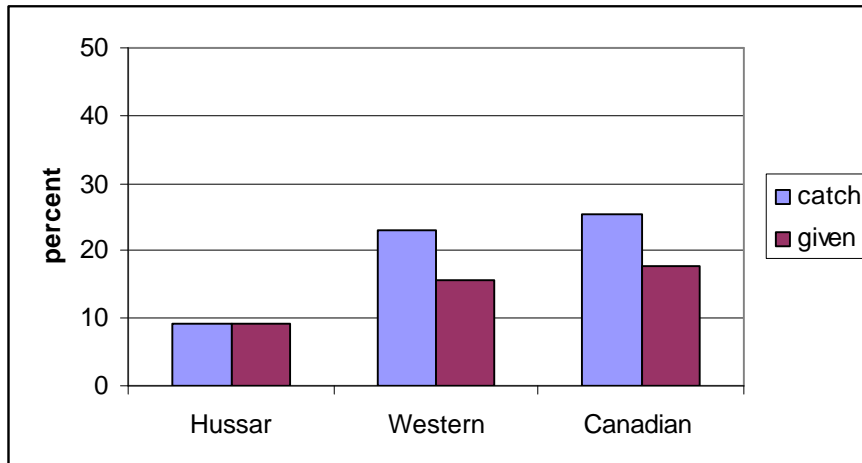
Households that Grow or are Given Vegetables



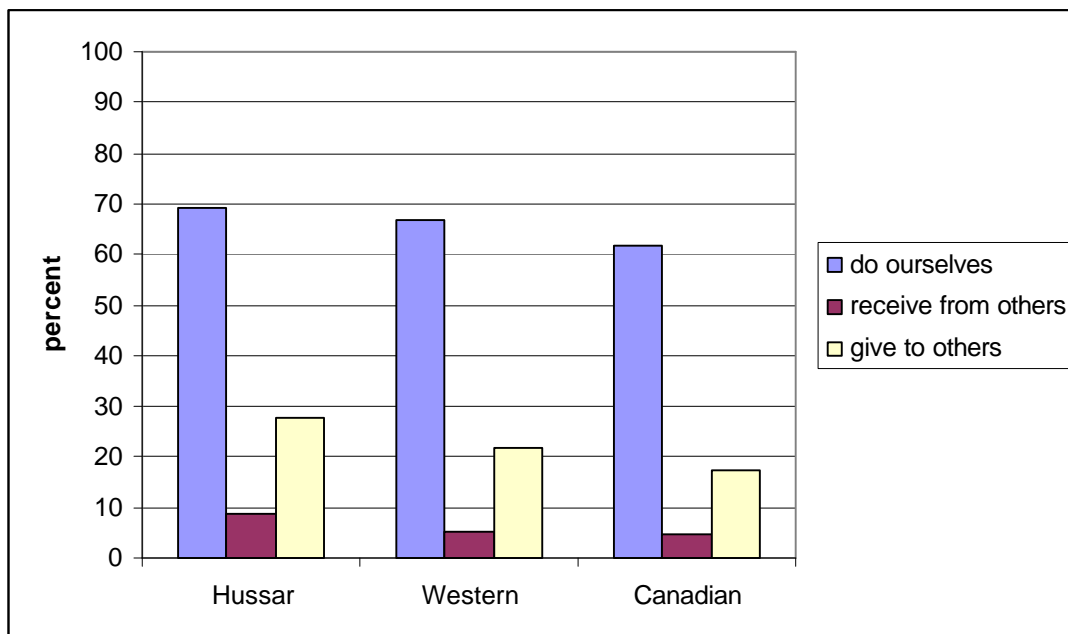
Land-based activities are important in Hussar. For example 73% of survey respondents either grow their own vegetables or receive vegetables from friends, neighbours and other acquaintances free-of-charge. As is seen in the graph above, the proportion of vegetable growers is similar to the Western sites and higher than the Canadian sites. Sharing of vegetables is on par with the other sites. The growing and sharing of foods can be an important addition to more conventional economic activities especially during times of economic difficulty.

As the graph on the next page shows, hunting is less popular in Hussar than the rest of the region, or the national average. The level of sharing is similar to the regional average, but below the national average, but this may just be a function of the low level of hunting undertaken.

Households that Hunt or are Given Wild Game



Households that Provide and Receive Skills and Services Free-of-Charge

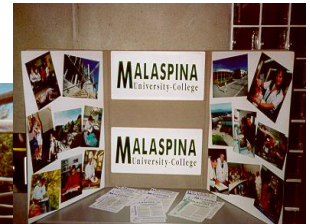


As a means to measure self-reliance our survey also looked at a number of other activities such as carpentry, painting, sewing and mechanical work. In the graph above you will see an index which combines several of these variables (specifically painting, sewing, housework, babysitting, repairs, technical help, snow removal and lawn care). The graph above reports on the percentage of respondents who do these things themselves, receive them free-of-charge from others or provide them to others free-of-charge.

Here again we see that a large number of people in Hussar, as in the Western and Canadian sites do these activities themselves. The levels of both carrying out tasks, and doing them for others are similar to regional averages, and both above the national average. The activities that respondents are most likely to do themselves are transportation, housework and lawn care. The ones respondents are most likely to pay cash for are automobile/boat repair, technical work and painting.



The NRE in the global context



THE NRE RESEARCH SITES IN BRIEF



One of the older coastal communities in Newfoundland, the traditional fishing town of **WINTERTON** is nestled along Trinity Bay on the Northwestern side of the Avalon Peninsula. Winterton is home to approximately 600 people, many of whom are employed by the local fish plant and various service industries in the area. To celebrate its heritage and beauty, the town has established a boat-building museum, and most recently a spectacular board walk.



TWILLINGATE, an island community along the central North Coast of Newfoundland, is said to be the iceberg capital of the world. Home to about 3,000 people, Twillingate has traditionally been one of the most prominent fishing ports in Newfoundland. Although it has felt the effects of the cod moratorium, Twillingate continues to support a growing tourism industry and hosts the internationally acclaimed Fish, Fun and Folk festival every year in July.



Encompassing the communities of Belmont, Central Lot 16 and Southwest Lot 16, **LOT 16** is an unincorporated area located about 15 minutes northwest of Summerside, PEI. With a population of approximately 650 people, Lot 16 is known for its involvement in the agricultural sector as it is home to both dairy and potato farming. Residents of Lot 16 place high value on family and togetherness, with community groups such as the 4H Club, the Women's Institute and the Senior Citizen's Club gathering on a regular basis at local churches and the community hall.



SPRINGHILL, with an approximate population of 4,200 people, is located in the Northwestern part of Nova Scotia. Since the end of its traditional mining backbone, Springhill has been working hard to diversify itself in the areas of tourism, geothermal development and manufacturing. It is home to the Anne Murray Centre, the Miners' Museum and celebrates an annual Irish Festival filled with traditional dancing, music and other cultural events.



BLISSFIELD, an unincorporated parish of about 700 people, is located along the Miramichi River, next to Doaktown. Because it is surrounded by natural resources and spectacular scenery, Blissfield has relied on forestry, fishing and tourism to support the local economy. For six days in July 2000, Blissfield organized the Doaktown Fair and Reunion, a celebration which revived community spirit and encouraged community action.



NEGUAC, a highly bilingual community along the Southern end of New Brunswick's Acadian Peninsula, is home to about 1,700 people. Traditionally, residents of Néguaac have relied mainly on the forest and fishing industries for their livelihood, but as these resources become more unstable, the community has been seeking economic support in other areas such as manufacturing and tourism. Through the local Historical Society and events such as Rendez-Vous Néguaac, the community is able to promote its heritage.



The town of **ST. DAMASE** is located in the St. Lawrence valley, only 45 minutes east of Montréal. The population, currently at about 1,500, has been gradually increasing as St. Damase promotes a solid economic base in agriculture and food processing industries. With numerous social clubs and organizations, along with annual events such the Festival du Maïs, the people of St. Damase encourage togetherness and community spirit.



CAP-A-L'AIGLE is a picturesque little town located on the edge of the St. Lawrence river in Québec, with a population of about 710 people. The community's picturesque nature, tourism and recreation are the main drivers of the economy. However many members of the community work in neighbouring areas. One important event for Cap-à-L'aigle is the Fête des Lilas which includes 3 days of activities to bring the town together.

THE NRE RESEARCH SITES IN BRIEF



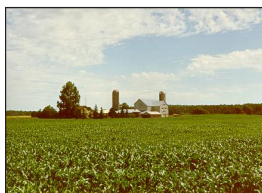
STE. FRANÇOISE is a charming community located south of Trois-Pistoles about fifty kilometers east of Rivière-du-Loup, in the region of the Lower Saint-Lawrence. The economic engine of this community of 467 people is its agro-forestry industry. There are also about ten commercial dairy farms in the area and many small farms that operate on a part-time basis. Each year, the Fête de Noël festival is celebrated by the residents of Ste. Françoise.



TASCHEREAU is a small town in Québec located in Central Abitibi between the communities of La Sarre and Amos. With a population of approximately 640, Tashereau has no shortage of water with 12 lakes and 7 rivers in the immediate area. With an entrance to the beautiful Aiguebelle Park, this town benefits from tourism. Forestry is also an extremely important industry as it employs almost 50% of the community.



Previously a township, **CARDEN**, Ontario has now amalgamated to be part of the City of Kawartha Lakes and is home to approximately 880 people year round. This number swells to over 1,300 in the summer as cottage season takes hold. While many people work outside of Carden, there's a growing aggregate industry here. The Carden Fair and the Alvar Plains are just some of the great reasons to visit.



USBORNE, previously its own township, is now part of the Municipality of South Huron, Huron County. It is located just north of London, Ontario and to the east of Lake Huron. With a population of about 1,500, Usborne's economy is rooted in the cash-crop and livestock industries; in fact, approximately 40% of the workforce is involved with farming. One of the major events which this town enjoys is the Kirkton Fair.



TWEED is a scenic Ontario town located just north of Belleville, between Toronto and Ottawa. It is home to approximately 1,600 people and acts as a service centre to the surrounding rural area. It has a mixed economic base of tourism, retirement functions, retail, and agricultural services. The Heritage Centre and renowned Flowerama Festival are two of Tweed's major attractions.



Located in Northeastern Ontario at the Southern tip of the Parry Sound District, **SEGUIN TOWNSHIP** is a recent amalgamation of several smaller communities. Its permanent population is about 3,400, but this number nearly quadruples as cottagers arrive each Summer. Tourism is one of Seguin's main industries and this beautiful area is not to be missed. Events like the Foley Fall Fair and the Winter Frolic bring the community together.



The Rural Municipality (RM) of **RHINELAND** is a cluster of communities, villages and farms in Southern Manitoba located along the border with North Dakota. The main communities of Altona, Plum Coulee and Gretna are small service centres and home to most of the 4,200 people living in the RM. The vibrant blue, yellow and gold fields in midsummer show Rhineland's strength in agriculture and annual festivals throughout the Summer draw tourists from around the province and the world.



The Municipality of **WOOD RIVER**, located in Southern Saskatchewan southeast of Moose Jaw, is home to about 980 people. Ranching and mixed farming are the main livelihoods in the municipality, and the town of Lafleche acts as the main service centre for the area. From their Crazy Canuk Days in the summer to the Curling Bonspiel in the winter, this community demonstrates a lively spirit year-round.

THE NRE RESEARCH SITES IN BRIEF



Home to approximately 280 people, **SPALDING** is located in Central Saskatchewan, northeast of Saskatoon. This small community acts as the service centre for the larger area of Spalding Rural Municipality. Historically rooted in agriculture, Spalding also has an innovative Geographical Information Systems business which connects truckers to farmers for grain transportation. The Fall Supper and Winterfest are just some of the events which bring community members together.



Home to 150 residents, **FERINTOSH** is located 125km southeast of Edmonton, Alberta. Ferintosh has proved to be a resilient community in the wake of many changes that occurred in the mid 1970's. It was able to adapt by bringing in outside industry (fibre optics terminals and public utility cooperatives) and by maintaining a strong volunteer base. The Church Suppers and the Snowmobile Rally help bring people together to express Ferintosh's community spirit.



HUSSAR, with a population of approximately 160, is located in Southern Alberta about 100km east of Calgary. Its economy is based in agriculture, oil and gas, and Hussar's adjacency to Calgary has also been an influence. The town recently raised money and built a new arena and sports complex. Hussar also celebrates community pride and spirit through such events as the Curling Bonspiel and the Summerdaze Rodeo.



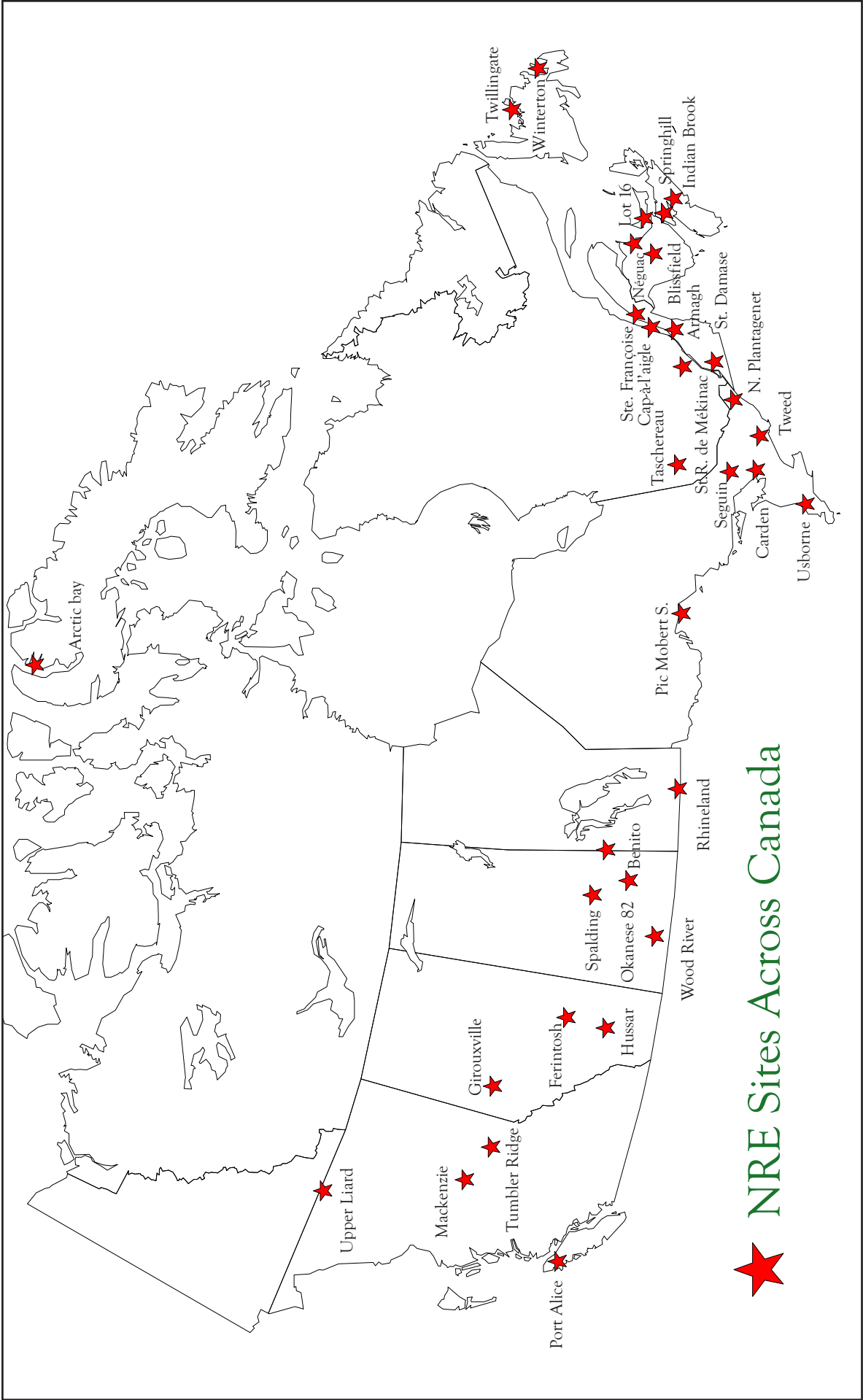
TUMBLER RIDGE, incorporated in 1981, is located in the Eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Northern BC. With an approximate population of 3,000, the town has relied mostly on coal mining but is working hard to diversify to include forestry, oil and gas, and tourism through newly established provincial parks and protected areas. Every August, the annual Grizzly Valley Days is held to promote community togetherness through family activities, sports, and games.



With a population of about 6,000, **MACKENZIE** is located in North Central British Columbia. Its economic base is grounded in forestry and it started out as an "instant town", planned and developed by a forestry company to be a regional processing centre. The annual Alexander Mackenzie Days is just one event which helps to bring Mackenzie's families closer, with entertainment, crafts, and games.



NRE
 THE NEW RURAL ECONOMY



★ NRE Sites Across Canada



Understanding the New Rural Economy: Options and Choices

a project of
The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
May, 2002

The New Rural Economy Project (NRE) is a five-year research and education program underway in rural Canada. It is a collaborative undertaking bringing together rural people, policy-analysts, researchers, the business community, and government agencies at all levels to identify and address vital rural issues. It is conducted at the national level with historical and statistical data analysis, and at the local level with case studies involving community and household surveys.

The project will produce:

- **learning forums** to discuss and debate opportunities, options, and choices that include the interests of all rural Canadians and stakeholders;
- documented **recommendations** for long run rural business performance, inclusive development, and public policy; and
- **informed questions** on new issues, unimaginable in the present, but requiring timely answers for the future.

The project is conducted within the framework of 5 social cohesion themes:

- **economy**
- **service**
- **capacity**
- **communication**
- **governance**

Since its inauguration in May, 1997 the project has held 10 national workshops and conferences, prepared a number of major reports, established a Centre for Rural Data, profiled 32 carefully selected rural sites for research and education activities, and organized a network of 33 partners, 22 researchers, 19 universities, and 18 government departments across Canada. Through its connection with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF), the NRE project has involved over 100 partners and created a research and education network of international stature. Representation from Canada is complemented by colleagues from Europe, Mexico, and Japan.

For further information see the CRRF Web site: www.crrf.ca, the NRE Web page: nre.concordia.ca or contact:

Anna Woodrow, Research Manager
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Concordia University,
1455 boul. de Maisonneuve Ouest.,
Montréal, QC, CANADA, H3G 1M8

tel: (514) 848-2139; fax (514) 848-4539;
e-mail: WOODROW@VAX2.CONCORDIA.CA



Understanding the New Rural Economy: Options and Choices

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

May, 2002

Research Products

1. **Sampling Frame** designed and **32 Sites Identified** on 5 critical dimensions
2. Data Centre expanded with site profiles, reports, photo gallery and other research tools
3. *Site Profiles* prepared for 25 field sites
4. Household Survey database, summer 2001
5. *Rural Canada Database* developed (1986, 1991, 1996)
6. Report: **A Preliminary History of Rural Development Policy and Programmes in Canada, 1945-1995**
7. Report: **Analysis of Leading and Lagging Census Sub-Divisions in Rural Canada**
8. Report: **Economic Integration and Isolation of First Nations Communities: An Exploratory Review**
9. Report: **Access to Federal Government Services in Rural Canada: Field Site Findings**
10. Report: **Predictability and Trapping: Under Conditions of Globalization of Agricultural Trade**
11. Report: **Review of the Literature Relating to the Role and Impact of Government Involvement in Rural Canada**
12. Report: **Dynamics of the New Rural Economy: An Exploration of Community-Sponsored Research from Huron County** (edited by Tony Fuller and Paul Nichol, 1999) Guelph: University of Guelph
13. Report: **Voluntary Organizations in Rural Canada: Survey Results**
14. Report: **An Education Strategy for Voluntary Organizations in Rural Canada**
15. Report: **Leading and Lagging Sites in Rural Canada: a Literature Review**
16. Report: **Leading and Lagging Census Sub-Divisions: Statistical Summary**
17. Report: An Analysis of the NRE Sample Sites Using Taxfiler Data
18. Report: **Self-Employment in Rural Canada: Statistical Summary**
19. Report: **Rural Small and Medium Enterprises: A Review of the Literature**
20. Report: **Cooperatives in Rural Development – Literature Review**
21. Report: **A Sample frame for Rural Canada: Design and Evaluation**
22. Report: **The Role of Small Businesses in Community Economic Development**
23. Report: **The Long Run Role of Institutions in Fostering Community Economic Development: A Comparison of Leading and Lagging in Rural Communities**
24. Book: *Gouvernance et territoires ruraux. Eléments d'un débat sur la responsabilité du développement* (Sous la direction de Mario Carrier et Serge Côté, 2000) Ste Foy: Presses de l'Université du Québec
25. Report: **How Researchers Approached Communities and Implemented the Protocols in 26 Sites Across Canada**
26. Report: **Factors of Growth in Rural Regions: Identifying Policy Priorities – Canadian Case Studies**
27. Network/Learning Forums: **CRRF National Workshops** (North Bay ON, 1997; St.Donat QC, 1998; Newtown NF, 1999; Nanaimo BC, 2000; Sackville NB, 2001) **CRRF National Conferences** (Charlottetown PE, 1997; Nelson BC, 1998; Trois-Pistoles QC, 1999; Alfred ON, 2000; Meunster SK, 2001)
28. **Powerpoint presentations available online**

Current and Planned Projects

1. Conceptualizing and Measuring Community Capacity
2. Complex and Dynamic Systems in Rural Canada
3. Social Cohesion and Social Capital in Rural Canada
4. Four systems (Bureaucratic Relations; Associative Relations, Market Relations and Communal Relations)
5. Governance and Local Participation
6. Communication Tools, Internet and Identity
7. Mobilization of Youth
8. Services in Rural Areas
9. Building Capacity in Agricultural Communities
10. Home Care and Health in Rural Canada
11. NRE Spring Workshop 2002, May 8 - 12, Altona, MB; CRRF Rural University (Miramichi, NB October, 2002)

NOTE: items in **bold** can be found via the CRRF web page: www.crrf.ca or the NRE web page: nre.concordia.ca ;
items in *italics* are available to NRE researchers and partners via the NRE web page

Upcoming Attractions

Network/Learning Forums:

- ~ NRE Spring Workshop (Altona, MB) May 8 - 12, 2002
- ~ CARCI Agricultural Capacity Building Workshop (Altona, MB) May, 2002
- ~ CRRF Annual Rural University Conference, Miramichi, NB; October 27-29, 2002
- ~ 3rd Annual Community Partners' Round-Table, Miramichi, NB; October 26, 2002
- ~ CARCI Agricultural Capacity Building Round-Table, October, 2002

Books: 2002/2003

- ~ Social Cohesion in Rural and Small Town Canada
- ~ Challenges and Opportunities: A Portrait of Rural and Small Town Canada
2003/2004
- ~ Rethinking Rural, Remote, and Small Town Canada
- ~ Conducting Collaborative, Comparative Research in Rural Canada

Reports:

- ~ Literature Review of Services in rural Canada
- ~ Social Capacity in rural Canada - Theoretical Discussion
- ~ Social Capacity - Policy Implications
- ~ Subsistence in rural Canada
- ~ Four Systems of Support
- ~ Social Economy (CURA/ARUC)
- ~ Literature Reviews and Indicators for Social Capital and Social Cohesion
- ~ High/Low capability and the presence of communications tools in rural communities.
- ~ Communications and youth migration
- ~ Communications on social cohesion
- ~ Health and Internet use in rural areas
- ~ Methodological Implications and Design of a national research project
- ~ Building Capacity in Agricultural Communities (CARCI)
- ~ Home Care and Health in rural Canada

Presentations:

- ~ Popular Culture Association Meetings, March 13-16, 2002
- ~ Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association Meetings, Social Sciences and
Humanities Congress, Toronto, May 29 - June 30, 2002
- ~ Session Organizers:
- ~ Ivan Emke - Rurality
- ~ D. Wilkinson - Social Cohesion
- ~ A. Woodrow - Boundaries in Field Research

- ~ International Sociological Association Meetings, Brisbane Australia, July 7 - 13, 2002