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Charity Casino Impact Study

Report Of The Pre-Opening Phase In Lambton County

Prepared for:
Ontario Substance Abuse Bureau
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Part 1: Introduction : Charity Casinos and the Charity Casino Impact Study

In the spring of 1998, the Government of Ontario announced plans to create four new "charity casinos" in selected locations across the province where a community referendum had supported this initiative: Sault Ste. Marie, Brantford, Point Edward and Thunder Bay. Smaller than the existing "commercial casinos" at Windsor and Niagara Falls, and with a lower maximum number of table games and slot machines, the charity casinos were designed to replace the roving "Monte Carlo" casinos which had operated in various locations throughout the province and raised funds for participating charitable organizations.

The Charity Casino Impact Study is designed to monitor the social and economic effects of introducing these four new charity casinos. (In addition, the Study will examine the effects of the introduction of 450 slot machines into Hiawatha Horse Park in Sarnia, which is adjacent to the Point Edward site, since it was recognized that it would be impossible to separate the effects of the Point Edward casino from those of the Hiawatha expansion.) This Study, funded by the provincial Ministry of Health Substance Abuse Bureau, will track data on a wide range of socio-economic conditions in the four communities, obtain opinion and impressions from a wide range of community members, and facilitate community discussions of the opportunities and challenges created by the new charity casinos. The basic design of the Study is a comparison over time of the trends in social and economic factors in the communities before and after the arrival of the new gaming opportunities embodied in the new charity casinos (and slot machines at Hiawatha Horse Park).[1] The Study draws on both existing data on social and economic factors, and new information created specifically for the research.

This report is the first in a series of reports due to come out of the Charity Casino Impact Study. It is divided into three parts:

Part One- This Introduction

Part Two – Survey Results

1. As of this writing, only the charity casinos in Sault Ste. Marie and Brantford, and the slot machines at Hiawatha Horse Park have been opened. For the sake of simplicity, the text of this Report will normally refer only to the new charity casinos, although in Point Edward/Sarnia, it is to be understood that this includes the slot machines at Hiawatha Horse Park.

In the weeks prior to the opening of the casino, the researchers engaged a professional survey firm, Consumer Contact, to administer a questionnaire to over 1000 residents in Lambton County. The survey asks about perceptions of the community prior to the charity casino, expectations regarding the impact of the charity casino, and gambling habits. About two years following the administration of this survey in each community, a second survey will occur, which will allow the researchers to compare perceptions and reported gambling patterns to those prior to the charity casino arrival.

Part Three – Socio-Economic Indicators

Part Three presents summary data on a series of socio-economic indicators in the community during the "Pre-Opening Period" – before the charity casino opened. It is intended to reflect the patterns observed in certain social and economic factors before the arrival of these new "gaming opportunities". These patterns, occurring in the five years prior to the charity casino opening, will later be contrasted to patterns observed in the years following each opening.

In so doing, this report permits community members and government officials at all levels to have a record of reported perception and gambling behaviour, as well as the available information about the social and economic well-being of the community during the five years prior to the opening of the new gaming opportunities. Such information not only establishes a basis for later comparisons with the "post-opening" patterns, but also allows all concerned to consider what further information should be made available in the years to come, and to begin a process for deciding how to use that information, now and in the future.

Part 2: Survey Results

Chapter 1 : Survey Objectives and Design

1.1 Objectives of the Survey

The Survey which is the subject of this Report is one example of a new data base created for the purpose of the Study. The Survey has two principal objectives:

- to measure changes in the prevalence of problem and pathological gamblers in the population of each community, before and after the introduction of charity casinos; and

- to assess residents' perceptions of economic and social conditions in their communities and measure the expectations which residents have concerning the impact which the new gaming opportunities will have on those conditions; and later, to assess any changes in those perceptions which may have occurred after the charity casino/racetrack slot machines have been in place for some time.

The Pre-Opening Survey for the Charity Casino Impact Study has been completed in three out of four of the pilot communities (Brant County, Lambton County and Algoma District). The intention is to complete the Pre-Opening Survey in the remaining community (Thunder Bay) shortly before the actual opening of the new charity casino, currently projected for the late spring or early summer of 2000. About two years following the opening of the new charity casinos in each community, the Survey will be re-administered in order to assess changes in perceptions and opinions. (No decision has as yet been made as to the precise interval which will occur between the two surveys.)

In addition, the Survey will track any changes in peripheral health issues, including smoking, alcohol consumption and exercise patterns, and will assess changes in residents' perceptions of the relative frequency and seriousness of various types of addictive behaviours, including pathological gambling.

1.2 Design of the Survey

The Survey is divided into four parts. The final wording of the Survey instrument was arrived at through discussions with interested members of the communities and provincial government officials.

Part One asks at least[2] 250 adults (i.e., persons 18 years of age or older) in each community about their perceptions of their community and their expectations about how the new charity casinos will affect these and other conditions.

Part Two asks at least 1041 adults in each community about their gambling behaviour in the past twelve months. Respondents who answered the questions in Part One were eligible to go on to answer the questions in the subsequent Parts of the Survey. The questions contained in Part Two are derived from the South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS), an instrument widely used for assessing the prevalence of problem and probable pathological gamblers. The sample size of 1041 was derived using the formula for inverse sampling for a rare event; that is to say, since previous research suggests that the percentage of problem and pathological gamblers in the general population is relatively small, it is important to interview a sufficiently large number of people in order to be confident of obtaining a sound estimate of the actual number in each community.

Part Three asks at least 1041 residents in each community questions about certain health-related aspects of their lifestyle, such as smoking and exercise. These questions were worded to correspond with selected questions on the Ontario Health Survey (Ontario, Ministry of Health, 1990, 1995), an instrument administered every five years across Ontario. Their purpose is two-fold: to answer questions about any association between these lifestyle habits and gambling habits; and to assess any changes which may occur in the overall patterns of these health-related factors in the population over time.

Part Four asks all respondents to answer certain questions about themselves, such as their age, income, and educational level. The average interview length for all Parts of the Survey was 20 minutes. For those who answered only Parts Two through Four, the average interview length was 10 minutes.

2. In some cases, more than 250 responses to Part One were collected. This is a result of the use of multiple interviewers, who are instructed to continue interviewing until at least 250 responses in total are collected; occasionally, a few more interviews have been completed before it is apparent that the 250 total has been reached.

1.3The Survey Method

The Survey was administered by telephone by interviewers under the supervision of Consumer Contact, a professional survey research firm based in Toronto. The dates of administration were chosen in order to have the interviews take place a few weeks before the expected opening date of each charity casino (or, in the case of Lambton County, the slot machines at Hiawatha Horse Park). In Lambton County, interviews took place from April 15-28, 1999.

Respondents were obtained via random digit dialing in each community. In order to avoid any biasing of the sample from the household members most likely to answer the telephone, interviewers asked to speak to the adult member of the household who had had the most recent birthday. If that person was not available, interviewers called him or her back later, up to a maximum of five times, until an interview could be conducted.

The rate at which households and individual respondents decline to participate in a survey is of interest in surveys of this type. In the current Survey, among the households answering, 33% refused to participate. A further 20% refusals were given by the individual with the next birthday, once s/he had gotten on the line. Once the interview had begun, another 2% of individuals broke off the interview before completion. This yields a final refusal rate of 55% for all three community surveys combined. The rate varied somewhat by community: 53% in Algoma, 57% in Lambton County, and 56% in Brant. This refusal rate may be compared to rates for similar surveys which have been reported as low as 24% (Iowa) and as high as 75% (British Columbia); a recent Alberta study had a 50% refusal rate.

Responses were weighted for age and gender to ensure that the results would parallel the patterns in the overall population at the last census.

Chapter 2 : Summary of Results for Lambton County

The general thrust of responses in Lambton County could be summarized as follows:

- Respondents show **wide variance in their expectations** regarding the impact of the new gaming opportunities on their community. While 51% think there will be “no real change” in their community as a relatively “good place to live”, 29% think the advent of new gaming opportunities will make the community "a worse place to live" and 19% think the result will be "a better place to live".

- More respondents think the **overall economic impact** on the economic well-being of the community will be positive (41%) than believe it will be negative (25%); 33% did not know or thought it would be neither good nor bad.

- More respondents think the **overall impact on individual and social well-being** will be negative (33%) than believe it will be positive (25%); 42% did not know or rated it neutral.

- In general**, expectations regarding the impact of new gaming opportunities are high.**
    - Those who think there will be an impact on various discrete economic factors have high positive expectations, especially concerning the impact on jobs and tourism.
    - Those who think there will be an impact on various discrete social conditions have relatively high negative expectations, especially concerning the impact on family life, moral values and the prevalence of problem gamblers.

- Gambling is a common practice in Lambton County. Two-thirds of the population have bought fixed-date lottery tickets in the past year, and half have bought instant-win tickets. A fifth have visited a casino.

- Most people spent less than ten dollars on gambling in the month prior to the survey. A quarter spent between $10 and $49. One respondent in ten spent $100 or more.

- 96.7% of Lambton County respondents did not score as "problem" or "probable pathological" gamblers on the South Oaks Gambling Screen. However, 1.6% scored as a problem gambler and 1.6% scored as a pathological gambler.

- 60% of Lambton County respondents were aware that there are nearby services available for treatment and education about problem gambling.

Chapter 3 : Characteristics of the Lambton County Sample

3.1 About Lambton County

Lambton County lies in Southwestern Ontario. It is bounded to the north by Lake Huron, to the west by the St. Clair River and the American state of Michigan, to the south by the restructured city of Chatham-Kent, and to the east by the neighbouring county of Middlesex. Its location makes it a major focal point for commercial transportation; well over a million trucks annually cross the Bluewater Bridge between the U.S. and Canada at the port of Sarnia, bound for American sites including Detroit and Chicago, and Canadian sites including London and Toronto. Once known as a centre for the petrochemical industry in Canada, Sarnia-Lambton is now a more diversified economy. In 1996, 17.5% of the labour force worked in manufacturing, 16.2% in wholesale and retail trade, 10.8% in health and social services industries, 7.4% in construction industries, and 6.3% in agriculture and related industries.

At the 1996 Census, Lambton County (or as it is often called, Sarnia-Lambton) had a population of 128, 975 persons. Its largest municipality is Sarnia (site of a newly expanded gaming opportunity, in the form of 450 slot machines installed at Hiawatha Horse Park for a May 1999 opening), with a 1996 population of 74,167. The Village of Point Edward, with a population of 2257, is immediately adjacent to Sarnia, and is the site of a new charity casino, which will hold 450 slot machines and 30 gaming tables on the waterfront site next to the Bluewater Bridge. The County also includes Moore Township, with a population of 10,864, as well as seven other townships and ten other municipalities.

3.2 The Survey Sample

The telephone Survey was administered in Lambton County from April 15-28, 1999. A total of 253 Lambton County residents were asked about their perceptions and expectations regarding the impacts which the new charity casino and slot machines at Hiawatha Horse Park would have on their community. A total of 1047 Lambton County residents were asked about their gambling habits in the previous year.

Home Community. A majority of the 1047 respondents **lived in or close to Sarnia or Point Edward**: 78% listed Sarnia or Point Edward as the closest municipality to their home, and 54%

stated they actually live within Point Edward or Sarnia. In addition, among those 134 persons who stated that they did not live in Sarnia or Point Edward, 77% said they lived within 50 kilometres of downtown Sarnia.

Gender, Age and Marital Status. Interviewers coded the **gender** of the respondents: 58% were women and 42% were men (responses have been weighted to match the actual proportions of the sexes in the population). The same type of weighting has been done to more closely match the age breakdown of the population, since the sample contained fewer respondents over the age of 35 than occurs in the general population. 66% were **married** or living common-law; 19% had never been married; 9% were divorced or separated; and 6% were widowed.

Education. Respondents were asked about the **highest educational level** which they had attained. 5% had never gone beyond public school; 12% had some high school without graduating; 32% had graduated high school and gone no further; 12% had some university, CEGEP or community college experience; 30% had completed university, CEGEP or community college; and 7% had some post-graduate work or other specialized training.

Income. Respondents were also asked to state their **total family income**. Fully a fifth (19.5%) refused to answer. Among those who did answer, the median family income was in a range from $40,000 to $49,999. Some 12% stated their family income was less than $20,000 and 16% stated it was $80,000 or more.

Employment Status. Respondents were asked about their employment status. 48% were employed full-time and 14% employed part-time; 37% were not working at all (one in ten of these stated they were neither retired, nor in school, nor acting as a homemaker). Those who stated they were working full- or part-time were asked their occupation. The largest category was in skilled labour (28%); next largest was in unskilled labout (21%); 14% were professionals (doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc.); another 13% were owners of busineses, managers or executives; 13% worked in clerical or office positions; 5% were in sales; and 2% were in agriculture.

Those who were not working outside the home or were working only part-time were asked about their role when not working. 45% of these were retired; 28% were homemakers; 13% were students; and 14% fell into other miscellaneous roles outside the workplace.

Ethnic or Cultural Background. Respondents were also asked about their “ethnic or cultural background”. Canadians are well-known for being reluctant to respond to such questions in a telephone survey, and our sample was no exception. Fully half simply said they were “Canadian” and 12% refused to give any answer. The remaining responses were thinly distributed over a wide number of categories, and it is apparent that no real value can be obtained from further analysis of these responses.

Chapter 4: Current Perceptions in the Community

The Survey provides an interesting snapshot of people's current perceptions of the economic health of their community. Respondents were asked to indicate "how you think your community compares to other Ontario communities of a similar size", rating their community on a five-point scale from "among the best"(rating of 5) to "among the worst" (rating of 1). Eleven factors were ranked in this way, including six economic factors: availability of jobs, standard of living, the funds available to municipal government to provide an adequate level of services, the economic well-being of non-tourism businesses, the economic well-being of tourism businesses, and the creation of new investment or businesses. In addition, five social factors were ranked in the same way: the number of people who have trouble controlling their gambling, the quality of family life and the amount of time families spend together, people's sense of pride in their community, how much charities do for the well-being of their community, the creation of new investment or businesses, and moral values.

Respondents' rankings of their community on these six economic and five social factors are displayed in Figure1. Although in the actual interview, economic and social factors were "randomized" (read in a different order from one interview to the next, as determined by a computer program), for the sake of this analysis, the results in this report are presented according to economic factors first, and then social ones.

4.1 Perceptions about Economic Conditions

In general, it seems fair to say that Lambton County residents are concerned about current economic conditions in their area. For example,

- almost half (47%) rate their community as "among the worst" or next to the worst among Ontario communities of a similar size in terms of the "availability of jobs" (1 or 2 on a 5-point scale);

- two out of five (41%) also rate their community below average in terms of "the creation of new investment and businesses".

While it is difficult to gauge the comparative performance of Sarnia-Lambton on the latter factor, the overall rating given by the respondents concerning the “availability of jobs” is correct, when translated into unemployment rates. At least in the Sarnia Census Agglomeration (CA), the unemployment rate has in recent years been higher than for Ontario as a whole: 10.7% for the Sarnia CA versus 8.7% for Ontario as a whole at the 1996 Census[3].
On other economic factors, respondents were less pessimistic about how existing businesses were faring, compared to those in other communities of a similar size. About a third rated their community above average (4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) on the “economic well-being of non-tourism businesses” (37%), the “economic well-being of tourism businesses” (37%); about a fifth rated their community below average (1 or 2 on a 5-point scale) on the same factor, and the remainder judged their community’s businesses to be doing about as well as those in other similar communities. Concerning “the funds available to municipal government to provide an adequate level of services”, about the same proportions rated their community above or below other similar communities (24% and 25% respectively), and the rest rated it average or were unable to offer a response.

Interestingly, the standard of living in the community is considered to be good, however – 65% of respondents rated it above average for Ontario communities of a similar size. In this, the respondents – at least those from the Sarnia area and surround – are also correct – a recent study by the Financial Post Datagroup rated the Sarnia CA as having a *per capita* income 10% above the national average, although for Lambton County as a whole, the *per capita* income is 7.1% below the national average.[4]

4.2 Perceptions of The Impact of New Gaming Opportunities on the Economy

Among Lambton County respondents, it appears that expectations are high regarding the positive impact the new gaming opportunities will have on most of these economic factors.

Respondents were first asked whether they had “heard about” the new charity casino which is coming to Point Edward and the addition of slot machines to Hiawatha Horse Park. Not surprisingly, given the amount of publicity which has attended the charity casino issue at least, 95% of the respondents said they had.

3. Statistics Canada: 1996 Census.. Cat. No. 95-187-XPB Ottawa: Government of Canada.
4. The Financial Post Datagroup: *1999 Canadian Markets.* Toronto: The Financial Post.

Next, for each of the economic and social factors which were rated in the earlier question, respondents were asked to state whether they thought these new gaming opportunities would “have an impact” on that factor. Finally, for each factor where the respondent thought there would be an impact, the question was posed: “Will it [the gaming expansion] make things better or worse?”

It is apparent that respondents believe that there will be a widespread effect from the gaming opportunities on various economic conditions in the area. At least two-thirds of respondents believe there will be an impact on **each** of the six economic factors queried. These expectations are particularly pronounced in the employment and tourism areas: almost nine out of ten respondents think there will be an impact on the “availability of jobs” (88%) and “the economic well-being of tourism businesses” (89%).

The expectations are that the gaming opportunities will have a positive impact on every economic factor, with one exception. At least three-quarters of respondents who think there will be an impact on each of these economic factors believe the impact will be positive (with the exception that for “standard of living”, opinion is almost equally divided on whether the impact will be positive or negative). Regarding the availability of jobs, 86% of those who expect an impact believe the new gaming opportunities will “make things better”. Regarding the economic well-being of tourism businesses, 82% of those who expect an impact believe the new gaming opportunities will “make things better”.

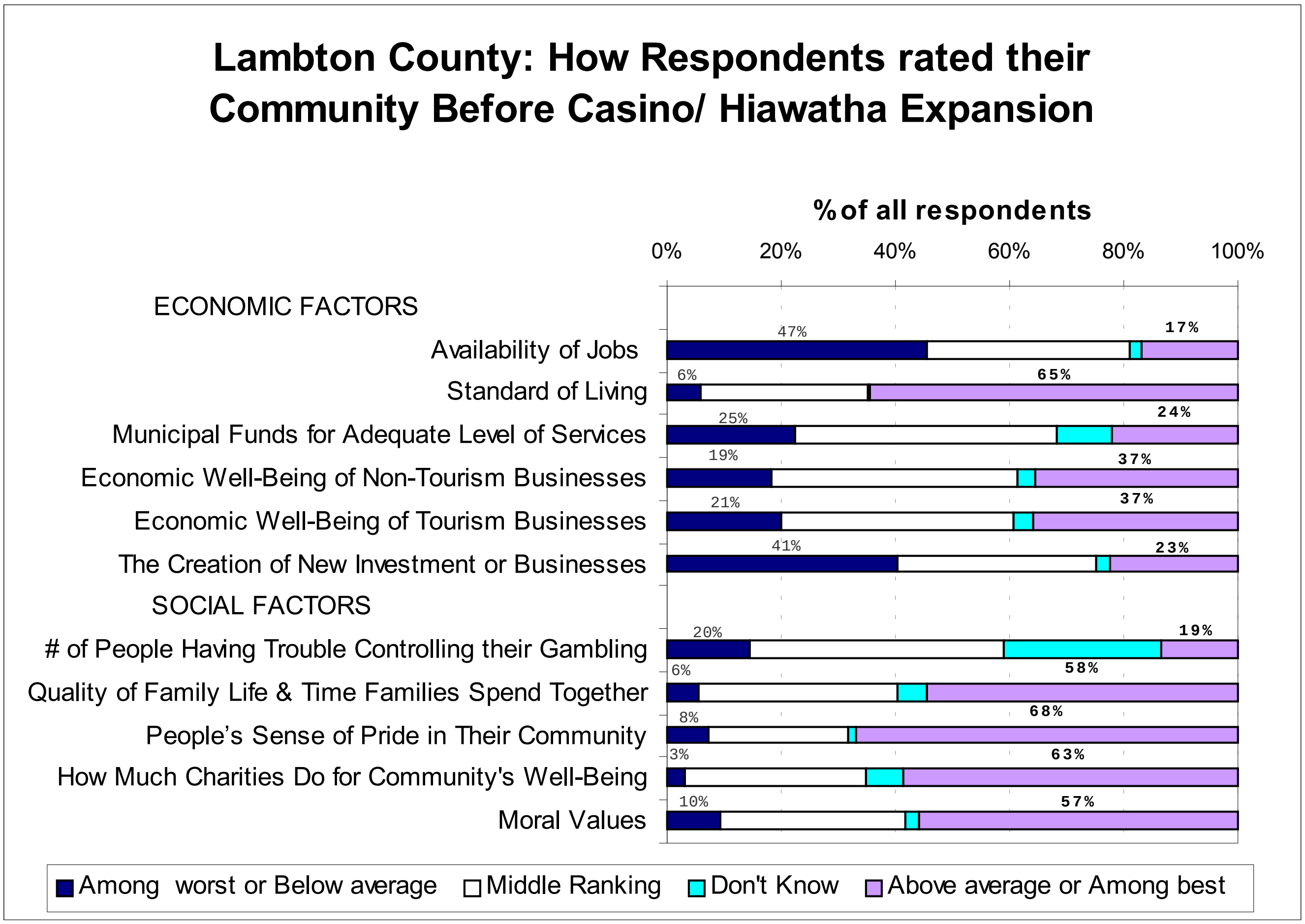
Figure 2 combines the responses to these two questions into a single expression of the proportions of respondents expecting an impact, and the nature of that expected impact. With the exception of “standard of living”, where equal numbers of people expect no impact (or don’t know), a negative impact or a positive impact, at least half of all respondents are expecting a positive impact. Three-quarters of respondents are expecting a positive impact on jobs and tourism.

4.3 Perceptions of Social Conditions

Lambton County residents are generally positive about the current social conditions in their community which were queried in the interview. Fewer than one in ten rate their community as below average (a 1 or a 2 on a 5-point scale) compared to other Ontario communities of a similar size in terms of the “quality of family life and the amount of time families spend together”, “people’s sense of pride in their community”, “moral values”, and “how much charities do for the well-being of the community”. Discussions with residents during other aspects of the Pre-Opening Study confirm that Lambton County residents are generally very proud of the efforts people spontaneously make to help each other in times of need.

One in five rate their community below average in terms of “the number of people who have trouble controlling their gambling”; on the other hand, the same number rate their community above average on this factor

Figure 1: Rating the Community Before the Casino



Expectations are high that there will be a negative impact on some of these social conditions as a result of the new gaming opportunities.

- more than three out of five respondents believe there will be an impact on the quality of family life (63%) and on "moral values" (62%), and the majority believe the impact will be negative (85% and 71% respectively)

- 78% believe there will be an impact on the number of problem gamblers, and 92% believe it will be negative

- however, a majority of those who anticipate an impact on community pride and how much charities do for the community believe that the impact will be positive (58% and 61%, respectively). As regards the latter factor, it is not clear how many of these respondents believe that charities will derive a net benefit from the new funding arrangements *via* the Trillium Foundation, and how many respondents are in fact saying that their charitable organizations will in effect be forced to step in and redouble their efforts to deal with needy cases in the area.

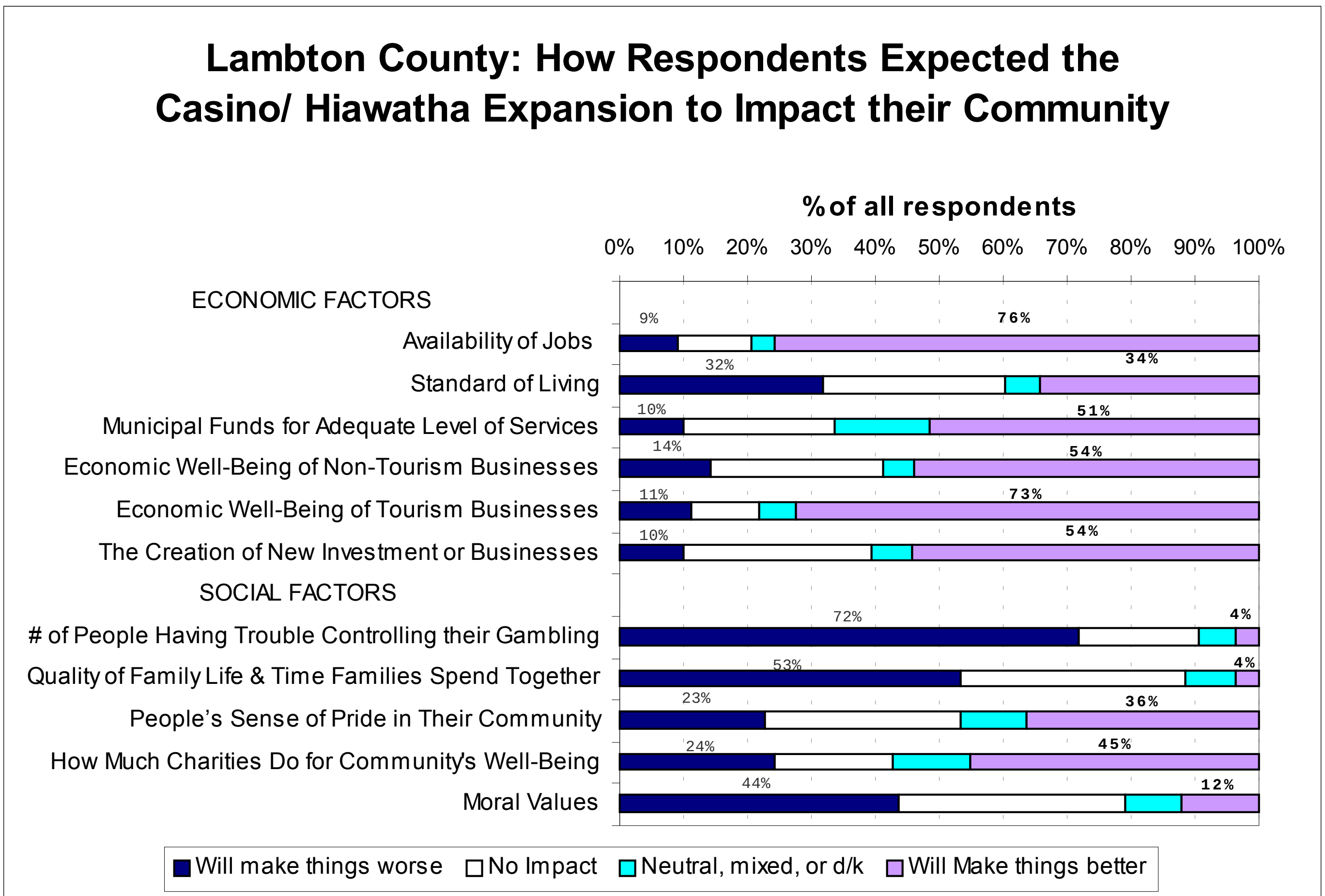
Respondents were next asked if they were expecting **other impacts** from the new gaming opportunities, beyond those already covered, and what the nature of the impact would be (positive or negative). A total of 46 respondents (or 18% of the sample) said they were expecting other impacts, almost all of a negative nature. The most frequently mentioned additional impact expected was an increase in **crime, particularly prostitution and drug offences** (mentioned by 31 respondents). The next most frequently mentioned impact was on **traffic congestion and accidents** (14 negative expectations). A very small number of people mentioned other miscellaneous impacts, most of them negative in nature.

4.4 Perceptions of Groups Most Affected

The next section of Part One proceeds to ask respondents to choose from a list of possible alternatives, the group which they expected would be most affected by the new gaming opportunities: youth; seniors; people who have spare cash to spend on gambling; people at lower income levels; previously unemployed people who will now have jobs; local businesses; or most people equally.

The group expected to be most affected by the new gaming opportunities is people at lower income levels. 28% of respondents felt lower-income people would be most affected by the new gaming opportunities (33% of those respondents with a total family income less than $30,000 felt that lower-income people would be most affected); ten times as many respondents thought the impact on these people would be negative as thought it would be positive. 21% felt that the impact would be spread equally among all members of the community generally; three out of five respondents thought this impact would be negative. 14% felt that the most affected group would be previously unemployed persons who will be able to find work as a result of the new gaming opportunities (an almost uniformly positive effect). 11% felt youth would be most affected; twice as many anticipated a negative impact on youth as did a positive impact. The remaining responses were spread among the other possible alternatives.

Figure 2 : Expected Impact of the Casino in The Community



4.5 Perceptions of Safety Issues

Respondents were next asked about safety issues. First, they were asked "how safe they would say it is to walk alone at night in the area" which will be the site of the new charity casino and the new slot machines at Hiawatha Horse Park: was it "very safe", "somewhat safe", "somewhat unsafe" or "very unsafe"? A majority (68%) of all respondents felt it was "very safe" or "somewhat safe" to walk around the site alone at night. Unsurprisingly, twice as many men (40%) as women (20%) thought it was "very safe", but across all demographic variables, a majority of respondents felt the area, in its present form, was more safe than unsafe overall.

Next, respondents were asked to say "what effect" the new charity casino and Hiawatha slot machines would have on "how safe it is to walk alone at night in that area". **Almost half (45%) the respondents think the advent of the new gaming opportunities will make the immediate area a less safe place to walk alone at night**; only 16% think it will make the area safer , and the others don't know or think there will be no particular effect. Women are more likely (54%) than men (35%) to take the view that the new gaming opportunities will make the area less safe.

4.6 Overall Perceptions of Economic and Social Impact

The queries about people's expectations concerning the new gaming opportunities concluded with two summary questions.

First, respondents were asked for their views of the anticipated "overall effect on the economic well-being of the community" and "overall effect on the social and individual well-being of people in the community". Respondents were asked to rate their expectations concerning each on a five-point scale from "very positive effect" to "very negative effect".

- More respondents think the **overall economic impact** on the economic well-being of the community will be **positive** (41%, including 13% who believe it will be "very positive") than believe it will be negative (25%, including 8% who believe it will be "very negative"). 33% did not know or thought it would be neither good nor bad.

- More respondents think the **overall impact on individual and social well-being** will be **negative** (33%, including 11% who believe it will be "very negative") than believe it will be positive (25%, including 8% who believe it will be "very positive"); 42% did not know or rated it neutral. Single (never married) respondents had a significantly more positive expectation of the overall impact on the social well-being of the community than did married people, who in turn had a more positive expectation than divorced, separated and widowed persons.

Second, respondents were asked to think again about the eleven social and economic factors which had been discussed at the beginning of the interview and, bearing these in mind, state what they thought would be the impact on the community "overall": will the community be a better place to live, a worse place to live, or will there be "no real change"? Respondents show **wide variance in their expectations** regarding the impact of the new gaming opportunities on their community. While 51% think there will be "no real change" in their community as a relatively "good place to live", 29% think the advent of new gaming opportunities will make the community "a worse place to live" and 19% think the result will be "a better place to live". People in the highest family income levels ($60,000 or higher) and people who were working only part-time or who were not working outside the home at all (for any reason, including retirement, school attendance, etc.) were significantly less likely to believe that the overall effect would be a better place to live.

4.7 Perceptions of Compulsive Gambling

Part One of the interview concludes by asking people about their perceptions of the "frequency" and "seriousness" of compulsive gambling, on five-point scales. In order to permit comparisons with previous research, and to situate these perceptions in the context of other compulsive behaviours, respondents were also asked their perceptions regarding alcoholism, drug addiction and tobacco smoking. The responses to these questions will be compared to responses on the Post-Opening Survey in order to determine if people's perceptions of the frequency and seriousness of these behaviours shifts over time.

Respondents believe that compulsive gambling is considerably **less common** than alcoholism and tobacco smoking, but about as common as drug addiction. The following proportions of the sample rated each compulsion a "4" or a "5" on a five-point scale suggesting "how common" the problem is:

- tobacco smoking58%
- alcoholism45%
- compulsive gambling29%
- drug addiction28%

Respondents rate compulsive gambling as **more serious than tobacco smoking, but somewhat less serious than alcoholism and drug addiction**. The following proportions of the sample rated each problem a "4" or a "5" on a five-point scale suggesting "how serious it is – how severe an impact it has on people's lives":

- alcoholism66%

- drug addiction 62%
- compulsive gambling57%
- tobacco smoking 48%

Chapter 5 : Gambling Behaviour of Lambton County Residents

5.1 The South Oaks Gambling Screen

Part Two of the interview, administered to 1047 individuals in Lambton County, is the South Oaks Gambling Screen. The screen begins with questions about gambling behaviours themselves (these have been altered slightly to fit Ontario) and proceeds to questions about the effects on the individual's life and those around him, such as arguing with family members about gambling, borrowing money from various sources to pay gambling debts, and concealing the amount of gambling one is doing. These latter items are included in a numerical score which suggests an individual may be a "problem gambler" or a "probable pathological gambler". Pathological gamblers have an inability to resist the urge to gamble, and their gaming habits cause serious life dilemmas for them. Problem gamblers also experience difficulties with their gambling, but not to the extent of pathological gamblers.

5.2Types of Gaming Participation

The screen begins with questions about the types of betting engaged in over the previous 12 months. Our sample of 1047 Lambton County residents tended to confirm that Ontarians are enthusiastic participants in lotteries with fixed draw days and instant-win tickets – almost two-thirds of the respondents had played a lottery and almost half had played instant-win tickets in the past year. Other forms of gaming are far less popular than these two. However, over a fifth of the respondents had been to a casino in the past year (the closest casino to Sarnia/Point Edward is in Windsor, a two-hour drive away). Bingo also has a dedicated following in Lambton County; the Sarnia-Point Edward area alone contains ten bingo halls.

Figure 3 and Table 1 show the percentages of residents who said they had "bet or spent money on" the following types of games in the past 12 months.

Table 1: Participation of Lambton County Respondents in Various Games in Past Year

Type of Game	Percentage of Respondents
Fixed-date lotteries	63%
Instant-Win tickets	49%
Casinos	22%
Slot machines or VLTs	18%
Bingo	16%
Stock market or commodities	16%
Cards	11%
Horse races, dog races, etc.	10%
Other sports	9%
Played pool, golf, etc.	7%
Dice games	2%
Other	1%

5.3 Frequency of Play

Respondents were also asked how frequently they engaged in various types of betting, if they had previously indicated they had gambled in the past 12 months. As suggested in Table 2, fixed-date lotteries are not only the most commonly played game, they are also the most frequently played, with close to half the respondents indicating they had played fixed-date lotteries once a week or more over the past year. Playing sports for money is also frequent occurrence for many respondents, with a third of the participants indicating they bet on the sports they engaged in once a week or more. Instant-win tickets, sports betting other than racing, and stock market playing are also played in at least once a week by about a quarter of those who played. Of those who said they had played in the previous 12 months, the following frequencies of play were reported. (The least popular games are not reported because small numbers make breakdowns unreliable.)

Figure 3 : Participation in Gambling

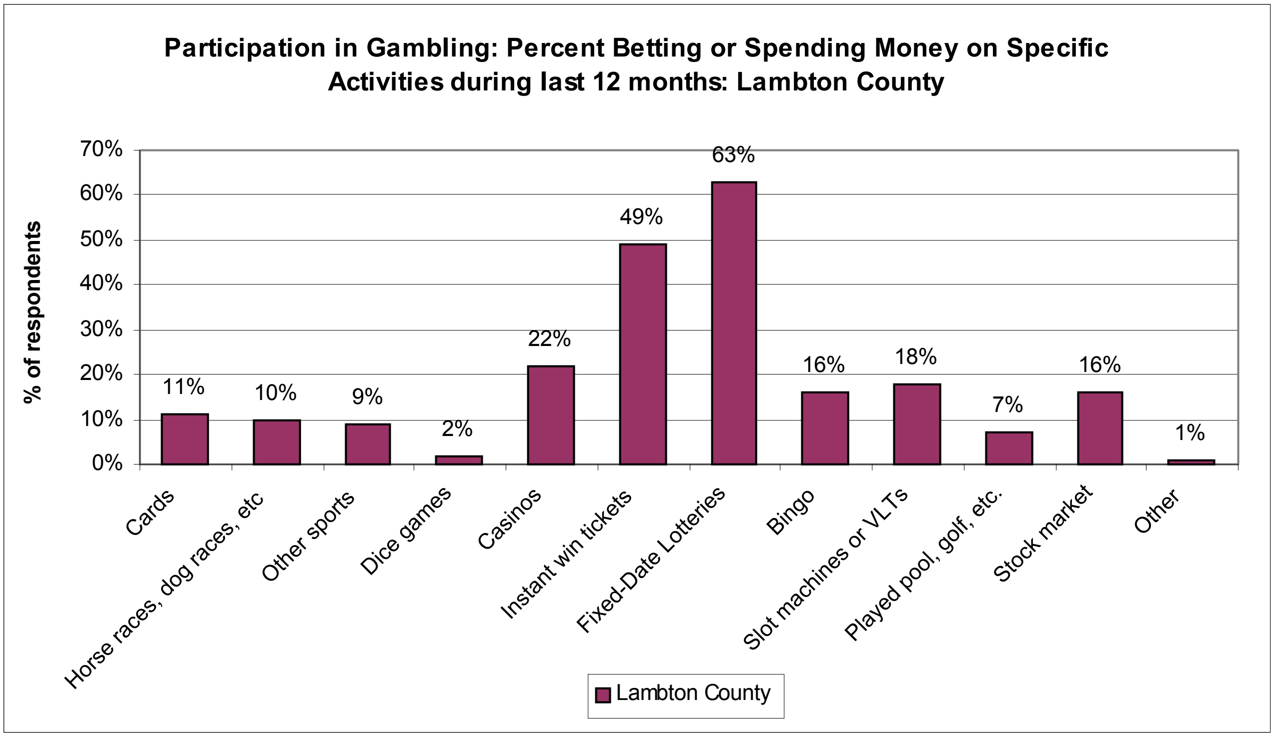


Table 2 : Frequency of Play of Lambton County Respondents who Gambled, for Most Popular Game Types

Type of Game	Once a Week or More	2 – 3 Times a Month	Once a Month	Less than Once a Month
Fixed-date lotteries	43%	13%	16%	27%
Played pool, golf, etc.	33%	16%	19%	32%
Instant-Win tickets	28%	18%	21%	33%
Other sports	27%	12%	23%	39%
Stock market, commodities, etc.	24%	7%	20%	46%
Bingo	19%	12%	25%	44%
Cards	10%	10%	18%	62%
Horse races, dog races, etc.	7%	4%	15%	73%
Casinos	3%	1%	5%	91%
Slot machines or VLTs	1%	3%	6%	88%

In an attempt to determine how many respondents engage in any form of gaming on a frequent basis, the responses on frequency of play were combined for all forms of gaming, yielding a single analysis. The results for Lambton County are displayed in Table 3. When fixed-date lotteries, the most commonly and frequently played game, are included in this analysis, it is seen that 20% of all respondents engage in at least one form of betting once a week, and 16% engage in at least one form more than once a week. When fixed-date lotteries are excluded from this analysis, it is seen that 12% of respondents bet on some type of game once a week, and 9% do so more than once a week. When both lotteries and instant-win tickets are excluded, there are still 5% of respondents who gamble once a week, and 6% who gamble more than once a week.

Table 3 : Frequency of Play for All Forms of Gambling, Lambton County

Game Types	Percentage of All Respondents Gambling		
	All Games Less than Once a Week (includes non-gamblers)	At Least One Game Once a Week, No Games More Frequently	At Least One Game More than Once a Week
All games combined	64%	20%	16%
All games excluding fixed-date lotteries	79%	12%	9%
All games excluding lotteries and instant-win	89%	5%	6%

5.4 Expenditures on Gaming

Respondents were also asked about their gaming expenditures over the previous 12 months. According to the Survey, most players confine their expenditures on gambling to less than $50 per month. A little less than a third of the sample (31%) stated they had spent nothing on gaming in the previous month. About a quarter spent less than $10, and another quarter spent between $10 and $49. A total of 10% spent $100 or more, including 3% who claimed to have spent $500 or more. The following percentages of residents said they had bet the following amounts on gaming in the past month:

Table 4 : Expenditures of Lambton County Respondents on All Forms of Gambling in Past Month

Amount Bet in Past Month	Percentage of Respondents
Nothing	31%
Less than $10	26%
$10 - $49	25%
$50 - $99	7%
$100 - $199	5%
$200 - $499	2%
$500 or more	3%
Don't know	1%

Respondents were also asked about their gambling expenditures over the past 12 months. The number of people who spend nothing on gambling drops to about one-fifth when gauged over a 12-month period. However, it is not clear how accurate these yearly estimates may be – they are lower than what one might expect from looking at the amounts given for the past month.

Differences were examined in the amounts of money spent on gambling in the past month according to total family income. These are shown in Table 5. There was no statistically significant relationship between absolute gambling expenditures and household income. However, it is seen that people in households earning less than $20,000 are the most likely group (33%) to have spent "nothing" on gambling in the past month.

Table 5 : Expenditures on Gambling in Past Month
Broken down by Total Household Income, Lambton County

Amount Spent	Total Household Income and Percentage of Respondents						
	Less than $20K	$20K to less than $30K	$30K to less than $40K	$40K to less than $50K	$50K to less than $70K	$70K or more	Total
Nothing	33%	28%	24%	25%	27%	29%	28%
Less than $10	28%	28%	25%	20%	24%	24%	25%
$10-$49	25%	29%	31%	32%	30%	24%	28%
$50-$99	8%	7%	9%	10%	11%	7%	9%
$100 or more	6%	8%	10%	13%	9%	14%	5%
Number of Respondents	116	123	107	108	162	235	851

Those in households earning less than $30,000 are also the most likely to spend “less than $10” on gambling in the past month. (Of course, for people at lower income levels, the same expenditures can have a much more severe impact than for people at higher income levels.) People in highest family income brackets also appear more frequently in the highest gambling expenditure categories. The table does not include the 20% of respondents who refused to indicate their total household income.

5.5 SOGS scores of Lambton County Residents

The remainder of Part Two incorporates the scored items of the South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS). Tallied scores of 3 or 4 suggest a “problem gambler” – someone for whom gambling causes difficulty, but not to the level of pathological gamblers. Scores of 5 or higher suggest a “pathological gambler” – someone with real difficulty resisting the urge to gamble, and for whom gambling is causing serious life dilemmas.

In Lambton County, the following rates were found. They are consistent with rates found in other North American communities.

Table 6 : Tallied SOGS scores for Lambton County Respondents

Total SOGS score	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Score of 0 – 2 (indicating no problem)	1012	96.7%
Score of 3 or 4 (indicating problem gambler)	17	1.6%
Score of 5 or more (indicting probable pathological gambler)	17	1.6%
Total – all completed SOGS interviews	1046	99.9%*

* Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

These figures may be compared to the 54 persons who have been admitted for assessment to Lambton County Addiction Services since 1997.[5] Because of the small numbers of individuals in the sample who meet the SOGS criteria for problem or pathological gambler, it is hazardous to attempt any comparison between these individuals and the remainder of the sample.

5.6 Awareness of Help available for Dealing with Gambling Issues

All interviews concluded with a brief description of the services (information and help) available in the province for individuals and family members who are concerned about gambling. Following this description, respondents were asked if they had been aware that such services existed. 60% of Lambton County residents were aware that there are "nearby services available for treatment and education about problem gambling".

Respondents were then asked whether they would "like more information". Among the 1047 residents participating in the gambling habits survey, **3.7% said yes.**

Chapter 6 : Responses regarding Health Questions

Other health questions posed of residents are principally designed for later comparisons to responses in the Post-Opening survey. Lambton County residents showed these frequencies of indulgence:

- **smoking habits:** 20% daily smokers; 6% occasional smokers; 72% non-smokers

5. Including 16 new clients just since April 1999.

- **alcohol consumption:** 4% daily; 6% 4 to 6 times a week; 14% 2 to 3 times a week; 15% once a week; 19% once or twice a month; 33% less than once a month; 8% teetotalers

- **exercise habits:** 11% never exercise; 12% exercised less than five times in the past month; 9% exercised 5-8 times in the past month; 12% exercised 9-12 times in the past month; the remainder (50%) exercised more frequently.

Part 3: Socio-Economic Indicators

Chapter 1 : Introduction

In this Part of the Report, a summary is presented of the five-year trends in socio-economic patterns in Lambton County.

The Study relies on a wide range of information, some of which is available now, and some of which will unfold as the process continues. For example, most of the data presented in this report was available, in one form or another, from various community, regional, provincial and national sources in Canada. For future reports, more data which is obtained through community focus groups and new data-gathering methods will emerge.

This Part is intended to describe the situation in the community before the charity casino opened. It provides a series of "benchmark" indicators of how the community was faring in the five years prior to the arrival of the new slot machines at Hiawatha Horse Park and the charity casino in Point Edward. This information will permit researchers and community members to have a view of the community before any changes occur which may (or may not) be connected to the new gaming opportunities.

1.1 The Choice of Indicators to Monitor

The social and economic factors used as indicators of the community's well-being were chosen based on a number of considerations. These indicators needed to be available (or fairly readily created), accepted, consistent, and easily understood. Since it was important to be able to situate each community's development within an established framework for analysis, certain standard indicators of social and economic development were chosen – those in use by existing national, regional or municipal economic development and social development organization, including Statistics Canada, local economic development councils, the Ontario Quality of Life Index, retail and housing development corporations, and the like. In addition, previous research on the impact of new gambling opportunities was reviewed for relevant indicators. In addition, new ideas provided by community members and others were incorporated, to the extent possible.

Many of these indicators do not speak directly to, nor will they reflect, the impact of new gaming opportunities, or of any single community development. Nonetheless, it was felt important to obtain a baseline picture of community factors, both large and smaller, as an opening step.

1.2A Note of Caution

Obviously, the economic and social well-being of any community is determined by an enormous range of factors of all kinds – ranging from world commodity prices, to increased awareness of the seriousness of domestic violence. The extent to which changes observed in any given community factor can be attributed solely to a single innovation like a new charity casino is highly limited. Readers should be extremely cautious about attributing any changes which may be observed from the “Pre-Opening Period” to the “Post-Opening Period” to the existence of the new gaming opportunities. Nonetheless, the presentation of trends is critical for any community which wishes to understand where it is going and what challenges and opportunities might exist for action.

Much of the information which readers will be looking for, of a more direct nature related to the charity casino, is not yet available, but will be included in future reports, on the Post-Opening Periods. For example, information on the local employment created by the charity casino construction and on liquor sales at the charity casino, will be available in later reports of the Post-Opening Period.

1.3 Structure of this Part

It would be possible to present a vast amount of detail and statistics in such an analysis, in which the reader would quickly become buried. Instead, we have attempted to present a relatively concise picture of the *general trends in certain key factors* over the five years prior to the charity casino opening. We have also attempted to point out any areas in which the community levels or trends are significantly different from what is occurring in the province generally – for example, if the community’s unemployment level has, in recent years, been higher than in Ontario as a whole. This summary picture is intended to show the backdrop of patterns in economic and social indicators, against which any changes in patterns during the post-opening period can be assessed – bearing in mind the need for caution in drawing causal inferences.

Therefore, in the material which follows, a brief description of the apparent trend (if any) in the key factors is given, followed by summary tables at the end of this part, which present the figures available on various factors over the five-year period.

Chapter 2 : Population

According to the 1991 and 1996 Census, the population of the Census Agglomeration which encompasses Point Edward and Sarnia *decreased* from 87,870 to 86,480 in that period, but the Financial Post *Canadian Markets* estimates that in 1999 the CA population was 89,400.

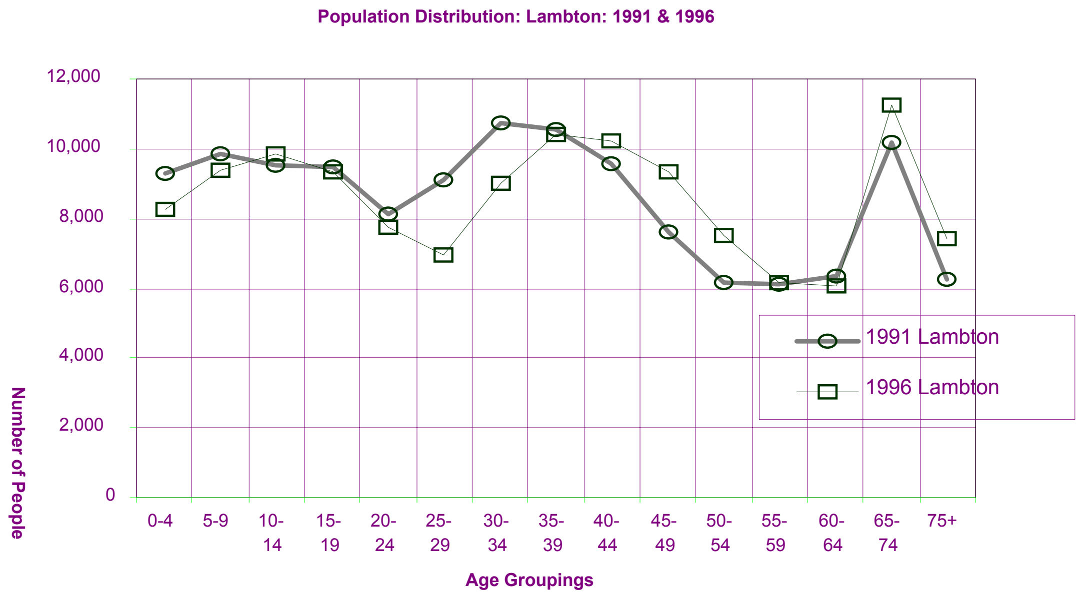
The population of the broader Lambton County virtually remained constant between 1991 and 1992 (i.e. 128,945 and 128,975). In comparison, there was an overall 5.5% growth in population for the province as a whole during the same period.

The following chart – for Lambton District -- shows how the numbers of people in different age categories changed significantly between 1991 and 1996. Most pronounced are:

- a decrease of 3,835 in the numbers of people from 25 to 34 years of age, and
- an *increase* of 3,715 in the number of people aged 40 to 54.

Evident as well is the aging of the "baby boom" bulge within the population – which in 1991 was centred around the 30 to 34 age category and in 1996 was centred around the 35 to 44 age category. In future years, this bulge in the population will center around older and older age categories..

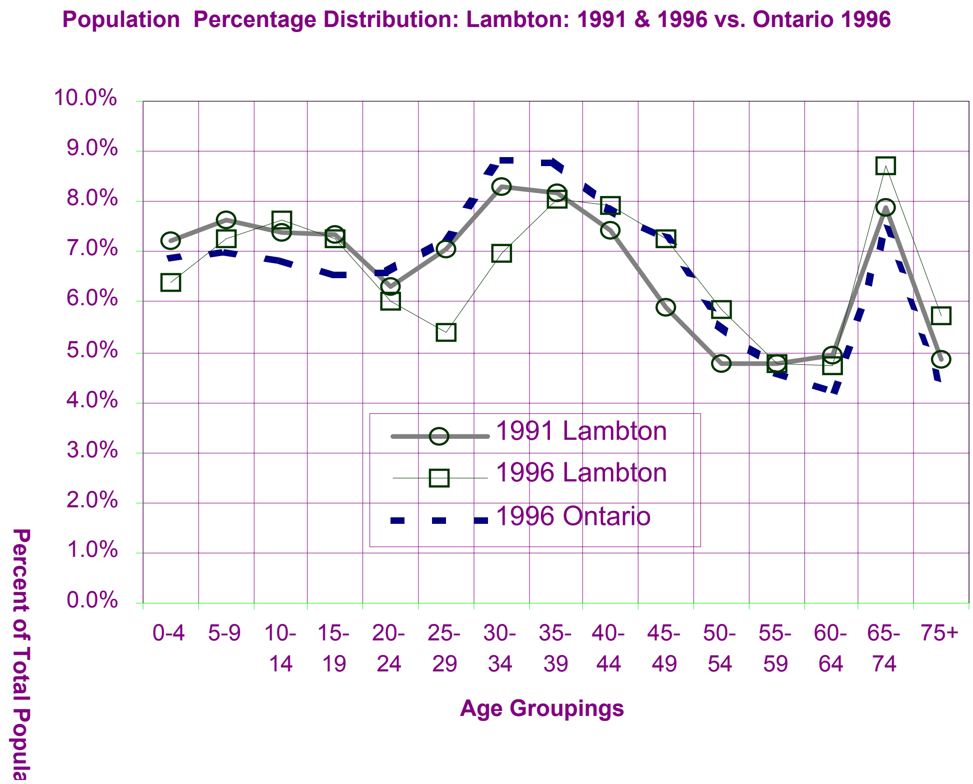
These age-specific population decreases and increases are of particular importance given the belief that different age groups are more likely than others to patronize casinos.



The next chart shows – for both 1991 and 1996 – the *percentage* of the total Lambton County population in each of the different age categories. For comparison purposes, the percentage distribution by age of the Ontario population is also shown.

Comparing the 1996 Lambton County and Ontario populations clearly shows a number of significant differences in the age distributions. In particular:

- Lambton County has proportionally more persons 10 to 19 years old (14.9% vs. 13.4%) and
- Lambton County also has proportionally more persons 65 years of age and older (14.4% vs. 11.6%) ; however,
- Lambton County has proportionally *fewer* persons 25 to 39 years old (20.5% vs. 24.9%)



Chapter 3 : Economic Indicators

3.1Overall Summary

The following is a summary of economic trends in the five-year "Pre-Opening Period" from 1994 to 1998 inclusive.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Lambton County experienced significant high-end job losses particularly in the petrochemical industry, although conditions in the City of Sarnia exceeded those in Lambton County generally. These trends continued to affect the area into the 1994-1998 Pre-Opening Period. Population levels in urban areas declined or remained stable during that time. While labour force trends in the area are now difficult to gauge accurately as a result of changes in data reporting, the size of the labour force may actually have decreased over the five-year period. Up until 1998, unemployment levels remained higher than in the province generally, although there are indications that 1999 has been a significantly better year for employment in the area.

Overall, it appears that although Lambton County has been slower to enjoy the economic recovery which is being enjoyed in the province as a whole, significant gains in industrial and employment growth have been made in 1998 and 1999. New investment by the petrochemical industry increased in 1999, and four new auto industry facilities have recently opened in the County, together with a new call center. A number of new high technology facilities are also being proposed, including: a business incubator, the conversion of an existing research facility and the creation of a new in-house research facility. The international bridge opened a new span in late 1999, doubling its capacity and reducing delays to the large daily volume of commercial trucking and other traffic.

Housing starts and the value of more moderately-priced housing, as well as construction values generally, declined over the period, although a recovery in these areas seems to have taken place in the later part of the period. There also appear to be gains in the latter years of the period in real income and retail spending.

3.2 Work

The labour force participation rate in the Census Agglomeration which includes Point Edward and Sarnia, historically close to that of the province generally, declined in 1997 to around 60% (seasonally adjusted), but appears to have recovered somewhat in 1999, to 61.2%. As shown earlier, the average age of both the population and the work force is somewhat older than that of most other areas of Ontario.

Comparisons of unemployment rates over time have become problematic since 1998, when Statistics Canada ceased to report the Sarnia CA separately from other areas in Lambton, Kent and Essex Counties. Nonetheless, over the past five years, the number of active E.I. claims has continued to decline, due in part to improved employment conditions and changes to the qualifying criteria for benefits. The relevant tables are attached.

3.3 Income

According to the Financial Post Datagroup estimates on *Canadian Markets*, the *per capita* income in the Census Agglomeration has risen significantly over the period, beginning in 1997.

3.4 *Per Capita* Retail Sales

Per capita retail sales have risen over the period.

3.5 Social Assistance

Changes in Ontario's policies respecting general welfare assistance (Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support) make it difficult to draw conclusions about patterns after 1995, when province-wide decreases in the numbers of individuals and families on welfare began a steady decline. In the Census Agglomeration which includes Point Edward and Sarnia, average caseloads for general welfare assistance declined steadily from 1994 to 1998.

3.6 Business Name Registrations

The number of business name registrations rose significantly from 1995/96 to 1996/97, according to provincial figures. However, these increases are probably largely due to decentralization of the business registration process from Toronto to major municipal centres.

3.7Bankruptcies

The numbers of commercial bankruptcies in the area are small, making trend comparisons difficult. Consumer bankruptcies increased in 1996 and 1997, paralleling developments in the province generally, but decreased again in 1998.

3.8 Construction Activity

There has been no clear pattern in the value of construction (as measured in building permits) for Lambton County as a whole; significant dips in building permit values occurred in 1995 and 1998. In the City of Sarnia, decreases in 1994 and 1995 seem to have reversed themselves in later years.

3.9 New Dwelling Unit Starts

New starts of housing units, after declining significantly in 1995 to 1996, rose again to close to the 1994 levels in 1997 and 1998. This parallels the pattern in the province generally, where housing starts increased in 1997 and 1998.

3.10 Housing Prices

Housing prices declined over the period, both for higher- and lower-end housing, although data are unavailable for 1998 and 1999.

3.11 Hotel/Motel Occupancy Rates

These figures are considered competitively sensitive, and are available only according to four large Ontario regions. It is hoped that during the Post-Opening period, it will be possible to obtain an informal reading of trends from a sample of local hotels and motels.

3.12 Visitors to Selected Tourist Destinations

Reliable statistics have only begun to become available since 1998, but tourism inquiries in the area appear to be on the rise, according to informal impressions provided by the Chamber of Commerce.

3.13 International Bridge Crossings

The number of crossings of the Bluewater International Bridge have declined slightly over the period, if the addition of buses to the 1997 and 1998 totals are taken into account. **[Checking these figures again]**

Chapter 4 :Social Indicators

4.1 Crime Rates

For the charity casino study, certain crimes are of greater interest than others. These include muggings (robberies), thefts, frauds and assaults. Crime rates, especially for property crime, are declining or remaining stable in the province and the nation generally, and this same pattern is being observed in the Point Edward and Sarnia area.

4.2Charity and Other Gaming

Data on provincially-licensed charity gaming events were not available at the time of writing. For municipally-licensed events, two years of data were drawn from Point Edward and Sarnia records. Obviously, it is not possible to show a trend over a two-year period, nor to report on individual charities' revenues in any period, but these figures will be compared to data in the Post-Opening Period in order to assess any possible changes.

Sales of other OLC gaming products are paralleling the trend in the province generally. That is, *per capita* sales of lottery tickets and other legal gaming products are levelling off or even declining over the period.

4.3 Divorces

The number of completed divorces declined from 1994 and 1995 to 1996 and 1997.

4.4 Suicides

The total numbers of suicides in the area are small, making trend comparisons difficult.

4.5 Alcohol Consumption

The number of liquor licensed establishments in the area has remained steady over the five-year period. Sales of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine and spirits) at LCBO outlets increased over the period, both in absolute numbers and per capita 15 years of age or older.

4.6 Credit/Debt Counselling

[Awaiting further data breakdowns from Credit Counselling Service]

4.7 Children in Care

The numbers of children in foster or other care in the County have increased significantly over the five-year period. However, experts in the child protection field caution that these trends are probably a reflection of increased attention to special incidents, as well as the introduction of a new risk assessment tool, increased apprehension authorities, and other changes in anticipation of upcoming legislation.

4.8 Waiting Lists for Public Housing

The number of people on waiting lists at year end for public housing declined over the period. This is contrary to the trend in the province generally.

Part 4: Appendix A: Supporting Data

Chapter 1 : Population

Population of Lambton County, Actual and *Estimated						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	124,592*		128,975			
Source: Census						
* Estimated from 1991 Census.						

Population of Sarnia, Actual and *Estimated						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	74,167*		72,738			
Source: Census						
* Estimated from 1991 Census.						

Population of Point Edward, Actual and *Estimated						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	2336*		2,257			
Source: Census						
* Estimated from 1991 Census.						

Population of Sarnia/Point Edward Census Agglomeration, Actual and *Estimated						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	87,870*	88,900*	88,900	87,000*	NA	89,421*
Source: 1996 Census and *Financial Post, Canadian Markets						

Chapter 2 : Economics

Per Capita Income ($) - Sarnia CA						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Per Capita Income	19,500	19,500	19,200	21,100	NA	23,100
Source: Financial Post, Canadian Markets						

Per Capita Retail Sales Estimate ($) - Sarnia CA						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Retail Sales per Capita	7,000	7,200	7,400	7,800	NA	8,800
Source: Financial Post, Canadian Markets						

Estimated Labour Force Size and Average Participation Rate - Sarnia CA						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Labour Force (est.)	47,000	48,200	49,000	44,000	44,600	46,050
Participation Rate (%)	64.2	65.3	66.0	59.0	59.5	61.2
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey						

Average Unemployment Rate (%) - Sarnia CA*						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Sarnia Area	9.9	13.4	10.9	10.8	8.2*	6.4*
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey						

* Unemployment rates specific to the CA are no longer available after 1997, due to changes in the smallest catchment area for which Statistics Canada now makes rates available - economic Region 570, which covers Lambton, Kent and Essex Counties.

Average Number of Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries - Lambton County

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Sarnia Area	5923	4822	4714	3740*	2880*	2997*

Source: Human Resources Development Canada, Table C356.

* Reflects changes in qualifying criteria and new reporting area; changes are not considered to reflect changes in Lambton County.

Average Ontario Works Caseloads - Lambton County

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	3,642	3,321	2,875	2,826	2,656	NA

Source: Ontario Community and Social Services Ministry

Business Name Registrations - Sarnia

	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
Number	NA	409	693	616	612	NA

Source: Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Business Connects

*Increases over time may be largely due to transfer of registration system to decentralized offices.

Commercial Bankruptcies - Point Edward and Sarnia

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	NA	29	23	30	35	NA

Source: Industry Canada, Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy

Consumer Bankruptcies - Sarnia and Point Edward

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	NA	170	303	284	210	NA

Source: Industry Canada, Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy

Home Ownership and Rental (Estimates) - Sarnia CA						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Owner-Occupied Dwellings	22,695*	22,695*	22,234	NA	NA	23,279
Rented Dwellings	10,310*	10,310*	11,197	NA	NA	10,837
Ratio	2.20	2.20	1.98	NA	NA	2.14
Source: Financial Post, Canadian Markets						
* Estimate from 1991 Census.						

Homes Built - Sarnia						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	200	87	123	135	NA	NA
Source: Financial Post, Canadian Markets						

New Dwelling Unit Starts - Sarnia CA						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of Units	185	92	105	166	160	NA
Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing, Housing Information Monthly						

New Dwelling Unit Starts - City of Sarnia						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of Units	122	115	93	159	NA	NA
Source: City of Sarnia Building Department						

Average Housing Prices ($)						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Detached Bungalow	120,000	110,000	105,000	100,000	110,000	115,000
Standard 2-Storey	150,000	150,000	160,000	160,000	170,000	170,000
* Source: Sarnia-Lambton Real Estate Board.						

Housing Resales

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	1,365	1,289	1,486	1,565	1,524	1,523

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing, Ontario Housing Market Report

Building Permits Value ($000) - Lambton County

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Value	93,176	76,933	89,258	90,169	46,911	NA

Source: Financial Post, Canadian Markets

Building Permits Value ($000) - City of Sarnia

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Value	31,305	34,361	51,264	50,171	NA	NA

Source: City of Sarnia Building Department

International Bridge Crossings (000s)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	5216.9	4979.8	5040.1	5151.3*	5197.5*	NA

Source: International Bridge Authority
* 1997 and 1998 totals include buses.

Chapter 3 : Social

Completed Divorces						
	1994	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**
Number	426	406	287	245	NA	NA
Source: Ontario Court (General Division)						
Number of Liquor Licensed Establishments						
	1994	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**
Number	80	87	84	82	88	108
Source: Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario						
Suicides - Sarnia and Point Edward						
	1994	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**
Number	8	14	16	16	7	NA
Source: Office of the Chief Coroner, Ontario						
Individuals seeking Debt/Credit Counselling						
	1994	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**
Number						
Rate						
Source: Credit Counselling Services of Southwestern Ontario						
Children in Care - Lambton County						
	1994/95	**1995/96**	**1996/97**	**1997/98**	**1998/99**	**1999/00**
Number	284	306	297	313	381	NA
Source: Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society						
Total Families Served - Lambton County						
	1994/95	**1995/96**	**1996/97**	**1997/98**	**1998/99**	**1999/00**
Number	1,116	1,168	1,120	1,022	1,038	NA
Source: Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society						

Litres of Alcohol sold at LCBO outlets, Sarnia, Point Edward and Clearwater

	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
Beer	188,499	205,884	219,479	234,953	272,128	NA
Wine	411,675	409,511	435,758	445,935	456,632	NA
Spirits	418,654	412,998	412,528	454,061	491,599	NA
Rate*	16.9	17.1	17.7	18.8	20.2	NA

Source: LCBO

* Number of litres of all products sold per resident 15 years or older.

Waiting Lists for Rent-Geared-to-Income Housing (Public Housing only), December 31, Sarnia-Lambton

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number	355	290	236	NA	258	NA

Source: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Police Reported Incidents - Village of Point Edward

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Assaults and Disturbances	64	63	60	66	59	NA
Thefts	168	128	144	133	110	NA
Damage	64	77	43	69	38	NA
Weapons	NA	NA	41	36	62	NA
Break and Enter	64	21	45	30	26	NA

Source: Point Edward Police Service

Police Reported Incidents - City of Sarnia						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Violent Crimes						
Homicide		1	1	1	1	NA
Assaults		746	770	748	718	NA
Sexual Offences		91	112	90	91	
Robbery		22	24	25	20	NA
Rate*		11.7	12.4	11.9	11.4	NA
Property Crimes						
Break and Enter		1,012	1,032	962	766	NA
Motor Vehicle Theft		226	181	222	245	NA
Theft over**		68	35	33	44	NA
Theft under**		2,408	2,207	1,887	1,698	NA
Frauds and Stolen Goods		352	250	299	287	NA
Rate*		55.3	51.0	46.8	41.8	NA
Other Crimes		2,896	2,651	2,605	2,650	NA
Rate		39.4	36.4	35.8	36.5	NA
Impaired Driving* **		137	119	127	154	NA
Rate*		1.9	1.6	1.7	2.1	NA

Source: Sarnia Police Service

*Rate of violent or proprty crimes, or of impaired driving, per 1000 residents.

**Cutoff was for theft over or under $1000 until 1995, when it changed to $5000.

*** Includes failure to provide a breath sample and all other offences related to impaired driving.

Sales per Capita of OLC Products - Sarnia-Point Edward						
	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99*	1999/00
Lotto 6/49			89.26	72.55	57.82	NA
6/49 Encore			16.54	14.21	11.31	NA
Super 7			13.34	25.78	12.50	NA
Super 7 Encore			0.38	4.61	2.76	NA
Lottario			9.12	8.21	5.60	NA
Pick 3			3.34	3.15	2.74	NA
Daily Keno			4.20	3.23	2.54	NA
Proline			13.90	14.06	9.62	NA
Over/Under			2.84	2.21	1.66	NA
Point Spread			1.73	3.09	2.74	NA
$1 Instant			7.13	7.03	4.55	NA
$2 Instant			25.61	26.64	17.28	NA
Instant Bingo			31.83	36.16	23.76	NA
Instant Keno			12.04	9.52	6.15	NA
Battleship			9.85	7.62	2.12	NA
$5 Instant			13.64	14.83	7.89	NA
Group Play Bingo			NA	1.42	NA	NA
Ontario 49			NA	2.41	2.81	NA
Ontario 49 Encore			NA	1.02	1.17	NA
Monopoly			NA	4.16	2.40	NA
Source: Ontario Lottery Corporation						

Bingo Attendance - March 25, 1997 to March 31, 1999		
	Attendance	Games
Village Bingo	177,734	727
Bingoland East	140,975	719
Bingo Country Bluewater	117,275	719
Bingo Country Sarnia	140,644	710
Harvey's Bingo	136,632	713