

**Studies:**

Local/ Regional Education Study

Economic Development Study on  
Youth

Effects on Recreation Resources Study

## Focus on Youth and Families

The Municipality of South Bruce and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) are conducting a wide range of studies to inform the community's willingness to host the NWMO Project. All studies are also being reviewed by peer reviewers who are subject matter experts in their field. The Local/Regional Education Study, Economic Development Study on Youth, and the Effects on Recreation Resources Study were presented at the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) meeting on August 18, 2022.

### Highlights

- The studies looked at how the NWMO Project could effect matters important to youth and families, including education, youth retention and employment, and recreational amenities.
- Between 2021 and 2046, South Bruce is expected to experience 40% population growth with the Project. It would increase the school-aged population by up to 33% in the same period.
- This will create pressure for the Boards of Educations, which are obligated to accommodate all students within their region. Currently, some schools have extra capacity to do so, while others will be at capacity in the next five to 15 years.
- Retaining youth in South Bruce will require the development of workforce strategies that include targeted skills and educational training for young people so that there is a supply of trained personnel for the NWMO Project and other growth sectors.
- South Bruce will benefit from making their recreation centres and halls more multi-functional, to improve the appeal to families and youth. This could include flexible features such as retractable walls, removable amenities, youth spaces, sound-proof elements, and technology resources.
- Were the Project to be sited in South Bruce, the community could look for support from the NWMO for education, youth employment, and recreation services. This could include donations and funding programs, scholarships, and career development opportunities.

### Addressing Our Guiding Principles

The studies address several of the community's 36 Guiding Principles to determine if the Project is right for South Bruce. They relate to whether the Project will bring meaningful benefit to the community, specifically:

- 6.** The NWMO will minimize the footprint of the repository's surface facilities to the extent it is possible to do so and ensure that public access to the Teeswater River is maintained, subject to meeting regulatory requirements for the repository.
- 10.** The NWMO will identify the potential for any positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the Project on South Bruce and surrounding communities and what community benefits it will contribute to mitigate any potential risks.
- 15.** The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will commit to implement programs to engage with and provide opportunities for youth in the community, including investments in education and the provision of scholarships, bursaries and other incentives for youth to remain in or return to the community.
- 20.** The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will commit to implementing a local employment and training strategy with the objective of ensuring that the majority of employees for the Project are located within South Bruce and surrounding communities.
- 29.** The NWMO will prepare an infrastructure strategy that addresses any municipal infrastructure requirements for the Project and will commit to providing appropriate funding for any required upgrades to municipal infrastructure required to host the Project in South Bruce.
- 32.** The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.

Learn more about the...

# Local/Regional Education Study

Study By DPRA

Peer Review Conducted By GHD

## NWMO-led Study:

The NWMO's consultants conducted this study. South Bruce hired independent consultants to peer review the studies, and confirm the methodologies and findings.

## What was the scope and purpose of the study?

- Assess the current enrolment at local and regional schools and the potential effects of the Project on local and regional education system capacities, from the elementary level through to high school.
- Propose various strategies to maintain and/or improve the current education infrastructure in South Bruce and the communities which surround it, to help prepare the education system to accommodate increases in enrolment.

## How was the study conducted?

- Consultants interviewed knowledge holders at local and regional School Boards, apprenticeship programs, and planning committees. Organizations were selected based on their knowledge and experience with the local education system.
- They also assessed school board strategic plans, annual reports, enrolment and utilization reports, and capital/facility accommodation plans.
- NWMO Project information was analyzed to understand how the Project could affect the current state of local and regional education system capacities.

## What did South Bruce's peer reviewers say?

- The study consultants carried out additional analysis to address comments from the peer reviewers.
- The peer reviewers found the study to be accurate and valuable in terms of insights on the current state of school systems, challenges to be considered, and the environment of local School Boards. They said it also provides useful insights into schools' need for additional infrastructure to support capacity in the next 10 years.

## What did we learn?

- The school aged population is expected to increase significantly between 2021 and 2046, without factoring in growth related to the Project.
- Currently, schools within the Study Area are at about 70% to 95% capacity. However, several School Boards project that some of these schools will exceed 100% within the next 5 to 15 years.
- School Boards cannot proactively request funding from the Ministry of Education in an effort to support the additional students which may enroll locally or regionally as a result of capital priorities, like the Project.
- NWMO can provide support to School Boards by creating a Corporate Social Responsibility Program, which focuses on donations and funding of programs, scholarships, career development, and apprenticeship opportunities.

Learn more about the...

# Economic Development Study on Youth

Study By Deloitte Peer Review Conducted By GHD

**Municipally-led Study:**  
South Bruce's consultants conducted this study. Independent consultants peer reviewed the studies and confirmed the methodologies and findings.

## What was the scope and purpose of the study?

- Identify strategies which encourage youth education and career development, specifically related to the NWMO Project.
- Identify the workforce demand in the community resulting from sustaining local agriculture and businesses, and accommodating economic growth with and without the NWMO Project.
- Assess the various challenges and opportunities associated with education and career development for youth, with a specific focus on timing for the implementation of such strategies.

## How was the study conducted?

- Consultants assessed potential workforce demand, labour market profile, and the education pipeline. Case studies focused on how to attract youth to trades or craft worker positions, engineering, technology and other similar positions, and attracting youth to the agricultural sector.
- One-on-one interviews were conducted with key stakeholders to identify opportunities for youth. As well, a #NextGenNetwork youth workshop and a roundtable session with education and training sector partners was also conducted.

## What did South Bruce's peer reviewers say?

- The study consultants carried out additional analysis to address comments from the peer reviewers.
- Peer reviewers said the study provides a comprehensive analysis of the economic and labour force realities facing South Bruce, and how to ensure sufficient labour force is available to maximize employment from the Project.
- The study accurately identifies ways to attract workers to South Bruce and to build the skills and knowledge of those workers.
- Moving forward, the reviewers suggested the study needs to be closely connected to other workforce strategies to ensure local training and retention programs for youth are prioritized and integrated.

## What did we learn?

- In 2021, South Bruce was home to 6,250 residents, youth (12 to 29 years) made up 23% of the total population, with 1,415 young people.
- South Bruce has access to a variety of professionals and skilled labourers. There are a number of graduates and programs available within the extended region coming from places like Fanshawe, Georgian, and Conestoga College.
- The Municipality should work towards emphasizing and accelerating its #NextGenNetwork initiative so that a safe space is created for youth to discuss issues and opportunities with municipal leaders and employers.

Learn more about the...

# Effects on Recreational Resources Study

Study By TRACT Peer Review Conducted By GHD

**Municipally-led Study:**  
South Bruce's consultants conducted this study. Independent consultants peer reviewed the studies and confirmed the methodologies and findings.

## What was the scope and purpose of the study?

- Identify the current usage and capacity of South Bruce recreational facilities and programs to identify any gaps and respond to future population demands.
- Identify potential incremental expansions to existing facilities and amenities to accommodate demand, including possible timeline and location for renovations.

## How was the study conducted?

- Experts reviewed the *South Bruce Growth Expectations Report* for insight into how many people reside in South Bruce as a whole. Current participation rates were then matched against future population predictions to understand what usage may look like in the future. They were also compared to local usage rates in the province or nation, where necessary.
- Interviews were conducted with municipal leaders, service groups, sports groups, tourism and business organizations, volunteer groups, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, and private sector and not for profit service providers.
- Usage data was obtained directly from facility staff. If unavailable, it was inferred from national participation rates or from stakeholder interviews and community survey results in the *Recreation Master Plan*.

## What did South Bruce's peer reviewers say?

- Additional information and analysis was carried out by the study consultants to address comments from the peer reviewers.
- Peer reviewers said the facilities report was helpful in demonstrating the state of municipal recreational resources and whether there is capacity to support future growth.
- An Implementation Plan was used to demonstrate how proposed strategies for optimizing South Bruce recreation could be carried out. This will be helpful as part of future NWMO/South Bruce discussions.

## What did we learn?

- South Bruce should consider consulting with an architect and seek funding from partners to determine the best layout for their existing community centres, to meet the needs of current and future residents and to help attract and welcome future residents.
- It is critical that we understand the location of new housing developments to support the Project before experts begin planning for new recreation facilities.
- The Municipality should develop a variety of programs for children and teens, adults, families, and seniors from different disciplines such as exercising, nature and outdoor activities, and arts and culture.

## Stay Involved!

The studies play an important role in ensuring that we can make an informed decision about the Project. If you have questions or comments about the studies, they can be submitted through our community engagement tool: [www.southbruceswitchboard.ca](http://www.southbruceswitchboard.ca), or call the Municipal Office 519-392-6623.