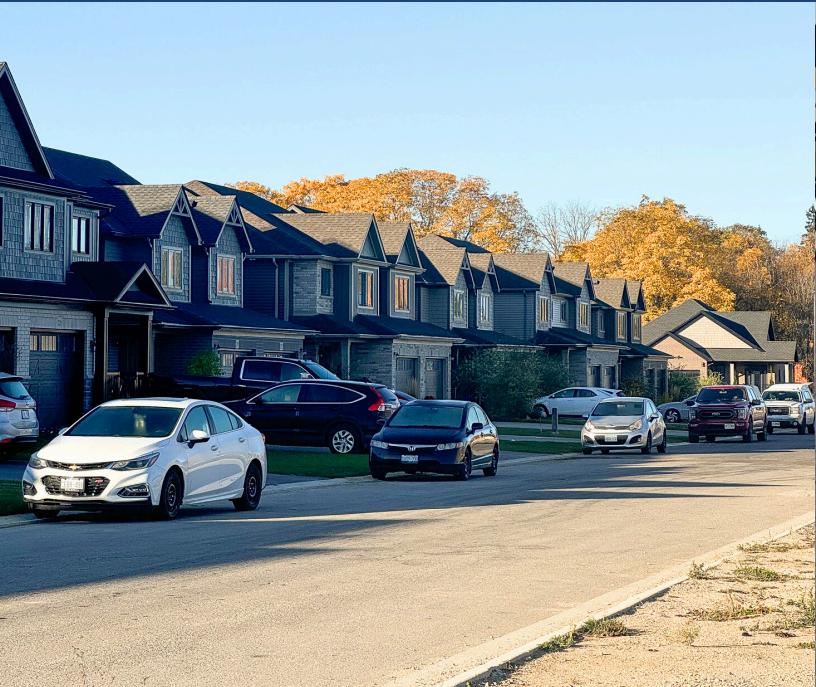


ROMA 2026

Ministry of Health

January 20, 2026



MUNICIPALITY OF
West Grey

westgrey.com/conferences



With a population of over 13,500, the Municipality of West Grey is the largest geographic municipality in Grey County (876 square kilometres), with the River Styx and Saugeen River being the connecting links between our rural communities of Elmwood, Durham, Neustadt and Ayton.

Benefits of Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, 2025

West Grey acknowledges and supports the Ontario government's *Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, 2025*. The priorities outlined mirror the needs of rural Ontario.

- Patient-centred care as an identified priority.
- Providing healthcare to people in their communities is essential in rural Ontario as we continue to value and prioritize complete communities.
- Recognizing the need for providing faster access to care, especially emergency care and long-term care.
- Hiring more healthcare professionals and ensuring communities can have health care providers when and where they are needed.

Importance of Accessible, Reliable Healthcare in Rural Municipalities

It is critical that rural communities are not left behind.

- **Complete Communities:** It is critical that communities are designed to meet residents' daily needs throughout their lives by providing a mix of housing, jobs and access to essential services within their own communities, including healthcare.
- **Aging Population:** Rural communities face unique social and environmental challenges that can have an impact on health and healthy aging; ensuring a fulsome healthcare offering in rural communities is essential to enabling older persons to remain independent.
- **New Resident Attraction:** Access to quality healthcare is a crucial factor in attracting new residents to rural communities; strong healthcare systems, including hospitals and clinics, are essential for both attracting and retaining residents and a productive workforce.
- **Community Engagement:** Rural communities have, for generations, raised funds to build community assets, including our hospitals and healthcare support systems; they want to continue to be part of the solution to ensure the sustainability of their communities.

Our Asks: Supporting Rural Ontario Healthcare

To ensure rural Ontario can contribute meaningfully to provincial goals, we urge the province to commit to an integrated, systems-based approach for collective impact.

- **Municipal Participation in Healthcare Solutions:** Including rural municipalities in shaping the future of healthcare in our regions.
- **Support Community Health Hubs:** Support the development and enhancement of rural health hubs, which can integrate services and improve coordination of care in rural Ontario.
- **Engage Local Communities:** Embrace community consultations and planning processes related to healthcare service delivery, ensuring that local needs and priorities are addressed.
- **Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals:** Support initiatives that attract and retain healthcare professionals in rural areas.