



NEW RESIDENT GUIDE





[f LivingCK](#)
[t LivingCK](#)
[i LivingChathamKent](#)
[in LivingChatham-Kent](#)

LivingCK.ca
LivingCK@Chatham-Kent.ca
 519-360-1998 | 311

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Mayor's Welcome



Welcome to Chatham-Kent!

As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of Council and the community.

Thank you for choosing Chatham-Kent. We wish you the best as you discover the many amenities, attractions, programs, and services that make this area a fantastic place to call home.

We are very proud of the rich quality of life offered here. For those looking for work or to start a business, Chatham-Kent offers a wide variety of resources and lucrative opportunities. For families, this area offers safe and affordable communities with minimal traffic, excellent schools and top of-the-line services. Residents enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle with access to three provincial parks, lakeside beaches, trails, and highly rated freshwater fishing within close reach. They also enjoy the large variety of locally grown produce provided by our active agricultural sector.

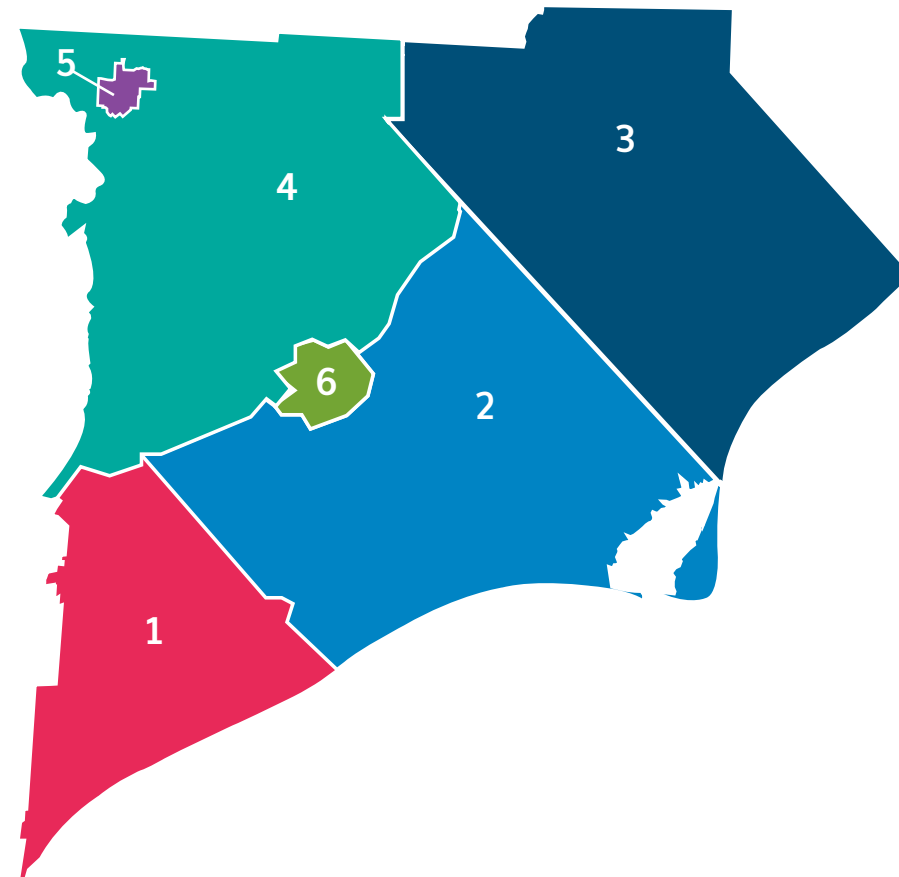
In Chatham-Kent, many agencies, community groups, programs, and services work together to support individuals and families who are new to the municipality. I encourage you to visit www.LivingCK.ca to learn about the full range of services and to learn from the experiences of other new residents.

Darrin Canniff, Mayor
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

On behalf of Chatham-Kent Council:

- | | |
|---|---|
| WARD 1:
Lauren Anderson
Melissa Harrigan | WARD 5:
Aaron Hall
Carmen McGregor |
| WARD 2:
Anthony Ceccacci
Ryan Doyle
Trevor Thompson | WARD 6:
Alysson Storey
Amy Finn
Brock McGregor
Conor Allin |
| WARD 3:
John Wright
Steve Pinsonneault | Michael Bondy
Marjorie Crew |
| WARD 4:
Jamie McGrail
Rhonda Jubenville | |

- **WARD 1:** West Kent
- **WARD 2:** South Kent
- **WARD 3:** East Kent
- **WARD 4:** North Kent
- **WARD 5:** Wallaceburg
- **WARD 6:** Chatham



Welcome from the Community Attraction & Promotion Team

Thank you for choosing Chatham-Kent as your new home. We are excited to welcome you to the community and help you make CK home.

The Community Attraction and Promotion (CAP) division supports community economic development, engagement, and growth through activities that promote Chatham-Kent to residents and talent. The CAP division includes Resident Attraction & Retention ([LivingCK](http://LivingCK.ca)), the [CK Workforce Planning Board](#), in addition to immigration initiatives that include the [CK Local Immigration Partnership](#) and [CK Immigrate to Work](#).

This New Resident Guide is intended to serve as an introduction to the community to help you become more familiar with the area and direct you to useful information. Find more detailed information at www.LivingCK.ca and contact a member of the LivingCK team for one-on-one chats, family and spousal support information, and help accessing local resources and building connections. We are here to help you learn about the community and welcome you when you arrive. Contact us to learn more about moving to and living in Chatham-Kent.



[LivingCK](#) [LivingCK](#) [LivingChathamKent](#) [LivingChatham-Kent](#)



Teresa Fysh - Talent Attraction & Retention Coordinator
Moved baCK to CK in 2005.



Victoria Bodnar - Community Attraction & Promotion Manager
Moved baCK to CK in 2014.



Local Communities

- Blenheim and Area
- Bothwell and Area
- Chatham and Area
- Dresden and Area
- Eribeau and Area
- Highgate and Area
- Merlin and Area
- Pain Court and Area
- Ridgeway and Area
- Thamesville and Area
- Tilbury and Area
- Wallaceburg and Area
- Wheatley and Area

Located between Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, Chatham-Kent is located on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy. Today, Chatham-Kent shares land and water with diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples living in Chatham-Kent, and neighbours the Lunaapeew at Eelūnaapèewi Lahkèewiit, and the Bkejwanong Walpole Island First Nation.

Top 10 Reasons to Call CK Home

1 Proximity to Nature, Beaches & Lakes



Wonderful Place to Raise a Family **2**



3 Affordable Housing



Great Community Spirit **4**



5 Home to some of 'Canada's Top 100 Employers'




6 Inexpensive for Business Start-ups



Thriving Arts, Culture & Entertainment Scene **7**




8 Accessible Shopping, Healthcare & Education



Stress Free Commutes, Average of 15 Minutes to Work **9**



10 Close to Larger Centres
(ONE HOUR TO THE U.S. & 2.5 HOURS TO THE GTA)



Living in CK

Living in Chatham-Kent allows you to keep everything in balance: family, work, health, relaxation and your budget. Enjoy a high quality of life that includes easy access to a wide range of outdoor adventures, a thriving arts and culture scene, recreational activities, and a variety of interest groups and clubs to connect with.

Chatham-Kent covers a large geographic area of 2,500 sq. km. and offers a warm Ontario climate, close proximity to water, beautiful natural scenery, and affordable living. There are a variety of transportation options to help you get around, including public transportation within the city of Chatham and to the surrounding communities, and central VIA station to connect you to the surrounding areas.

Whether you are looking for the perfect place to start a family or a business, grow your career, ease yourself into retirement, or simply want a beautiful place to live a great life, Chatham-Kent has it all. Outside of work, you can relax while enjoying affordable housing and communities that are safe and people who are friendly and welcoming.



Only 22 snow days in CK (60 in London, 41 in Toronto, 52 in Ottawa) and lots of Banana Belt sunshine!



Home to over 23 communities offering urban and rural lifestyles.



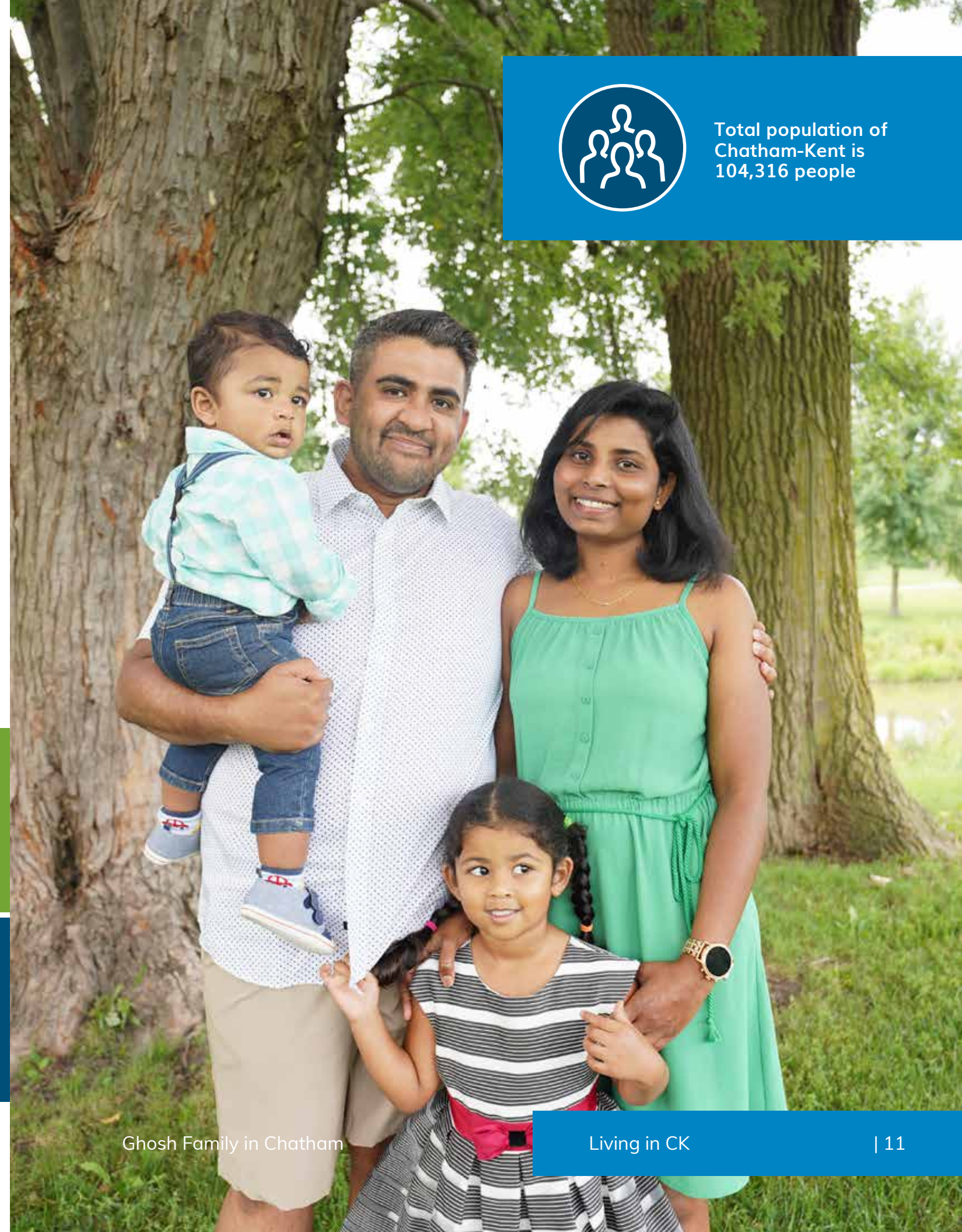
CK workforce averages less than 15 minutes commute to work.



Located between Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair.



Total population of Chatham-Kent is 104,316 people



Ghosh Family in Chatham

Moving to Chatham-Kent

Moving to CK Checklist

Chatham-Kent provides a high quality of life in safe and affordable communities.

With access to both a rural lifestyle and urban amenities, CK is a great place to work, learn, have fun, and call home. We love to call CK home and are so pleased that you are choosing to make our home, your home! Below is a helpful list to get you started with your move.

- ❑ Contact the [LivingCK team](#) - we are here to help you find your way, answer your questions and connect you to your new community.
- ❑ Accommodations - if you need a place to stay for your first nights in Chatham-Kent, VisitCK.ca has information on [places to stay](#). Then check out [permanent accommodations](#).
- ❑ Set up your home with essential services such as utilities (contact [Entegrus](#) for water and electricity, [Hydro One](#) for electricity in rural areas, and [Enbridge](#) for gas), telephone and internet.
- ❑ [Find local schools](#) and register your children.
- ❑ [Arrange childcare](#) for your children if you will be working.
- ❑ Find a [family doctor and local healthcare supports](#).
- ❑ Consider your [transportation](#) needs. If you are moving from outside of Ontario, find information on applying for an [Ontario Driver's License](#).
- ❑ Visit one of the [Chatham-Kent Public Library](#)'s eleven branches to obtain a free library card and learn more about programs and services, like the Community Navigators. You can get information in multiple languages as well as use public computers and the internet.
- ❑ Start to make plans to explore your new home - the [VisitCK tourism website has many ideas for days in CK](#).
- ❑ Establish what Municipal Ward you live in and learn more about local government - [get to know your local councillors](#).



Canada is a country that truly embraces multiculturalism and immigrants and CK is a good example of it. I would like to mention that several people and organizations in CK made me feel at home from the beginning. I call CK my new paradise!



New to Canada

If you are planning your move to Chatham-Kent from outside of Canada, your first step is to apply to the Government of Canada to immigrate in one of several categories. The [Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada website](#) should be the first place you visit for information.

When you arrive in Chatham-Kent, there are local settlement supports to help you learn about life in Canada and Chatham-Kent.

Find information and settlement supports from:

- [Adult Language and Learning](#): 519-354-7424
- [Centre Communautaire Francophone Windsor Essex Kent](#): 519-948-5545
- Collège Boréal: 519-397-1677
- [Immigration Consultants](#) in Chatham-Kent
- [Chatham-Kent Community Navigators](#)

The [Chatham-Kent Welcome Network](#) (CKWN) is a network of organizations and businesses from a wide range of sectors that work to create a more welcoming community. Members of CKWN are ready to help you connect to the information you need and help you feel welcomed in Chatham-Kent.



Coming baCK to Chatham-Kent

Just moved baCK to CK? Let us remind you what home has to offer and why others have chosen to come baCK to Chatham-Kent from around the world.

- Close to family, friends and familiar friendly smiles at the grocery store.
- A variety of lifestyle options - from downtown living to lakeside escapes.
- Safe and affordable communities offering spacious backyards and short work commutes.
- Easy access to a wide range of outdoor adventures, recreational activities and local experiences.
- Local employers are seeking talent to help grow their businesses. Grow your career in CK by visiting ChathamKentJobs.com to find your next opportunity. Visit the Employers in CK pages to find some of CK's employers by sector.
- Work Anywhere. Live CK. Gain more work-life balance with strong community connections to pursue your professional development, networking, and career growth.

Follow us on social to stay connected and hear stories of others who chose to come back to Chatham-Kent. Connect with a member of the LivingCK team now that you're baCK to get reconnected.



I am so excited to be back in Chatham-Kent, giving back to the community and bringing my services to the area. I love #LivingCK because the community is so supportive and I am able to enjoy the outdoors.



Emma in Chatham



Finding a Home

Chatham-Kent is a safe and beautiful place to live, that is growing with new neighbourhood development, increasing population, and expanding internet broadband connectivity throughout the community. With over 23 unique communities, Chatham-Kent offers a variety of lifestyle options, from downtown living to lakeside escapes.

The average home purchase price for 2023 was \$428,588. CK offers a variety of attainable housing options, with room to grow. Find [information on buying, building, and renting a home](#) in Chatham-Kent at [LivingCK.ca](#).



CHIRP
CK Homes: Informed, Ready, Protected

FREE HOME ALARM CHECKS

Firefighters visit your home to ensure your smoke & carbon monoxide alarms are working, correctly located & not expired.

Alarms need replacing? We can help.

ONLY WORKING ALARMS SAVE LIVES. CONTACT US.

 519-360-1998  ckfire@chatham-kent.ca



Downtown Chatham

Get Connected

- [LivingCK Team](#)
- [Networking](#)
- [Places of Worship](#)
- [Volunteering](#)
- [Cultural Communities](#)
- [Community Navigators](#)

Local Events & Festivals

- [CKToday Calendar](#)
- [MyCK.ca Calendar](#)
- [VisitCK Events & Festivals](#)
- [UCB Canada Calendar](#)

Local News

- [Blackburn News](#)
- [Blenheim News Tribune](#)
- [Chatham This Week](#)
- [Chatham Daily News](#)
- [Chatham Voice](#)
- [Ridgetown Independent](#)
- [Sydenham Current](#)
- [Thamesville Herald](#)
- [Tilbury Times](#)

“

There is something here for everyone. Living 5 minutes from your workplace, you can't beat that! I love the pace of the community, the fact that I can access great schools, local shopping, and am only an hour away from things like an international airport.

”

Things to Do

Chatham-Kent is made up of several communities to choose as your home and to explore, each with a unique story to tell and ways to get involved. Find your home close to year-round outdoor recreation, great dining, shopping, beaches, parks, programs, diverse religious and cultural groups, and nationally renowned events and attractions.

- Over 50 [trails](#) to hike, cycle, run, walk, and go birding
- [Waterways](#) to explore by boat, with docks and fully equipped marinas available throughout Chatham-Kent, and [beaches](#) for relaxing days in the sun
- [Recreational and competitive sports](#) associations
- 10 [arenas](#), a range of sports fields and recreation complexes
- Over 20 [cultural community associations](#) which host year-round activities
- [5 theatres, 5 art galleries and 9 museums](#) showcasing Chatham-Kent's [fascinating history](#)
- 11 [library branches](#) located throughout Chatham-Kent
- [Local live music](#) across Chatham-Kent

Looking to explore the area? Find great suggestions from [VisitCK](#).

[Summer in CK](#)



[Fall in CK](#)



[Winter in CK](#)



[Spring in CK](#)



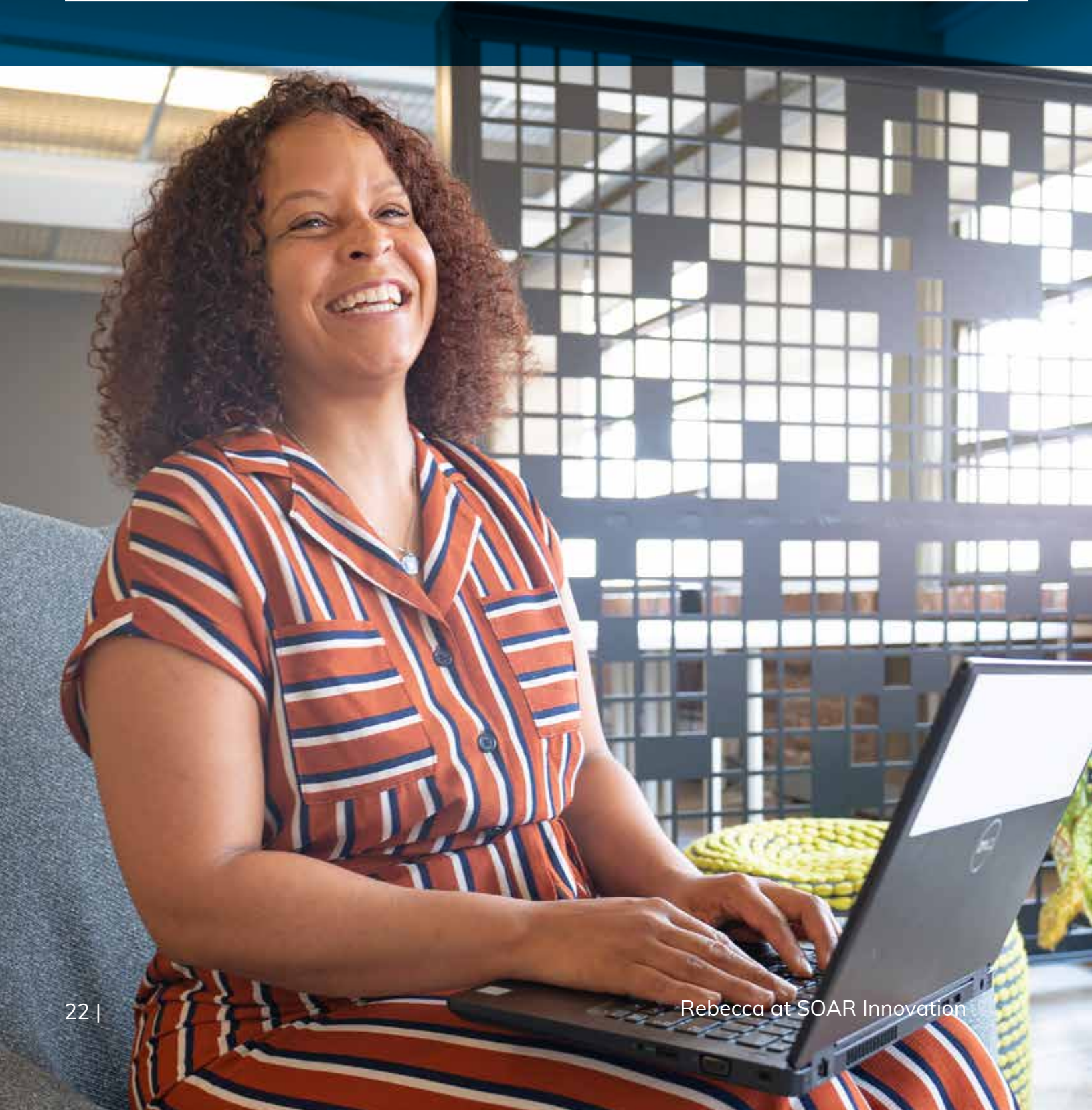
We can't wait to... [#SeeYouinCK](#)



Bayside Brewery in Erieau



I decided to come back to Chatham-Kent fresh out of college when a local employer gave me a chance at my first career position! I started in the marketing department, focusing on architectural development. Little did I know then that I would still be working with the same employer now, 7 years later!



Rebecca at SOAR Innovation

Working in CK

There are opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and career development across many sectors in Chatham-Kent. The largest employment sectors are manufacturing, healthcare, retail, and agriculture, with a growing technology sector, each with employers looking for a range of talent to help their businesses grow. Chatham-Kent is growing and we are excited to welcome you to build your future with us.

- Home to some of Canada's Top 100 employers
- Assistance in [finding employment](#), [networking](#), and [education](#)
- Resource and career exploration and training opportunities
- [Employers in CK](#) to find some of Chatham-Kent's employers by sector and employer stories
- Business supports for [starting and growing your business](#)
- Competitive operating costs for entrepreneurs
- [Co-working spaces](#) and office rentals for remote work options

Find a Job Resources and Supports

Chatham-Kent has many organizations to help you update your résumé and cover letter, prepare you for interviews, and provide local job market information. The following can offer career counselling, training, and [job search assistance](#):

- [ChathamKentJobs.com](#) one-stop-shop for local job postings
- Community Navigators offer employment supports at the [CK Public Library](#) branches
- [Community Living of Chatham-Kent and Wallaceburg](#)
- [Goodwill Industries](#)
- [Employment Ontario](#) offers online information about jobs and training programs.

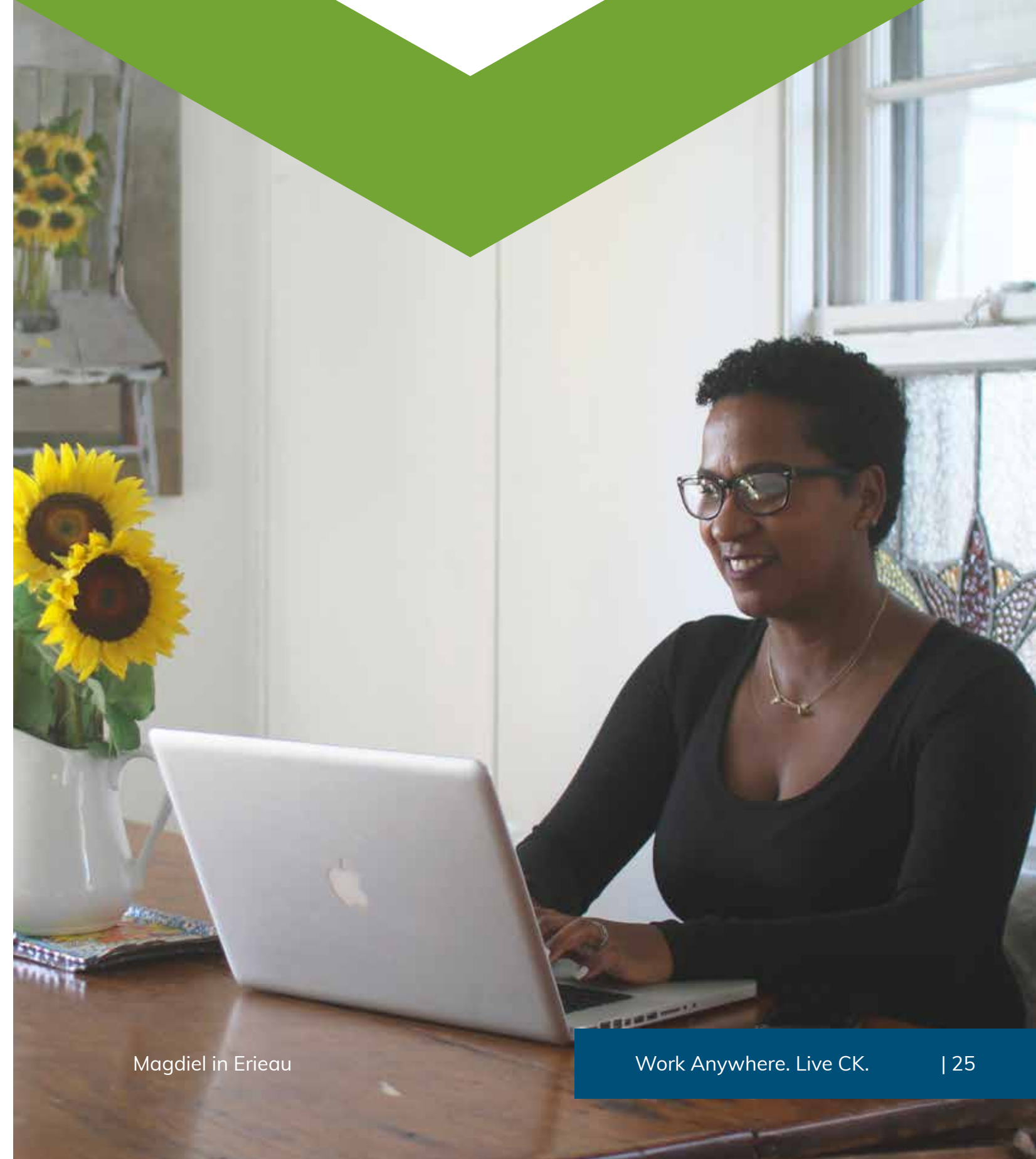


Work Anywhere. Live CK.

Take advantage of remote working and find a home that gives you room to grow – grow your personal interests, community connections, your family, a garden, and your career. Located between Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, with an abundance of green space and limited traffic in between, Chatham-Kent provides a great location for a relaxed lifestyle and easy access to nature.

Chatham-Kent offers a safe and welcoming option to gain more work-life balance, with strong community connections to pursue your professional development, networking, and career growth. Connect with other professionals through [networking groups and events](#) and in [co-working spaces](#) for the days you need it. Find a job locally, for a future career move or family member, with help from local employment supports and hundreds of diverse employers looking for talent at www.ChathamKentJobs.com.

Work Anywhere. Live in Chatham-Kent.





Starting a Business

Chatham-Kent is an ideal location to build a thriving business. Take advantage of the low business start-up costs, proximity to several U.S. trade routes and large Canadian centres, as well as abundant opportunity. Whether you plan to start a new business or expand an existing business to Chatham-Kent, we offer many resources to help you succeed.

- [Chatham-Kent Economic Development Services](#)
- [Chatham-Kent Small Business Centre](#)
- [Chatham-Kent Workforce Planning Board](#)
- [Community Futures Development Corporation of Chatham-Kent](#)
- [Business Development Bank of Canada \(BDC\)](#)
- [SOAR Innovation](#)

“

Everyone in Chatham-Kent has been so supportive of us and our business. One of the amazing things about Chatham-Kent is how talented the people are here! Working with talented like-minded people is what drives me, creating a community and a place for us to all grow together.

”



LOCAL SUPPORTS TO REMEMBER...

211 • For Community Services & Programs

311 • ck311@chatham-kent.ca for Municipal Services.
 • 519-355-1380 Chatham Kent Community Navigators

(communityresourcenavigator@chatham-kent.ca)

911 • For Emergency Services (Fire, Police & Paramedics)
 • 519-436-6600 CK Police Non Emergency

Government Services

Municipal Services Centres and Information Desks

- Blenheim Municipal Office: 35 Talbot Street West, Blenheim
- Bothwell Library: 320 Main Street, Bothwell (*information desk*)
- Chatham Municipal Office: 315 King Street West, Chatham
- Dresden Municipal Office: 485 St. George Street, Dresden
- Ridgetown Municipal Office: 45 Main Street East, Ridgetown
- Thamesville Library: 3 London Road, Thamesville (*information desk*)
- Tilbury Municipal Office: 17 Superior Street, Tilbury
- Wallaceburg Municipal Office: 786 Dufferin Avenue, Wallaceburg
- Wheatley Library: 35 Talbot Road West, Wheatley (*information desk*)

Service Ontario

- Blenheim: 45 James Street
- Chatham: 315 King Street West
- Dresden: 485 St. George Street South
- Tilbury: 52 Queen Street North
- Wallaceburg: 1239 Dufferin Avenue

Service Canada

Chatham: Federal Building- 120 Wellington Street West

Stay engaged through...

Services & Supports

CK communities have tons to offer, from childhood to retirement. Find the [amenities and activities](#) you need for living life in balance.

Child and Youth Services

Chatham-Kent has many [clubs, activities and camps for youth](#), making it a very family-friendly community to live in. You can often find information about different opportunities through your child's school, [places of worship](#) and in the [CK Recreation Program](#).

Child Care

- [Chatham-Kent Child Care and Early Years](#) staff are available to help you find child care and apply to the Child Care Subsidy program (519-360-1998).
- [Chatham-Kent Children's Services](#) can help provide Development Support Workers at licensed childcare providers and promotes the well-being of children and youth.
- The [Chatham-Kent Home Daycares](#) Facebook page lists local home childcare providers.

Children's Programming

- The [Chatham-Kent Public Library](#) provides story time kits, book rotations, and booklists to help anyone working with children from 0 - 6 years. They also offer hard copy and electronic multilingual literature.
- [Chatham-Kent's Public Health](#) offers resources and community information on pregnancy and infant care. They also have tools for parents with children between the ages of 0-6 years.
- [Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent](#) helps children and young adults struggling with physical, developmental, or communication problems.
- [EarlyON](#) centers help families to connect, learn and grow - together. They host special events such as Forest Walks and on-site programming.

People with Disabilities

Chatham-Kent is equipped with many programs and services to help [residents with disabilities](#). We are committed to upholding high standards and adopting new technology to make our neighbourhoods more accessible.

Seniors Programming and Resources

Chatham-Kent is an age friendly community offering seniors a safe and active life. Find supports, resources, and activity information for [seniors](#) at [LivingCK.ca](#)





Transportation

CK offers transportation services including bus, taxi, and Uride, and has ideal driving conditions with minimal traffic. Locals enjoy an average 15 minute commute by car from home to work, and bike paths are becoming more connected throughout the community.

Driving

If you're going to drive in Chatham-Kent, you'll need an [Ontario Driver's License](#). If you have an International Driver's License, you have up to 60 days to get your Ontario license. You can also apply for an International Driver's Permit, which is only valid for one year.

Transit Services

- [RideCK](#), Chatham-Kent's bus system, offers urban transit throughout the city of Chatham and inter-urban transit links many communities together, providing service throughout the municipality. We recommend you call 24-48 hours in advance to book a seat on the Inter-Urban Service (519-436-3233).
- Taxi services include Courtesy Cab (519-352-2300), [Kafafi Taxi](#) (519-354-8008) and [Tam's Taxi](#) (519-627-2221).
- [Uride](#) ridesharing services
- A [VIA Rail](#) train station is centrally located at 360 Queen Street in Chatham.
- [Robert Q](#) provides ground transportation services to and from Pearson (Toronto) Airport and Detroit Metro Airport.
- [FlixBus](#), an intercity mobility provider, offers transportation services from Windsor, Chatham-Kent, London, Hamilton, Toronto and Scarborough.

Cycling

Chatham-Kent covers 2,458km² of land, making cycling a great option to cover all that ground and experience what we have to offer. See the [Chatham-Kent Trails' map for Cycling Routes](#).

Health Services

Chatham-Kent offers excellent health care services, from competent staff to state of the art facilities. We are home to many family doctors, dentists and other health care professionals including specialists, alternative medicines and other contributors to overall health and wellness.

- [Chatham-Kent Health Alliance](#) has two hospital locations; in Chatham and in Wallaceburg, with specialist care and emergency service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
 - Call 9-1-1 for health emergencies
 - Chatham-Kent Health Alliance: 80 Grand Avenue West, Chatham
 - Sydenham Campus: Wallaceburg District Hospital 325 Margaret Avenue, Wallaceburg
- Find a family physician by [registering with Health Care Connect online](#) or by searching the [All Doctors Search](#) by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.
- [Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres](#) provides a range of healthcare services and health promotion to those without access to a family doctor.
- [Chatham-Kent Public Health \(CKPH\)](#) offers resources, workshops, and clinics to help you and those in your family enjoy healthy lives, including information on pregnancy, parenting, sexual health, and immunizations.
- [Walk-in Clinics](#)
 - From Here to There Medical Chatham: 100 King Street West, Chatham
 - From Here to There Medical Ridgetown: 22 Main Street East, Ridgetown
 - Tilbury Walk-In Clinic: 15 Mill St East, Tilbury
- The [Chatham-Kent Hospice](#) provides end-of-life palliative care in a home-like setting.
- Mental health services are available from providers across Chatham-Kent.





Learning in CK

K-12 SCHOOLS

Public

- [Lambton-Kent District School Board](#)

Catholic School Boards

- [St. Clair Catholic District School Board](#)
- [Conseil scolaire catholique Providence](#)

Private Schools

- [Chatham Christian Schools](#)
- [Darul Uloom Canada](#)
- [Eben-Ezer Christian School](#)
- [Edward International Academy](#) (Grade 9-12 Boarding School)
- [Montessori School in Chatham](#) (16 Months to 6 Years Old)
- [Wallaceburg Christian School](#)

School Adjustment Support

Adjusting to a new school and new academic system can be challenging, especially if you are not studying in your first language. Language assistance is available for those who are learning English as a second language through [Adult Language and Learning Immigrant Youth Services](#).

National and online supports are also available such as tutors through [Sylvan Learning](#) and [First Tutors Canada](#). Your child's school may also offer tutoring programs or services.

- [English Club](#) – Resources for learning English
- [Language Portal of Canada](#) – Gateway to English
- [Language Learners](#) – Chatham-Kent Public Library Resources

Post-Secondary Education

- [St. Clair College](#) - Chatham Campus
- [University of Guelph](#) - Ridgetown Campus

Adult and Continuing Education

Learning is a lifelong process and there are plenty of educational opportunities for adults of all ages in Chatham-Kent, whether you want to earn a Secondary School Diploma, improve your English, or further your career.



Chatham-Kent
Community Attraction & Promotion

LivingCK

Connect with a member of Community Attraction & Promotion's LivingCK team to learn more.

[LivingCK](#) [LivingCK](#) [LivingChathamKent](#) [LivingChatham-Kent](#)

LivingCK.ca

LivingCK@Chatham-Kent.ca

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