

Assessing Walkability of Cities

With reference to Green Communities Canada

Stephen Laidlaw August 15, 2023

Canada Walks

A division of Green Communities Canada that promotes the value of walking and walkability.

- Walkability is measured with regard to six main parameters, which are:
- A great walking experience. - routes are pleasant and inviting.
- Safety - separation from vehicles, good lighting, adequate snow and ice clearing, etc.
- Accessibility - routes are designed for all users, including those with mobility challenges.
- Connections - complete network to allow easy access to desired destinations.
- Comfort - communities are developed so that desirable destinations are within walking distance.
- Walkable Destinations - walkers have shade, shelter and places to sit.

Green Communities Canada suggestions.

On a municipal level.

- Sign the International Charter for Walking.
- Adopt a walking strategy and walk friendly development approvals.
- Hire a pedestrian planner.
- Establish an advisory committee.

Walk Friendly Ontario

A past recognition program from Green Communities Canada

- This program existed between 2013 and 2015 as a recognition program that encouraged municipalities to create and improve spaces and places to walk by awarding Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum designations.
- Participating municipalities and their ratings can still be viewed on the Green Communities Canada website.

City	Zip Code	Walk Score	Transit Score	Bike Score	Population
Toronto (the largest city in Ontario)		61	78	61	2,615,060
Hamilton		50	45	50	519,949
Perth		50	--	50	5,840
Mississauga		49	56	54	713,443
Hanover		49	--	46	7,490
Goderich		46	--	53	7,521
Ottawa		45	50	64	883,391
Kitchener		45	47	55	219,153
Newmarket		45	42	47	79,978
Smiths Falls		45	--	45	8,978
Gananoque		45	--	48	5,194
Brampton		43	53	55	523,911
Burlington		43	39	60	175,779
Oshawa		43	44	49	149,607
Orangeville		43	25	55	27,975
Windsor		42	38	52	210,891
Oakville		42	40	58	182,520
St. Catharines		42	40	55	131,400
Stratford		42	--	65	30,886
Cobourg		42	--	59	18,519
Waterloo		41	45	64	98,780

- The previous slide was from an American website and can be viewed in it's entirety by going to <https://walkscore.com/CA-ON>

Conclusion

Moving Forward

- Although there does not appear to be a walkability status award program at this time in Canada, that is similar to the Share The Road bike friendly communities awards program, I believe that the Green Communities Canada organization offers great information and resources that could be used to make Brampton a more walkable city.

