

Erin Village Alliance Church

Community Profile

Erin is a town in Wellington County, approximately 80 kilometres (50 mi) northwest of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It is an amalgamated town, composed of the former Villages of Erin and Hillsburgh, and the hamlets of Ballinafad, Brisbane, Cedar Valley, Crewson's Corners, Ospringe and Orton, as well as the former Township of Erin.

EVAC's ministry occurs within a particular geographical and sociological context. Geographically, the Town of Erin is a stable rural community in the midst of the fast growing "exburbs" of Toronto. While population growth is not actively encouraged, the Town of Erin's New Official Plan has allowed for significant residential growth over the next 20 years around the villages of Erin and Hillsburgh. Caledon, Rockwood, Guelph, Orangeville, Fergus/Elora and Acton are all growing as well and are within 30 minutes of Erin.

Sociologically, Erin's relative proximity to Toronto and stable rural personality has recently attracted a cohort of people with significant financial means to an area previously enjoyed by a typically rural population. As a result there are at least two types of Erinites – those who have grown up in Erin and those who have moved to Erin from the city. While the medium income is estimated to be \$76,000, a reflection of the new cohort that has moved to Town in the last 20 years, Erin also has a challenged lower income demographic that is as diverse as the higher income segment. As with most small rural communities, the lack of employment opportunities and the high cost of living drive most of Erin's young people to seek opportunities in a more urban setting.

While many have moved to the area either to retire outside the city or to raise a growing family, they find that Erin is in fact a difficult community to "break into" as it is a stable area where everyone either doesn't have the time for relationships or has enough friends already. Building personal relationships remains critical to the health and growth of our church and to seeing lives changed in positive ways.

Erin's History

Established in the late 1820s by founder Daniel McMillan (namesake of McMillan Park), the village, originally known as McMillan's Mills, grew from the power and sustenance afforded by the Credit River, which runs through its downtown.

As the village grew, the McMillan brothers constructed several mills, bringing jobs, and new residents to the village. With a growing population, several churches, a schoolhouse and hotels became part of Erin's landscape. Following the death of its founder, the village was renamed Erinsville – a reflection of the Irish heritage of many of its inhabitants.

Erin Today

Erin is primarily a rural community but, while farming is still an important activity in the town, most of its population works in the nearby cities of Brampton, Mississauga, Guelph, and even Toronto. The town's new industrial park is attracting a number of new industries, due to its cheaper tax rate, accessibility to transportation, and its location within the "Technology Triangle," a series of high-tech driven cities including nearby Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge.

Erin Facts

Population trend:

- Population in 2016: 11,439 (2011 to 2016 population change: +3.0%)
- Population in 2011: 10,770 (2006 to 2011 population change -3.4%)
- Population in 2006: 11,148 (2001 to 2006 population change: 0.9%)
- Population in 2001: 11,052 (Erin township and Erin village amalgamated in 1997)
- Population in 1996: 10,657 (Erin township: 8024, Erin village: 2633)
- Population in 1991: 10,050 (Erin township: 7561, Erin village: 2489)

Government

- Mayor: Allan Alls
- Governing Body: Town of Erin Council
- MP: Mike Chong (Con)
- MPP: Ted Arnott (PC)

Real Estate in the Community (Erin/Hillsburgh)

Real estate in Erin in 2020 and 2021 underwent a significant change. Like most municipalities, prices rose at a pace not seen in a number of years. The average selling price in Erin/Hillsburgh can range \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 for a typical 3-bedroom, 2-3 bath single detached home. Homes on larger rural properties can be higher. A significant housing development is potentially under way within the Erin town limits that will add an additional 1,100 residential dwellings. This will certainly add to the town's population and provide EVAC with additional ministry opportunities to address the increased spiritual, relational and physical needs that will accompany that growth.

Erin/Hillsburgh has an interesting mix of urban dwellings, including trailer homes to large rural properties for residential and commercial use (operational farms).

Taxes

The total property tax bill for an average house in 2020 was approximately \$5,000. The Town budget accounts for 28% of that bill, the education tax accounts for 14% and the county tax accounts for 58%. A newly approved sewage treatment plant will stabilize the town's sewage disposal issue but there is an expectation this will also impact local residential tax rates.

Services:

- ***Media***

The town of Erin has a community radio station CHES-FM. The Erin Advocate is the local newspaper and also publishes a monthly Country Routes to surrounding areas. The weekly paid-circulation paper has 2,500 circulations. It is the only media to report local news.

- **Community Centres:**

- **Centre 2000** (Erin) - Includes an Arena, Library, and local business offices
- **Hillsburgh Arena** (Hillsburgh)

Services *(continued)*:

- **Schools**

- Erin Public School (185 Daniel St, Erin; Grade span: JK-8, Enrollment: 476)
- St John Brebeuf Catholic School (30 Millwood Rd, Erin; Grade span: JK-8, Enrollment: 301)
- Ross R MacKay Public School (35 Trafalgar Rd, Hillsburgh; Grade span: JK-6, Enrollment: 154)
- Brisbane Public School (9426 Wellington Rd 124, Brisbane; Grade span: JK-6, Enrollment: 392)
- Erin District High School (14 Boland Dr, Erin; Grade span: 9-12, Enrollment: 632)
- Belfountain Public School (17247 Shaws Creek Road span: JK-6, Enrollment: 203)

- **Area Churches:**

- All Saints Anglican Church | Erin, ON | (519) 833-9961 | www.niagaraanglican.ca
- Erin United Church | Erin, ON | (519) 833-9727
- St. John Brebeuf Roman Catholic Church | Erin, ON | 519-833-9738
- Hillsburgh Baptist Church | Hillsburgh, ON | (519) 855-4533 | www.hillsburghbaptist.com
- St. Andrews Presbyterian | Hillsburgh, ON | 519-855-6216
- Knox Presbyterian Church | Ospringe, ON | 519-833-2902
- Belfountain Village Church | Belfountain, ON | (519) 927-1748 | www.belfountain.ca
- Melville White Church | Terra Cotta, ON | www.belfountainheritage.com

- **Other Religious Organizations**

- Islamic Cultural Centre – Erin, ON
- Islamic Centre – Orangeville, ON
- Jehovah Witness – Brisbane, ON

- **Medical Services:**

- **Hospitals:**

- While there are not any hospitals actually located within the Town of Erin, there are several in close proximity:
 - Groves Memorial Community Hospital, Fergus ON
 - Guelph General Hospital, Guelph ON
 - Headwaters Health Care Centre, Orangeville ON
 - William Osler Health Centre Georgetown Campus, Georgetown ON
 - Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto ON
- Ambulance service responds to emergency "911" calls and can take patients to either Orangeville, Georgetown or Guelph depending on your circumstances.

- **Healthcare Clinics:**

- East Wellington Family Health Team – Erin Clinic, Erin ON
- There are also a number of clinics in nearby Orangeville, Georgetown and Guelph