

# **Report on the Geographic/economic profile Of FBC Oshawa**

## **Overview of Oshawa:**

**The city of Oshawa is undergoing a transition from its origins as a manufacturing town to a city relying on the education and health care fields as well as its proximity for an “easy” commute to Toronto. Since the 1980’s Oshawa has seen its manufacturing employment drop from 30% of all jobs to less than 10%. This decline has been led by the decline of the auto industry. In 1980’s General Motors alone employed approximately 25,000 hourly workers at two plants and now only about 2,500 remain. The site of the former “north plant” is now a Costco.**

**Taking up some of the slack has been an increase in the healthcare and education sectors where employment has almost doubled between 2000 and 2017 from 22,000 to 42,000**

**The increase in the education sector has been greatly helped by the establishment of UOIT (University of Ontario Institute of Technology) which shares the campus of Durham Community College in the city’s north end. UOIT has helped Oshawa to shed its image as “The Dirty ‘Shwa” by helping with the renewal of the downtown, renovating at least three buildings and constructing a new one for classroom space in the core.**

**Oshawa has several transportation advantages including a train station at the end of the GO train commuting line and a stop on the main VIA line between Toronto and Ottawa/Montreal. (Via shares space at the GO station) FBC Oshawa is located 7.5 km from the GO station.**

**First Baptist is located in the North central part of the city. Centrally located between the downtown (2 ½ km to the south) and the UOIT/Durham College campus (4 km to the north)**

**UOIT has just over 10,000 full-time students while Durham Colleges’ enrolment is around 11,000. There are 1,360 students living on**

**campus in residence. The number of students living off campus but not with their families is unknown.**

**The population growth over the last 20 years has shifted from the south and central parts of the city to the far north of the city. The student populations of the local high schools have reflected that shift as three high school in the south have closed in this century and the last remaining south end secondary school, GL Roberts had almost 1000 students in the early 1980's but has now declined to just over 400 students. Meanwhile in the far north end of the city, the newest secondary school, Maxwell Heights 36% over its ministry rated capacity. This school is projected to have slight but steady growth over the next few years through to October 2021. FBC is located 5.3 kms from this school. The closest secondary school to FBC is also the city's oldest (still probably the most prestigious too) O' Neill CVI located just north of the downtown core 1.8km from FBC. This school, while still below capacity, is maintaining its population for the next four years (probably due to all the school closures to the south of it) And on the west side of town is RS Mclaughlin 2.3 km from FBC. This school is also slightly below its capacity but will remain constant for the next four years.**

**As for the elementary panel, there are three schools within close proximity to FBC. Queen Elizabeth located 1.5 kms to the north east of the church and the focus of much our congregation's outreach efforts is projected to grow slightly over the next four years. Dr. SJ Phillips is only 750 metres from the school and although over its capacity, is projected to decline slightly over the upcoming four years. And finally 1.3 km to the north west of the church is Sunset Heights. This school is projected to grow by 37% over the next four years!**

**The church is located in a relatively affluent neighborhood surrounded by mostly ranch style bungalows in the 40 to 60 year old range. To the far north east of the church are newer subdivisions of larger homes. Known to some as "Poshawa". In between these two areas is an area of low rent apartments and town homes that surround the aforementioned Queen Elizabeth public school. Because of the socio-**

**economic status of this area it brings down the median family income of the postal code that the church is in to just 3% above the national average (2006 figures). The postal code immediately north of the downtown is 47% above the Canadian average and the postal code in the far south east of the city is 38% above the national average.**

**In conclusion the overall shift of population and wealth toward the north end of the city is likely to be exacerbated by the arrival of the 407 toll way in the city's far north end. The only thing that might mitigate this drive toward the north is if the province ever comes through with the much promised extension of the GO train service through Oshawa to Bowmanville including a second Oshawa stop near the city's downtown core.**