

## Quality of Life

The region is a rural region, and offers many of the substantial qualities of life found in rural regions, including:

- **Crime rate** – The region enjoys a low incidence of crimes of all kinds, making it a safe place to live and do business.
- **Education** – The region is home to numerous high quality primary, secondary, post-secondary, and vocational educational institutions. This makes it attractive to families and to companies desiring to attract employees. Certain communities are “college towns,” offering additional activities that make living in the region attractive. Please see the separate entry for Universities and Colleges below for more detail.
- **Housing** – The region has a high quality housing stock, with numerous examples of both older architecturally significant homes and more contemporary homes. The regional housing market is a healthy market, with good turnover and ongoing building. The region did not suffer the housing market problems that characterized many regions in the country between 2000 and 2010, and home finance remains available in the region. We would be happy to assist you with finding a home or a home building site.
- **Environmental** – The region has a relatively clean environment, with little of the pollution and environmental hazards found in more urban environments. Clean water and air considerations are very important in the region, and our communities strive to maintain this important quality. In general, the region’s air quality is considered good, with air measurements normally indicating minimal readings for air pollution contamination. The region has very few industrial facilities that are listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as being major sources of air discharges.

We can help new businesses work within the regulatory framework to ease cost-effective compliance. Families enjoy many natural environmental resources unique to the region, which we would be happy to share with you. The region offers four distinct seasons, and residents enjoy each season with gusto.

- **Recreational** – The region offers numerous natural and man-made recreational opportunities, including Lake Erie and numerous smaller lakes and rivers, Chautauqua Institution, ski and snowboard resorts, snowmobile and horse riding and bicycle trails, fishing streams, hot air balloon races, numerous community festivals, hiking trails, collegiate and professional spectator sports, community participatory sports leagues, and golf courses.