

Final Draft

Chapter 2

THE PEOPLE OF BRIDGTON

During the period from 1970 to 2010 Bridgton's population has grown by 76%. A review of the four decades since 1970 (Table 2.1) reflects that the growth percentage was near or above 20% for the first two decades but declined significantly in the last two. During the last 40 years Bridgton's population has grown at a rate that has exceeded that of Cumberland County and the state of Maine by approximately 30%.

| Table 2.1 Population of Bridgton, Cumberland County, And Maine 1920-2010 | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Year | Bridgton | Cumberland County | Maine |
| By Actual Numbers | | | |
| 1920 | 2,546 | 124,376 | 768,014 |
| 1930 | 2,659 | 134,645 | 797,423 |
| 1940 | 3,035 | 146,000 | 847,226 |
| 1950 | 2,950 | 169,201 | 914,950 |
| 1960 | 2,707 | 182,751 | 970,689 |
| 1970 | 2,967 | 192,528 | 992,048 |
| 1980 | 3,528 | 215,789 | 1,124,660 |
| 1990 | 4,307 | 243,135 | 1,227,928 |
| 2000 | 4,883 | 265,612 | 1,274,923 |
| 2010 | 5,210 | 281,674 | 1,328,361 |
| By Percentage | | | |
| 1970-80 change | 19% | 12% | 13% |
| 1980-90 change | 22% | 13% | 9% |
| 1990-00 change | 13% | 9% | 4% |
| 2000-10 change | 7% | 6% | 4% |
| 1960-10 change | 92% | 54% | 37% |

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Factors contributing to Bridgton's growth between 1960 and 2000 include the national trend to migrate from urban to rural areas, the Town's lakes and the relatively low cost of land and construction labor. The aging of Bridgton's population and the construction of seasonal homes would lead to the conclusion that individuals are retiring to their seasonal homes

Final Draft

Comparative Population Change

Table 2.2 contains a summary of population changes over the past 40 years for Bridgton and a number of nearby communities, as well as Cumberland County and the State. The rate of growth in all jurisdictions shown has declined since the 1970-80 decade except for Bridgton’s increase in the eighties decade. In Table 2.2 the percentage change makes it appear that Bridgton has had the lowest growth rate. However, a comparison of the actual numbers reflects that Bridgton consistently had the largest real number growth in population.

What is not reflected in the table is the growth in seasonal residents. The significant increase in seasonal homes reflects that there is a significant population residing in Bridgton seasonally that is not reflected and which does have a major impact on the community.

| | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | % Change 1970-80 | % Change 1980-90 | % Change 1990-00 | % Change 2000-10 |
|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bridgton | 2,967 | 3,528 | 4,307 | 4,883 | 5,210 | 19 | 22 | 13 | 7 |
| Casco | 1,256 | 2,243 | 3,018 | 3,469 | 3,742 | 79 | 35 | 15 | 7 |
| Denmark | 397 | 672 | 855 | 1,004 | 1,148 | 69 | 27 | 17 | 14 |
| Fryeburg | | | 2968 | 3083 | 3,449 | | | 4 | 19 |
| Harrison | 1,045 | 1,667 | 1,951 | 2,315 | 2,730 | 60 | 17 | 19 | 18 |
| Naples | 956 | 1,833 | 2,860 | 3,274 | 3,872 | 92 | 56 | 14 | 18 |
| Raymond | 1,328 | 2,251 | 3,311 | 4,299 | 4,436 | 70 | 47 | 30 | 3 |
| Sebago | 708 | 974 | 1,259 | 1,433 | 1,719 | 38 | 29 | 7 | 20 |
| Sweden | 110 | 163 | 222 | 324 | 391 | 48 | 36 | 46 | 21 |
| Waterford | 760 | 951 | 1,299 | 1,455 | 1,553 | 25 | 37 | 12 | 7 |
| Cumb. County | 192,528 | 215,789 | 243,135 | 265,612 | 281,674 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 6 |
| Maine | 993,722 | 1,124,660 | 1,127,928 | 1,274,923 | 1,328,361 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 4 |

Source: U.S. Census, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

Age Distribution

Table 2.3 contains a summary of age distribution for Bridgton, Cumberland County and the State for 2010. Bridgton’s age distribution in the under 5 category (5%) is the same as the other two jurisdictions (all 5%). The school age category, 5-17 (14%) has declined by 14% over the past ten years (Table 2.4). This category is presently slightly smaller than Cumberland County and the State (16 and 15% respectfully) (Table 2.3). The changes in the 18-44 and 45 and older categories are significant. Table 2-4 reflects that the 18-44 category, generally the family formation and child bearing years, has declined by 16% in the last decade while the 45-64 and 65 and over categories have increase by

Final Draft

38% and 33% respectfully. The aging of the Bridgton population specifically is further reflected in a comparison to that of Cumberland County and the State.

As reflected in Table 2.3 the 18-44 category is significantly less than that of the County and State. The middle age category (45-64) is slightly larger than that of Cumberland County and the State's. However the 65 and over category is 25% to 30% larger than County and State percentages.

| Table 2.3 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Population by Age Category 2010 | | | | | | |
| | Bridgton | | Cumberland County | | Maine | |
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Under 5 | 252 | 5 | 14,755 | 5 | 69,520 | 5 |
| 5-17 | 717 | 14 | 44,139 | 16 | 205,013 | 15 |
| 18-44 | 1,492 | 28 | 98,521 | 35 | 432,072 | 33 |
| 45-64 | 1,718 | 33 | 84,102 | 30 | 410,676 | 31 |
| 65 and over | 1,031 | 20 | 40,157 | 14 | 211,080 | 16 |
| Total | 5,210 | 100 | 281,674 | 100 | 1,328,361 | 100 |

Source: U.S. Census, 2010

| Table 2.4 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bridgton Population Growth by Age Category 1990 - 2010 | | | | | | |
| | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | % Change | | |
| | | | | 1990-00 | 2000-10 | 1990-10 |
| Under 5 | 288 | 250 | 252 | -13 | - | -13 |
| 5-17 | 832 | 829 | 717 | - | -14 | -14 |
| 18-44 | 1,666 | 1,780 | 1,492 | 7 | -16 | -10 |
| 45-64 | 866 | 1,249 | 1,718 | 44 | 38 | 98 |
| 65 and over | 655 | 775 | 1,031 | 18 | 33 | 57 |
| Total | 4,307 | 4,883 | 5,210 | 13 | 13 | 21 |

Source: US Census, 1990, 2000, 2010

Household Size

The average household size in Bridgton has been declining since 1980, as it has in Cumberland County, the State of Maine and all nearby comparison communities except Sweden (see Table 2.5). In the year 2010, the number of persons per household in Bridgton was slightly less than the County and State levels, as well most comparison communities except Sweden. In general a higher number of persons per household

Final Draft

reflects a higher number of school age children in the general population. A lower number projects a declining number of school age children.

| Table 2.5 Comparative Household Size 1980-2010 | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|-----------------|-----------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | % Change | |
| | | | | | 1980-2010 | 2000-2010 |
| Bridgton | 2.62 | 2.54 | 2.5 | 2.24 | -15 | -10 |
| Casco | 2.99 | 2.83 | 2.58 | 2.41 | -19 | -7 |
| Denmark | 2.56 | 2.7 | 2.41 | 2.4 | -6 | -6 |
| Fryeburg | | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.4 | - | - |
| Harrison | 2.68 | 2.78 | 2.52 | 2.4 | -10 | -5 |
| Naples | 2.71 | 2.65 | 2.52 | 2.45 | -10 | -3 |
| Raymond | 2.94 | 2.85 | 2.66 | 2.5 | -15 | -6 |
| Sebago | 2.63 | 2.5 | 2.45 | 2.37 | -10 | -3 |
| Sweden | 2.3 | 2.31 | 2.45 | 2.2 | -4 | -10 |
| Waterford | 2.65 | 2.69 | 2.46 | 2.33 | -12 | -5 |
| Cumberland County | 2.65 | 2.49 | 2.38 | 2.32 | -12 | -3 |
| Maine | 2.75 | 2.56 | 2.39 | 2.32 | -15 | -3 |

Source: U.S. Census, 1980-2010

Household Type

Table 2.6 contains a summary of households by type for Bridgton and the State of Maine, as shown in the 2010 Census. The percentage of family households in Bridgton (67.4%) is slightly higher than the State as a whole (65.7%). The percentage of married couple families in Bridgton is slightly below the State figure (51.4% vs. 52.5%). The Town has a higher percentage of female householders (11.4% vs. 9.5%) as well as householders 65 years and over living alone (11.3% vs. 10.7%). There are 78 people in Bridgton reported to be living in group quarters.

Final Draft

| Table 2.6 Household By Type 2010 | | | | |
|---|----------|------|-----------|------|
| | Bridgton | | Maine | |
| | # | % | # | % |
| All Households | 1,924 | 100 | 518,200 | 100 |
| Family Households | 1,296 | 67.4 | 340,685 | 65.7 |
| Married couple Families | 988 | 51.4 | 272,152 | 52.5 |
| Female Householder | 220 | 11.4 | 49,022 | 9.5 |
| Non-Family Households | 628 | 32.6 | 177,515 | 34.3 |
| Householder Living Alone | 497 | 25.8 | 139,969 | 27.0 |
| Householder 65+ | 218 | 11.3 | 55,483 | 10.7 |
| Persons in Households | 4,805 | 98.4 | 1,240,011 | 97.3 |
| Persons in Group Quarters | 78 | 1.6 | 34,912 | 2.7 |
| Institutionalized | 45 | 0.9 | 13,091 | 1.0 |
| Other | 33 | 0.7 | 21,821 | 2.7 |

Source: U.S. Census, 2010

Educational Attainment

Based on 2010 Census data, the population of Bridgton that is 25 years and older has had slightly more formal education than the population of Cumberland County and the State as a whole. Approximately 93.7% of the Town's population had at least a high school diploma, and 24.9% had at least a bachelor's degree. Since the 2000 census the town's educational level has increased by 6.6% and 5.1% respectively.

| Table 2.7 Educational Attainment | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------|------|------|---------------------------|------|------|------|
| | High School Graduate or Higher | | | | Bachelor Degree or Higher | | | |
| | 1990 | 2000 | 2009 | 2010 | 1990 | 2000 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Bridgton | 79.6 | 87.1 | 93.8 | 93.7 | 18.5 | 21.8 | 26.5 | 24.9 |
| Casco | 84.6 | 82.8 | 91.6 | 88.3 | 17.9 | 20.1 | 20.9 | 19.7 |
| Denmark | 89.6 | 88.5 | 96.1 | 92.2 | 23.1 | 25.8 | 30.9 | 30.8 |
| Fryeburg | 70.9 | 80.8 | 89.0 | 85.6 | 15.1 | 21.1 | 28.0 | 25.6 |
| Harrison | 82.3 | 87.9 | 91.8 | 91.2 | 18.6 | 20.5 | 23.1 | 23.3 |
| Naples | 80.1 | 87.4 | 92.5 | 92.6 | 12.2 | 16.0 | 22.2 | 21.3 |
| Raymond | 90.1 | 89.4 | 95.3 | 93.9 | 24.3 | 33.5 | 30.0 | 29.9 |
| Sebago | 84.6 | 92.1 | 95.4 | 95.1 | 18.2 | 22.2 | 25.1 | 26.6 |
| Sweden | 93.6 | 86.4 | 82.2 | 81.5 | 16.2 | 24.4 | 34.5 | 39.9 |
| Waterford | 74.0 | 84.8 | 90.7 | 89.1 | 18.1 | 16.2 | 21.6 | 17.1 |
| Cumberland | 85.0 | 90.1 | 92.8 | 93.3 | 27.6 | 34.2 | 38.3 | 39.5 |
| Maine | 78.8 | 85.4 | 89.4 | 89.8 | 18.8 | 22.9 | 26.1 | 26.5 |

Source: U.S. Census, 2010

Final Draft

Median Household Income and Poverty

As reflected in Table 2.8A, in the 2000 to 2010 decade Bridgton's per capita income increased by 30% to \$22,506 and the median household income by 15% to \$42,420. The per capita increase ratio was comparable to that of the county and state. However, the median household income increased almost 9% less than the rate of increase for Cumberland County. This is reflected in the increase in the Town's population living below poverty. In 2000 the rate below was 12.9% and in 2010 it was 15.7% (Table 2.8).

| Table 2.8 | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Percent of Households Below Poverty | | |
| | 2000 | 2010 |
| Bridgton | 12.9 | 15.7 |
| Casco | 8.5 | 12.9 |
| Denmark | 12.0 | 7.1 |
| Fryeburg | 11.9 | 17.9 |
| Harrison | 9.8 | 12.8 |
| Naples | 6.7 | 18.0 |
| Raymond | 3.5 | 9.3 |
| Sebago | 5.3 | 6.8 |
| Sweden | 11.0 | 11.6 |
| Waterford | 12.4 | 11.1 |
| Cumberland | 8.0 | 10.7 |
| Maine | 11.5 | 12.8 |

Source: U.S. Census, 2010

| Table 2.8A | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Income Levels | | | | | |
| | Per Capita Income | | Median Household Income | | |
| | 2000 | 2010 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
| Bridgton | 17,352 | 22,506 | 24,428 | 36,722 | 42,420 |
| Casco | 19,306 | 22,870 | 28,133 | 41,629 | 51,630 |
| Denmark | 21,227 | 28,563 | 27,500 | 40,000 | 45,885 |
| Fryeburg | 18,658 | 19,154 | 27,071 | 34,333 | 36,925 |
| Harrison | 17,898 | 25,721 | 29,009 | 35,478 | 41,622 |
| Naples | 18,176 | 25,851 | 27,721 | 38,141 | 52,824 |
| Raymond | 25,193 | 29,735 | 40,133 | 52,224 | 64,444 |
| Sebago | 18,995 | 25,021 | 29,219 | 40,391 | 48,281 |
| Sweden | 14,991 | 39,433 | 26,875 | 30,781 | 56,094 |
| Waterford | 16,416 | 22,382 | 28,438 | 31,458 | 41,339 |
| Cumberland | 23,949 | 31,041 | 32,286 | 44,048 | 55,658 |
| Maine | 19,533 | 25,385 | 27,854 | 37,240 | 46,933 |

Source: U.S. Census, 2010

Final Draft

Employment and Occupations

Table 2.9 shows the occupations in which the population of Bridgton, the County and the State are employed.

| Occupations | Bridgton | | Cumberland Cnty | | Maine | |
|--|----------|------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 | 2000 | 2010 |
| Management, professional & related | 600 | 643 | 53750 | 62496 | 196862 | 224966 |
| Service | 397 | 756 | 19660 | 24589 | 95601 | 115271 |
| Sales & Office | 717 | 465 | 39108 | 36868 | 161480 | 160970 |
| Farm, Fish, Forestry | 9 | 0 | 865 | 755 | 10336 | 10367 |
| Construction, Extraction, Maintenance | 182 | 440 | 9911 | 11090 | 64064 | 66058 |
| Production, Transportation, Material Moving | 290 | 337 | 15318 | 13345 | 95666 | 79924 |
| Total | 2195 | 2635 | 138612 | 149143 | 624011 | 657556 |

Source: U.S. Census, 2010

Population Projections

In January of 2002, the State Planning Office released population projections by age category for every community in the State. These projections (Table 2-10) show a decline in the school age (5-17) category, and modest growth in all other categories except the 45-64 category, which shows an increase, from 1,249 people in 2000, to 1,684 people in 2015, a gain of 435 people or 35%. Table 2.1 shows that population growth in Bridgton has fallen just short of these projections. Please note that the State is no longer assembling these projections and we are just a year short of the end of these.

| Age Group | 2000 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 0-4 | 250 | 256 | 257 | 257 | 258 | 260 | 261 | 263 | 264 | 265 | 266 | 267 | 267 |
| 5-17 | 829 | 758 | 743 | 730 | 717 | 705 | 697 | 692 | 689 | 689 | 692 | 698 | 703 |
| 18-44 | 1,780 | 1,870 | 1,891 | 1,904 | 1,921 | 1,907 | 1,947 | 1,955 | 1,963 | 1,973 | 1,976 | 1,978 | 1,970 |
| 45-64 | 1,249 | 1,450 | 1,495 | 1,540 | 1,579 | 1,608 | 1,639 | 1,665 | 1,685 | 1,684 | 1,682 | 1,680 | 1,684 |
| 65+ | 775 | 793 | 795 | 801 | 806 | 821 | 835 | 850 | 861 | 892 | 921 | 950 | 980 |
| Total | 4,883 | 5,127 | 5,181 | 5,232 | 5,281 | 5,331 | 5,379 | 5,425 | 5,462 | 5,503 | 5,537 | 5,573 | 5,604 |

Source: Maine State Planning Office 2002

Final Draft

Table 2.11 shows how Bridgton’s population was expected to change between the year 2000 and 2015, and the extent to which the older age categories will dominate the anticipated increases. Growth in the 45-64 category was projected to account for 60% of the population increase during that period, and the growth of the combined 45-64 and 65 and over categories will likely account for 89% of the Town’s growth during this time. There was projected to be a small increase in the under 5 population, and a loss of 15% in the 5-17 (school age) population.

| Table 2.11 Bridgton’s Population Growth, 2000-2015 | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| | 2000 Population | | 2015 Population | | Change, 2000-2015 | |
| | # | % | # | % | # | % Change |
| Under 5 | 250 | 5 | 267 | 5 | 17 | 7 |
| 5-17 | 829 | 17 | 703 | 13 | -126 | -15 |
| 18-44 | 1,780 | 36 | 1,970 | 35 | 190 | 11 |
| 45-64 | 1,249 | 26 | 1,684 | 30 | 435 | 35 |
| 65+ | 775 | 16 | 980 | 17 | 205 | 26 |
| Total | 4,883 | 100 | 5,604 | 100 | 721 | 15 |

Source: US Census, 2000 and Maine State Planning Office

The final table (2.12) provides a comparison of Bridgton’s projected future population with that of Cumberland County and the State of Maine in the year 2015. Overall, the distribution by age category of Bridgton’s population will closely approximate that of the population in Cumberland County and the State. Despite the large growth projected for the 45-64 category, the Town’s percentage of people in 2015 in that category will be smaller than at the County and State level. Table 2.4 shows Bridgton's actual population growth to 2010.

| Table 2.12 Projected Population by Age Category, 2015 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | Bridgton | | Cumberland County | | Maine | |
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Under 5 | 267 | 5 | 17,146 | 6 | 73,041 | 5 |
| 5-17 | 703 | 17 | 45,377 | 15 | 204,145 | 15 |
| 18-44 | 1,970 | 36 | 104,412 | 35 | 453,553 | 33 |
| 45-64 | 1,684 | 26 | 84,547 | 29 | 411,622 | 30 |
| 65 and over | 980 | 16 | 43,736 | 15 | 228,661 | 17 |
| Total | 5,604 | 100 | 295,218 | 100 | 1,371,022 | 100 |

Source: Maine State Planning Office 2002