OVERVIEW

Statistics Canada has recently released the results of the 2016 Census. In August 2012, Staff prepared a report to Council for the purpose of undertaking a review of the 2011 population data and complete a limited trend and comparative analysis regarding population and age cohort data between the 2011 census and the 2006 and 2001 censuses. With the latest Census data, Staff will be providing an update to the report, extending to the year 2016.

16864
Total Population in 2016

1.74%
Growth from 2011

50.1
Age Median in 2016
MIDLAND IS GROWING

Between 2011 and 2016 the Town grew by 289 persons from 16,295 to 16,864 persons. This growth represents a 1.74% growth rate over the 5 year census period or an average annual growth of 0.35%. This is the highest % of population growth Midland has experienced since 2001, as shown in the chart below.

Compared to our neighbors, Midland has experienced less growth in the last 5 years. While the Town of Penetanguishene has experienced a negative % population change at -1.6%, the Township of Tiny and Tay Township has experienced a growth of 4.9% and 3.1% respectively between 2011 and 2016.

SLOW, GRADUAL GROWTH

Midland has grown steadily over the last 15 years. Compared to our neighbors, Midland has not experienced a drastic change in population during any of the Census periods. While a number of the Town’s north Simcoe neighbours have shown negative growth rates at times, Midland has continued to grow during the last 15 year period, albeit slowly.
AN AGING POPULATION

Similar to the rest of Canada, Midland is getting older. In 2016, Midland’s senior population (65+) now represents 25.17% of the total population, an increase of almost 7% from 2001. Conversely, this also means that there are less percentage of working population and less children. Midland’s age median has grown from 41.1 years old to 50.1, an increase of 9 years between 2001 to 2016.

While this change is also reflected in the County and Ontario data, the change is not as pronounced as it was in Midland. In Ontario, seniors represent approximately 16.42% of the population, while in Simcoe County, the seniors population represent approximately 17.98%. Since 2001, Ontario’s age median increased from 37.2 to 41.3, a change of approximately 4 years. In Simcoe County, the age median’s increased from 37.3 to 43.1, a change of approximately 6 years.
LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

In Midland, 62% of the surveyed population commutes within the Town and 32% is commuting to destinations outside of the Town. Compared to adjacent municipalities, the County and the Province, Midland has the highest percentage of population commuting within the Town. This is especially significant compared to adjacent municipalities. In Penetanguishene, only 39% commutes within the municipality, while the numbers are even lower in Tiny and Tay with both communities being at 10%.

As a reflection of commuting destinations, the residents of Midland also generally enjoy a much shorter commute time. Approximately 59% of the population in Midland commutes less than 15 minutes, a significantly higher percentage than adjacent municipalities, the County, and the Province. Compared to a larger, urban community like Toronto, the different is especially significant. This data suggests that the Town has achieved a good balance in providing both residential communities and economic opportunities.
The Duty to Consult is a new requirement for local municipalities. When it comes to Planning Applications, it is the Town’s responsibility to ensure Aboriginal communities are informed, involved, and consulted during the process. Compared to the County and the Province, the Town has a significantly higher percentage of Indigenous population at 14.3%, compared to 4.7% and 2.8% of the County and the Province respectively.
As previously discussed, the population structure of the Town is changing. As the Town’s population grows and more importantly as the Town’s population distribution changes, the types of programs, facilities and services that Town provides may also need to change. It’s important to not treat all senior population as one group, as the needs and required services for an individual who is 65 years old can be very different from an individual who is 95 years old.

From reviewing the graph on the right, it’s clear that not only is the senior population growing in general, there’s also been a significant growth for those who are 85 years and older. The Town should start planning ahead to be able to provide the programs, facilities and services needed to meet the demands of the future population.