

Residential Development and Demographics across the Land Between

The Land Between has a distinct culture that is characterized in part by the seasonal nature of majority residents and the related nature-based attractions and recreational activities. It is understood that there is an increase in the demand and trend in seasonal cottagers taking up permanent residents in the area, and it is surmised that much of this pressure is due to the demographics of the North American populations, such that the majority and increasing permanent population across the Land Between is beyond the age of 50 years old. Additional pressures for development may also be from increases in urban sprawl and/or avoiding urban sprawl.

This project aims to characterize the types and level of development in Counties/Municipalities across Land Between. The project goals are also to characterize and understand the population demographics within each area and then, if possible, relate the demographics to the development types and needs and pressures.

Sources of information may include:

Census Canada, Ministry of Finance, Statistics Canada, Clerks and Treasurers of Counties/Municipalities, Reference Canada, www.municipalworld.com, Trent University; Susan Wurtele and John Wadland etc.

Deliverables:

- Project plan including scope and sources of information
- Tabular database containing results for population demographics per area.
- Tabular database containing number and type of development application per area
- References/Bibliography and Annotation of Sources of information are to be outlined
- Report/discussion on development and related demographics across the Land Between, and if time allows, in comparison to the Greater Toronto Area and the North.

Key research question(s):

****The project may be restricted to a set of questions (questions/projects are suggested in a stepped and consecutive order building on one another), or to a geographic area, wherein all the questions may be researched. Furthermore, project may be expanded by contrasting findings to those in developed areas and to the north (GTA and Northern Ontario).**

Questions A

What amount of development proposals have been received per County/Municipality per year in the last five years?

What type of applications have they been: severance, subdivision, expansion?

Questions B

What are the demographics of each area?

Questions C

What are the patterns of development: types of housing, access, seasonal, infrastructure associated and in what relative quantities are in each county? (i.e. residential home, retirement complex, cottage seasonal, apartment, condominium)

Questions D

What are the total municipal expenditures per area?

What portion and what amount of each municipal budget is received through fees and tax dollars?

What portion of the municipal budget is used for governance expenses?

Questions E

What amount/percentage of development and what types are shoreline developments?

What is the relative amount of public/private lands and greencover to developed areas?

Benefits to the community:

The results of this project will help to characterize the lands within the “Land Between”; it will support the assessment of uniqueness as well as the vulnerability of these lands to development, climate change and other pressures.

The project will set a benchmark for further research and analysis.

The project will allow the assignment appropriate messages and measures for conservation of the lands.

The project will highlight/target areas of greater sensitivity for protection and stewardship.

The project will provide a benchmark and framework from which to measure changes and monitor actions.

The project will help local communities through highlighting areas of sensitivity for protection, stewardship and/or incorporation into planning documents, and may help to promote appropriate designated land uses and deter inappropriate resource extraction/use.

Benefits to the student:

Students will be contributing basic understanding and standards in an area of new and uncharted science.

Students will gain experience in wildlife biology and species at risk conservation, with a focus on insects and herpetiles, and secondarily on botany and birds.

The project will hone skills related to field inventories and assessment techniques.

Students will utilize and enhance skills in resource management including research methods, report writing, GIS mapping and modeling and public relations. It will qualify an individual for work in the conservation sector: an area requiring broad ranging skill sets from field assessments to critical analysis.

Landowner and agency contact, communication and coordination are public relation skills that will be enhanced and are utilized providing beneficial experience to the student in any sector and level of environmental management today.

Lastly, results and research will be marketed and communicated to groups across the Land Between, as well as resource agencies such as OMNR, NHIC, Ontario Stewardship, Municipalities and Watershed Councils and educational institutes.

Resources provided:

Office space and computer access. ArcMap 9 GIS software.

Networks and contacts in OMNR and NHIC as well as educational sectors.

Limited travel budget for necessary field investigations (mileage @ \$0.42)

Small stipend as required.

Printing costs.

Larger publishing costs.