

A Community Profile

**Prepared for the Vermont Council
on Rural Development**



A Note to the Reader

Just as a community is never finished modifying, adapting, and organizing its natural, political, and social environments, an attempt to profile those dynamic processes must be a work in progress. Materials below are organized to reflect community characteristics and resources. Please join us in this profiling effort and call attention to omissions, inaccuracies, and errors of fact.

Thank you,

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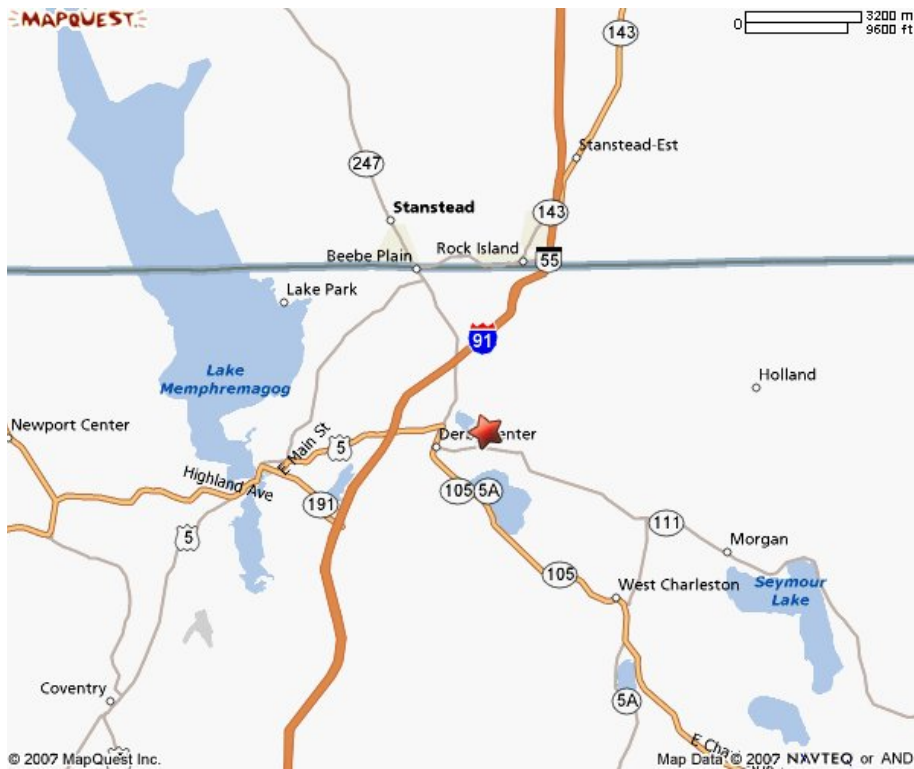
Section 1. Town Organization

Where is Derby?

Derby is in north central Orleans County, “hard upon” the Canadian border, abutting, Stanstead Town to the north in the Province of Quebec. To the east is Holland Town, Vermont; to the south is Brownington Town and to the west are Lake Memphremagog and Newport Town. Derby Town contains four unincorporated villages: Beebe Plain, Clyde Pond, Lake Salem, and North Derby; and two incorporated villages: Derby Center and Derby Line.

The village of Derby Line sits upon the Canadian-United States boundary. Its shared border with Stanstead, Quebec, is garnering increasing attention from border security officials. The town of Derby encompasses the largest land area in Orleans County. The completion of Interstate 91 in 1958 (and accompanying developmental pressures) enhanced Derby’s historic function as an international gateway..

Figure 1.1 Derby Map



Foundations

Officially, Derby's town charter date is October 29th, 1779. However, the town itself was not created until nearly a decade later. (The charter was then backdated to the time the original grant was made by the legislature.) (Swift, 1976, p. 350.)

The town was granted to Timothy Andrew and 59 associates. From a prominent Connecticut family, Andrew appears to have been a carpenter by trade. He also engaged in land speculation, both in Connecticut and Vermont. He was involved in getting the charters for half a dozen Vermont towns near the Canadian border. Derby is named after Derby, Conn.; where some of the earliest meetings of the proprietors of Andrews' various towns were held.

Early History

Andrew realized that the boundaries of Derby overlapped with those of Salem on the south and appealed to the legislature to combine the towns. In 1880 the legislature finally agreed and the town of Salem was annexed to both Derby and Newport, giving Derby the unusual boundaries and shape it has today.

Although Derby was granted to Andrew, Timothy Hinman, one of the original proprietors, had the greatest lasting influence on the town. Hinman built the Hinman Settler Road in 1791, which was eventually extended to 146 miles long and stretches north from Greensboro, through what are now Glover, Barton, and Brownington, all the way to Derby. At the time, this road was the main road in northern Vermont and played a key role in opening up the Northeast Kingdom for settlement.

Hinman was the first permanent resident of Derby and also served as the first town clerk, the first justice of the peace, the first hotelkeeper, and the first town representative. Eventually, he became Chief Judge of the Orleans County court and was the shopkeeper of the first (and most prominent) general store in Derby. His children were also among the first white settlers in Derby, Vermont.

An Eclectic Chronology

- 1779- Derby is chartered (see text above)
- 1795- First white settler, Timothy Hinman arrives
- 1850 – The People's Bank of Derby Line is incorporated by the state
- 1880- Salem annexed to Derby
- 1901– The Haskell Free Library and Opera House are built
- 1917- West Derby merges with Newport
- 2007- Senator Bernie Sanders hosts town meeting to discuss economic and social impact of delays at border checkpoints

Civic Structure

The first Derby post office was established in 1805 in Derby Center village and is still in operation today. In 1850, for a span of only one month there was another post office at Derby Center. This lasted only long enough for the postal authorities in Washington to discover that it was in the same village as the Derby post office. In 1820, the village of Derby Line got its own post office and it, too, continues to operate today. For many years, its postmaster and the one at the companion Canadian post office on the other side of the international border filled in for each other until their respective governments discovered their neighborly arrangement and put a stop to the practice. Conflicting agendas between local and national governments persists in Derby and will be discussed later in this paper. Beebe Plain, the other border village, got its post office in 1867, and the office too is still active. North Derby, a hamlet, had a post office from 1838 to 1919.

Among the most prominent civic structures in the area is the Haskell Free Library and Opera House. It was built on the U.S.-Canadian border in 1901 as a gift to the community from Martha Stewart Haskell and her son, Horace, and as a symbol of international harmony; a symbol challenged today by border security tensions.

Table 1.1 shows some of the general demographic characteristics of Derby. Table 1.2 highlights some of the general planning characteristics, including zoning ordinance and the Vermont Forum on Sprawl categorization.

Table 1.1 – General Town Characteristics

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Town Name | Derby |
| County | Orleans |
| Date of Town Charter | 1779 |
| Incorporated Village(s) | Derby Center, Derby Line |
| Other Villages and Neighborhoods (past and present) | Salem Mill, West Derby |

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2004. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Table 1.2 – Derby General Planning Characteristics

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Vermont Forum on Sprawl Category</i> | 2 – New Growth Town |
| Town Plan | March 5 th , 2002 |
| Zoning Ordinance | Yes |
| Subdivision Ordinance | No |

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2004. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Section 2. Human Resources

Derby's population growth, at a rate of 2.8%, is below the state average and can be described as a small, yet manageable increase in population. At 4,604 inhabitants, Derby earns an "urban designation" by some US Census definitions, but many consider it a primary rural service center. It is the second biggest town in Orleans County, behind Newport City. The town of Derby encompasses the largest area in Orleans County. Table 2.1 shows that just less than 50 percent of the population was considered age "dependent" in 2000.

Table 2.1 – Derby Population Characteristics

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 2006 Population Estimate | 4,891 |
| Total Population, 2000 | 4,604 |
| Total Population, 1990 | 4,479 |
| Absolute Population Change, 1990 – 2000 | 125 |
| Percent Population Change, 1990 – 2000 | 2.79% |
| Persons per Square Mile, 2000 | 92.76 |
| Persons per Square Mile, 1990 | 47.57 |
| Area in Square Miles | 49.6 |
| Percent Dependent, 2000 (Under 18 and over 65) | 42.29% |
| Percent Native Born (United States), 2000 | 93.0% |
| Percent Reporting Irish Ancestry, 2000 | 11.3% |
| Percent Reporting French/French Canadian Ancestry, 2000 | 18.5% |

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2004. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>
US Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American Factfinder*.
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

A Brief Aside on Derby's Ethnic Diversity

Table 2.2 shows the ethnic diversity of Derby. Of the 4,604 citizens, an overwhelming 97.6% is comprised of people who identified as "white alone" on the 2000 US Census with an additional 1.1% of those who claim to be "white in combination with some other race". The Hispanic population, which the second largest percentage here, makes up only .7% of the total population, a figure that is well below the state average.

Table 2.2 – Ethnic Diversity

| | Number | Percent |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Total population (all races) | 4,604 | 100.0 |
| White alone | 4,492 | 97.6 |
| White in combination | 52 | 1.1 |
| Black or African American alone* | 13 | 0.3 |
| Black or African American in combination | 12 | 0.2 |
| Asian alone | 13 | 0.2 |
| Asian in combination | 2 | 0.0 |
| Hispanic or Latino (any type)* | 31 | 0.7 |
| Some other race alone | 5 | 0.1 |
| Some other race in combination | 15 | 0.3 |

* Hispanic race population and the Black or African American race populations are **significantly below** the state average.

Source: www.city-data.com/city/Derby-Vermont.html

Age and Gender of Derby's Citizens

Table 2.3 shows that Derby has experienced a substantial increase in the number of individuals in the 45 to 64 year age range. The effect of the baby boom is shown in the movement from the young middle aged to the older middle aged between 1990 and 2000 in Orleans County as a whole. Like the rest of the state, the elder's share of Derby's population will likely continue to grow.

Table 2.3 – Age and Gender

| | Derby | | Orleans County | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | 1990 | 2000 | 1990 | 2000 |
| Total Population | 4,479 | 4,604 | 24,053 | 26,277 |
| Percent 0-17 years old | 29.7 | 27.2 | 28.4 | 25.1 |
| Percent 18-24 years old | 8.0 | 5.9 | 8.3 | 7.2 |
| Percent 25-44 years old | 29.5 | 26.5 | 30.6 | 26.8 |
| Percent 45-64 years old | 19.0 | 25.2 | 19.3 | 25.9 |
| Percent 65+ years old | 13.6 | 15.1 | 13.5 | 15.0 |
| Median Age* | N.A. | 38.9 | N.A. | 39.3 |
| Percent Male | 49.0 | 49.9 | 49.3 | 49.6 |
| Percent Female | 51.0% | 50.1 | 50.7 | 50.4 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American FactFinder*.
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Figure 2.1 – Age / Sex Pyramid 1990

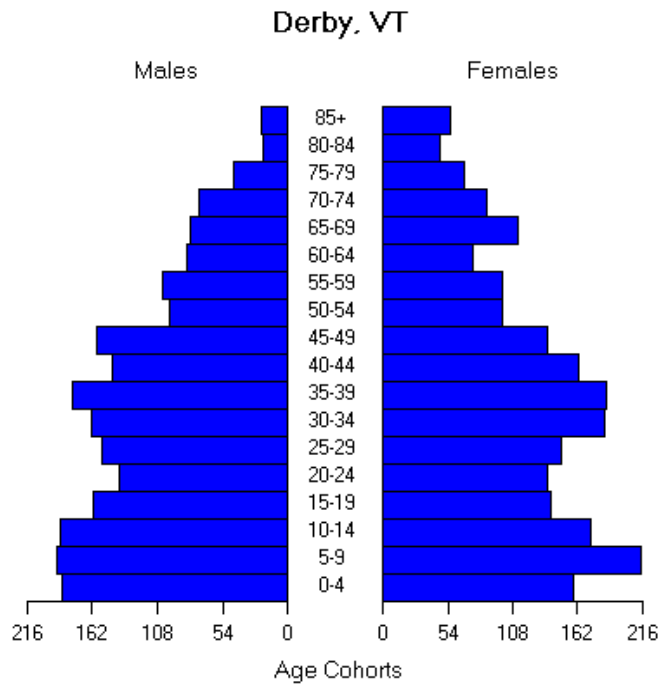
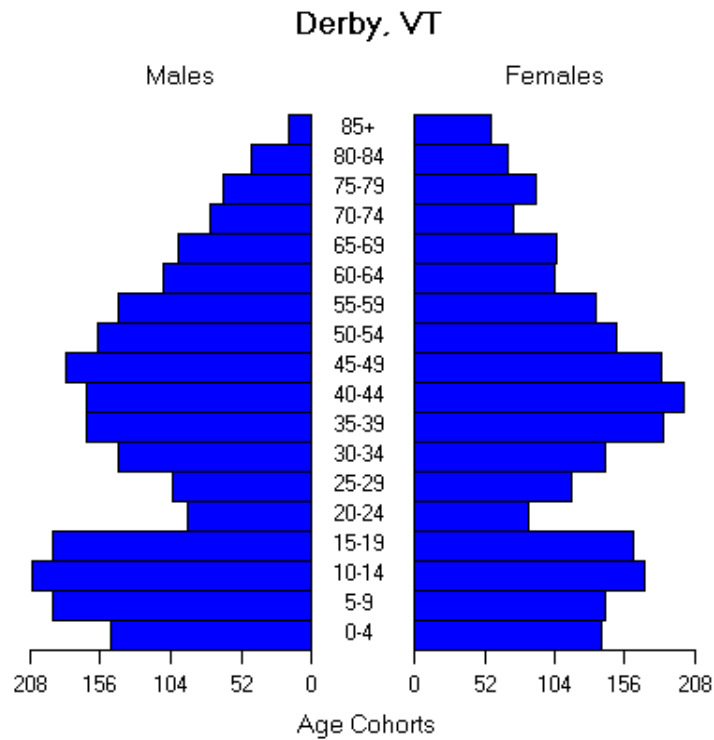


Figure 2.2 – Age / Sex Pyramid 2000



Derby Housing and Family Information

Table 2.4 depicts housing and family characteristics. It shows that Derby is following the state trend of decreasing average household size while home values are rising. Between 1990 and 2000, the rate at which the number of households increased (12%) slightly exceeded the rate at which total housing units grew (8%). It is also important to note that the past ten years have brought changes in family and household structure in Derby, as shown in the significant increase in single female headed households.

Table 2.4 – Derby Housing and Family Characteristics

| | 1990 | 2000 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Families | 1,223 | 1,319 |
| Number of Households | 1,640 | 1,832 |
| Average Family Size | N.A. | 2.92 |
| Average Household Size | 2.70 | 2.50 |
| Single-Mother Households | 95 | 158 |
| Total Housing Units | 2,082 | 2,258 |
| Number of Owner-Occupied Housing Units | 1,258 | 1,449 |
| Number of Renter-Occupied Housing Units | 382 | 383 |
| Median Housing Unit Value | \$75,700 | \$86,900 |
| Median Gross Rent | \$336 | \$456 |
| Median Gross Rent as Percent of Income | 24.60% | 24.80% |
| Percent Increase in Households (1990 – 2000) | 11.70% | |
| Percent Increase in Housing Units (1990 – 2000) | 8.43% | |

Sources: Center for Rural Studies/ VCGI. *Vermont Indicators Online*.

<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

U.S. Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. Summary File 3. *American FactFinder*.

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 2.5 compares the median home price at the town, county and state levels. While Derby experienced the largest percentage increase in home price, the figure is still below the median home price for the state of Vermont.

Table 2.5 – Town, County, and State Median Home Price Comparisons

| | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | Percent Increase from 1995 - 2005 |
|----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Derby | \$67,000 | \$89,750 | \$134,900 | 101.3% |
| Orleans County | \$65,000 | \$75,000 | \$115,000 | 76.9% |
| Vermont | \$99,000 | \$119,000 | \$185,000 | 86.9% |

Sources: Vermont Housing Data. 1995, 2000, 2005. *Median Price of Primary Residences Sold*. www.housingdata.org
“Median Home Prices.” Vermont Business Magazine- Book of Lists
2006/2007

Table 2.6, on the following page, gives some insight into income data for Derby, Orleans County, and the state. Derby lags behind the state in all indicators, yet consistently exceeds Orleans County. These statistics have important implications for the health and quality of life of youth as well as the larger community. Table 2.6 suggests that Derby’s educational attainment figures (in terms of the percentage of the population who have a high school degree or higher) are slightly higher than those of the county as a whole.

Table 2.6 – Town, County, and State Income & Poverty Comparisons

| | Derby | Orleans County | Vermont |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Annual Average Wage, 2000 | \$24,968 | \$23,093 | \$28,925 |
| Per Capita Income, 2000 | \$17,192 | \$16,518 | \$20,624 |
| Median Family Income, 2000 | \$39,688 | \$36,630 | \$48,625 |
| Median Household Income, 2000 | \$35,313 | \$31,084 | \$40,856 |
| Persons for whom Poverty Status was determined, 2000 | 471 | 3,587 | 55,506 |
| Poverty Rate, 2000 | 10.2% | 13.7% | 9.1% |
| Child Poverty Rate (persons under 18 years), 2000 | 3.7% | 4.7% | 2.7% |
| Elderly Poverty Rate (persons 65 years or over), 2000 | 1.3% | 1.5% | 1.0% |
| Percentage of Households with Public Assistance Income, 2000 | 2.7% | 2.8% | 1.9% |

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>
U.S. Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American FactFinder*.
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Section 3. Business and Infrastructure Resources

History of Business and Employment in Derby

In the early 1880's Derby's economy centered on agriculture and trade with Canada. The town's position across the border from Stanstead, Quebec, facilitated international trade. For a long time, Derby's non-cash-based economy depended upon an intricate balance of mutual indebtedness, with a simple legal system to work out disagreements. In the early 1800's Timothy Hinman ran a store that sold only basic necessities to cash-poor settlers who traded goods or services for items. He even accepted potash or pearlash for payment; a by-product of fireplace ashes. It was useful in manufacturing bleach, glass, and gunpowder and was exported to Britain.

In 1851, the People's Bank was founded in Derby Line and in 1865 it converted to a national charter and became National Bank of Derby Line. The bank provided citizens access to credit and as a result several small-scale manufacturing businesses were started. In 1883 the International Company of Derby Line, a lumber mill, was formed by the consolidation of several interests, the principal of which was the Lyndonville Dressing-Mill. The new mill dealt largely in all kinds of lumber, hardwood flooring, and manufactured boxes and chair-stock. During this time period furniture manufacturing businesses and woolen mills, grist and flouring mills, and paper mills permeated the community.

Table 3.1 depicts the top five industries that employ Derby citizens. While little information exists regarding home businesses and we are without accurate information on the diversity of agricultural and wood product activities here, an interesting and creative range of small businesses exist in Derby Town. Of special note are the largest employers, Tivoly cutting tools manufacturing, the Community National Bank (11th largest bank in Vermont in terms of employees, 2006) and the Spates Construction Company which is 10th in Vermont businesses in terms of 5-year percentage sales growth (from \$2.5 m in 2001 to \$7m in 2006, 180% growth). (see 2007-08 Book of Lists, Vermont Business Magazine, Burlington, Vermont <vermontbiz.com> p. 21.) Derby, like most border towns, benefits directly from its vantage point vis-à-vis international trade.

Vermont, saw a dramatic fall in export growth contrasting the first six months of 2007 with an identical period in 2006, dropping -13.5% and ranking 48th nationally in percent decline. Yet the research, Simos (Vermont Business Magazine, September, 2007:20) saw some reason for optimism as state exports surged, 13% this past June. On the other hand, very recent news of the Canadian dollar exceeding parity with the US dollar may well stimulate retail sales and tourism. Vacillations in export trade do not bode well for border town economic stability. As critically, potential obstacles to the timely flow of Canadian and Vermont citizens across the border affect these economies dramatically.

It is important to note that Derby Line’s village center is a designated town center as outlined in 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A. This was done to recognize and encourage the efforts that were being made locally to revitalize the traditional village center.

Table 3.1 – Derby Employment Characteristics

Top Five Industries, 2000 (employed persons 16 years and over)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Educational, Health, and Social Services | 21.9% | |
| Manufacturing | 17.7% | |
| Retail Trade | 14.1% | |
| Construction | 7.2% | |
| Other services (except public administration) | 6.1% | |
| | Derby Town | Orleans County |
| Unemployment Rate, 2005 (Not seasonally adjusted) | 4.10% | 5.00% |
| Annual Average Employment, 2005 | 2,530 | 13,750 |

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>
 U.S. Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American FactFinder*.
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 3.2 lists selected employers in Derby Village & Derby line and gives the total amount that each business employed in 2006 – 2007 and how many people each business is currently employing. It is interesting to note that of the businesses listed, most are related to manufacturing or to a service industry.

Table 3.2 – Employers in Derby Village & Derby Line

| | Total Employed 2006 -07 | Total Employed 2007 - 08 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Businesses in Derby Village | | |
| Brik Blok, Inc | 2 | Not reported |
| Community National Bank | 94 | 94 |
| Country Thyme Candle | 1 | 1 |
| Derby-Port Press, Inc | 2 | 2 |
| Fred’s Plumbing & Heating | 10 | 10 |
| GosselinWater Well Inc. | 12 | 65 |
| Gosselin Roger Inc. | 40 | 40 |
| North Country Engineering | 30 | 30 |
| Poulin Lumber, Inc. | 60 | 60 |
| Spates Construction | 15 | 15 |
| Strictly Vermont Candles | 2 | 2 |
| The Hayward Farm | 2 | Not reported |
| WMOO- FM | 8 | 7 |
| Businesses in Derby Line | | |
| Tivoly Inc. | 175 | 175 |

Source: 2006/07 and 2007/08 Vermont Manufacturers & Business Directory, Vermont Business Magazine, Burlington, Vermont (vermontbiz.com) p. 148.

Property Values

Table 3.3 shows average residential value, the Grand List and the Effective Property Tax Rate in Derby. These data are not strictly comparable with other census indicators here and are collected by the state Tax Department.

Table 3.3 – Derby Property Valuation & Taxation

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Value of Grand List Equalized, 2007 | \$383,818,303 |
| Total Municipal Tax Rate per \$100, FY 2007 | 0.4957 |
| Homestead Education Tax Rate per \$100, FY 2007 | 1.6369 |
| Non-Residential Education Tax Rate per \$100, FY 2007 | 1.9661 |
| Derby Center Village Tax Rate per \$100, FY 2007 (Additional) | 0.1140 |
| Derby Line Village Tax Rate per \$100, FY 2007 (Additional) | 0.5212 |

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. *Vermont Indicators Online*.

<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Vermont Department of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review.
1998-2000

Transportation

Derby lies on Interstate-91, and is a gateway community to the United States from Canada. U.S. Route 5 also runs through Derby and has been the site of a lot of recent commercial growth. Derby is roughly 25 miles east of Jay Peak and roughly 10 miles northwest of the Newport State Airport. Derby also has the most total miles (class 1, 2, 3 and state highways) of any town or city in Orleans County, and more Class 3 roads (dirt) than any town in the county.

Table 3.4 depicts several indicators reflecting transportation in Derby. Comparable data is only now in the process of being released by Census 2000 and/or assimilated into the Center for Rural Studies databases.

Table 3.4 – Derby Town Local Transportation Behavior

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Total Number of Accidents, 2001 | 9 |
| Number of Accidents involving fatalities, 2001 | 0 |
| Commuters who Drive Alone, 2000 | 1,734 |
| Commuters who Carpool, 2000 | 218 |
| Commuters who use Public Transit, 2000 | 0 |

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Section 4. Social Capital

Schools

A school is not just an educational resource, but also a social networking hub for the community. Derby's school system, which is comprised of an elementary school and a junior/high school, ranks well on many indicators for Vermont schools.

Derby Elementary School's total school enrollment in 2006 was 397, having decreased every year since 2002-2003 (see Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 – Derby Elementary School (K-6) General School Information

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | Statewide 2005-06* |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Total School Enrollment | 410 | 391 | 373 | 397 | 96,636 |
| Attendance Rate | 95.0% | 95.6% | 95.3% | 95.5% | 95.0% |
| Retention Rate | .7% | .3% | .5% | 1.5% | 2.9% |
| Student to Teacher Ratio | 10.9 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 11.5 | 11.3 |
| Eligible Special Education | 17.6% | 15.3% | 13.4% | 14.1% | 14.3% |

* All Vermont students K - 12

Source: Center for Rural Studies and VT Department of Education. *VT School Report*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrpt> and www.vermontschoolreport.net

Table 4.2 – North Country Jr. UHSD #22 (7-8) General School Information

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | Statewide 2005-06* |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Total School Enrollment | 332 | 334 | 322 | 314 | 96,636 |
| Attendance Rate | 94.3% | 94.6% | 94.2% | 94.2% | 95.0% |
| Retention Rate | 3.1% | 4.2% | 2.6% | 1.2% | 2.9% |
| Student to Teacher Ratio | 10.7 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.1 | 11.3 |
| Eligible Special Education | 12.0% | 18.3% | 21.1% | 16.6% | 14.3% |

* All Vermont students K - 12

Source: Center for Rural Studies and VT Department of Education. *VT School Report*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrpt> and www.vermontschoolreport.net

North Country Jr. UHSD #22 and North Country Sr. UHSD #22 total enrollments in 2006 were 314 students and 1,031 students, respectively. Like the elementary school, enrollment has been declining for both schools since 2002-03 (see Table 4.2 and 4.3). A positive point to note is the upswing in attendance rate for the Sr. UHSD during the 2005-06 school year. The student/teacher ratio has been decreasing since 2002-03 and has been consistently lower than the statewide average.

Table 4.3 – North Country Sr. UHSD #22 (9-12) General School Information

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | Statewide 2005-06* |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Total School Enrollment | 1,063 | 1,045 | 1,039 | 1,041 | 96,636 |
| Attendance Rate | 93.5% | 94.1% | 93.4% | 95.4% | 95.0% |
| Retention Rate | 0.0% | 2.8% | 1.5% | 1.9% | 2.9% |
| Student to Teacher Ratio | 12.9 | 14 | 11.8 | 14 | 11.3 |
| Eligible Special Education | 16.0% | 15.1% | 15.2% | 16.2% | 14.3% |

* All Vermont students K - 12

Source: Center for Rural Studies and VT Department of Education. *VT School Report*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrpt> and www.vermontschoolreport.net

Recreation

Derby abounds with activities within the natural environment such as hiking, swimming, boating, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling. Newport and Derby have also created a bicycle path on an old railroad bed adjacent to Lake Memphremagog that links to 30 miles of bicycle trails in Quebec. Recreational areas of interest nearby include Lake Memphremagog and the Clyde River. In addition to this, Derby also contains a total of 3 miles of off-road bicycle/pedestrian paths, while the average mileage of all towns and cities in Vermont is only 1.9 miles. Derby contains many different sports fields and rinks as well, including indoor and outdoor tennis courts, a skate park, outdoor ice-skating rink, swimming pool, and a track.

Websites and Communication

There is a website with information about the town of Derby at <http://www.city-data.com/city/Derby-Vermont.html> and there are a few other websites that contain basic facts about Derby as well. For information regarding specific characteristics, statistics, and reports on Derby, past and present, a few good resources are the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont, Vermont Place Names Guide (Swift, 1977), as well as the Vermont Historical Society on the web at <http://www.vermonthistory.org/>

Current Issues

International borders are places of abrupt transition and are usually clearly delineated. In the case of the Derby Line, positioned on the Vermont/Stanstead, Quebec border, this is not the case. The border runs straight through the community, cutting through the street grid and even buildings, creating an unusual international zone. In the past, the border atmosphere of these two towns has been very amicable, most citizens have family on both sides of the border and frequently cross the border to run errands and visit the Haskell Free Library and Opera House. The two towns share more than just a library and opera house -- they also share their drinking water. The water supply is pumped from wells in Canada, stored in a reservoir in the United States and distributed through a system maintained by Canadians. Until Quebec introduced government health care and highway access to Canadian hospitals, most people from Stanstead were born in Vermont.

Since 9/11, border control all over the nation has been increased. The Derby/Stanstead line has become a source of anxiety for security officials in both the United States and Canada. However, a proposal by a joint border task force to block unguarded streets that cross between the two countries has ultimately united the towns. The citizens of both feel that doing so would ruin the cross-border friendship by introducing an element of distrust, and have no impact upon the illegal immigrant crossings.

Visitors crossing the border are already being subjected to closer scrutiny, which has resulted in long delays of up to two or three hours. On June 13th 2007 a Vermont newspaper, Seven Days, wrote an article on the issue that summarized the situation by

stating: “Hundreds of Stanstead residents also routinely visit Derby Line solely in order to buy gasoline and milk, each of which sells for about 50 percent less on the Vermont side. Daily traffic in the other direction includes Americans eager to play the slots in a nearby casino, as well as young Vermonters thirsting for the opportunities offered by Canada’s lower drinking age. Even now, Canadians sometimes endure waits of 40 minutes en route to a filling station and convenience store tantalizingly close to the Derby Line border.”

On August 31st, 2007 Senator Bernie Sanders hosted a town meeting in Derby Line about the economic and social impact of the long lines and delays at the checkpoints. Border Protection Assistant Commissioner Thomas Winkowski was also invited. The outcome of this meeting has yet to be revealed.

Table 4.4 shows the number of vehicles and people who entered the United States at the Derby Line border crossing.

Table 4.4 - Incoming border traffic

| | 1994 | | 2003 | |
|----------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| | Derby Line | Percent of Vermont crossings | Derby Line | Percent of Vermont crossings |
| Truck crossings | 81,235 | 35.2% | 136,521 | 43.5% |
| Personal vehicles | 831,654 | 47.4% | 666,193 | 46.7% |
| Passengers by personal vehicle* | 1,699,360 | 49.9% | 1,213,036 | 44.7% |
| Passengers by bus | 62,477 | 38.0% | 44,031 | 33.9% |
| Pedestrians | 18,432 | 82.5% | 10,549 | 65.3% |

* 1995 & 2003 data

Source: U.S. DOT, BTS based on data from U.S. Customs Service, Mission Support Services, Office of Field Operations, Operations Management Database.

Section 5. Natural Resources

Waterways and Mountains

Derby is bordered on the northwest by Lake Memphremagog, a 27-mile long glacier formed lake. The name is reputedly Abenaki for “Beautiful Waters” or less romantically, “the Great Pond place.” The town is also bisected east to west by the Clyde River, along which lie four lakes, the largest of which is 788-acre Lake Salem (Orth, 104). Derby and Orleans County lie between the eastern and western ranges of the Green Mountains.

Orleans County is also unique in eastern Vermont, as a watershed that mostly drains north as a part of the St. Lawrence River Basin.

The average annual precipitation in Derby is 40.78 inches. Rainfall is fairly distributed evenly throughout the year, averaging 3.39 inches a month. The average minimum temperature is 5.5* Fahrenheit in January and the average maximum temperature is 80.9* Fahrenheit in July.



Picture Source: <http://www.vermontel.net/~dmack/vsummer5.html>

Derby’s land area is 49.6 square miles and its water area is 7.99 square miles. In 2000, the town had a total of 542.93 acres of private and public conserved land totaling 1.5% of its land area.

Section 6. Sources

This Profile is an attempt to bring together information from many different sources.

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