

STATISTICS

# 2006 census: a tale of mixed fortunes

by Paul Dalby  
THE INDEPENDENT

**T**HE 2006 CENSUS, released Tuesday by Statistics Canada, paints a picture of mixed fortunes in the municipalities of east Northumberland County.

The Municipality of Brighton continued its trend of steady growth with an 8.5 per cent increase in population between 2001 and 2006. The municipality's population currently stands 10,253 (compared to 9,449 in the previous census).

This translates to a population density rate of 46.1 persons per square kilometer spread across the total area of 222 sq. km.

Compare this to the gloomy picture painted for the bigger municipality of Trent Hills, which actually witnessed a drop of 2.6 per cent in population between 2001 and 2005.

The new census pegs Trent Hills' current population at 12,247, (compared to 12,569 in 2001).

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## BLISS = PANCAKES AND MAPLE SYRUP



The 21st annual Warkworth Maple Syrup Festival drew 2,790 men, women and children last weekend. By the time the two-day event was over, the Warkworth Community Service Club had grilled 1,155 pounds of sausages and 7,570 pancakes, and served them with syrup made by hosts George and Alice Potter. Volunteers included Theresa Kirkland.

JOHN CAMPBELL PHOTO

# Organic waste recycling targeted in six-month trial

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**B**RIGHTON'S GOOD AT A LOT of things, especially talking trash.

That's why Northumberland County has picked Brighton as its guinea pig for a six-month trial program of recycling organic waste with curbside pickups.

The streets selected in Brighton for the voluntary trial include Sanford, Dundas, Dunnett and Henderson.

The county plans to run a six-month trial with curbside pickups from 200 homes in each of two different kinds of locations—Brighton (urban) and north of Warkworth (rural).

Special trucks will collect the organic waste (kitchen waste, meat, veg-

etable), which currently makes up one-third of the waste collected by the county to be dumped in the landfill.

The organic waste will be taken to a temporary pad on the east side of the current landfill site and arranged in shallow rows to enable easy turnover by earth-moving equipment and a complete composting cycle.

The trial program, first revealed by *The Independent* in January, will run from August this year to January of 2008.

Pam Russell, the county's director of transportation and waste, told Brighton council members at Monday night's meeting of the committee of the whole that the trial program will decide if the county is

serious about organic waste recycling.

"We will distribute to each household a small kitchen container for organic waste, plus three different kinds of containers for the curbside pickup," Ms. Russell explained.

The three containers will be a 13-gallon plastic cart, biodegradable paper bags and biodegradable plastic bags.

"At the end of the trial we will be asking the residents for the feedback on the program, which contains their preferred, and this is really critical to the success of a county-wide program."

The committee of the whole unanimously endorsed the county's request to conduct the urban part of the trial in Brighton.

# StatsCan picture of us

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Nevertheless people looking to move to a place with wide open spaces might still opt for Trent Hills. With a land area of 510 square kilometers, Trent Hills can still boast a much lower density rate than Brighton—just 24 persons per square kilometre.

A big winner in the 2006 census was Alnwick/Haldimand, which witnessed a whopping 10.1 per

cent hike in population over the past five years. Current population is pegged at 6,435 (compared to 5,846 in 2001).

It also has one of the lowest density rates in the county where people are often outnumbered by livestock. Currently it has only 16.2 people per square kilometer in a land mass of 398 square kilometers.

And despite a high tax rate, Cramahe Township continued to grow, its population inching up to 5,950 (compared to 5,713 in 2001). That's an increase of 4.1 per cent.

The population density in "them thar hills" now stands at 29.5 people per square kilometers spread over a total of 201 sq. kms.

The official population census, conducted by Statistics Canada every five years, provides the most comprehensive economic and social snapshot of the nation.