

Riverside-Albert Community Profile

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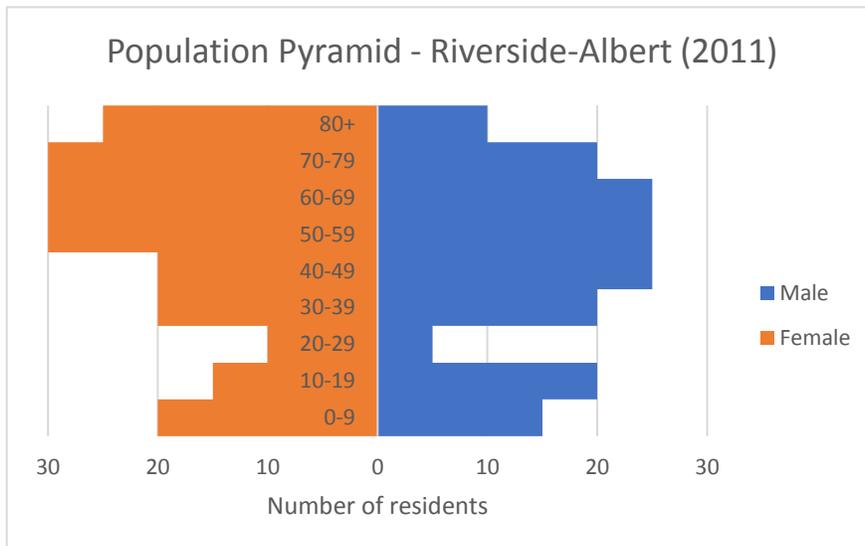
Location

The Village of Riverside-Albert is located in Albert County, in southeastern New Brunswick. It is approximately 50 kilometres south of Moncton along Provincial Route 114, which is the main road through the community. The village straddles the banks of the Shepody River, a tributary of the Petitcodiac.

Local Governance

Riverside-Albert is incorporated under the Municipalities Act; the provincial legislation that mandates the government structure of towns in New Brunswick. Council is composed of two Councillors, a Deputy Mayor and the Mayor. The council elections are held every four years, with the present Council being elected in May of 2016. Council holds a regular monthly meeting which is open to the public.

Population



Age Characteristics (2011)		
Age (years)	Male	Female
0-9	15	20
10-19	20	15
20-29	5	10
30-39	20	20
40-49	25	20
50-59	25	30
60-69	25	30
70-79	20	30
80+	10	25

After a long period of decline, it appears as though the population in the village has stabilised. The population fell from a high of 478 in 1981 to 320 in 2006. In 2011, the population rebounded slightly to 353. In the 2016 census, the population remained virtually unchanged at 350 residents, the majority of whom are women. The population is also aging, and there is a significant lack of adults aged 20-29. In 2011, the median age of the town was 53.1 years, compared to a median age of 43.7 years in New Brunswick.

Language

Spoken by about 97% of the population, English is the dominant language in Riverside-Albert.

Education

Built in 1905, the Riverside-Albert consolidated school is one of the oldest in the province and is a building of heritage and architectural value. The school currently serves grades K-5 for a large area that includes the Village of Alma. There are 52 students enrolled in the 2016-2017 school year. From grades 6 to 12, students in Riverside-Albert have to commute some 30 kilometres north to Hillsborough to attend Caledonia High School. On a whole, residents in Riverside-Albert are slightly below provincial education levels, as a high percentage of residents in the village (28.3%) do not have a high school diploma. On the other hand, the percentage of residents in the village with a high school diploma is about equal to the provincial average, however there are fewer residents that have a post-secondary education (university degree, college diploma, etc.) than the provincial average.

Highest level of schooling 15 years +	Riverside-Albert total	New Brunswick total
Less than high school	28.3%	24.8%
high school or equivalent	26.4%	27%
Post-secondary diploma, degree or certificate	45.3%	48.2%

Health

Despite its small population, the Village of Riverside-Albert is well-served by health institutions. The Albert county Health and Wellness Centre provides many services for the general population and the Forest Dale Nursing Home provides 50 beds of intensive care. There is a pharmacy in the village as well. The nearest hospital is in Moncton.

Income

The median employment income for individuals in Riverside-Albert in 2010 (\$37,301) was lower than the median employment income for the rest of the province (\$41,615). However, it is interesting to note that there is only a small gap between men and women's earnings. The gap between median incomes is \$1,395, which means that women earn over 96 cents for every dollar earned by men, which is much higher than the national average where women earn just 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. This near-parity phenomenon is likely due to the amount of jobs in the healthcare sector (the nursing home and clinic) available in the village. Women in Riverside-Albert also have a higher median income than the median income of women in the province.

Median individual employment income of population who worked full-time in 2010	Riverside Albert			New Brunswick		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	\$37,301	\$38,692	\$37,297	\$41,615	\$46,571	\$36,491

Housing

In the 2016 census, there were 168 private dwellings in Riverside-Albert, with 140 private dwellings occupied by usual residents. In 2011, the average value of a dwelling in the village was \$136,305, up from \$95,871 in 2006. That is below the provincial average value of \$153,484. Approximately 19% (1 in 5) of households in the village spend 30% or more of total household income on shelter costs, which is the same as the provincial rate.

Heritage, Culture, and Recreation

Riverside-Albert is located in close proximity to many natural features, including Hopewell Rocks and Fundy National Park, as well as attractions such as Cape Enrage, the trans-Canada hiking trail, and the Crooked Creek trail. Riverside-Albert sees a lot of ‘through traffic’ in the summer, as tourists pass through the village along Highway 114 to travel in between Moncton and Fundy National Park.

A recent commitment was made by the provincial and federal government to spend \$45 million on connecting the Fundy Parkway to Highway 114 near Fundy National Park. This will allow traffic to flow along the Fundy coastline from the park to St. Martins. Upon its completion in 2021, the new Parkway is expected to boost tourism in the area, which will have an impact on communities like Riverside-Albert, situated along the 114.

Labour force and industry characteristics

According to the 2010 National Household Survey, the most common occupational type in the village is in the trades and transport and equipment operators. Other common occupations in the village include health, education, and government services as well as natural resources and agriculture related occupations.

Of the 190 respondents who reported having worked in 2010, 87% held full time positions whereas 13% worked part-time. The commute time for residents in Riverside-Albert is surprisingly lengthy. The median commuting duration is 30.6 minutes, nearly double the time of the provincial average of 15.4 minutes. This suggests that a large number of residents in Riverside-Albert work outside of the community. Interestingly, the commute time for men and women is very different, with men commuting an average of 40.2 minutes (likely into Moncton), more than two and a half times longer than the provincial average, and women commuting about 10.5 minutes, suggesting that women are more likely to work in and around the community.

Median commute duration	Riverside-Albert			New Brunswick		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Minutes	30.6	40.2	10.5	15.4	15.6	15.2

The participation rate in the workforce in Riverside-Albert is much higher than the provincial participation rate. Unemployment for male workers is quite high at nearly 1 in 5, much higher than the provincial rate. The reported unemployment rate for female workers was zero in the survey, which is likely due to a lack of responses and the poor data quality of the NHS.

Labour force	Riverside-Albert			New Brunswick		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Participation rate	83	84	82.1	63.5	68	59.3
Employment rate	73.6	68	78.6	56.5	59.3	54
Unemployment rate	11.4	19	0	11	12.8	9

Infrastructure

Roads – The village has two provincial highways, the 114 and the 915.

Services – The village does offer sewer (with a lagoon) and water. The sewer system was last expanded in 2003.

The village has made significant investments into their water and sewer systems. However, due to the small population, water bills are expensive for local residents. The system is able to accommodate an additional 30-40 users, which will help bring water bills in the village down. The infrastructure in the village is ready to accommodate new development.

Natural resources

Topography: The village is located at the foothills of the Caledonia Highlands. It is located primarily along the Shepody River, in the transition zone between the marsh along the river and forests in the mountains. There is a designated wetland in the western portion of town, and others just outside the boundaries.

Water

The Village’s water source comes from a provincially designated watershed and designated wellfield located outside the village boundaries to the northwest along the Arabian Vault Brook, a tributary to Crooked Creek. The provincial status means that it is an area that is protected from many types of development, though the village may consider annexing those lands in the future to add an extra layer

of protection. Water services are available to most areas in the village, but there are still a few households that rely on private wells.

Waste

Riverside-Albert does have a municipal sewer system, with the lagoon located south of the village off Water Street. Sewer service in the village is a bit spotty, and there are many residents who continue to use private septic systems where connections are not available.

Solid Waste

Riverside-Albert is serviced by Eco360, part of the Southeast Regional Service Commission located off of Berry Mills Road in Moncton.

Energy

Electricity is provided to the village by NB Power. The large Kent Hills Wind Farm is located approximately 12 kilometres northwest from the village.

Farmland and food security

Farmland

There are very few farming activities that take place in the village, partially due to the constrained boundaries. According to the Canada Land Inventory, the soil capability for agriculture in the village ranges from Class 3 (moderate limitations that restrict the range of crops) to Class 7 (no capability for arable culture or permanent pasture).

Food Security

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization suggests that “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” One of the common requirements of a community that has food security is a stable local agricultural base. In Riverside-Albert, there is a grocery store and a few restaurants. Residents can also travel to the Farmer’s Market in Alma or the grocery store in Hillsborough, or stores in Riverview for additional supplies.

Climate change

High level digital elevation modelling (made possible through LiDAR data collection which has been funded for the region in 2017) will enable planners and Village Council to see accurate elevations and projected sea level rise levels over various time periods. Elevation data combined with projected

increases in storm surge events (a climate change impact resulting from increasing numbers and intensity of storm events) will allow the Village Council to see the areas of the village most at risk for flood events. Proactive decision-making by increasing set-backs or creating elevation requirements for new structures may be considered by Council.

Even with the Shepody dam and the dyke system in place, it does seem as though some parts of the village will be affected by sea-level rise in the 1 in 100-year storm event scenario.