

Chapter 4: Orleans County – Community Profile

SECTION 4.1: INTRODUCTION

Orleans County is a predominately rural and agricultural county located along the southern shore of Lake Ontario in western New York. Its current population is just over 44,000 people. Historically, the County was strongly influenced by its rich agricultural lands and the Erie Canal. Today, agriculture remains the key local industry, and the County is currently growing as a recreation destination. The County also functions largely as a bedroom community for people who commute to work in metropolitan Rochester, metropolitan Buffalo, and the Batavia area.

Settlement in what is now Orleans County began in the early 1800s. Prior to the 1790s, the Seneca Indians occupied the area and used it for hunting and fishing, although they tended not live there. They referred to the area as “the sick country” and its swampy, unhealthy landscape, a result of the prehistoric glaciation of the area, deterred many early immigrants from settling there. In the early 1790s the area passed through the hands of a series of land speculators until in 1792 the Holland Land Company, a consortium of Dutch investors interested in developing frontier lands in North America, secured title to 3.3 million acres in western New York. This holding included most of present day Orleans County, with the exception of the three eastern townships held by speculator Robert Morris.

In 1798 the Holland Land Company directed Joseph Ellicott to survey its holdings. Under his able oversight, surveyors delineated a grid pattern of townships that remains visible on the county’s landscape today. Many municipal boundaries and county roads follow the surveyor’s grid laid out more than two centuries ago. Ellicott was decisive in attracting and shaping early settlement in the area; under his direction roads were built, inns and land offices established, settlements platted, and lenient financial terms arranged to encourage new settlement.

Local tradition claims the first settler in the area was a Canadian who arrived in 1792, but the first recorded settlers came in 1803. Brothers James and William Walworth established a settlement at the mouth of the Oak Orchard Creek in the present-day Town of Carlton. A few settlers gradually followed, but not until 1809 did large numbers of settlers, coming in along the Ridge Road, move to the area. The War of 1812 briefly disrupted this settlement; nevertheless, by 1815 all of the future County’s townships were inhabited.

Orleans County’s early history was profoundly impacted by the Erie Canal. Built between 1817 and 1825, the 363 mile long canal linked Albany to Buffalo and opened up western New York for development. In Orleans County, the canal offered farmers an economical means of transporting their crops to eastern markets. This led to an immediate boom in wheat production, which was followed by sustained agricultural prosperity. The evidence of this prosperity can be found today in the handsome cobblestone farmhouses and churches that stand throughout the County. The Cobblestone Society Museum, a group of seven historic cobblestone buildings located in the hamlet of Childs in the Town of Gaines, is a major historical attraction where tourists can learn about the County’s canal and cobblestone heritage.

Until the mid 1820s Orleans County was part of Genesee County. However, due to the area’s increasing population and prosperity, the State Legislature decided to create a new county by splitting the northern townships of Genesee County off from the rest. Orleans County was created by an act of the State Legislature passed on November 12th 1824; the new county officially came into existence on January 1st, 1826. The exact origins of the County’s name are uncertain; some claim it was named in memory of Andrew Jackson’s great victory over the British in the Battle of New Orleans in 1814, while others claim it was named after the French Royal House of Orleans. The county seat was initially established in the

Town of Gaines, but was soon moved to Albion, a prospering village on the Erie Canal. As a result Albion obtained several fine public buildings, most notably the County Courthouse, an attractive Greek Revival building featuring an imposing portico and topped by a silver dome. Still in use today, the Courthouse also serves as a landmark anchoring Albion's historic downtown core and its dome is a defining symbol of Orleans County.

Throughout the nineteenth, twentieth, and into the twenty-first centuries, Orleans County's economy relied heavily on agriculture and related food processing activities. Industrial operations were never a major aspect of the county's economy and were mainly related to food processing. Today, while agriculture remains central to the County's economy, tourism and outdoor recreation activities are becoming increasingly important as well. The county is widely known as a sport-fishing destination, especially on Lake Ontario and along Oak Orchard and Johnson Creeks.

Among Orleans County's unique attractions are the aforementioned Cobblestone Society Museum in Gaines and the Medina Railroad Museum in Medina. Past famous residents have included the hymn-writer George Cole Stebbins (1846-1945), Charles W. Howard, the first Macy's Santa Claus who ran a Santa Claus school in Albion during the mid twentieth century, and perhaps most importantly industrialist George M. Pullman (1831-1897), inventor of the Pullman sleeping car, who resided in Albion in the late 1840s and early 1850s.

SECTION 4.2: LOCATION AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Orleans County is located along the southern shore of Lake Ontario between Monroe and Niagara Counties. It is bounded on the north by the lake and the U.S./Canadian boundary, on the east by Monroe County, on the south by Genesee County, and on the west by Niagara County.

The County is rectangular in shape and covers 391 square miles. On the whole, it is a relatively flat area, with very little relief when compared to the counties to the south. The County's highest point, in the Town of Barre, is 742 feet above sea level. The county's lowest point is the lakeshore, which is 246 feet above sea level. Bluffs ranging from about five to forty feet in height rise from narrow gravel beaches along the lakeshore.

The County is divided into three horizontal bands of distinct topography. The northernmost band, extending from the lakeside bluffs south about six to eight miles to Route 104/Ridge Road, is a moderately flat plain with gently rolling terrain and a few ravines carved out by streams and creeks. This plain ends at a ridge, ranging from eight to thirty feet high, which was once the southern shore of prehistoric Lake Iroquois. Route 104/Ridge Road runs along this ridge. The central band extends from this ridge south about four to six miles to the Niagara Escarpment, and consists again of gently rolling terrain. The southernmost band extends from the Niagara Escarpment south to the Orleans/Genesee County line, and is generally flat terrain.

The County's main natural watercourses include the Oak Orchard Creek, which drains most of the western and central parts of the county; Johnson Creek, which drains the northwestern and far west parts of the county; Marsh Creek, which drains the northeastern corner of the county; and Sandy Creek, which drains the eastern part. It is located in the Kendall-Carlton area of the county. The Oak Orchard watershed is Orleans County's largest watershed, draining about 46% of the county. The entire county is located within the larger Lake Ontario watershed. Surface drainage is complicated by the area's gentle slope and numerous glacial formations which impeded the orderly development of drainage features. As a result, extensive drainage operations were carried out in the southern townships during the late 1800s and early 1900s to create muckland for farming.

The County was once thickly forested with beech, sugar maple, basswood, and hemlock trees, while in swampy low-lying areas elm, soft maple, and black ash trees were found. However, over time these forests have given way to agriculture. In the early twenty-first century about 60% of the county's land is devoted to farming. The county's soil is well suited to agriculture; nearly all the land south of Rt. 104 is arable, highly productive soil.

Key agricultural products produced in Orleans County today include wheat, soybeans, feed corn, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, and hay. Apples are another important crop; about 130 million pounds of apples are produced by the county's orchards each year. Dairy farming, while present, is a minor component of the county's agricultural economy. In 2002 there were only about 3500 milk cows in the county, thus placing Orleans near the bottom of New York's dairying counties.

Orleans County's landscape is overwhelmingly rural. Much of the landscape consists of farm fields interspersed with stands of trees and scattered buildings. There are no cities in the county, although since 1990 the westward suburban expansion of metropolitan Rochester has led to growth in the eastern towns of Kendall, Murray, and Clarendon. These communities have seen increased residential and some commercial development. The county's population is concentrated in four villages and numerous hamlets. Much of the lakeshore is lined with summer cottages and homes.

SECTION 4.3: CLIMATE

Orleans County's climate is classified as Humid-Continental, with hot, humid summers and moderate winters. The county's proximity to Lake Ontario helps regulate the climate and delays the growing season, especially in the townships right along the lake. This makes the lakeshore area ideal for orchards. Seasonal temperatures are fairly consistent throughout the county, with a mean January temperature of about 24F and a mean July temperature of about 71F. During the winters temperatures rarely dip below 0F, while in the summers a high above 90F is equally rare. Average annual precipitation ranges from about 30 inches to 36 inches, and average annual snowfall ranges from 67 inches to 80 inches.

SECTION 4.4: TRANSPORTATION

Orleans County is served by an efficient transportation network. The County's major east/west roads include State Routes 18, 31, 31A, 31E, and 104. The main north/south roads are State Routes 63, 98, 237, 269, 279, and 387. These main roadways are linked together by a fairly dense network of local roads. A unique component of the county's transportation network is the Lake Ontario State Parkway, a broad expressway that runs along the lakeshore from Lakeside Beach State Park in the town of Carlton eastward to Rochester.

The Erie Canal bisects the County on an east/west axis. The canal is rarely used for its original purpose of shipping goods, but it is an important route for pleasure craft and a major tourist attraction. It is crossed by numerous bridges, including several lift bridges. In the town of Ridgeway a road passes underneath the canal through a culvert, built in 1908 of Medina sandstone. This is the only place along the entire canal route where motorists can drive underneath the canal. Historically, attempts were made to develop a commercial port on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Oak Orchard Creek. However, these attempts failed due to the lack of demand for such facilities, and by the mid 1820s the Erie Canal had effectively captured the County's commercial traffic. Today, the mouth of the Oak Orchard is a key recreation center with marinas and parks.

Railroads came to the County in 1852 with the construction of the Rochester, Lockport, and Niagara Falls Railroad on an east/west axis across the county just south of the Erie Canal. This line later became the Niagara Falls Branch of the New York Central system, and remains in use today as the Falls Road Line.

It serves as a freight line running between Niagara Falls and Brockport in Monroe County and is the only railroad in operation in Orleans County. In the mid 1870s a second railway, the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad, was built across the county. Known to locals as the Ho-Jack line, this line was abandoned in 1978 and the tracks removed a year later. However, traces of it remain visible in the landscape. No major pipelines traverse the County.

Beyond Orleans County's borders, important transportation links are with the New York State Thruway (I-90), specifically Exit 48 in Batavia and Exit 48A in Pembroke. The two major regional airports, the Greater Rochester International Airport and the Buffalo Niagara International Airport, are within an hour's drive of the County.

Orleans County has several access points to water-based transportation and recreation. The Erie Canal runs through the towns of Murray, Albion, Gaines, and Ridgeway, as well as through the villages of Holley, Albion, and Medina. Recreational boaters may access the canal from two boat launches near Medina. Docking walls, most with amenities such as water, electric, and pumping services, are located in Holley, Albion, Gaines (Eagle Harbor), Knowlesville, and Medina. Public boat launches are also located on Glenwood Lake, just north of Medina, and on Lake Alice at Waterport. Several marinas are located near the mouth of the Oak Orchard Creek, and several more marinas are located along the lakeshore.

SECTION 4.5: LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Subsection 4.5.A: Historic Profile

The earliest settlers in Orleans County found the area covered by thick, unbroken forests interspersed with swampy lowlands. The forest provided these settlers with their sustenance: as in many of western New York's first communities, settlers burned the trees they felled on their land to produce potash, a low-bulk, high-value commodity that could be easily transported over the rough frontier roads. Other early products included whiskey distilled from grain, salt produced from boiling brine, and items such as bowls, ladles, and rolling pins made from oak trees that stood near the lake. Many of these products were shipped to Canada over the lake, but the War of 1812 interrupted this trade and after the war local inhabitants looked eastward for markets.

From the beginning the County relied heavily on agriculture. Once they had cleared the land, early settlers typically survived on subsistence agriculture because the area's remote location and lack of good transportation routes isolated the first farmers from eastern markets. The Erie Canal completely transformed this situation. The canal was built through the County in 1824 and immediately made commercial agriculture viable. Farmers who not long before were eking out a meager existence in backwoods hovels now found themselves proprietors of some of the most valuable farmland in the state. The first boom crop was wheat. Later, a diversification of crops occurred – in addition to wheat, farmers produced beans, potatoes, and other vegetables. Livestock such as cows and sheep were introduced at this time, although Orleans County never became a major dairying center.

Early settlers planted the County's first fruit trees, but it was not until the mid 1840s that orchards were systematically tended and fruit grown commercially. The main fruit crop was apples, but pears, peaches, cherries, and quinces were also cultivated. Once harvested, fruits were processed in several ways: shipped whole, dried in evaporators, turned into cider or vinegar, and later canned in canneries. Today, every town in the County has producing orchards, although they are concentrated in the lakeshore towns.

In the late 1830s quarries for the County's famous red Medina sandstone opened. Discovered when the canal was under construction, this sandstone was used throughout the region as a building material and for sculptural ornamentation, paving, curbing, steps, and sidewalks. Quarries operated near the villages

of Medina, Albion, Holley, and the hamlet of Hulberton. The canal offered a practical means of transporting the stone to building sites across New York State, and Medina sandstone was sent further afield as well, including London, England and Havana, Cuba.

The quarrying industry reached its height in the thirty years from 1890 to 1920, after which rising labor costs, the invention of Portland cement, and changing building techniques led to a rapid decline in quarrying. Red Medina sandstone is found in historic structures throughout the region and remains a distinctive feature of many western New York buildings erected in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Manufacturing was never a major underpinning of the County's economy. In the nineteenth century industrial activities were concentrated in the Erie Canal villages. Medina, the largest center of industry, produced a wide array of goods including pumping gear, pails, firefighting equipment, furniture, clothes, and chemicals. Overall, food processing was the most important aspect of local industry; all the villages and many hamlets once had dry-houses, canneries, presses, evaporators, and other facilities such as cooperages. Threshing machines were briefly manufactured in Barre in the early 1830s, but otherwise Orleans County never produced farm equipment and machinery, an unusual situation for a County that relied so heavily on agriculture.

Major industrial establishments in the twentieth century included Fisher Price (toys) and Bernz-o-matic (torches and soldering supplies) in Medina; vinegar, chemicals, insecticides, and electronics plants in Lyndonville; and Bayex (fiberglass and polyester fabrics) in Albion. Several smaller industrial firms also operate in the County. Three industrial parks, located in the villages of Holley, Albion, and Medina, offer companies a competitive location as well as special tax incentives and discounts on utility services. These industrial parks are located within the county's designated 640 acre Empire Zone (EZ). A new and important employer in Albion is a major bank, Washington Mutual. Industrial facilities remain concentrated in and around the villages. The closure of some of these plants in recent years, such as Fisher-Price in 1995, has negatively impacted the local economy.

The greatest change to the County's natural landscape occurred through the draining of swamplands in the three southern townships. The Tonawanda, Alabama, and Oak Orchard Swamp once extended over about 25,000 acres along the Orleans-Genesee county line. Early efforts to drain this vast area met with limited success, until in the 1860s about 4700 acres of swampland in Barre were finally drained. Additional areas were drained in the late 1800s, and a coordinated drainage program was carried out in Barre between 1900 and 1910. Additional mucklands were created in Clarendon in the 1930s. Today, the muckland is owned by a small number of extremely large farms that produce crops such as lettuce, onions, carrots, potatoes, and cabbage.

The County's proximity to metropolitan Rochester has led to the some gradual suburban development in the eastern townships in the 1990s and early twenty-first century. The Town of Clarendon has seen its population rise by 25% during the 1990s. Low density residential development spread out along main roads characterizes most of this new development. The villages of Medina and Albion have also seen some suburban development just outside their historic core areas, including industrial complexes and strip plazas along main roadways and several mobile home parks. The western end of the Village of Albion is dominated by the two prison complexes, the Orleans and Albion Correctional Facilities. Unfortunately, the historic cores of these two villages have suffered from the loss of commercial businesses

Subsection 4.5.B: Current County Development Trends

An overall analysis of development trends in Orleans County was completed as part of the *Regional Development Analysis* (G/FLRPC, 2004). For this analysis, data from the *Regional Population Forecast: County, City, Town, and Village Projections for the Genesee/Finger Lakes Region* (G/FLRPC, 2003)

were applied to the land available for development and zoning capacity figures to determine an estimated build out potential in residential, industrial, and commercial, development categories.

Orleans County municipalities have approximately 154,000 acres of land available for development. The projected number of residential lots available is between 194,000 and 216,000. Of the lots available for residential development, approximately 1,000 lots (approximately 0.5 percent) are projected to be developed by 2020. Approximately 1,600 lots (between 0.7 and 0.8 percent) are projected to be developed by 2040.

The allowable square footage for commercial development is approximately 4.4 million. Of this allowable square footage, between 171,000 and 666,000 (between 4.0 and 15.2 percent) is projected to be developed by 2020. Between 399,000 and 1.6 million (9.1 and 35.5 percent) is projected to be developed by 2040.

The allowable square footage for industrial development is approximately 14.9 million. Of allowable square footage for industrial development, between 204,000 and 838,000 (between 1.4 and 5.6 percent) is projected to be developed by 2020. Between 476,000 and 2 million (between 3.2 and 13.1 percent) is projected to be developed by 2040.

The following table indicates, by municipality, where the major growth areas in the county are and what basic type of development (residential, industrial, and commercial) is currently occurring. The table indicates that during the past five years new construction in the county has been overwhelmingly residential in nature.

Table 4.1: Orleans County Land Use: Building Permits (2001 – 2005)

Municipality	Residential Units					Industrial Units					Commercial Units				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Albion	4	2	5	3	5	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Albion (V)	18	8	4	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1
Barre	3	DNA	0	1	DNA	0	DNA	0	0	DNA	0	DNA	0	0	DNA
Carlton	9	12	14	16	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clarendon	22	46	34	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Gaines	3	4	3	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holley (V)	1	0	0	0	DNA	1	1	0	2	DNA	0	0	0	0	DNA
Kendall	7	8	6	3	DNA	0	0	1	0	DNA	0	0	0	0	DNA
Lyndonville (V)	1	1	0	DNA	1	0	0	0	DNA	0	0	0	0	DNA	0
Medina (V)	5	5	3	4	DNA	1	0	0	0	DNA	2	0	0	0	DNA
Murray	9	11	4	7	DNA	0	0	0	0	DNA	0	1	1	1	DNA
Ridgeway	4	5	11	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shelby	4	6	4	5	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Yates	DNA	5	11	4	8	DNA	0	0	0	0	DNA	0	0	0	1
County Totals	90	113	99	70	58	2	1	4	2	1	4	3	2	3	5
Total Residential Permits: 430					Total Industrial Permits: 10					Total Commercial Permits: 17					

DNA = Data not available.

Source: Regional Development Analysis (G/FLRPC, 2005)

As the above table indicates, recent construction in the County is primarily residential. A total of 430 residential permits were issued in the County between 2001 and 2005, while during the same time only 17 commercial permits and 10 industrial permits were issued. This trend reflects the County’s growing role as a bedroom community for surrounding counties, including Monroe and Erie.

Subsection 4.5.C: Municipal Development Trends

At the first round of Regional (Municipal) meetings in April 2006, municipal officials were asked to map the anticipated location of any new development they expect to occur over the next 10 to 20 years. The officials were asked to map areas of new development that were *not* infill development. This information was combined with information from various municipal plans and reports to forecast the areas of expected future development. The summary of their comments follows.

a. Town of Albion

The Town of Albion does not anticipate any major new development.

b. Village of Albion

The Town of Albion does not anticipate any major new development.

c. Town of Barre

The Town of Barre does not anticipate any major new development.

d. Town of Carlton

The Town of Carlton does not anticipate any major new development.

e. Town of Clarendon

The town of Clarendon anticipates new low density residential and some commercial development throughout the township as a result of the ongoing expansion of metropolitan Rochester.

f. Town of Gaines

The Town of Gaines does not anticipate any major new development.

g. Village of Holley

The Village of Holley does not anticipate any major new development.

h. Town of Kendall

The town of Kendall anticipates new low density residential and some commercial development throughout the township as a result of the ongoing expansion of metropolitan Rochester.

i. Village of Lyndonville

The Village of Lyndonville does not anticipate any major new development.

j. Village of Medina

The Village of Medina expects some modest commercial development in form of suburban strip plazas along Maple Ridge Rd. (Rt. 31A) in the south of the village.

k. Town of Murray

The town of Murray anticipates new low density residential and some commercial development throughout the township as a result of the ongoing expansion of metropolitan Rochester.

l. Town of Ridgeway

The Town of Ridgeway does not anticipate any major new development.

m. Town of Shelby

The Town of Shelby expects some new commercial development to occur in the northeastern part of the town, near the village line where a new ethanol plant is currently under construction.

n. Town of Yates

The Town of Yates does not anticipate any major new development.

As the above summaries indicate, municipal officials do not expect to see major changes in their communities' land use trends over the next ten to twenty years. One of the major long term objectives of the all-hazard mitigation planning process is to review and update local land use laws and ordinances to ensure that new development is kept out of hazard prone areas. With the adoption of this mitigation plan, municipal officials will begin the process of upgrading their local laws to ensure new development is not allowing in hazard prone areas, such as floodways.

Please refer to Map 7 for a graphic overview of future development areas within the County and also to Appendix A, *Orleans County Local Law Assessment*, for additional information on municipal land use laws and ordinances.

SECTION 4.6: POPULATION TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Orleans County's population has grown steadily over the past forty years, rising from about 34,000 in 1960 to about 44,000 in 2000. This population growth is expected to continue, but at a slower rate, over the next forty years. Population growth is concentrated in the county's eastern townships, due to the westward expansion of metropolitan Rochester, and in Albion and Gaines due to the increase of the prison population and the number of Correctional Service employees living in these towns.

Table 4.2: Historic Population Figures and Projections by Municipality, Orleans County, New York

Population	Historic Population					Change 1960-2000		Projected Population			
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Number	%	2010	2020	2030	2040
Orleans County	34,159	37,305	38,496	41,846	44,171	10,012	29%	45,829	46,947	47,724	48,305
Albion	1,518	1,812	2,248	3,461	4,669	3,151	208%	5,022	5,295	5,489	5,642
Albion (V Part)	4,898	4,765	4,198	4,717	4,740	-758	-3%	4,813	4,849	4,840	4,809
Barre	1,922	2,135	2,164	2,093	2,124	202	11%	2,202	2,256	2,284	2,302
Carlton	2,600	2,540	2,818	2,808	2,960	360	14%	3,098	3,198	3,257	3,300
Clarendon	1,659	1,969	2,148	2,705	3,392	1,733	104%	3,720	3,816	3,944	4,069
Gaines	1,806	2,028	1,993	1,879	2,488	682	38%	2,676	2,793	2,834	2,853
Albion (V Part)	284	357	699	1,146	1,252	968	341%	1,310	1,352	1,377	1,395
Kendall	1,680	2,183	2,388	2,769	2,838	1,158	69%	2,994	3,110	3,184	3,240
Murray	1,979	2,770	2,872	3,031	3,090	1,111	56%	3,238	3,346	3,412	3,460
Holley (V)	1,788	1,868	1,882	1,890	1,802	14	1%	1,862	1,902	1,920	1,931
Ridgeway	2,901	3,378	3,512	3,389	3,168	267	9%	3,094	3,101	3,132	3,167
Medina (V Part)	4,010	3,831	3,766	3,952	3,718	-292	-7%	3,660	3,680	3,721	3,784
Shelby	2,380	2,782	2,735	2,775	2,723	343	14%	2,794	2,837	2,851	2,855
Medina (V Part)	2671	2584	2626	2734	2697	26	1%	2757	2791	2797	2794
Yates	1,308	1,415	1,531	1,544	1,648	340	26%	1,717	1,766	1,795	1,814
Lyndonville (V)	755	888	916	953	862	107	14%	872	882	887	890

Source: *Regional Population Forecasts: County, City, Town and Village Projections for the Genesee/Finger Lakes Region out to the year 2040, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, December 2003.*

The largest increases have occurred in the Village of Albion (968 people, 341%) and the Town of Albion (3,151 people, 208%). This is mostly due to the presence of two prisons, the Albion Correctional Facility and the Orleans Correctional Facility, in the town of Albion. The increase in the number of prisoners housed in these facilities and the accompanying increase in the number of prison staff explains why the town and village of Albion have grown so dramatically over the past forty years.

Other municipalities that have seen major growth are the three eastern towns of Clarendon, Kendall, and Murray. Over the past forty years Clarendon grew by 1,733 people, or 104%, Kendall grew by 1,158 people, or 69%, and Murray grew by 1,111 people, or 56%. This growth has occurred because of the ongoing suburban expansion of metropolitan Rochester. These eastern towns essentially function as “bedroom communities” for greater Rochester. New development in these towns typically takes the form of single family free standing residences built in among agricultural areas.

Of the 15,363 households in Orleans County, 70.6% are family households. 35.0% of these households have children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.3% are married couples living together, and 11.2% have a female householder with no husband. 29.4% of all households are non-family households. 23.7% of all households have only one householder, and 10.7% of all households have a householder who is 65 years old or older. The average household size in the county is 2.65 people and the average family size is 3.13 people.

The racial makeup of the county’s population is 89.1% white, 7.3% black, 0.3% Asian, 0.5% Native American, and 1.2% two or more races. The age distribution of the county’s population is 28.9% under the age of 19, 36.8% between the ages of 20 and 44, 21.9% between the ages of 45 and 64, and 12.4% are 65 years of age and older. The median age of a county resident is 36.2 years.

Table 4.3: Age of Householder, Orleans County, New York

Municipality	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75+
Albion	126	362	575	434	281	298	291
Albion (V)	137	373	550	415	264	252	328
Barre	26	102	177	165	127	70	63
Carlton	18	144	275	297	154	137	67
Clarendon	26	213	323	244	216	115	91
Gaines	50	229	340	285	210	191	228
Kendall	7	80	258	255	184	110	69
Murray	102	320	533	395	225	138	169
Holley (V)	59	143	189	153	56	55	100
Ridgeway	154	278	644	538	394	336	274
Medina (V)	157	376	594	426	340	334	356
Shelby	57	286	441	346	312	271	303
Yates	32	105	228	224	114	81	137
Lyndonville (V)	13	48	76	59	38	20	54

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Census 2000.

Table 4.4: Median Household Income by Municipality, Orleans County, New York, 1990 and 2000

Municipality	1990	2000
Albion	\$27,622	\$34,028
Albion (V)	\$22,304	\$30,010
Barre	\$33,015	\$44,545
Carlton	\$30,446	\$40,660

Clarendon	\$35,656	\$46,667
Gaines	\$21,941	\$32,604
Kendall	\$36,010	\$49,821
Murray	\$30,146	\$38,672
Holley (V)	\$26,056	\$36,367
Ridgeway	\$26,963	\$35,206
Medina (V)	\$24,208	\$30,300
Shelby	\$24,471	\$34,091
Yates	\$27,719	\$39,803
Lyndonville (V)	\$30,000	\$40,179
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Census 2000.		

SECTION 4.7: GENERAL OVERVIEW

Government: Orleans County is governed by a County Legislature. The Legislature has seven members, four elected from specific districts and three elected from the population at-large. The Legislature selects the Chief Administrative Officer, who oversees the county’s day to day affairs by coordinating the activities of the various county departments and agencies. The county includes fourteen administrative units comprising ten towns and four villages, and the county seat is located in the Village of Albion.

Towns (10): Albion, Barre, Carlton, Clarendon, Gaines, Kendall, Murray, Ridgeway, Shelby, Yates.

Villages (4): Albion, Holley, Lyndonville, Medina.

School Districts (10): Albion Central School District, Holley Central School District, Kendall Central School District, Lyndonville Central School District, Medina Central School District, *Barker Central School District, *Royalton-Hartland Central School District, *Oakfield-Alabama Central School District, *Byron-Bergen Central School District, *Brockport Central School District.
*denotes a school district based outside Orleans County that serves students in the county

Police Departments (6): Albion Police Department, Holley Police Department, Lyndonville Police Department, Medina Police Department, Orleans County Sheriff, New York State Police.

Fire Departments (13): Albion Fire Department, Barre Fire Department, Carlton Fire Company, Clarendon Fire Company, East Shelby Fire Department, F-H-M Fire Company, Holley Fire Company, Kendall Fire Company, Lyndonville Fire Company, Medina Fire Department, Morton Fire Department, Ridgeway Fire Company, Shelby Fire Company.

Ambulance (3): Central Orleans Volunteer Ambulance (C.O.V.A.), Rural – Metro, Mercy Flight.

Electric Companies (3): Niagara-Mohawk, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG), National Grid USA (NGUSA).

Natural Gas Companies (3): Niagara-Mohawk, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG), National Grid USA (NGUSA).

Telecommunications Companies (2): Frontier Telephone, Verizon.

MUNICIPAL PROFILES: (please see pages 27 through 40.)

Town of Albion	Orleans County, New York Zip Code: 14411
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Town of Albion is located in the center of Orleans County. It is bordered on the north by Gaines, on the east by Murray, on the south by Barre, and on the west by Shelby and Ridgeway. The Village of Albion is located in the center of the town. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> Albion was first settled in 1812 and incorporated in 1825. <i>Notable Facts:</i> The town’s early economy was based on forest products; in 1860 the town had 38 sawmills. By 1900 the dairy industry replaced timber as the key local industry.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mostly fields with stands of trees. Very flat land. <i>Hydrography:</i> Erie Canal <i>Watersheds:</i> Oak Orchard</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 25.4 <i>Acres:</i> 16256.0</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS From 1990 to 200, the town of Albion grew 34.9%. It is projected to grow by 11.1% by the year 2040. Much of this population growth is due to the increase in the number of prisoners housed in the town.</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 8,042 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 58.1%, Females: 41.9% <i>Median Age:</i> 34.1 <i>Median Household Income:</i> \$34,028 <i>Median Family Income:</i> \$37,188 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 200 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 893 <i>Housing Units:</i> 2626 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 72,000</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Albion CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Municipal <i>Waste Water:</i> Municipal</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Albion Fire Department, Berry Center Volunteer Fire Company <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Central Orleans Volunteer Ambulance, Albion Fire Department Emergency Squad, Barre Center Volunteer Fire Company <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> Bullard Park. <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i> Mt. Albion Cemetery, Albion has a satellite campus of Genesee Community College, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge: U. S. Fish & Wildlife, Oak Orchard & Tonawanda Wildlife Management Areas: NYSDEC managed.</p>

Village of Albion	Orleans County, New York Zip Code: 14411
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Village of Albion is located in the center of Orleans County. The Village of Albion is located within the towns of Albion and Gaines. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> The village was first settled in 1811 and incorporated in 1828. <i>Notable Facts:</i> The village was originally known as Newport. George Pullman, inventor of the Pullman Sleeping Car, was born and raised in Albion. He later built the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in downtown Albion in memory of his parents.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly urban area with some open fields. Very flat land. <i>Hydrography:</i> Erie Canal <i>Watersheds:</i> Oak Orchard</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 3.0 <i>Acres:</i> 1920.0</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS The Village of Albion increased by 2.2% from 1990 to 2000. It is expected to grow 3.5% by 2040. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 7,438 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 58.7%, Females: 41.3% <i>Median Age:</i> 33.0 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 30,010 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 34,881 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 190 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 876 <i>Housing Units:</i> 2,566 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 66,700</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Albion CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Municipal <i>Waste Water:</i> Municipal</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Albion Police Dept., Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Albion Fire Department, Berry Center Volunteer Fire Company <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Central Orleans Volunteer Ambulance, Albion Fire Department Emergency Squad, Barre Center Volunteer Fire Company <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> Erie Canal Public Boat Launch and Canalside Park. <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i> Many historic buildings in downtown core, including the County Courthouse, Swan Library, several churches including the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church, and Victorian era homes and business blocks.</p>

Town of Barre	Orleans County, New York Zip Codes: 14411, 14103, 14058, 14470
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Town of Barre is located in the south central portion of Orleans County. It is bordered on the north by Albion, on the east by Clarendon, on the south by Oakfield and Elba in Genesee County, and on the west by Shelby. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> Barre was first settled in 1815 and incorporated in 1818. <i>Notable Facts:</i> The town was named for Barre, Massachusetts, birthplace of an early settler. Pine Hill, the county's highest point (742 ft. above sea level), is in this town. Threshing machines were briefly manufactured here during the early 1830s.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly fields with some forests and very flat muckland. <i>Hydrography:</i> Much of the town is low lying muckland used for farming. <i>Watersheds:</i> Oak Orchard</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 55.1 <i>Acres:</i> 35264.0</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS The Town of Barre's population increased 1.5 in the 1990's from 2,093 to 2,124. It is expected to increase by 8.4% by 2040 to 2,032. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 2,124 <i>Sex Ratio: Males:</i> 51.6%, <i>Females:</i> 48.4% <i>Median Age:</i> 36.5 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 44,545 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 47,411 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 26 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 133 <i>Housing Units:</i> 772 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 72,500</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Albion CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> <i>Waste Water:</i></p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Barre Fire Department <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Barre Fire Department <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i></p>

Town of Carlton	Orleans County, New York Zip Codes: 14411, 14571, 14477
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> Carlton is located in the north central portion of Orleans County. Carlton is bordered on the north by Lake Ontario, on the east by Kendall, on the south by Gaines and Ridgeway, and on the west by Yates. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> The town was settled in 1803 and incorporated in 1822 as Oak Orchard. The town’s name was changed to “Carlton” in 1825. <i>Notable Facts:</i></p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly fields with some forests, mostly flat land, some ravines cut by streams. <i>Hydrography:</i> Oak Orchard Creek <i>Watersheds:</i> Johnson Creek, Oak Orchard Creek, Marsh Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 44.5 <i>Acres:</i> 28,480</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS Carlton’s population increased by 5.4% from 2,093 in 1990 to 2,960 in 2000. The population is expected to increase by 11.5% by 2040 to 3,300. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 2,960 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 52.5%, Females: 47.5% <i>Median Age:</i> 38.4 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 40,660 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 42,028 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 61 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 301 <i>Housing Units:</i> 1,619 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 78,100</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Albion CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> <i>Waste Water:</i></p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Carlton Fire Company <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Carlton Fire Company <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> Orleans County Marine Park and Boat Launch, Lakeside Beach State Park. <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i></p>

Town of Clarendon	Orleans County, New York Zip Codes: 14470, 14416
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Town of Clarendon is located in the southeast section of the county. Clarendon is bordered on the north by Murray, on the east by Sweden in Monroe County, on the south by Byron and Bergen in Genesee County, and on the west by Barre. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> The Town was first settled in 1811 and incorporated in 1821. <i>Notable Facts:</i> The town’s waterfall was discovered in 1810 and is a prominent local natural landmark in the town park. The town was named for Clarendon, Vermont, home of the first settlers.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly fields with some stands of trees; gently rolling terrain. <i>Hydrography:</i> Oak Orchard Creek, Black Creek <i>Watersheds:</i> Oak Orchard Creek, Black Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 35.2 <i>Acres:</i> 22,528</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS The Town of Clarendon’s population increased by 25.4% during the 1990’s, from 2,705 to 3,392. By 2004, the population is expected to grow by 9.4% to 4,069 residents. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 3,392 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 50.2%, Females: 49.8% <i>Median Age:</i> 36.3 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 46,667 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 52,064 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 23 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 271 <i>Housing Units:</i> 1,259 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 84,200</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Holley CSD, Brockport CDS, Byron-Bergen CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> National Grid <i>Natural Gas:</i> None <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Monroe County Water Authority <i>Waste Water:</i> Septic systems</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Clarendon Fire Company <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Clarendon Fire Company <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Lakeside Memorial Hospital, Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> Clarendon Town Park <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i> Clarendon Historical Society, Historic Cobblestone Home.</p>

Town of Gaines	Orleans County, New York Zip Codes: 14411, 14571, 14477
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Town of Gaines is located in the central portion of Orleans County. The Town of Gaines is bordered on the north by Carlton, on the west by Kendall and Murray, on the south by Albion, and on the west by Ridgeway. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> Settled in 1807, Gaines was incorporated in 1816. <i>Notable Facts:</i> The town was named for General E. P. Gaines of the U.S. Army. The first printing press in Orleans County was located here and the first newspaper was printed in 1824. Initially a local center of trade and commerce, Gaines lost out to Albion when the Erie Canal was built through Albion.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly fields with some forests and flat <i>Hydrography:</i> Oak Orchard Creek, Erie Canal <i>Watersheds:</i> Oak Orchard Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 34.4 <i>Acres:</i> 22,016</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS The population of Gaines from 1990 to 2000 grew by 32.4%. By 2004, the population is expected to grow by 40.3% to 4,248. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 3,740 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 48.1%, Females: 51.9% <i>Median Age:</i> 36.3 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 32,604 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 38,523 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 84 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 390 <i>Housing Units:</i> 1,637 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 73,300</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Albion CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> <i>Waste Water:</i></p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Albion Fire Department <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Central Orleans Volunteer Ambulance, Albion Fire Department Emergency Squad <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i> Cobblestone Society Museum</p>

Village of Holley	Orleans County, New York Zip Code: 14470
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Village of Holley is located in the east central portion of the county. Holley is located within Murray and is bordered on the south by Clarendon. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> The Village of Holley was settled in 1823 and incorporated in 1850. <i>Notable Facts:</i> The village was named for Myron Holley, a prominent early nineteenth century New York State politician, abolitionist, and Erie Canal supporter.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mostly flat and urbanized, some hilly areas. <i>Hydrography:</i> Erie Canal <i>Watersheds:</i> Oak Orchard Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 1.3 <i>Acres:</i> 832</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS Holley’s population decreased by 4.7% from 1990 to 2000. By 2004, the population is expected to increase by 7.2%. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 1,802 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 49.1%, Females 50.9% <i>Median Age:</i> 34.6 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 36,367 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 49,200 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 36 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 185 <i>Housing Units:</i> 885 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 68,700</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Holley CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Frontier, Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Municipal <i>Waste Water:</i> Shoremont WTP</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Holley Police Dept., Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Holley Fire Department; Fancher/Hulbertson/Murray Volunteer Fire Company. <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Holley Fire Department Emergency Squad <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> Erie Canal Public Boat Launch and park. <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i> Many historic buildings in the village’s downtown area.</p>

Town of Kendall	Orleans County, New York Zip Codes: 14476, 14477
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> Kendall is in the northeast part of the county. The Town of Kendall is bordered on the North by Lake Ontario, on the east by Hamlin in Monroe County, on the south by Murray, and on the west by Gaines and Carlton. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> Settled in 1812, the Town of Kendall was incorporated in 1837. <i>Notable Facts:</i></p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly fields with some forests and flat <i>Hydrography:</i> Borders Lake Ontario <i>Watersheds:</i> Oak Orchard Creek, Lake Ontario</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 33.0 <i>Acres:</i> 21,120</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS From 1990 to 200, Kendall’s population increased by 2.5% from 2,769 to 2,838. The population is expected to rise to 3,240, a 14.2% increase. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 2,838 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 51.4%, Females: 48.6% <i>Median Age:</i> 38.3 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 49,821 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 50,952 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 42 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 143 <i>Housing Units:</i> 1,127 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 88,700</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Kendall CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Monroe County Water Authority <i>Waste Water:</i> Shoremont WTP</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Kendall Fire Department. <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Kendall Fire Department. <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i></p>

Village of Lyndonville	Orleans County, New York Zip Code: 14098
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> Lyndonville is located in the northwest portion of Orleans County. It is located within Yates. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> Its post office opened in 1846, but it was settled as early as 1836. Lyndonville was incorporated in 1903. <i>Notable Facts:</i></p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mostly fields and flat <i>Hydrography:</i> <i>Watersheds:</i> Johnson Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 1.0 <i>Acres:</i> 640</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS From 1990 to 2000, Lyndonville’s population decreased by 9.5%. However, it is expected to grow by 3.2% to 890. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 862 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males :48.8%, Females 51.2% <i>Median Age:</i> 36.3 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 40,179 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 45,500 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 13 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 79 <i>Housing Units:</i> 342 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 67,900</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Lyndonville CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Municipal <i>Waste Water:</i> Municipal</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Lyndonville Police Dept., Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Lyndonville Volunteer Fire Company <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Lyndonville Volunteer Fire Company <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> Institute for Environmental Learning <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i></p>

Village of Medina	Orleans County, New York Zip Code: 14103
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Village of Medina is located in the southwest section of the county. Medina is located within Ridgeway and Shelby. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> Medina was settled in 1824 and incorporated in 1832. <i>Notable Facts:</i> Red Medina sandstone was quarried here in the 1800s and shipped all over the world for use as a building material.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly fields with some forests and urban areas, and flat <i>Hydrography:</i> Erie Canal <i>Watersheds:</i> Oak Orchard Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 3.3 <i>Acres:</i> 2,112</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS Medina’s population decreased 4.1% from 1990 to 2000 from 6,686 to 6,415. By 2004, it is expected to grow by 2.5% to 6,578. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 6,415 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males 45.6%, Females: 54.4% <i>Median Age:</i> 36.6 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 30,300 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 37,857 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 208 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 1,019 <i>Housing Units:</i> 2,802 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 61,300</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Medina CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Municipal <i>Waste Water:</i> Municipal</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Medina Police Dept., Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Medina Fire Department, Ridge Way Volunteer Fire Company. <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Medina Fire Department, Ridge Way Volunteer Fire Company. <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> Erie Basin Marine Park, Glenwood Lake Boat Launch. <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i> Medina Historical Society, Medina Railroad Museum, many historic buildings in the village core.</p>

Town of Murray	Orleans County, New York Zip Codes: 14470, 14477
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> Murray is located in the east central portion of Orleans County. The Town of Murray is bordered on the north by Kendall, on the east by Clarkson in Monroe County, on the south by Clarendon, and on the west by Gaines. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> The Town of Murray was incorporated in 1808 and settled in 1809. <i>Notable Facts:</i></p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Generally flat land, mostly fields and forests. <i>Hydrography:</i> Erie Canal <i>Watersheds:</i> Sandy Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 31.1 <i>Acres:</i> 19,904</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS The population of Murray grew by 1.9% from 1990 to 2000. By 2040, the population is expected to rise 10.2%. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 6,259 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males 39.3%, Females 60.7% <i>Median Age:</i> 35.0 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 38,672 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 45,184 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 55 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 336 <i>Housing Units:</i> 2,086 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 74,100</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Kendall CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Monroe County Water Authority <i>Waste Water:</i> Shoremont WTP</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Fancher/Hulberton/Murray Volunteer Fire Company <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Fancher/Hulberton/Murray Volunteer Fire Company <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i></p>

Town of Ridgeway	Orleans County, New York Zip Code: 14103, 14098
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Town of Ridgeway is located in the west central portion of Orleans County. It is bordered on the north by Yates, on the east by Gaines and Albion, on the south by Shelby and Albion, and on the west by Hartland in Niagara County. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> The town was settled in 1810 and incorporated two years later. <i>Notable Facts:</i></p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly flat fields with some forests <i>Hydrography:</i> <i>Watersheds:</i> Johnson Creek, Oak Orchard Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 50.3 <i>Acres:</i> 32,192</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS The population decreased by 6.5% from 1990 to 2000. The population is expected to increase 1% by 2004 to 6,951. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 6,886 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males 48.0%, Females 52.0% <i>Median Age:</i> 36.7 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 35,206 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 41,696 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 192 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 986 <i>Housing Units:</i> 2,872 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 67,000</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Lyndonville CSD, Medina CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> National Grid <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> <i>Waste Water:</i></p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Company <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Company <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i> Culvert Road – only road in NYS that passes <i>under</i> the Erie Canal by tunnel.</p>

Town of Shelby	Orleans County, New York Zip Codes: 14103, 14105
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The town of Shelby is located in the southwest corner of Orleans County. It is bordered on the west by Royalton in Niagara County, on the south by Alabama in Genesee County, on the north by Ridgeway, and on the east by Albion and Barre. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> Shelby was settled in 1810 and incorporated in 1818. <i>Notable Facts:</i> The town has four hamlets: Shelby Center, East Shelby, West Shelby, and Millville. Threshing machines were manufactured here in the early 1830s.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Generally flat agricultural fields with some stands of trees. <i>Hydrography:</i> Oak Orchard Creek <i>Watersheds:</i> Johnson Creek, Oak Orchard Creek, Lake Ontario</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 46.7 <i>Acres:</i> 29,888</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS The population decreased by 1.9% from 1990 to 2000. Shelby’s population is expected to grow by 4.2% by 2004. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 5,420 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 47.9%, Females: 52.1% <i>Median Age:</i> 37.6 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 34,091 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 40,972 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 119 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 719 <i>Housing Units:</i> 2,134 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 63,400</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Medina CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> National Grid <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Municipal and private wells <i>Waste Water:</i> Private sewers outside village, municipal sewers within village</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Shelby Volunteer Fire Company, East Shelby Volunteer Fire Company, Medina Fire Dept. <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Both fire companies, Medina Ambulance <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i> Neuter Indian fort site, Shelby Mill Race, historic downtown Medina, Medina Historical Society, Town of Shelby Historian’s office, Lee-Whedon Library</p>

Town of Yates	Orleans County, New York Zip Code: 14098
<p>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION <i>Location/Boundaries:</i> The Town of Yates is located in the northwest corner of the county. Yates is bordered on the north by Lake Ontario, on the east by Carlton, on the south by Ridgeway, and on the west by Somerset in Niagara County. <i>Dates of Settlement and Incorporation:</i> The town was settled in 1809 and incorporated in 1822. <i>Notable Facts:</i> The town was named for NYS Governor Joseph Yates, who was in office when the town was incorporated.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE FEATURES <i>Topography:</i> Mainly fields with some forests and a small urbanized area around the village of Lyndonville, and mostly flat land. <i>Hydrography:</i> Waterways flow north into Lake Ontario <i>Watersheds:</i> Johnson Creek</p> <p>AREA <i>Square Miles:</i> 46.7 <i>Acres:</i> 29,888</p> <p>POPULATION TRENDS The population of the Town of Yates increased by 1% from 2,497 to 2,510 residents. The population is projected to increase by 7.7% to 2,704. (G/FLRPC, 2003)</p> <p>DEMOGRAPHICS (Census 2000) <i>Population:</i> 2,510 <i>Sex Ratio:</i> Males: 49.8%, Females: 50.2% <i>Median Age:</i> 37.5 <i>Median Household Income:</i> 39,803 <i>Median Family Income:</i> 42,165 <i>Families Below Poverty Line:</i> 38 <i>Individuals Below Poverty Line:</i> 206 <i>Housing Units:</i> 1,265 <i>Median Housing Value:</i> 68,700</p>	<p>SCHOOL DISTRICTS Lyndonville CSD</p> <p>UTILITIES <i>Electricity:</i> NYSEG <i>Natural Gas:</i> NYSEG <i>Telephone:</i> Verizon <i>Water Supply:</i> Municipal <i>Waste Water:</i> Municipal</p> <p>PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Police Departments:</i> Orleans County Sheriff, NYS Police <i>Fire Departments:</i> Lyndonville Volunteer Fire Company <i>Emergency Medical Services:</i> Lyndonville Volunteer Fire Company <i>Nearby Medical Facilities:</i> Medina Memorial Hospital</p> <p>NATURAL, CULTURAL, & HISTORIC RESOURCES <i>Parks/Preserves:</i> <i>Historic and Cultural Resources:</i></p>