

Community Profiles
Inverness County
2003

Inverness County Community Profiles

MEAT COVE

Meat Cove is a coastal community located at the northern end of Cape Breton, east of Cape St. Lawrence, Fraser's Beach, and Blackrock Point. Blackrock Point is characterized by a wide coal seam seen from the water. The community of Meat Cove is on the western side of an ocean inlet, also called Meat Cove. The land rises steadily and steeply from the ocean to an elevation of about 100 metres at the highest point in the community. Inland, behind the community, the land continues to rise to an elevation of about 250 metres. Several sources say Meat Cove takes

its name from the abundance of meat from moose and caribou to be found on its shores. Another source suggest that boats loaded up with game meat in this cove.

It is notable that the Church Map of 1886 has Meat Cove in Victoria County. Ferguson's **Place Names of Nova Scotia** (1967) also states that Meat Cove is in Victoria County. Residents of Meat Cove are able to shed light on this matter by relating the story of a historical dispute which repeatedly shifted the county line. Some present-day residents maintain that the county line is at the bridge over the Meat Cove Brook which marks the beginning of the community. The official county line seems to be at the top of the hill leading down to the bridge.

Meat Cove has a population of about 60, which is slightly increased during the summer months. In 1956, the population was listed as 55. Most of the homes in Meat Cove are small to medium wood frame structures. There are a few mobile homes and a few small seasonal trailers. The early settlers were Scottish and had connections with families in the more southern parts of Inverness County. Some of the original "grantees" were Angus MacDonald (1874), John Griffin (1879), and Allan and Donald MacLellan (1890). The name, Rupert G. Zwicker is also among the grantees. It is not clear whether the land was actually settled on those dates, or whether the grants came years after settlement.

In the 1960s Meat Cove was designated, along with Black Point, as a community which would benefit from resettlement to another area which was less remote. The people of Meat Cove resisted relocation, and since then have continued to maintain their community. The people of Black Point were moved to Bay St. Lawrence and to Baddeck.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The road to Meat Cove comes along the coast from Capstick and St. Margaret's Village in Victoria County. The road leading into Meat Cove is gravel from Capstick. The road which continues through Meat Cove to Pollet's Cove is also dirt and is not passable for regular traffic. A petition is currently being circulated in an effort to promote better maintenance of the road serving Meat Cove. There is no bus service available to Meat Cove, and the roads do not permit bulk shipment of good to and from the community. The nearest airport is Sydney, 180 kms away. Although Meat Cove is a coastal community, it does not presently have its own harbour

Inverness County Community Profiles

facilities. Historically there was an off-load wharf in Meat Cove, and until the 1970's there was a concrete pad launch way.

There was a school in Meat Cove in 1940, another in 1957. Presently there is no school in Meat Cove; the elementary students go North Highlands Elementary School in Cape North; the senior students go to Cabot High at Neil's Harbour. Higher education, either university or vocational, is available at UCCB, Marconi Campus Community College, Port Hawkesbury, St. F.X., or beyond, depending on program offerings.

Health services area available at Buchanan Hospital at Neil's Harbour which has in-patient and out-patient facilities, doctors, nurses, and lab facilities. Specialists from Sydney or Halifax are available here once a month. A dentist is at the Highland Medical Centre at Neil's Harbour three days per week.

Fire protection is available from Bay St. Lawrence 12 kms away. The Nova Scotia Emergency Health Service is presently considering placing fire and other emergency equipment in Meat Cove. Training for fire and other emergency will be provided by NS Natural Resources. are included in this proposal. Currently the fire insurance rate for Meat Cove is "unprotected", being more than 8 km from the nearest fire department. Water in the community is supplied by private wells. Sewage treatment septic tanks. Garbage collection is contracted by the Inverness Municipality. Similarly mail delivery is contracted by Canada Post.

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The area rate for fire protection is \$60 per residential property.

The CAP Site /Welcome Centre, under the umbrella of the Meat Cove Fishermen's Association is open year round. The CAP Site offers dial-up internet access to the community and to visitors. A significant number of families in the community have computers. The CAP Site/ Welcome Centre was recently expanded and it now serves as the Community Hall. The hall has regular dinners and other community functions. It is also used for religious services: the Roman Catholic priest comes from Dingwall once a month to present liturgy for the predominantly Roman Catholic community. Art classes are taught at the Community Hall by a local artist who also exhibits some works at the Hall.

Meat Cove is currently working on developing a library in a co-operative project with Pleasant Bay. The Community Hall (CAP Site/ Welcome Centre) is developing a museum/archive through its youth history project.

Industries and Commercial Services

Historically, subsistence farming took place in Meat Cove; the present soil characteristics suggest the presence of areas of significant and fertile top soil. The chief livelihood in Meat Cove has been fishing since the inception of the community. There are six fishing boats (28-40 ft) from Meat Cove berthed at Bay St. Lawrence. Lobster, crab, herring, mackerel, and ground species such as flounder and hake are harvested in season. Logging and pulp cutting is not a viable resource industry in Meat Cove because of the Protected Area status of the land around

Inverness County Community Profiles

Meat Cove. In the 1950s, zinc deposits were discovered in the Meat Cove area, and they may be connected with the mine in Lowland Cove which was open for a few years in the 1950s. There was another proposal to explore open pit mining of dolomite in the past few years, but the community requested more consultation and there was no follow-up.

There is a variety store in Meat Cove which is open seasonally. Financial services are available at the credit union at Bay St. Lawrence, at the Scotia Bank at Ingonish, or the Royal Bank in Cheticamp or Baddeck.

Interest in tourism is increasing. The Welcome Centre recorded some 4000 visitors in 2002. The Meat Cove Lodge Bed and Breakfast is a modern facility which is also open seasonally. A campground with full hook-up at three sites (25 tent/showers) is situated close to the pristine beach where the swimming is excellent. Kayak rentals will be available in the near future. Recreational fishing is available in the many streams in the area as well in the ocean. Whale and eagle watching is done along the ocean shore and along the hiking trails. It is likely that a hostel will be in place for the summer season in 2003.

The leadership qualities found in the residents of the community have always been a factor in sustaining Meat Cove as a community. This is coupled with a proud sense of place which has been instilled in each succeeding generation. These factors continue to give Meat Cove residents a positive outlook for the future of their community.

Sources: Derrick MacLellan, Meat Cove Fishermen's Association, Meat Cove CAP Site and Welcome Centre; The Nova Scotia Atlas, 5th Ed. (2001); Bruce Fergusson, Places Names of Nova Scotia (1967); Percy Guam, Speech to Legislature re: Meat Cove Relocation, Beaton Institute MG 9,8; Cape Breton's Magazine Nos 4, 39; Inverness Land Grant Map, Nova Scotia Dept. of Lands and Forests, 1947; Lorraine Cox, "Engineered Consent: The Relocation of Black Point, a Small Gaelic Fishing Community in Northern Cape Breton Island", Ph.D. Thesis, Dalhousie (1997).

Pleasant Bay and Red River

Pleasant Bay is situated on the western coast of Cape Breton Island at 60.80 ° Long. and 46 °, 50'ca. Lat., the village extending about ten kilometres from Wreck Cove on the south end and Bucks Cove and Archie's Brook on the north end. The Pleasant Bay Harbour is the focal point of the community and emphasizes the importance of the fishery. About five kilometres from the centre of Pleasant Bay is the Red River community situated at the mouth of the Red River. The areas around both Pleasant Bay and Red River have many brooks leading from the highlands into the ocean.

The area around Pleasant Bay extends inland about two kilometres up the Grand Anse River along the Cabot Trail, and the area inland in Red River extends about the same length at the mouth of the river. But, for the most part, the whole area is only one kilometre inland because of the highlands which rise rather steeply to 400 metres on the north side of the village

Inverness County Community Profiles

and 300 metres on the south side.

Pleasant Bay was historically known by a number of place names: "Limbo Cove" by the English, "Grand Anse" by the French, and the slang name of "Grantosh". It was named Pleasant Bay in the 1870s after a place in the Magdalen Islands. The first European contact was supposedly made in 1819 by a Scottish ship stranded in the bay. The first settlement of Pleasant Bay by people of European descent appears to have taken place in 1828 with the arrival of John MacLean, and Donald MacIntosh from the Isle of Skye, Scotland. They were soon joined by other Scottish and Irish immigrants who claimed most of the coastal lowlands. By 1850 the settlements spread out and Red River became part of Pleasant Bay. The first land grants were given to Edward Timmons and John Hinkley in 1856. Others that followed included Charles Maclean (1858) and Andrew Moore (1858 and 1861), Peter Cambell (1870); Peter MacIntosh (1873), and Samuel Hingley (1883). A reason given for the late granting of lands has been accounted for by the relatively late realization of the value of timberlands in the area.

In Pleasant Bay's past, years were remembered because of extraordinary events at sea. The "Year of the Flour" was in 1874, when barrels of flour washed ashore, presumably from a burning ship. In 1875, a thousand pounds of butter, in tins, floated in with the tide, marking the "Year of the Butter". The most talked of year was the "Year of the Rum", in 1931 when dozens of barrels of contraband rum from a capsized ship made their way to the shore... unbroken! Another year that lives in the memory of the Pleasant Bay people was 1947, when fire destroyed most of the community including 16 houses, 2 barns, 2 boats, the United Church, a community hall, and two miles of poles and wires belonging to a local telephone company. The community appealed outside the community for donations in August 1947.

Pleasant Bay is predominantly Protestant in the Presbyterian tradition; there are a small number of Catholics of Irish and Acadian descent. The first school was built in 1868 and the community used that building for Sunday services. John Murray in his History of the Presbyterian Church (1920) reported that there were 35 families in Pleasant Bay in "very comfortable surroundings.... [with] neat houses, plenty of good food and warm clothing". The present -day combined seasonal and full-time population is about 350 people. Interestingly, the communities of Pleasant Bay and Red River are part of the Federal Riding of Sydney-Victoria.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The Cabot Trail leads to and away from Pleasant Bay, and a paved coastal road runs from Pleasant Bay to Red River. Winter roads are maintained by the National Park through the mountains and by the Department of Transportation in the village. Goods are easily transported in and out of Pleasant Bay. The nearest airport is in Sydney; the Margaree Airport is available but sees very little usage.

There is one school with one teacher in Pleasant Bay, grades P-6. After grade 6, Pleasant Bay students go to Terre Noire. There is an option for students of Acadian parentage to attend NDA at Cheticamp. Post-secondary students attend any university that offer what they need.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Students taking vocational training attend community colleges mainly at Sydney or Port Hawkesbury.

Religious services are available at the St. Andrew's United Church in Pleasant Bay. Roman Catholic adherents travel to Dingwall for Mass, about 50 km away.

Most of the medical services - hospital, doctors and nurses, dentists, labs, drug store - are located at Cheticamp, 50 km away. Specialists from Antigonish, Sydney and Halifax visit Cheticamp and patients from Pleasant Bay use this service as well. The Nova Scotia Emergency Health Service is available from Cheticamp. Social service case workers travel to Pleasant Bay from Port Hood or Port Hawkesbury. There is a Family Resource centre in Pleasant Bay.

Water for Pleasant Bay is provided by private wells, some wells serving several homes. Sewage treatment is by individual septic tanks. Garbage collection is once weekly by the municipality.

Police service is provided by the RCMP by the four officers at the Cheticamp detachment. Pleasant Bay has a Volunteer Fire Dept that is supported by municipal taxes. There is a fire hall with 2 trucks and about 15 volunteers. The fire insurance rating would be "protected" with a fire department located within 8km.

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The fire protection rate is \$75 per residential property.

The main energy supplier is Nova Scotia Power. Phone service including long distance is provided by MTT Aliant out of Halifax. Cell phone coverage is not available. Satellite television is available. The CAP Site located in the lower level of the school has high speed internet access. The Internet Café at the hostel, open in the summer, has dial-up access. Pleasant Bay has a General Delivery Post Office.

The Whale Interpretation Centre is the pride of the community and the focal point of the area's tourism economy. The Centre was opened in March 2000, after about seven years of hard and committed work by the community, scientists, and the government. The community groups which contributed significantly to the establishment of the Centre are the Pleasant Bay Community Development Association and the Friends of Whale Watch Cape Breton. The Centre works with marine researchers to promote scientific understanding of whale classification, habitat and conservation. The Centre promotes other eco-tourism outlets as well.

Pleasant Bay's recreational activities combine the traditional and modern. There is a ball field, some rocky beaches for swimming and walking, and recreational fishing in streams, lakes and the ocean. The idea of formalizing hiking trails is being seriously considered. Snowmobiling is also popular. Pleasant Bay has a community/fire hall for community gatherings. The Cape Breton Highlands National park provides unrivalled recreational facilities in terms of camping, official walking trails and magnificent scenery.

The Cape Breton Highlands National Park and the landmark, the "Lone Shieling" had their origins in Pleasant Bay through the Will of a native son, Donald Sutherland MacIntosh.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Another landmark which is becoming nationally and internationally known is the Buddhist Gampo Abbey, located close to the shoreline at Pleasant Bay.

Industries and Commercial Services

Commerce and services for Pleasant Bay are generally found in Cheticamp or further away, although there is a fish buyer and a Professional Centre, as well as convenience stores and restaurants, in Pleasant Bay.

The lowland areas with glacial till found near the brooks is suitable for farming which was carried out until the mid 20th century. But the economic mainstay of the community has historically been the fishery. The first lobster factory in Pleasant Bay was opened in 1887; other businesses such as general stores and fishing supply outlets were traditionally connected with lobster canneries. Successive cannery operators included Forrest of Antigonish, Banks and Fulton of Halifax, Robin Jones of Cheticamp and C.W. Aucoin of Cheticamp. As in Cheticamp, Pleasant Bay fishers historically were "owned" by the company which operated the factory, and ran the supply store and the general store. Although fishing continues to be the most significant economic factor in Pleasant Bay - lobster, crab, mackerel - there is presently no fish processing operation in Pleasant Bay; rather buyers deliver fish to other areas for processing. Pleasant Bay's wharf is run by the Pleasant Bay Harbour Authority; it is concrete and has a ramp with a 1:10 slope.

The tourism sector of Pleasant Bay, as mentioned previously, is focussed on the Whale Interpretive Centre. The National Park also provides some of the tourism economic base for the community. The arts, especially visual arts, are advertised to the world as part of the appeal of Pleasant Bay. The area has three motels, a B&B establishment and a hostel.

There are two trucking firms in Pleasant Bay, one of them for boat hauling. Most Commercial services for Pleasant Bay are found in Cheticamp or people may travel to Sydney to shop. Financial institutions serving the community are also found in Cheticamp, a credit union and a Royal Bank. However, Pleasant Bay has restaurants, a convenience store and a Professional Centre, and several overnight accommodation businesses, mentioned above.

*Source(s): Doris Fraser; www.capecbretonmagic.com; John Murray, **History of the Presbyterian Church** (1920), p.228. ; J.V. Campbell, "The Human History of Cape Breton Highlands National Park" (1975); "Appeal for Assistance after 1047 Fire", MG 14,70 C 1, Roderick MacLean, Warden; Bruce Fergusson, **Place Names of Nova Scotia** (1967); Land Grant Map, 1947, from Nova Scotia Lands and Forests Dept.; **Nova Scotia Atlas**, 5th Ed (2001); **MacDougall's History of Inverness County** (1922); "Whale Interpretation Centre" Inverness Oran (nd) cited in www.capecbretonmagic.com; NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness*

Inverness County Community Profiles

Cheticamp

The Village of Cheticamp is made up of a number of smaller communities or neighbourhoods: Plateau, Point Cross, Cheticamp Island, La Prairie, Belle Marche, and Petit Étang.

The geographical environment of the Cheticamp Area is characterized by two main features - the Cape Breton Highlands and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Cape Breton Highlands rise from the shore of the Gulf to an elevation of some 450 metres. However, the area is generally characterized by gently rolling hills with slopes from three to eight percent. Apart from the surrounding Highlands, Cheticamp Island is the second most important topographical feature of the area. This land form provides a sheltered harbour for the many fishing boats and pleasure crafts. The Island also has some of the best soils for agriculture purposes. Most of the land holdings on the island are in public ownership and leased to private individuals for agriculture purposes (grazing and pasture). The present settlement patterns have been characterized by their close relationship to the harbour and the Highlands.

In the last 100 years residential development occurred near the shores of Cheticamp Harbour on properties adjacent to the Cabot Trail or on property fronting on short public and private lanes or streets running perpendicular to the Cabot Trail. Over the years as demand for housing increased, the early history of settlement is being repeated as new dwellings were constructed in an eastern and northern direction toward the "highlands".

Today's Cheticamp has a population of 3500. In the older part of Cheticamp Proper, many families allowed the subdivision of their landholding, creating rear lot housing for members of their family. Today, many homes are located on short lanes, (many of which are not maintained by the Provincial Department of Transportation). Some lanes may serve two to five dwellings.

The composition of the housing stock is characterized by high percentages of home ownership, with the single family wood frame dwellings being the most predominant type of housing. There is a small amount of rental housing, but there is basically no surplus housing available in the community. Seniors are housed in apartments or senior citizen housing constructed for the Nova Scotia Department of Housing. There are several mobile homes located within Cheticamp Proper Area. All are located on individual lots with the majority of these serviced by on-site sewer and water.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The road through downtown Cheticamp is the Cabot Trail and there is a network of roads connecting all of the neighbourhoods with the downtown. This road starts at Plateau and comes back to the Cabot Trail (Route 19) at Petit Étang. Another road leaves the Cabot Trail and goes to Cheticamp Island where the population is increasing at a significant rate. Most of the roads are paved, but a few reaching into the mountains may still be gravel. The Glace Bay Bus Company provides a shuttle service to Sydney three times a week. The nearest useable airport is at Sydney. There are several wharf facilities in Cheticamp including one on Cheticamp Island, at La Digue and one at the more southern end of the downtown.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Water is supplied to the majority of Cheticamp homes through a municipally operated central system. A private water system (owned and maintained by individual property owners under common agreement) services 30-40 homes by way of two deep wells located near the golf course. Private wells serve the other remaining residents of Cheticamp Proper. A provincially owned (Department of Environment) and operated water system provides water to the La Digue Fisheries, Paturel's International, Poirier's Fish Haven, the Laundromat, Laurie's Motel, the School, Hospital and Fire Department.

Cheticamp also has a central sewage treatment facility using "activated sludge" technology which oxidizes the waste material, allowing for sedimentation and release of clean water into the harbour. Cheticamp has weekly garbage and blue bag collection. There is a recycling depot at Petit Étang.

Police protection is by the RCMP, four officers serving Cheticamp and surrounding area from the Cheticamp detachment.

Fire Protection is provided by a volunteer fire department which has two trucks and about 20 active volunteers at any given time. The fire insurance rate is based on "full protection" because the fire department is within eight km.

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. In areas served by the Cheticamp Fire department, the rate for fire protection is \$0.08/\$100 for residential properties, \$0.04/\$100 for commercial properties. Cheticamp residents pay \$0.31/\$100 for sewer maintenance.

Phone and long distance service is provided by MTT Aliant. Cable and satellite television is available. The community, where most families own computers, has access to dial-up internet. A CAP Site is located at Les Trois Pignons and at Centre le Moine. Cell phone service is not available.

While the primary provider of energy for businesses and residences in Cheticamp is Nova Scotia Power, geo-thermal energy using ocean water was introduced with the recent construction of the fisheries museum. Wind power produced at Grand Étang for Nova Scotia Power.

Cheticamp is possibly unique in Nova Scotia for its comprehensive health services in a relatively small community. In the late 1990s the old hospital located on the main thoroughfare in Cheticamp was demolished after a new health care complex opened in July, 1999. This new complex has 10 beds with coronary care and intensive care units. It also has lab facilities and is the visiting location for specialists who come from Inverness, Sydney, Halifax and Antigonish. The complex serves the county south to and including East Margaree and north to Pleasant Bay. A drugstore in Cheticamp is stocked to respond to most medicinal requirements. A Nova Scotia Emergency Health Services unit is based in Cheticamp.

École NDA serves the area from Pleasant Bay to Margaree area for students P-12 who wish to study in French. Other students may attend Cape Breton Highlands Academy which also has P-12. Students from Cheticamp attend whatever university supplies their needs, including Université de Moncton. Vocational training is available at Collège de l'Acadie and at other community colleges in the region and beyond.

Inverness County Community Profiles

A large stone church, Église Saint-Pierre, dominates the landscape of Cheticamp, and indicates the predominantly Roman Catholic religious tradition of the community. Other adherents include Jehovah Witnesses and some Jersey Huguenot descendants who maintain the Anglican tradition.

Although tourism is generally considered to be primarily an economic factor, it has had an important impact on the cultural landscape of Cheticamp and on the way heritage is presented. The arts - music, literary and visual- also form an important part of the area's tourism initiative, but they are primarily a response to the cultural and social life of Cheticamp.

Les Trois Pignons, located at the northern end of Cheticamp houses a genealogy centre, museum, library, art galleries and Visitor Information Centre. La Piroque Fisheries Museum, through its exhibits and library, recognizes the history of the area's fishing livelihood. Another, less formal museum, crafts and the history of the community, is located at the Co-operative Artisanale on the Main Street of Cheticamp. Performance areas are located at the school and during the summer on Quai Mathieu where music and drama are presented. The boardwalk on Quai Mathieu also provides relaxation and walking possibilities.

There are several community halls including the Fire Hall, the Kinsmen Hall, the arena, and the Legion, where events take place on a regular basis.

Sport and recreation plays a major role in Cheticamp life. There is an 18 hole Golf Course with complete facilities is located at the north end of the community. The community arena (including ice rink facility) is also located at the northern end of the community. Cheticamp boasts three ball fields, two tennis courts, bowling alleys, and campgrounds on Cheticamp Island and in the National Park. There is a sandy beach at Plage St-Pierre, and a remarkable stony beach at Petite Étang. Deep-sea recreational fishing and whale watching is available, and there is salmon and trout fishing in the Cheticamp River. There is hiking, snowmobile and ATV trails in the "back" of Cheticamp, and it is expected that these will be formalized in the near future. A few picnic areas are available but the Cape Breton Highlands National Park more than fulfills the "parks" requirement for Cheticamp.

Industries and Commercial Services

Cheticamp's economy is based primarily on the fishery. Cheticamp Harbour Authority manages the 6.4 metre-wide wharf at La Digue and other wharfs in the area. The Government Wharf berths some 25 boats, several of which conduct tourist services in season. Cheticamp's people also work in forestry, construction, commerce, in service and professional jobs, and there is limited farming.

The nearest major urban area is Sydney. Shopping excursions may be made to Sydney, Halifax, as well as Moncton.

Cheticamp has become famous for its effective utilization of co-operative principles; many of its enterprises are run as successful co-operatives. A recent of example is the Cooperative Radio Cheticamp, CKJM, which, supported by local advertising, broadcasts local news, talent and events in the life of Cheticamp

Recently, the tourism industry has also become a major factor in sustaining Cheticamp. Indeed, Cheticamp has won international recognition for its tourism. The elements already

Inverness County Community Profiles

mentioned become economic factors as well as enhancements of life style for the local residents. Art shops and galleries dot the Main Street; music can be heard on the Quai; museums welcome everyone, camping and swimming are widely enjoyed. Cheticamp's pride in its history and culture, along with its excellent food, has made it a place where economic and cultural life is naturally integrated. It can be said visitor and resident alike benefit from the good things of Cheticamp.

Sources: Matt Poirier, Exec Dir., Cheticamp Development Commission. www.cbmuseums.tripod www.rcbplan.ns.ca (Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission); www.cheticamp.ns.com E. Beaton, "Oral Tradition and Sorcery Beliefs in Cheticamp, Cape Breton". M.A. Thesis(1980); Nova Scotia Power. NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness.

Le Moine

Le Moine is part of the Acadian Region and includes Grand Etang, St. Joseph du Moine, and Cap Le Moine. These coastal communities are located on Route 19/Cabot Trail and share the same landforms as the Cheticamp area: coastline rising to a generally level or gently rolling landscape before rising into the highlands to about 300-400 metres. The exception to this is at Grand Etang, at the area near the bridge connecting Grand Lac with Grand Etang Harbour. Here the land rises almost immediately into relatively steep hills from the harbour. Another interesting land form typical of the lowlands in the Grand Etang area is the "sinkhole" which is a dissolved bed of gypsum forming a steep-sided depression. Some of these geological anomalies become small lakes or ponds, such as the one to be seen from the highway in Grand Etang.

The attached buildings and the characteristic half-hipped roofs of Le Moine give evidence of the ferocity of the "suête", the south-east winds which comes down from the mountains at speeds of 150 km/hour or greater. At Le Moine, because of the more sparse settlement and the cleared land it is easy to visualize the historic importance of farming. The architecture, as well, is an indicator, with barns attached to houses in many cases, and the variety of other extant outbuildings.

Le Moines' mixed economy, proximity to Cheticamp, and the beauty of its coastline geography account for its varied population. Some families obtain their livelihoods within the community, while others, especially professionals and those in the service industries, travel to Cheticamp to work. Le Moine has a significant number of retirees, many of whom live in apartments in the community. Summer residents make up a portion of the population. The present population is estimated at 700. It is difficult to make an accurate assessment based on census data.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The Cabot Trail is the main road through Le Moine. Paved and some unpaved roads lead from the Cabot Trail both toward the mountains and toward the ocean. McGarry Road leads into

Inverness County Community Profiles

the early settlements in the rear of Le Moine. The Bazile Road also leads to these former settlement areas of Le Moine.

Sydney is the nearest major urban area, reached by travelling through Middle River. But most shopping outside Le Moine is done in Cheticamp.

All health services for Le Moine are provided at Cheticamp, 10 minutes away, or possibly at Inverness Town which is about 45 minutes from Le Moine.

The Cape Breton Highlands Academy/Education Centre at Terre Noire (primary to 12) serves the community of Le Moine, all of the Margarees and north to Pleasant Bay. Students from Le Moine may also receive their education in the French language in Cheticamp. Like the other communities in the Acadian region, students may go to any of the universities in the province or beyond. Those wishing to study in the French language usually go to Moncton.

Water and sewage are still individually and privately provided in Le Moine. However, the community has been looking at some possibilities for “clustering” for both water and sewage. Garbage is collected once a week by the municipality; it is dumped into the landfill at Kenloch on Lake Ainslie. There is also blue bag recycling pick-up. Some materials for recycling is brought to the depot by the residents. Le Moine has a Volunteer Fire Department located in the old College de l’Acadie, with two trucks and approximately 12 volunteers. Police protection is provided by the RCMP; four officers at the Cheticamp detachment serve East Margaree to Pleasant Bay, including Le Moine

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. In areas served by the St. Joseph du Moine Fire department, the rate for fire protection is \$0.08/\$100 for residential properties, \$0.05/\$100 for commercial properties.

Le Moine’s Post Office is located at Grand Etang Harbour. The Le Moine CAP Site is located in Centre Le Moine, the old College de l’Acadie building, now owned by the Le Moine Development Association. Dial-up internet access is available as is rare cell phone service. Satellite and Cable television are both available.

Centre Le Moine at St. Joseph du Moine has become the community centre and it, together with the Parish Hall have presented various artistic programs and local music. The St. Joseph du Moine Scottish Concert, seemingly a cultural contradiction, is presented by the local Volunteer Fire Dept. each year in August. Interestingly, except for tourists and music aficionados from English-speaking Cape Breton communities, the conversations in the audience and the back stage discussions are in the French language. The main ball field for the community is located behind the Centre Le Moine.

There are several art galleries in Le Moine which are appreciated by both residents and visitors. There is a library at Centre Le Moine, as well as a Mi’careme museum.

Predominantly Roman Catholic, Le Moine shares a priest with Cheticamp. St. Joseph Church has had a shared pastor for some time, previously with East Margaree.

Industries and Commercial Services

Like Cheticamp, recent repopulation of Le Moine has resulted in the construction of homes “back of the mountain” where the farms were originally, in the lowlands or gently rolling

Inverness County Community Profiles

land east of the first layer of hills. There are four farms still operating on a “part-time” basis. The Le Moine Development Association is considering the potential for reinstating some of the old apple species that are still growing on some of the previous farms in the “back of the mountain”. This might be part of the trails network planned for the McGarry Road. It is recognized that this area has a viable “micro climate” that may be very significant in revitalizing agriculture in the area.

Although farming is still carried out at a subsistence or small marketing level, fishing is the most important primary industry, with its wharf being operated by the Grand Etang Harbour Authority. The wharf is “three-in-one”, and has the capacity to shelter about 25 fishing boats. Lobster, crab, herring and ground species are harvested in season. A number of people also work in forestry, sometime on their own wood lots.

The education profession is significant in the area, though not for employment. The College de l’Acadie at St. Joseph du Moine teaches trades, arts, crafts and language. It serves as a distance education station for French language sources from across the province.

Le Moine has its own Credit Union, located beside its Co-op Store at Grand Etang., and there are a number of tourist accommodation facilities. Upwards of 10 people are employed at these establishments. A few people make their living as professional musicians or visual artists, accountants, or trades people.

Tourism has some importance. There are two B&Bs on the Bazile Road. The shore-line presents good swimming and walking opportunities, and some trails development is in process. These are a look-off and picnic area at Cap Le Moine.

The most important recent development in Le Moine was the construction of a wind turbine by Nova Scotia Power at Grand Etang. The latest innovation of an age-old power source, the wind turbine is 12 storeys high and has a triple blade rotor 48 metres in diameter. The blades turn relatively slowly, about 25 revolutions per minute. The turbine requires winds of at least requires 10 km/hour winds to operate. It will automatically shut down at winds of 90km/hour. This turbine has the capacity to produce enough electricity to supply 200 homes. There is discussion of developing interpretation centre explaining the turbine and the potential of wind power.

The community is also presently discussing plans for a fitness centre for “life style enhancement” which might include a place to “work out”, some walking trails, etc.

Given the proximity of Le Moine to Cheticamp, and its seeming dependence on Cheticamp for many services, it is striking that Le Moine is a community with a proudly independent spirit. In the arts, in economic planning, in acknowledging its history and culture, Le Moine seems to have a constantly renewing sense of itself as a place, and its ability to meet challenges. There is, in Le Moine, a decided impression of strong focus as the community moves forward into the future.

Sources: Leandre Le Blanc, www.rcbplan.ns.ca (Rural Cape Breton District Planning Commission); www.cheticamp.ca ; E. Beaton, “Oral Tradition and Sorcery Beliefs in Cheticamp, Cape Breton”. M.A. Thesis(1980); Nova Scotia Power. NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Margaree

The area of Margaree is geographically and culturally complex, and covers a large portion of Inverness County, situated on the Cabot Trail en route to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. The district covered by this profile begins at Belle Cote on the north side of Margaree Harbour and continues southward along the coast to Dunvegan. With Chimney Corner and St. Rose, this area is sometimes known as West Margaree. The area extends inland into the Margaree watershed which includes a total of 116,657.5 hectares. East Margaree and Fordview follow the east side of the lower Margaree River (the French side). The west side of the river from Margaree Harbour to the Forks is known as Margaree Forks (the “Scotch” side). The most northerly community included in this district is Big Intervale on the west side of the Northeast Margaree River; On the east side of the Margaree River are Kingross, Ulva, Portree, Marsh Brook, Northeast Margaree. The most easterly point is Lake O’Law which extends to the Victoria County boundary. The south-westerly communities are Upper Margaree, Gillisdale, Southwest Margaree, Piper Glen, Egypt and Coady Road, going toward Margaree Forks.

The Margaree River system, with a total length of 120 km., is the largest on Cape Breton Island and is one of the largest in Nova Scotia. The Margaree, which has two branches, was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1993. The Northeast Margaree rises in the Cape Breton Highlands and travels along the Aspy Fault, through a valley complex that rises steeply on each side, before it becomes a meandering, mature stream at Margaree Forks; thereafter it flows into a broad estuary that leads northward to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Southwest branch begins in Lake Ainslie and moves at a slower rate than the Northeast branch (unless feed by heavy rains or snow run off) north to Margaree Forks where it blends with the Northeast Margaree on its way to Margaree Harbour. The river is tidal to about 10 km inland as far as “Levi’s Bridge”.

The area is blessed with a variety of glacial till out wash elements. Most of the estuary land near the harbour and of the inland valleys are composed of reddish brown clay loam till, rich and heavy, almost without stones, but needing organic mixing in order to cultivate. Other soils in the river valley lands include salt marshes in the tidal zones, and sandy/ gravelly/clay loam out wash materials on the level river banks. In the upper reaches of both the Northeast and Southwest branches are gravelly/sandy loam stratified materials on gently to strongly rolling or hilly land. The other significant land forms in the Margaree area are Sugarloaf Mountain, in the Northeast Margaree, which rises to about 360 metres above sea level, Fraser Mountain east and north of Margaree Valley which is about 350 metres, and Lake O’Law which allows from its shore the full view of a series of mountains known as “The Sisters”. Please see figure showing landforms and ecosystems of the Margaree area in Appendix (previously submitted).

The coastal areas are, for the most part, sand and gravel beaches, with occasional cliffs, of fine grain red sandstone and silt (called “Port Hood formation”) inlaid with clay and coal seams, rising from the ocean. The coast landscape has up to 4 km of level or gently rolling land at a maximum of 60 metres above sea level. The land then rises to hills of 300 metres or more.

Inverness County Community Profiles

The soil on the coastal areas is mainly clay or sandy loam till. Margaree Island or Sea Wolf Island is important to the local fishers as a place to take refuge from sudden storms. The island also is a Canadian Wildlife Service Bird Sanctuary.

The vegetation of the Margaree River system is mainly spruce and fir and mixed hardwoods, with maple stands and riverbank elms that are unique in Nova Scotia. Many of the elms have fallen prey to disease in the past twenty years, but the species may be in the process of returning to health. The Margaree is reputed to have the greatest proportion of forested flood plain of any river in Nova Scotia. About 70% of the river valley lands are privately owned and are in fields or other farm use, at least in the past 50 years. The Northeast River has the Margaree River Protected Wilderness Area.

The economically most significant wildlife species in the Margaree area are salmon and gaspereau, trout and eels.

The history of the Margaree area defines its cultural mosaic. The Mi'kmaq used the area for fishing, hunting and trading until they were confined to both the Nyanza Indian Reserve (Wagmatcook) and Whycocomagh Reserve (Waycobah). In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Mi'kmaq acted as guides for missionaries, as for Father Manseau in 1814, and later for fishermen. History tells us that 500 acres was set aside for the Mi'kmaq First Nation in Margaree. This seems to have been reduced to 50 acres, and that is the basis for the Mi'kmaq salmon fishery in the Margaree. There is evidence of intermarriage between the Mi'kmaq and the settlers.

Most of the French who came to "Magre" were diaspora Acadians who travelled from Prince Edward Island - Gallants, LeBlancs, Cormiers and Arsenaults. Others, such as Blanchards and Broussards, came directly from France, or remained after the Fall of Loiusbourg. It is understood that many Acadians came as "pre-settlers" before 1778: men without their families who worked in the seasonal fishery. Permanent settlement by the French was after 1778, when "The Seventeen" petitioned for land grants of some 3,400 acres which were officially recognized in 1808 with the requirement to clear and develop the land.

Settlers of Scottish, English and Irish descent, including disbanded soldiers and Loyalists, began arriving around 1799. Highland Scottish settlers arrived throughout the first half of the 19th century, most disembarking at official ports such as Pictou or Sydney, but many also being simply dropped off along the coast.

Generally speaking, the Catholic Acadian and French settled in Belle Cote and East Margaree; the Catholic Scottish and Irish settled the west side of the Margaree River toward Margaree Forks; Irish Catholics also went to Northeast Margaree; Protestant (Presbyterian) Scottish and some English went to Margaree Harbour; other Protestants (Congregationalist and Baptist) of mainly English descent were found in the Margaree Valley. Scottish settlers of both Catholic and Protestant traditions went to Whale Cove, St. Rose and Dunvegan. Places of worship and early schools were established accordingly. More recent schools have contributed to religious, linguistic and cultural integration. However, many of the civic services continue to be distributed on geo-linguistic basis, orienting to Inverness for anglophones, and Cheticamp for francophones.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Despite integration on certain levels, each community in the Margaree district has retained its own sense of identity - often to the great confusion of outsiders. Celebratory events, such as parades or festivals, tend to be community-specific, and the events usually focus on the community hall. Community problems result in community solutions.

The current population of the Margaree Area is about 3000, excluding summer residents.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The various parts of Margaree can be reached from four directions, west from Baddeck and Middle River, east from Lake Ainslie through Route 395, north from Inverness Town on Route 19, and south from Cheticamp. These main roads converge at Margaree Forks, and, except for Route 395, connect with Margaree Harbour. A complex network of mainly paved roads wind around the many communities which make up the Margaree. There being several routes to get to any given community, especially if it is inland. There are four gravel secondary roads, often in better condition than the paved roads. The residents of Margaree use either the Sydney or Halifax airports; the runway at Northeast Margaree is barely used.

Post offices are available are Belle Cote, Margaree Harbour, Margaree Centre, Margaree Valley, N.E. Margaree, Margaree Forks. There is also rural mail delivery.

Except for Belle Cote, water for the area comes from private wells or reservoirs, and in many communities, there are problems with mineral discolouration and general quality of the water. Belle Cote dealt with this problem by forming a co-op and establishing a spring well and reservoir on the elevated (275 metres) land in back of the community. The community well serves about 12 homes and the community hall. Private septic systems are the only method of sewage treatment in the area. Garbage collection is weekly, as is blue bag recycling collection.

Police protection is provided by the RCMP from both the Cheticamp and Inverness detachments. The officers from Cheticamp serve the communities as far as East Margaree and the Inverness officers serve the remainder of Margaree.

There are two volunteer fire departments in the Margaree area, Northeast Margaree and Margaree Forks. The Northeast Margaree Volunteer Fire Department has five trucks. The Margaree Forks Volunteer Fire Department includes the Belle Cote Station; the department has four trucks altogether. The departments work in a "mutual aid" system.. Neighbouring departments, which are available as needed, are at St. Joseph du Moine, Inverness, Lake Ainslie, and Middle River. The two Margaree fire departments have active contingents of volunteers: 23 at Northeast Margaree, and 35 at Margaree Forks. The volunteers are active in many community events.

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The rate for fire protection is \$0.06/\$100 for the area served by the Northeast Fire Service; \$0.08/\$100 and \$0.05/\$100 for commercial for the area served by the Margaree Fire Dept.

The Margaree Area Development Association (MADA) is the umbrella organization at the local level. A number of community organizations work as committees of MADA; other organizations act independently of MADA. Some of the community organizations are Margaree Tourism, Margaree Salmon, Heritage River, Aquatic Development, and Margaree Trails.

Inverness County Community Profiles

MADA supports all community efforts which undertake economic, heritage, tourism and beautification initiatives.

The Coady-Tompkins Library, which is overseen by MADA, is located at Margaree Forks and serves the Margarees and also houses the CAP Site (dial-up internet capacity). MADA has also established a comprehensive health clinic in the expanded Coady-Tompkins facility. There, a doctor receives patients once a week, lab specimens are collected, and inoculations are given. There is additional private space for a Home and Public Health office.

For other health services, Margaree residents go either to Cheticamp or Inverness. The Nova Scotia Emergency Health Service Ambulance is available to the Margaree area. Community Services and Regional Housing services emanate from Port Hood or Sydney.

Elementary, middle and high school students attend the Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Cape Breton Highlands Academy. There are 2 pre-schools three mornings a week at the Belle Cote Community Centre and at Margaree Valley. University students usually go to St. F.X. or universities in Halifax or Sydney, and vocational students go to institutions that offer what they need, usually Port Hawkesbury or Sydney, but also Halifax.

The arts are flourishing in Margaree and community interest and participation indicates that the arts will be sustained. There is a strong continuing tradition of Celtic and Acadians song, music and dance. More recently there are classical arts available including music and dance. Many of the performers are known nationally and internationally. Theatre has also been a major artistic component for a number of years, including participation of people of all ages in the community. The visual arts are also making an impact in Margaree with local artists becoming well-known far beyond the community. Performances and exhibits are available in number venues in the community including halls, galleries and shops.

The Salmon Museum at Northeast Margaree is the only museum in the area; the heritage museum at East Margaree is no longer operating.

Recreational activities at Margaree abound. They include a small putting area at Lake O'Law, parks at Lake O'Law and Southwest Margaree, a riverside walking trail from Southwest Margaree to Margaree Forks (MADA), world famous salmon fishing in the Margaree, and beaches - especially at Belle Cote, Margaree Harbour, and Chimney Corner. The Margaree also has famous swimming "holes" that every resident knows about. There are about six ball fields in the area.

The Margaree area has a large network of ATV and snowmobile trails that bring people from all around the Maritimes. The trails come under the Nova Scotia Snowmobile Association which oversees trail conditions and safety. Most of the trails go over the mountain to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Almost every community has yearly celebrations which draw current and former residents for communal meals dinners, dances, and other get-togethers, at the local halls. The halls in the area are the Margaree Forks Fire Hall, Belle Cote Community Centre, St. Joseph's Hall at Southwest Margaree, Wilson United Church Hall at Margaree Centre, St. Michael's Hall at East Margaree, St. Patrick's Hall at Northeast Margaree. There are Seniors Halls at East Margaree, Margaree Valley and Southwest Margaree.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Volunteers in the non-profit sector play a major role in the social, artistic, recreational and economic development of the Margaree district.

Churches in the Margaree area are: United churches at Margaree Harbour, Margaree Centre, Big Intervale; Roman Catholic churches at East Margaree, Southwest Margaree, Northeast Margaree, and at Dunvegan; and a Baptist church at Margaree Valley.

Industries and Commercial Services

Basic commercial and service centres were established historically, and they continue in some form at Margaree Harbour, Margaree Forks, Margaree Centre, Margaree Valley, Northeast Margaree, East Margaree and Belle Cote. They include stores, service stations, restaurants, hair dressing, small repair establishments, building supply outlets, tourism accommodations and gift shops. Other consumer needs are fulfilled at Cheticamp, Inverness, Post Hawkesbury or Sydney.

Farming, forestry and fishing are significant in the Margaree district, with many households carrying out all three resource-based occupations over the year. The Fraser Lumber Ltd may be the single largest employer in the area with up to forty workers in season. The wharf facilities at Margaree Harbour/Belle Cote, operated by the Margaree Harbour Authority have recently been refurbished. Gaspereau which originate in Lake Ainslie, are captured in their spring run from the ocean to be used for food export (99%) and lobster bait (1%).

The recreational salmon fishery in the Margaree River is world famous. The salmon spend one, two, or more, winters in the ocean before returning to the upper reaches of the Northeast Margaree to spawn. Originally an important food fish, salmon is now a closely regulated game fish with anglers, many of them tourists, using upwards of fifty official pools from June to October. The exception is the Native fishery which may trap salmon for food and ceremonial occasions, not by quota. Speckled trout are also part of the game fishery.

The tourism economy is growing steadily. There are three major motels/inns, three campgrounds, and at least 4 cottage establishments. There are also a number of B&Bs. These serve the recreational fishery as well as "regular" tourists. A "five-star" inn is being planned for the Belle Cote area. One restaurant is open year round and at least 3 others are open in season, one of which has regular entertainment. The restaurants are used appreciably by local restaurants, and therefore the quality of food and service is well maintained. The excellent beaches in the area are well utilized by residents as well as visitors.

The financial institutions used by the Margaree residents are the East Coast Credit Union at East Margaree, or they may go to Cheticamp or Inverness to use banks. There is an Automated Banking Machine at the Co-op at Margaree Forks.

Until two years ago, mining at St. Rose and earlier at Chimney Corner provided work for upwards of 400 people in the area. Originally underground mining, the coal seams were more recently exploited using "open pit" technology.

Sources: Sandra Laurence; Hubert Chiasson; Donald Ingraham; Frank Taylor; Dr. Bernie Francis; Nova Scotia Dept. of Natural Resources, The Margaree-Lake Ainslie River System" (nd: post 1991); Agriculture Canada, Soil Survey of Cape Breton Island Nova Scotia (1963);

Inverness County Community Profiles

Alice LeBlanc, History of Margaree (1988); Nova Scotia Atlas, 5th Edition(2001); A.Davis A et al. "St. Georges Bay Ecosystem Project (GBEP): Research Report"(2000). MacDougall's History of Inverness County(1922); W.A. Bell, St. Rose Chimney Corner Coalfields" (1943); www.gsc.nrcan.gc.ca: Canadian Geological Survey, contact:Peter Giles; NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness

Inverness

The district under discussion consists of the town of Inverness and a series of communities surrounding the village along the coast and inland to the boundary of the Lake Ainslie district. The communities include Dunvegan, St. Rose, Inverside, Deepdale, Campbellton Road, Broad Cove, Broad Cove Banks, Sight Point, Foot Cape, Strathlorne, Kenloch and Glenville. While not strictly correct, the term "town" will be used in this profile to refer to Inverness to distinguish it from the rural areas included in the profile.

The Town of Inverness was incorporated in 1904, as a result of increased coal mines activity. At that time the town and immediate area had 3000 people. The area originally had a number of names around the name Broad Cove. One was "Broad Cove Sithean" which referred to the hill rising above the town like a fairy mound. In 1968, the Town of Inverness was unable to operate under its charter and the community became District 3 of the Municipality of Inverness County.

In Inverness town, Route 19 has historically separated the company-owned area from the privately owned area. Company housing, called the "red rows", reaches down the hill to the ocean front, while commercial establishments and residents follow up the hill on the other side. The exception to this is the company housing found on the north end of the town. Today, seniors housing units and a nursing home contribute to the residential density of Forest and Hillcrest Sts. New single family dwellings are found along Maple St. Extension, Lochness Avenue, and Bonnie Brae Avenue.

The first recorded settlement in the area 1803. In 1818, there were 156 people in "Broad Cove", now Inverness and the immediate area. In the 1820s, land grants were given to four families of Highland Scottish background.

The Inverness area, like so many others in the county, had a historical resource economy of fishing, subsistence farming and small farm marketing, and seasonal forestry. However, the resource economy we know most about is the historical coal mining in the area.

The existence of significant coal seams was first acknowledged in 1872 when a company headed by Wright and Ladd started an operation which ended in 1880. During that period, one 7 foot seam was being mined and its coal was shipped to PEI. Mining was revived in 1894 by W. P. Hussey who owned the Broad Cove Coal Company. About 1900 a company owned by MacKenzie and Mann took over the leases, and had 80 company houses constructed for the miners and their families. As in other parts of the Maritimes, the construction of the company houses was contracted to Rhodes and Curry of Amherst; the actual work being done by local

Inverness County Community Profiles

carpenters and other trades people. A structural short-coming of the houses was the absence of proper foundations - although it has been noted that the houses have stood up remarkably well to the present time. There was also a large 30 room boarding house for managers on the present location of the Inverness Lodge. Mackenzie and Mann lost control of the mining operation, but it is clear that the company had been in serious trouble for some time.

MacKenzie and Mann also built the railway, under the name, "Inverness Railway and Coal Co." It was informally part of the Canadian Northern railway which was never completed. The first run of the IRC passenger/freight train was in 1901. The railway continued for many years after the departure of MacKenzie and Mann, chiefly to carry coal from the mines at Inverness. In later years, coal from St. Rose and Chimney Corner was trucked to Inverness and shipped by rail from there. Coal was also shipped from Inverness town by boat.

There is a great deal of "folklore" around the coal mines. One of the better known stories is about the "salting" of the sea cliffs so that investors would believe that there were huge amounts of coal available. Reputedly, the miners had been instructed to paint the sea cliffs black!

The last coal was taken out of the major Inverness mines in 1953. Smaller privately owned kept operating until 1966 with subsidies from the Nova Scotia government. The main reason for the demise of Inverness coal mining was the impossibility of retrieving a significant amount of coal. This was caused by a "fault" which extended from inland between Chimney Corner and Broad Cove out under the ocean between the Inverness coast and Prince Edward Island. The fault, which has been described as a "shifting of the earth", limited the coal mined to about 25% of existing deposits.

The boom period brought an influx of miners from other parts of Nova Scotia, the British Isles, and middle Europe, especially professional miners of Belgian background who had an itinerant existence following North American mining operations. Entrepreneurs of various backgrounds, including Chinese, also came to benefit from the mining activity. The mine economy has long since disappeared, and the great majority of the population of Inverness is as it was in the beginning - of primarily Highland Scottish descent. In the 1960s and 70s, young people from around the world have settled in the area to work the land and to pursue artistic endeavours.

The present population of the Inverness area is about 3000 including all the communities included in the profile area. It is impossible to get exact population figures from the census data.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

Some of the coastal communities in the Inverness profile are contiguous along Route 19; others are on roads that branch off the main route. Route 19 runs through Inverness town, and constitutes the main commercial section. There are a few unpaved roads in the area covered by this profile: the Deepdale Road, the Sight Point Road, and the Foot Cape Road. Transportation to Halifax and points between is available by shuttle originating in Mabou. Some may travel to Whycocomagh to take the Acadian Lines bus. The rail beds for the former railway are now used as walking, skiing and snowmobiling trails. Air transportation is available from Sydney and Halifax.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Inverness town is fully serviced with municipal water. The original central water system in the community was installed in 1904; the source was a dam situated on White's Brook along the Sight Point Road, about 1.5 km from the community. Rural areas included in this profile use private wells as their water source. The sewer treatment service for the village consists of an "activated sludge" system up-graded (1990's) from the original treatment system which was installed in the early 1970's. The more rural areas have on-site wells and private septic systems. There is weekly garbage collection, along with blue bag pick-up. The recyclables are taken to the Enviro Depot in Inverness and from there, the materials are taken to Sydney to be sorted and shipped out.

Police protection is provided by the RCMP detachment in Inverness which has at least four officers serving a wide area. The Inverness area has a 30-40 volunteer fire department with three trucks. The fire insurance rate is "protected" with varying relevant rates depending on distance from the fire station. The community of Inverness is zoned and its plan is currently being upgraded. The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The area rate for fire protection is \$0.08/\$100. Inverness, Glenville and Dunvegan pay \$0.30/\$100 for sewer maintenance.

A high percentage of Inverness youth continue their education at universities and other post-secondary schools. Vocational students go to Community College in Sydney or Port Hawkesbury, with some going to Halifax or Truro. Elementary, middle and high school grades attend school in Inverness. There is a pre-school in the Inverness school two mornings a week. The community library is at the elementary school and is serviced by the Eastern Counties Book Mobile twice a month. The CAP Site is at the school with dedicated high speed internet service. There is also a CAP Site at Scotsville, which has dial-up internet capacity. Stage performances may be held at the school auditorium or at Strathspey Place in Mabou. The Miners Museum in the refurbished old railway station provides a comprehensive insight into the past of the community. The Museum Annex has also housed an art gallery over the summer months.

Medical services for the Inverness area are available at the local hospital. Specialists from Sydney, Antigonish and Halifax visit each month. There are lab facilities, and both in-patient and out-patient services. Inverness has a Regional Housing office (provincial) and an Employment Centre (federal). Other community services are available from Port Hood.

The churches serving the area are: Stella Maris (Inverness town) and St. Margaret's (Broad Cove) Roman Catholic; and St. Matthew's United Church in Inverness. The community's halls are the Fire Hall, the Legion Hall, the Race Track, and St. Margaret's Parish Hall at Dunvegan.

A variety of recreational facilities are available in the Inverness area. There is an officially recognized beach at Inverness below the village which has parking, changing rooms, life guards, and a restaurant. Other beaches are used locally. There are trails in protected areas, such as the one along the coastline from Inverness to Mabou, and along the rail bed further inland. Some snowmobile and ATV trails are governed by the local chapter of provincial organizations which stress safety and ecological conservation. There is some sailing in the waters off Inverness town. Most picnic areas are informal, but there are some official picnic

Inverness County Community Profiles

areas. There is limited recreational fishing in season, mainly trout. Inverness has one major ball field, but probably a few more can be found. Hockey is played at the local arena, where recreational skating and curling also take place. The tennis court at the Inverness Beach Village is private, but it is well used by the public. The pleasant park in downtown Inverness is the scene of concerts in the summer and provides a comfortable place for many seniors to sit and pass the time.

The arts in Inverness District and all of Inverness County will be greatly enhanced by the new Cultural Centre being completed on the north end of the town. The Inverness County Council of the Arts has planned and worked for many years to make this splendid facility a reality. Traditional music is integral to the life of the Inverness area. Just one example is the summer concerts held in the Fire Hall, where the Gaelic language is heard in conversation and song, and musicians of all ages play the fiddle, piano, guitar and other instruments for both residents and visitors. Another is the Broad Cove Concert which is the biggest of the many Scottish concerts held in Cape Breton over the summer months.

Industries and Commercial Services

Most residents in the communities in this profile see Inverness town as the main commercial centre. The town has the East Coast Credit Union, the Royal bank, a Liquor Commission, Post Office, gift shop, a deli, grocery stores, hardware and building supply stores, a pharmacy, clothing stores, a Dollar Store, and several other stores and services. There is a convenience store at Strathlorne, and a grocery store at Scotsville. Additional shopping and services needs are available in Margaree, Cheticamp and Port Hawkesbury. Sydney is the closest major urban area.

The fishery continues to be one of the main sources of income for the area. CB Seafoods Limited on the Beach Road has, for several years, had an operation depending on the availability of fish for processing. This is an impressive infrastructure with the capacity to process all the fish brought to the Inverness wharf, and to employ up to 100 people in season. The Cape Bald company is a fish packing firm which buys and delivers fish to processing plants outside the area. The fishing industry is supported by a wharf facility operated by the Harbour Authority of Inverness Harbour. A variety of boats are served by the wharf facilities at Inverness and at Broad Cove Marsh. About 30 lobster boats, up to 20 crab boats, and between five and 50 tuna boats are berthed in season. The Broad Cove Marsh wharf berths three boats and these may soon move to the Inverness wharf.

Tourism possibilities are growing in the Inverness district, with the development of the arts, and a greater consciousness of the beaches and excellent natural potential of the area. There are three recognized seasonal restaurants and five year round restaurants. Another café is expected to open this coming summer. Overnight accommodation is available in four establishments, including cottages. One motel is open year round. There are several B&Bs in the area. Two major camp grounds cater to people from all over the world.

With an awareness of the toxic legacy of coal mining, and an eye to tourism potential, the community's challenge has been to remediate the coal mining areas above ground so that other development can take place. This has been a major focus for the local development group, the

Inverness County Community Profiles

Inverness Development Association (IDA). The will of the community and support from the government have constituted the first major steps toward this goal.

*Sources: Hugh Dan MacLean; Beth Ryan; Doug Cameron; Danny Sampson, "The Making of a Cape Breton Coal Town: Dependent Development 1899-1915" (1988); Marie Brann, "A Study of a Company House in Inverness, N.S" (1984); Douglas F. Campbell, **Banking on Coal** (1987); Ned MacDonald, **The Broken Ground** (1979); Allister MacBean, **The Inverness and Richmond Railway**, (1982); E. Gilpin, **The Mines and Mineral Lands of Nova Scotia** (1880); Rural Cape Breton Planning Commission www.rcbplan.ns.ca . NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness*

Lake Ainslie

This district profile focuses on the areas around Lake Ainslie. The boundaries of the district form a line around the lake including the communities of Keppoch, Piper's Glen, Scotsville, Glen Campbellton, MacCormick's Corner, Mason's Point, West Lake Ainslie, South Lake Ainslie, Claverhouse, and Ainslie Glen. On the north end of the lake, around Loch Ban are North Ainslie, Kenloch, and Strathlorne Station. On the east side of the lake, the communities are Ainslie Point, Twin Rock Valley, East Lake Ainslie and Trout Brook.

Lake Ainslie is the largest fresh water lake in Nova Scotia. It is known to "come up" rather suddenly, and sports fishers are made aware of this. About 30 small brooks run into the lake. The Southwest Margaree River runs out of Lake Ainslie from the east side of the lake.

At first glance, the east and west sides of Lake Ainslie are distinguished by their land elevations. East Lake tends to rise more immediately into rolling hills, frequently cleared for farming. The west side is closer to sea level, has more wet lands and is more wooded at on the lake shore, but the highlands can be seen in the distance.

The soils are different as well. The west side is predominantly greyish brown clay loam till (Diligence), with the exception being around Mason Point and Lake Ainslie Chapel where there is a mixture of dark reddish brown clay(Kingsville) and peat bog. Most of this land is imperfectly to poorly drained. The west side of Loch Ban also has large areas of peat. The east side of the lake is a more diverse mixture of loam tills: dark reddish brown gravelly clay (Woodbourne), greyish brown sandy clay (Hebert), some Diligence similar to the west side, with dark reddish brown clay (Queens) around the north head of the lake. The south end of the lake has pale brown to greyish brown sandy loam till (Thom). The east side and south end tend to have better drainage because of the types of soils and the rolling land. Another mixture of soil occurs at the narrow southern tip of the lake where several streams enter the lake. From there the land rises relatively sharply into the Lewis Mountain (364 metres), and the Whycocomagh Mountain uplands.

The original settlement of Lake Ainslie area was by Highland Scots. Since then, especially in the last 30-40 years, a variety of people have taken up residence in this beautiful

Inverness County Community Profiles

area, almost all of them travelling to somewhere else to make their livelihood. A few have come to Lake Ainslie to retire. The current population of the Lake Ainslie area is about 400+.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The roads to Lake Ainslie come from Inverness Village on the west, Whycomagh on the east, and Margaree on the northwest. The lake is bounded by a road on each side; one travels the west side of the Lake and the area, accordingly, is called “West Lake”; the other on the east side, the area known as “East Lake”. A number of roads branch off to the south and west of the Lake; only a few roads branch from the east side. The unpaved roads run from West Lake to Brook Village, and include some of the network of roads between North Lake to Hays River. Like many of the communities in Inverness County, the unpaved roads are usually in better condition than the paved roads. The nearest commercial areas are Inverness, Whycomagh and Port Hawkesbury, and the major commercial centre is Sydney. Travel to Halifax is accommodated by shuttle which can be met in Inverness or Whycomagh, or by Acadian Lines. The nearest usable airport is at Sydney. There are no wharves of any significance on Lake Ainslie.

The area uses private wells and private septic systems; garbage is collected weekly with blue bag pick-up.

Police protection is provided by the RCMP from the Inverness detachment. Fire protection is provided by the Volunteer Fire Department from the Hall at Scotsville. The department has 25 volunteers and three trucks. Some parts of the profile area are served by fire departments at Inverness and Whycomagh. The fire insurance rating would be both “protected” and “unprotected”, some of the area being more than eight km from the respective fire departments. The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The area rate for fire protection is \$0.10/\$100. Sewer maintenance rate is \$0.30/\$100.

The CAP Site is located at the Scotsville School of Crafts. Library services were delivered, in the past, by the Eastern Counties Book Mobile. Staged events within the community would be held at the Fire Hall at Scotsville, or smaller events might be in a church hall or basement. The local development group is the Lake Ainslie Development Association (LADA).

University and Vocational students attend classes at St. F.X. and UCCB, and Sydney and Port Hawkesbury, respectively. High School students go to Dalbrae in Mabou or to Inverness High School; elementary and middle grade (P-8) students attend school at Inverness or the Whycomagh Education Centre. There are no Day Care or pre-school facilities in the area.

Medical services are found either at Inverness (8 km) or at Baddeck (40). Distance is probably the decision factor in using either facility.

The marker of Scottish heritage best known to outsiders is MacDonald House Museum which involves many members of the community on a voluntary basis, and some paid students during the summer. At MacDonald House, which has retained most of its original architectural features, the life-ways so essential to the early settlers are demonstrated for educational purposes to tourists and the local community.

Inverness County Community Profiles

The cultural differentiation between East Lake and West Lake is clearly understood. East Lake has a Presbyterian tradition which is carried on today by both the East Lake Ainslie Presbyterian Church and the Alexander Grant United Church. West Lake is known as a Roman Catholic area which is served by Immaculate Conception Church.

There are recreational possibilities around the Lake, such as fishing at Trout Brook where there is a Provincial Day Park, a parking lot, and some swimming. There are other local swimming places recognized within the community. There are many trails for walking, skiing and snowmobiling on Whycocomagh Mountain and Bald Mountain. Some of the snowmobile and ATV trails are maintained by the Inverness Snowmobile Club. There is limited sailing on the Lake.

Industries and Commercial Services

The Lake Ainslie area had a mainly subsistence/small market farming economy until the 1950s when food production and marketing became “globalized” on a national level. Then, local marketing shifted to “super-marketing”, and farmers could not supply the quantities required to make a living from farming. Seasonal forestry, some fishing, tourism, and service and professional jobs have replaced the farming livelihoods for the most part. A small number of people still carry on some forms of farming. However, like many Inverness County communities, Lake Ainslie has become, to a great extent, a community from which people travel to work, to Stora or Georgia Pacific, in service industries or professional work in Port Hawkesbury, Inverness, Whycocomagh, and even Sydney.

For a brief moment in the early part of the 20th century, it seemed that the energy industry might play a role in Lake Ainslie’s economy. Oil was discovered at a 700 foot depth on the north side of Lake Ainslie by the Nova Scotia Company; a few years later, in 1909, the Maritime Gas and Oil Company became involved. But nothing substantial ever came of the venture.

Financial institutions at Whycocomagh, Inverness, and Baddeck serve the needs of the people of Lake Ainslie.

The tourism potential for the area seems to be increasing, especially in terms of accommodation facilities. These include a private camp ground on the east side of the Lake, for vacationers and recreational fishers; and there are cottages on both the west side and east side of the Lake. A new inn is being constructed at West Lake, to be opened in summer, 2003. There is one B&B in operation.

Sources: Gerald Jackson; MacTalla, Jan 11, 1901; Nova Scotia Atlas, 5th Edition(2001); Georgina McNab and Pieter DeVries, “They Farmed and other Things” in C. DeRoche and J. De Roche(eds), A Rock in a Stream (1987); Agriculture Canada, Soil Survey of Cape Breton Island Nova Scotia (1963); Marie Brann, “MacDonald House, East Lake Ainslie”, Beaton Institute Report, 1985.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Whycocomagh

Translated as “The Head of the Waters”, Whycocomagh Village and its surrounding area are located on Whycocomagh Bay on the western and southerly end of the Bras d’Or Lakes. The district covered by this profile extends from the Victoria County boundary at Bucklaw past the south end of Lake Ainslie to Skye Glen (and East Skye Glen) south and west of Lake Ainslie across to Soapstone and Skye Mountain and to Whycocomagh Bay. Like the ocean coast of Inverness County, the land is level or rolling close to the waters of the Bras d’Or Lakes, then climbing, steeply in some cases, to varying upland heights of 100 metres or more. The highest of these are Skye Mountain and Lewis Mountain, both of which rise to over 300 metres. The areas between the mountains, the “intermontane valleys”, are filled with post glacial sandy and clay loam till alluvial deposits over gravel. The Skye River, flowing into Whycocomagh Bay in a meandering course dictated by the elevations of the lands, has a variety of these soil types. Stewartdale and Skye Glen are farming areas that benefit from these soils. The sandy beaches of Whycocomagh Bay are also glacial erosions; “cusate spits” are the triangular points along the shore where the sand accumulates.

It is easy to understand why this sheltered bay at the base of heavily wooded hills, fed by multiple streams was favoured by the Mi’kmaq. They continue to live here in the confines of the Waycobah Reserve, established in 1833 comprising 828.5 hectares of land, with a present population of about 700. Here the Mi’kmaq maintain their culture and language, adapting to non-Aboriginal society on more or less their own terms. They have their own (Roman Catholic) Church, school, band government, and businesses. They have frequent contact with the Village of Whycocomagh.

The first settlement by non-Aboriginal peoples was in 1810, the reputed first settler being John MacKinnon whose landing is marked by a cairn at the entrance to the Whycocomagh Provincial Park. While the majority of European settlement was Highland Scottish Protestant, there were a number of Loyalists who also recognized the bounty of the place. In the 20th century, Dutch farmers recognized the natural potential of the area’s farmlands.

By 1891, Whycocomagh had a greater population than Sydney: it was an active port involved in transporting farm produce, wood products, and coal. The “Hogamagh” (Gaelic slang for “Whycocomagh”) was one of the steamers that hauled coal from Point Aconi and other Cape Breton mining areas to small ports such as Whycocomagh, on the Bras d’Or Lakes. There appeared to be largely unfulfilled mineral potential in the copper found in Whycocomagh Mountain in the early part of the 20th century.

The records of the Stewartdale cemetery attest to the Scottish heritage of the area, and Whycocomagh’s most famous son, Jonathan G. MacKinnon published a Gaelic newspaper, *McTalla*, from here from 1892-1904. The strength of the Presbyterian tradition is found in a legend of early settlement of Whycocomagh: a MacNeil from Barra (a Catholic) took up a land grant in Whycocomagh, but shortly thereafter he traded his grant with a Macleod (a Presbyterian) who mistakenly settled in predominantly Catholic Iona.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Whycocomagh is a compact place with a strong sense of its place and heritage. It has been described as an “absolute, intact, live Cape Breton community.” The current population of the area is about 300-400.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The Trans Canada Highway passes by Whycocomagh and through a section of it; the “old road” goes through the village along the waters of the Bras d’Or lakes. Only a few roads in the area are unpaved (including the Mountain Road), but the general condition of the roads is said to be “deplorable”. The next nearest village is Baddeck 15-20 minutes away; Sydney is the largest urban centre. There are a number of shuttle services originating in Sydney and area which take passengers to Halifax; the Acadian Lines buses also pass through. Air transportation is available at both Sydney and Halifax, but most people use the Halifax airport. A private wharf operated by the SS Marion Sailing Society gives access to St. Patrick’s Channel for mainly pleasure craft

The Village of Whycocomagh has a central water service, but the surrounding areas have private wells. Similarly with sewage treatment: Whycocomagh Village has an “activated sludge” system, but the more rural parts have private septic systems. Garbage collection is weekly along with blue bag pick-up. Police service is provided from the Baddeck detachment. There is a volunteer fire department in Whycocomagh and another in Blues Mills. The fire insurance rate depends on distances from services. (Any resident living more than 8 km from a fire station is rated “unprotected.”) The CAP Site in the Whycocomagh School has designated line internet access. There is a Post Office in Whycocomagh. The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The area rate for fire protection is \$0.10/\$100; commercial establishments served by the Blues Mills Dept. pay \$0.05/\$100. Sewer maintenance rate is \$0.30/\$100.

Health services are available at Baddeck, or at the clinic on the Waycobah First Nation which serves both the Mi’kmaq and the local non-Mi’kmaq population. Some patients also go to Inverness. Specialists from Halifax, Antigonish and Sydney go to both Baddeck and Inverness. Dentists are available in Baddeck, Port Hawkesbury, Inverness, or Sydney. The Nova Scotia Ambulance Service is stationed in Whycocomagh daily.

University and vocational students travel to any part of the province that responds to their learning interests. At home, there is P-8 at the Whycocomagh Education Centre. The high school students go to Dalbrae in Mabou. There is a “play school” for tots and care givers on Tuesdays at the local school. Staged events take place at the school auditorium, including annual presentations of Celtic Colour events. The community library is at the local school and books are provided by the Eastern Counties Mobile Unit.

The recreational possibilities in the Whycocomagh are quite significant. There are ball fields and a private tennis court. There is a large Provincial Park at Salt Mountain with camping facilities and trails going all the way to the top of the mountain. The same Provincial Park extends to the Bras d’Or water’s edge on the other side of the Trans Canada Highway and offers facilities for walking and picnics. There are no sandy beaches in the area but many people swim in the lake at recognized spots. There is sailing on the Bras d’Or lakes and boat tours around the Lakes.

Inverness County Community Profiles

There are several churches serving the religious needs of the area. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is a beautiful building located in the Village at the edge of the Bras d'Or Lakes. The Stewart United Church was originally the Whycocomagh Village Presbyterian Church which dates from 1893. At Church Union in 1925, the church was named in honour of Rev. Murdock Stewart who served the Whycocomagh congregation from 1868 to 1882. Services in Gaelic and English were held here until the 1950s. The building is a Municipal Heritage Property, thanks to the interest and caring of the local community. The Catholic church, Holy Trinity is at Waycobah First Nation.

The halls that serve the community are the Lions Hall, the arena, St. Andrew's Church Hall, the Cameron Hall, the Branch 123 Legion Hall, and outdoor spaces for performances in summer.

Industries and Commercial Services

The Whycocomagh Village and surrounding communities are clearly rural. Yet, in many respects, the area is a "service stop" for anyone who travels from the Mainland to Industrial Cape Breton on the Trans Canada Highway. Vi's Restaurant has been an institution for Acadian Line Bus travellers for many years, and now serves shuttles as well. Whycocomagh is the place to "gas up" for trucks and cars: the competition can be relied upon to give the best prices on the Island. More recently, newer restaurants and motels, private camp grounds and renewed interest in the Provincial Campground, general and Mi'kmaq gift shops all appear to contrive to make Whycocomagh a tourist short stop-over.

Whycocomagh offers a significant variety of services: a Royal Bank, a pharmacy, gift shops, a hardware store, a grocery, a market/restaurant/green house, a fuel oil depot, three service stations, eating places, a small machine shop, a repair shop for trucks, hairdressers, a used car dealer, a pet grooming business.

The major employers of the area are local businesses, Stora Enso, Georgia Pacific Gypsum Company and Little Narrows Gypsum Company. Workers travel daily to jobs outside their community.

*Sources: Jean MacCalder; **Soil Survey of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia** (1966); Whycocomagh www.sea-trail.com; Natural Resources Canada <http://sts.gsc.nrcan.gc.ca>; Stewart United Church www.invernessmunicipality.com; Aberdeen Motel <http://aberdeenmotelenglish.hypermart.net>; **Nova Scotia Atlas**, 5th Ed.(2001); "A View of the Whycocomagh Congregation: MacLean United Dedicated 1856"(nd); "Copper Mining", McKean Papers, Beaton Institute Mg 12, 109. NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness*

Inverness County Community Profiles

Mabou

The district profile includes the coastal communities of MacKinnon's Brook, MacDonald Glen, Mabou Mines, Mabou Harbour Mouth, Mabou Harbour, West Mabou Harbour. Northeast Mabou is inland around the Mabou Harbour/Mabou River estuary. The areas including Brook Village, Glencoe Mills, and Mull River are usually considered with Mabou.

This large area is characterized by gently rolling land with an elevation of 25-100 metres to more steeply sloped foothills, backed, north of Mabou, by the Mabou Highlands. The highlands are described as a and highly dissected "rounded knoll" 15km by 8km with an elevation of 320 metres on the south end to 355 metres on the north end. Although the rock formations (Precambrian sedimentary and volcanic strata set with Devonian-Coniferous sandstone) making up the highlands are very resistant to erosion, the sides are deeply eroded; glaciers have left coarse and fine sandy deposits at elevations of 150 metres. While the soil in the highlands is a well-drained stony, sandy loam (Thom), the main soils in the foothills and lower rolling coastal lands are well-drained dark reddish clay loam till (Falmouth, Woodbourne, Millbrook, Queens) known to be the best agricultural soil types in the province. The native trees in the Mabou district include hardwoods (sugar maple, yellow birch, beech) in the uplands plateau and softwoods (fir, spruce and hemlock) in the coastal areas, with more hardwood in the lower slopes. Many streams flow through deep gorges from the highlands into harbour and ocean. There is also ample fresh water found throughout the rolling lands in the southern part of the district. Mabou Harbour, with a narrow mouth and extending inland almost eight kilometres, is the most protected harbour on the western coast of Cape Breton.

The Mabou district was settled by Highland Scottish in the early to mid 19th century; some Loyalist merchant class pre-dated their arrival; the most recent major economic immigrations were influxes of farmers from the Netherlands in the 1950s, and artists and "back to the land-ers" since the 1970s. The Mi'kmaq, who gave Mabou its name, from "Malabo" or "Malabokek" used the district as a prime hunting and fishing area in vast time leading up to European settlement. The present-day Mabou district has a population of about 900.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The Mabou District is located on the west coast of Inverness County, about 70 km from the Canso Causeway on Route 19. Mabou, the central service area, and Mabou Station are on Route 19. Southwest Mabou is south of Mabou on Route 19; secondary roads branch off to Glengarry and Rocky Ridge on the west and Rankinville, Southwest Ridge, and Alpine Ridge on the southeastern side. North of Mabou on Route 19 are Hawleys Hill, Glenora Falls and Riverville. Secondary roads lead to Black River, Black Stone, Mount Young, Smithville, Glendyer, Glendyer Station and Hillsborough. Further still from Mabou are Brook Village, Mirimichi, Centreville, Nevada Valley, Mull River, Glencoe Station and Glencoe Mills. Many of the secondary roads are unpaved, but are reasonably maintained, sometimes being in better repair than the paved roads.

Mabou Village has a central water supply, but the other communities in the district have wells, some of which have multiple neighbourhood users. Mabou Village has an "activated

Inverness County Community Profiles

sludge" sewer treatment system, but the outlying communities have private septic systems. Garbage is collected weekly, and there is recycling pick-up for the depot in Inverness. The RCMP serves Mabou from the detachment in Inverness. Mabou's Volunteer Fire Department has over 30 volunteers and four trucks serving a large area. The fire insurance rate varies with the proximity to services.

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The area pays a flat rate of \$67 per residence (\$134 for more than one residence) for fire protection. Sewer maintenance rate is \$0.30/\$100.

Like the rest of the west coast of Inverness County, internet is dial-up, and cable television is available only on the coast line. Cell phone service is mostly unavailable. Pressure has been placed on MTT, and probably government, to have a tower for cell phone service in the area. The Mabou Communications Centre - the old Post Office- is the location of the CAP Site; fax, photcopying and mail distribution is also available here.

Most health services are available in Inverness, 10 minutes away. The dentist in Port Hood serves the needs of Mabou. Mabou area residents may go to Inverness or Port Hood to find a drugstore.

Dalbrae Academy has students in grades 9-12. Elementary and middle grade students go to Port Hood. There is a pre-school facility in Mabou. There is no public library in Mabou, except what is available at The Bridge/An Drochaid museum (and archives), opened in 1980 by the Mabou Gaelic and Historical Society, in a building on the Main Street constructed in 1874.

Strathspey Place at Dalbrae Academy, opened in 2000, is a world class performance centre in a modern school setting. The Mabou Hall is also used for performances and community events, along with the West Mabou Hall where popular dances are held. Dances and community events are held at Brook Village and Glencoe Mills. Despite the wider importance of Strathspey Place, the smaller halls continue to play a vital role in maintaining community.

Sport and recreation interest is strong in the Mabou area. Included are at least two ball fields, a tennis court, hockey at the arena, hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling on the former rail bed, swimming at a number of excellent beaches, recreational fishing in pristine rivers and deep-sea, and a provincial park. The board walk along the Mabou River estuary offers walking/running in summer and skiing in winter.

Religious institutions include St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and the Hillsborough United Church. The "Shrine" at the edge of Mabou Village is reminiscent of the time of religious orders and their school in Mabou.

Industries and Commercial Services

Understandably, agriculture has been an important primary industry in the Mabou district, although the period after WWII saw the peak of the rural out-migration which started in the early 20th century. Today, farmers of both Scottish and Dutch descent use the most modern methods for dairy, beef and vegetable production. A community pasture at South Cape Mountain has been in place for some time.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Fishing continues to be significant as well. The wharf facilities located by the Lighthouse Museum (constructed 1884) at Mabou Harbour are operated by the Mabou Harbour Authority. There is a wharf facility at Mabou Coal Mines and another at Finlay Point a few kilometres north of Mabou Harbour.. About 30 boats averaging about 35 feet fish from these ports. The main species being fished are lobster and crab with limited ground fish.

“Downtown” Mabou has gone through cycles of decline and upsurge, depending on the overall economy of the area. In 2000, with government assistance, the district undertook waterfront development which consisted of a docking facility, a parking area, and a waterfront and riverside trail usable year round. A year-round hostel is also available. Along with these developments, several restaurants, with different orientations, are open year-round. Non-smoking music lovers particularly welcomed the local performance bar’s decision to go “smoke free”, probably the first bar on Cape Breton Island to make this decision. The changes in Mabou have had an impact on both local residents and visitors.

Banking in Mabou is done at the East Coast Amalgamated Credit Union. There is no bank, although some travel to Inverness to use the Royal Bank.

The major urban areas serving Mabou are Halifax and Port Hawkesbury, with Sydney having secondary importance. A shuttle service run out of Mabou brings people to Halifax and points in between. The nearest usable airport is in Halifax, although runways exist in at Margaree and at Port Hawkesbury.

Sources: Donnie MacDonald, Carole Chisholm, Nova Scotia Atlas, 5th Edition (2001) NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness ; Nova Scotia Museum Natural History, <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/nhns> ; St.F.X., St. Georges Bay Ecosystem Project (2000); Soil Survey of Cape Breton Nova Scotia (1963); Mabou Gaelic and Historical Society, <http://fortress.uccb.ns.ca/historic/Mabou> .

Port Hood

The communities considered in this district profile of Port Hood include Colindale, Little Mabou, Marble Hill, Port Hood Island, Port Hood, Dunganry, Port Hood Station, Dunmore, and Harbourview. The coastline is punctuated by “points”, coves and beaches and the visual highlight from the land is the irregularly shaped Port Hood Island. West and slightly southward is Henry Island, smaller than Port Hood Island. An American geologist noted in 1864 that “[Port Hood] is the only good harbour on the west side of Cape Breton. The whole shore is exposed to the north and west winds of the Gulf, except his harbour, which is protected from them by two large islands.” There is no development on Henry Island and, currently, sparse seasonal development on Port Hood Island.

Port Hood was named "Just-au-corps" by the French in the 1720's, and "Port Barrington" by Captain Samuel Holland in the 1760's. Mary Ann Ducharme in describing the history of Port Hood, noted that Port Hood Island was connected to the mainland by a sandbar on the northern part of the island before 1819. In 1819, a storm washed away the sandbar which made the

Inverness County Community Profiles

connection. Afterwards, Port Hood Island was known as "Smith's Island"(named after the first settlers on that part of "Just-au-corp" in 1786) and Port Hood remained Port Barrington. In 1820, to honor the memory of Captain Samuel Viscount Hood, the name Port Barrington was changed to Port Hood. Captain Hood who had settled here in 1796, passed away in 1819. The name Smith's Island was also changed that year to what is known today as Port Hood Island

Reliable sources indicate that the sand stone on Port Hood Island was quarried by the French for use at Louisbourg some time after 1713. The exact periods seem to be controversial. But it is accepted that the sand stone, known as "free" sand stone was known for being resistant to weathering. It is not certain whether the French had any permanent settlements in the Port Hood (Just-au-Corps) area.

The earliest permanent settlement in the area was by Loyalists connected with the fishery. David Smith came from Massachusetts to Port Hood in 1786 with his wife and sons, one of whom went to Mabou, and another who turned his hand to farming. A John Roper came from Virginia to Port Hood in 1788, and then went on to Ingonish in 1823. Later settlers to the area were Highland Scottish who were established by 1818 and the following years. The population of the district today is about 800-900.

The Rural Cape Breton Planning Commission tells us that the original economy of Port Hood was based in agriculture, and, in the mid-1800s, there was a large produce export market in Halifax and other Maritime centres. Although the fishery was important to Port Hood in the 18th century, it was not until after the mid-1800s that the industry brought real prosperity. Port Hood Island became the focus of the industry in 1871 when a thriving fish export enterprise resulted in the construction of a major wharf facility. A lobster cannery was established in Port Hood in 1877, and later there were cold storage units on Port Hood Island. Port Hood continued to be a flourishing fishing community until 1963 when a fierce storm destroyed the harbour facilities in Port Hood and all along the coast.

Coal was mined at Port Hood until the 1960s. Recognized by the early French colonialists, the Port Hood coal seam excited American interests in the 1860s, and the Port Hood Coal Company in 1889. Neither effort was a long-standing success, but in 1906 the Port Hood and Richmond railway took over the mine and the result was a veritable boom period for Port Hood -- an influx of workers, commercial and professional people, and even company housing. The production was prodigious: in 1920 one seam produced 53,745 tons. Mary Ann Ducharme writes that the company houses in Port Hood, identical single detached dwellings built around 1905 on "Company Road". Foreign miners from Bulgaria and Denmark were housed here. Only four of these houses remain still standing: two were moved to the village of Port Hood, and two others were partly dismantled and transported by water to Port Hood Island.

The mining industry in Port Hood suffered a number of setbacks, including an explosion in 1906 which killed 10 miners, and flooding in 1911, followed by business failures resulting in the seizures of mine equipment. Bootleg mines supplied the village with cheap fuel coal. Finally, in 1937, the Henderson mine, operating with Montreal financing, employed 125 men. This mine was located in Harbourview. Flooding continued to be a problem and the mining operation failed for the last time in 1967. Some of the mine tunnels can still be seen along the

Inverness County Community Profiles

Port Hood Beach, and a monument commemorates the history of mining in the area; the graveyard acknowledges the deaths of the foreign miners killed in the explosion.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

Port Hood, the most westerly “point” on the west coast of Inverness County, situated 45 km northeast of the Canso Causeway, is circumvented by Route 19. Previously, Route 19 had passed through part of Port Hood; then it veered northward toward Mabou. Another road passes through Port Hood and continues unpaved to Colindale and becomes paved at West Mabou. The Shore Road is paved, but the Rocky Ridge Road which circles around to Route 19 is unpaved. The nearest usable airport is at Halifax. The railroad is no longer in use, but the rail bed is being transformed into trails.

Port Hood was a “town” until 1942, when a major fire and decline in the coal industry forced the community to relinquish its charter status and come under the municipality. Port Hood is the “county seat” and also the location of most provincial offices; however, a number of these offices have recently moved to Port Hawkesbury.

Port Hood has provided both municipal sewer and water services for the majority of its residents since 1970. The system was up-graded in 1996 to a modified “activated sludge” system. Residents not on the systems use on-site sewage treatment and wells. There is regular garbage and recycle pick-up by the municipality. Police protection is provided by the Inverness detachment of the RCMP. A Volunteer Fire Department with at least 20 volunteers and two trucks gives a “protected” fire insurance rate; outlying areas may vary.

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The area rate for fire protection is \$0.08/\$100; commercial establishments served by the Port Hood Dept. pay \$0.04/\$100. Sewer maintenance rate is \$0.30/\$100.

The CAP Site is located in the Community Resource Centre in the old Royal Bank building in downtown Port Hood next to the Post Office. The area has dial-up internet. Cell phone coverage is dubious.

Port Hood has a dentist’s office which serves a wider area than Port Hood. And there is a medical centre which is open, with a doctor, three days a week. When the doctor is in, a drug store is open at the centre. Other medical services are available at Inverness.

Bayview Education Centre in Port Hood has students in grades P-8; higher levels go to Dalbrae Academy in Mabou. There is one pre-school facility in Port Hood. University and vocational education is sought wherever the desired programs are available, the usual location being Halifax.

St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church and St. Stephen’s United Church are both located at the northern end of the village.

The churches have associated halls. The fire hall is also used for community events. Larger events take place in the arena, or at Strathspey Place in Mabou. There is a library at the Resource Centre. The Chestico Museum and Historical Society in Harbourview contains the story of Port Hood’s mining history as well as of the pioneer settlement of the community.

Inverness County Community Profiles

The beach at Port Hood is world famous, and there is another beautiful beach on Port Hood Island. There are other lesser-known beaches used by local communities. There are two ball fields, a hockey arena, a tennis court, and a provincial park. There are trails for hiking, snowmobiling and skiing.

Industries and Commercial Services

Today's fishery in Port Hood continues its historical significance. Altogether there are four wharf facilities serving about 50 boats, including a public wharf located at Murphy's Pond run by Harbour Authority of Port Hood, and a recently improved wharf at Pig Cove. The Ceilidh Fishermens Co-operative receives the catches of lobster and crab, and some groundfish (flounder and hake)

Tourism has been growing in the Port Hood area over the past few years, with a steadily increasing number of restaurants and overnight accommodations. There are three motel/inns and one B&B. European business interests are involved in the more recent enterprises. There is no longer a camp ground in the area.

The major employers in the area are government, educational institutions, and the Ceilidh Co-op. Many of the employees would come from a wider area than the Port Hood District, but their presence in Port Hood undoubtedly makes an economic difference.

The major urban area of significance to Port Hood is Halifax, and some shopping may be done in Port Hawkesbury. There is a shuttle service operating out of Mabou which brings people to Halifax. The Royal Bank just closed in Port Hood, and the people now use the East Coast Amalgamated Credit Union. Other banks are available in Port Hawkesbury or Inverness.

*Sources: Tammy MacDonald; Francis X. Maloney; Dilys Francis, **The Mines and Quarries of Cape Breton during the French Period, 1713-1716**, 1965; NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness; **Nova Scotia Atlas**, 5th ed. (2001); Rural Cape Breton Planning Commission, Port Hood, www.rcbplan.ns.ca ; School Net Digital Collections, <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/celtic/educatio> ; Mary Ann Ducharme, "Coal Boom and Bust in Port Hood" in **Participaper** [nd], www.invernessco.com/history/porthood_coal ; MacDougall's **History of Inverness County** (1922); Perley Smith, **The Smiths of Cape Breton** (1967, rept 1987); Will R. Bird, **This is Nova Scotia** (1950).*

Judique

The district covered by this community profile extends along the Inverness County coast line from MacNeil Point (also called Ragged Point), on the northern corner of Little Judique Harbour along the fishing communities of Little Judique Ponds and Maryville at Pig Cove on to Indian Point at Judique North, Judique, Judique South and Long Point. Inland communities included are Little Judique, Little Judique, Hawthorne, Saint Ninian, Hillsdale, Lower Hillsdale,

Inverness County Community Profiles

Rear Judique Chapel, Rear Judique South, Centennial. The name “Judique” appears to be of French origin, the possibilities being a word meaning “swift stream forming eddies”, or a corruption of the biblical name, “Judith”. Another likely translation relates to a geographical feature, the words “jouer” (to play”) and “digue” in reference to the constantly changing narrow passage past the barrachois at Indian Point into the ponds near Judique North. Some insist, however, that the name is Mi’kmaq, meaning “water”. The accessibility of the various ocean “ponds” suggest an historically active fishery, both for the Mi’kmaq and the Scottish settlers.

The first settlement in the area is reputed to have been by a Michael MacDonald of South Uist who arrived from Isle St. Jean (PEI) in 1775. Another early settler was a Graham who was a veteran of the American Revolution, on the British side. Other early names in the area are Chisholm, MacEachern, MacMaster, Gillis, MacDonald and MacMillan, all of the Scottish Roman Catholic tradition. Most had received land grants by about 1818.

The present population of Judique and surrounding area is about 850.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The village of Judique is on Route 19, but a number of secondary roads lead from Route 19 to both the shore and to the Creignish Hills. The River Denys Road goes over the Creignish Hills past River Denys Mountain and comes out at Melford on the Trans Canada Highway. Most of the secondary roads are unpaved or partially paved.

Private wells and a dam on the River Denys Road supply water to the Judique area. Private septic systems are used for most waste treatment, but there is planing for an “activated sludge” sewage treatment facility for Judique in the near future. There is weekly garbage pick-up, and bi-weekly blue bag pick-up by the municipality. Police protection is by the RCMP from the Port Hawkesbury detachment. Judique has a Volunteer Fire Department with about 20 volunteers and 2 trucks.

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The area rate for fire protection is \$0.10/\$100. Sewer maintenance rate is \$0.30/\$100.

Most health services for Judique are available in Inverness, but Judique residents also use the Port Hood Clinic which has a doctor and drugstore facility 2-3 days a week. The dentist in Port Hood serves the needs of Judique or patients may go to Port Hawkesbury.

Education in the Judique area has been a rather constantly changing picture, demographic trends being the motivation for recent changes. There were many small rural schools in the past, with high school students travelling to Mabou, Port Hood or Port Hawkesbury. Although Judique had a high school located in the parish hall for a period, history is repeating itself and students now attend school in either Port Hawkesbury or Mabou. Elementary and middle grade students go to Bayview Education Centre at Port Hood. There is one pre-school facility in Judique. Students go to whatever post-secondary institution suits their needs, usually in Halifax.

An important element of the community’s education/economic system was the “kitchen meetings” of the Antigonish Movement (St. F.X.) which were instrumental, with the United Maritime Fishermen, in establishing a Fisherman’s Co-op and lobster cannery (1933-34), and the Judique Co-op (consumers) in 1936. The Judique Co-op originally had about 300 members; it now serves about 100 members.

Inverness County Community Profiles

The cultural landscape of Judique is charged with the strength of the area's Celtic heritage. The modern and comfortable Community Centre hall across from St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church is a year-round venue for musical presentations that involve not only residents, but also performers from other parts of Cape Breton, North America and Great Britain. Judique is the home of one of the most famous fiddlers in the world, Buddy MacMaster who has been recognized for his music and his support for young musicians.

There is a library in the former school building, books supplied by the Eastern Regional Library. The Chestico Museum, operated by the local Historical Society, is located just north of Judique. The CAP Site is located in the Community Centre. Internet is dial-up. There is little or no cell phone service in the area.

For recreation in Judique, the Trans Canada Trail on the old railway bed offers hiking and snowmobiling; and the many streams in the area offer recreational fishing in season. There is also ocean recreational fishing - mackerel, cod-jigging, etc. There are excellent local beaches all along the shore line, and a Provincial Park at Long Point. There is also a first-rate soccer and track field, a ball field, and a tennis court.

Industries and Commercial Services

The major employers in the area are Stora in Port Hawkesbury and Stora for contract pulp cutting. The Co-op employs up to 5 people; Alex MacDougall's sawmill employs 4-5 people as required; and Andy's service station 2-3 people.

Three major wharf facilities serve the present-day fishery. Little Judique Harbour Public Wharf, Maryville (Pig Cove) Public Wharf, and Baxter's Cove Public wharf are all operated by local harbour authorities. The other wharf at Mackay's Point is privately owned and offers facilities to several local boats. The average length of the 40 or so boats in the area is about 32 feet. Lobster is the main fishery species, but some tuna fishing is also carried out.

Tourism has limited economic impact, but there are two B&Bs in the area, and a camp ground is planned. It is likely that the main reason for tourism in this area is the appreciation of Celtic music. The new hall will be an important factor in this cultural tourism.

Halifax is main destination for the people of Judique, and most regular shopping is done in Port Hawkesbury. A shuttle service from Mabou provides transportation to Halifax. The nearest usable airports are at Halifax and Moncton (some of the more recent regional air transportation services flying from Moncton). Port Hood offers a credit union to the people from Judique, or they go to Port Hawkesbury for other banking services.

*Sources: Danny MacPhee; NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness; Bruce Fergusson, **Places Names of Nova Scotia**(1967); Judique Port History, www.stfx.ca/research/gbaysp/judique; **Nova Scotia Atlas**, 5th ed. (2001); School Net Digital Collections, <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/celtic/educatio> ; **MacDougall's History of Inverness County**, (1922).*

Inverness County Community Profiles

Port Hastings

The area covered by this district profile begins after Long Point and reaches west and south along the Inverness County coastline including Craigmore, Creignish, Rear Creignish, Low Point, Troy, Newtown, and Port Hastings.

The characteristic landscape of the district can be realized from Route 19 as one travels northward out of Port Hastings. The land rises immediately from the shoreline and continues up into the Creignish Hills to an elevation of 225 metres to 280 metres. On the other side of the hills is a "valley", including the historic community of Creignish Rear, with an elevation of about 100 - 200 metres. Horton Lake is in this area. The slopes of the hills were used for agriculture: the predominant soil is greyish brown sandy loam till (Shule), with some dark reddish brown clay loam till (Queens). Typical "rock benches" can be observed along the shore of the district a few metres above tide level, now covered with layers of soil. The benches are remnants of the glacial ages and indicate a previous much higher tide zone.

The Port Hastings area was settled by predominantly Scottish beginning in the early 19th century. That demographic is more or less unchanged to the present. The present population is about 750.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

Route 19 starts at Port Hastings and continues north along the Inverness County coastline including the communities of Troy, Low Point, Creignish, and Craigmore. Along this route, roads go toward the Creignish Hills, only a few going toward the shore. The homes occur in small "clusters" in each community, with single homes occurring at regular intervals between the clusters.

There is no central water supply system in the Port Hastings district, all domestic and commercial needs being met by individually owned wells. Problems with water quality from these systems have been observed. Horton Lake has been discussed as a possible general supply for Port Hastings village and the immediate area. The only existing sewer system is that serving the village of Port Hastings. Other areas of the district use private septic tanks. Garbage collection is weekly and blue bag collection is bi-weekly by the municipality. A Volunteer Fire Dept. in Port Hastings has 23 volunteers and 3 trucks - a pumper, a tanker, and a utility vehicle. The fire insurance rating is "protected" depending on distance from services. Police protection is provided by officers from the Port Hawkesbury detachment.

The municipal area tax rate is \$1.09/\$100 of assessment for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is \$1.85/\$100. The area rate for fire protection is \$0.10/\$100. Sewer maintenance rate is \$0.30/\$100.

Internet service is dial-up and cell phone service is available. The closest CAP Site is in Port Hawkesbury. The Visitor Information Centre at the Canso causeway is a significant stop for tourists or anyone seeking information about the entire Island.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Health services for the Port Hastings area are in Port Hawkesbury (clinic with doctors) at the Strait-Richmond Hospital (labs), in Arichat (dental), in Antigonish (in-patient care), and in Port Hood (clinic with doctor, drugstore, dentist).

Elementary and middle grade students from Port Hastings area may go to either Port Hawkesbury or Port Hood. High school students may go to Dalbrae in Mabou or to SAERC in Port Hawkesbury. As with other communities in Inverness County, university and vocational students may be found in any university or community college in Nova Scotia, but most tend to go to Halifax. There is a Regional Library with a mobile unit that stops in Creignish. The Post Hastings Museum and Archives supplies comprehensive historical information about the area. Events and performances may be held at the Port Hastings Fire Hall, the Creignish Parish Hall, Judique, Mabou, or Port Hawkesbury.

There are excellent local beaches all along the coast, and a Provincial Park at Long Point. Trails for ATVs and snowmobiling, sponsored by local branches of provincial organizations, are maintained with consideration for the environment and for safety.

Churches that serve the area are Stella Maris Roman Catholic at Creignish, St. David's United in Port Hastings, and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic in Port Hawkesbury. A Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall is located on the TCH near Queensville.

This district has gained recent fame because of the Celtic-style musicians whose parental homes are in Creignish and Troy. These young people have been ambassadors for their home neighbourhoods and for Cape Breton music.

Industries and Commercial Services

Port Hastings "village" with a population of about 400 is the most densely populated and the most developed community of the district. It is a major highway junction and service area, contributing to the Strait area's 77% employment in the service and trade industries. "Ribbon" development occurs along portions of Highway 19 towards Port Hood. Port Hawkesbury (10 km east of Port Hastings) and Antigonish (55 km west of Port Hastings) provide most of the retail commerce/main service and education facilities used by the Port Hastings district. Most banking facilities used by the people of Port Hastings are in Port Hawkesbury. Transportation to these areas and to Halifax is by car, by bus (Acadian Lines from Port Hawkesbury), or by shuttle operating out of Mabou.

Forestry has increased in importance in recent years. Stora-Enso Forest Industries, one of Nova Scotia's largest single manufacturer employers, currently has about 800 waged employees and several hundred contractors related to the industry. Stora Enso uses about 950,000 tonnes of softwood logs (pulpwood) to produce newsprint, contributing \$100M per year to the local economy, 25% from company managed woodlots and 65% from private woodlots, the remainder from woodchips.

The lobster fishery continues to be important along the coastline north of Port Hastings, on a smaller scale than previously. There is a privately operated wharf which shelters a few boats; other fishers use the Judique facilities. The concrete boat launch ramp at the Canso Causeway Canal, previously operated by Transport Canada is no longer in use. It had been mainly used for pleasure craft.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Off-Shore gas and oil appears to present potential for future development in the Port Hastings village with some spin-offs to the wider district.

While most of the residences in this district are wood frame dwellings of varying age and value, mobile homes are recognized by the Rural Cape Breton Planning Commission as an "important housing source", and mobile homes are treated municipally in a similar manner to any single detached dwelling. The most striking dwelling on the coastline road is the McKillop House in Creignish, a stone house built by the MacMaster family in the mid-19th century.

Sources: Minnie Beaton; Ian MacKinnon; NS Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries and Development: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marine/ramps/inverness; Nova Scotia Atlas, 5th ed. (2001); Stora Enso Forest Industries Communications Department; Judique Port History, www.stfx.ca/research/gbayesp/judique; Port Hastings, www.rcbplan.ns.ca ; Natural Resources Canada, <http://sts.gsc.nrcan.gc.ca> ; E. Beaton, "Houses Built by Scottish Immigrants in Cape Breton" (1983).

Glendale

The Glendale district may be taken to start just north of Port Hastings on Route 105, continuing to Queensville, Kingsville, Glendale, Victoria Line, and Melford. East of Route 105 are secondary roads leading to Glenora, Princeville, Maple Brook, Big Brook, Big Marsh, and River Denys. On the west side of Route 105 are Rhoda Road, MacEachern Road, MacIntyre's Mountain, MacInnis Road, River Denys Mountain and River Denys Road. The latter two communities, and, indeed, much of the Glendale district, were historically oriented to Judique across the Creignish Hills. A road links Judique, Judique Rear, Judique Chapel and Rear Judique South with the River Denys Road with Melford on one side, and Glendale on the other. The same road from Melford travels more or less along the River Denys river, to the community of River Denys. The River Denys, the River Inhabitants, and several major brooks (e.g., Rough Brook, Glendale Brook, Maple Brook, MacLennan's Brook, MacMaster Brook, MacColl's Brook, Big Brook, Cameron's Brook) are historical indicators of settlement that continue to be viable markers today.

The Glendale district is the one economic district in Inverness County that does not touch on either the Atlantic Ocean or the Bras d'Or Lakes. On the west side of the district are the Creignish Hills, or The Big Ridge reaching to plateau elevations of 225 metres with steep ridges creating a number of separate plateaus at MacIntyre's Mountain, Cameron's Mountain, River Denys Mountain, and some unnamed highland areas near Melford. All are criss-crossed by historic roads and pathways that have become logging roads. Between the highway and the highlands is a very narrow strip of rolling topography well-flushed by streams descending from the higher areas into the River Inhabitants or the River Denys. On the east side of the highway are highlands with lower elevations, the highest being 175 metres near Victoria Line. Much of that area is also rolling hills. There are markedly low marsh areas along the River Inhabitants

Inverness County Community Profiles

and at Big Marsh. Here too, the streams run from the higher areas into the River Denys or the River Inhabitants.

The topography in the Glendale district is gently to strongly rolling; the soils are remarkable in their variety of glacial tills. Although the land is slightly to moderately stony, it is apparent that most of the soils are conducive to agriculture. The most useful in terms of agriculture and found throughout the area are Woodbourne, Cumberland, Falmouth and Canning soils, all reddish brown loams with good drainage.

The district, which was primarily a farming area, had become depopulated in the last half of the 20th century, with a corresponding loss of services. For example, Kingsville at the end of the 19th century had three stores, a grist mill, a saw mill and 300 people. Glendale as well was a thriving agricultural community with service industries related to farming: blacksmiths, sawyers, carriage makers, coopers, masons, millers, and weavers. Queensville was originally called "The Ridge" or "The Big Ridge" in reference to the hilly area with an elevation of 150-175 metres.

The Glendale district, like so many other Inverness County areas, was settled by Highland Scottish in the early to mid 19th century. They were of both the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic traditions.

The population of the district is about 1000 people. The smallest census areas are mixed with other districts, making it impossible to ascertain exact population figures.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The major road through the Glendale district is the Trans Canada Highway which for the most part follows the old Victoria Line Road; local paved roads lead off the TCH to the communities of West Bay Road and River Denys; in turn, unpaved local roads connect to the Crandell Road and the Long Stretch Road as well as areas such as Judique, Glencoe and River Denys Mountain. The quality of the roads is variable, but all could use improvement. Travel to mainland centres, usually Halifax, is available by Acadian Lines bus service or the shuttle which is based in Sydney.

Private wells and local brooks supply water for the area. Private septics account for the sewage treatment. Garbage is collected weekly and taken to the Big Brook (MacCuish Road) landfill for disposal. The management of the landfill is generally well-regarded. There is a blue bag recycling collection with the garbage each week; this is taken to Port Hawkesbury.

The nearest fire station is at West Bay Road. This station has 25 volunteers, one fire truck, one utility truck, and another tanker will be available in May-June, 2003. The maximum distance travelled by this department is about 15 km; the distance to Glendale district is 6-15 km. The fire insurance "protected" rate is based on a distance of less than 8 km to a fire station; some Glendale district properties would be considered "unprotected". Queensville is under the jurisdiction of Port Hasting Fire Department.

The municipal area tax rate for Glendale is \$1.09/\$100 for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes) properties; and \$1.85/\$100 for commercial properties. A rate of \$0.10/\$100 is charged for fire protection provided by the West Bay Road Fire Department.

Inverness County Community Profiles

The energy provider for the area is Nova Scotia Power. Aliant MTT provides land line telephone service. There is also dial-up internet service. Cell phone coverage is available in most areas. There are two cell phone towers in the area, one at MacIntyre's Mountain and one at Maple Brook Road. There is no cable television available, although satellite dishes are used.

Schools for all grades from the Glendale district are at Port Hawkesbury. The last school in the area closed about 15 years ago. University students tend to go to St. F.X. or to institutions in Halifax and Sydney. Vocational students may be found in any of the Nova Scotia Community College campuses across the province, but more are likely to go to Port Hawkesbury.

Health services are available in Port Hawkesbury, with hospital services (including labs) at the Strait-Richmond Hospital at Whiteside or St. Martha's Hospital in Antigonish. Specialists are available on a regular or periodic basis at the hospitals. Dentists are available in Port Hawkesbury, Sydney, Antigonish or New Glasgow. Social services such as housing, home care and welfare are carried out through the offices in Port Hawkesbury.

The Glendale and Area Community Cooperative, which became incorporated in 1998 and now has about 85 members, promotes the heritage and economic development of the area. One project was the acquisition of the parish glebe house, renovating it to become the Father John Angus Rankin Cultural Centre for the use of the community. The organization now manages the Cultural Centre by leasing it from the Antigonish Diocese. The Centre houses the Glendale Gaelic and Historical Society's archival collection and artifacts. The society offers workshops and has been sponsoring the Celtic Color workshops for the past four years. A project of the Glendale Gaelic and Historical Society (in partnership with HRDC) was a 845 page book compiled by Marina MacIntyre and Alex Hughie MacInnis, "**Cuir is Buain: A Genealogical History of Glendale and Neighbouring Communities,**" which contains stories and songs in Gaelic with the major section tracing the genealogical history of 113 families, past and present. The book was the result of a LMDA "IT" project proposal which involved building a data base collection of the genealogical history of the families, using the Cap site equipment. The Glendale Gaelic & Historical Society employs a summer student through a grant as well. With the Glendale & Area Community Cooperatives most recent renovation of the upstairs, the Father John Angus Rankin Cultural Centre also provides space for the Crafter's Guild which does weaving and other crafts. There is a consignment craft shop in the Centre managed by the Co-operative volunteers. The Cultural Centre, presents a real "kitchen ceilidh" every second Wednesday during the summer and fall months, also sponsored by the Cooperative.

The CAP site is located at the Father John Angus Rankin Cultural Centre. The CAP Site offers dial-up internet access for the public, as well as courses on computer use. The site is managed and operated by volunteers, assisted by a summer student grant since it came into existence in 1999.

The Glendale district does not have a library, but uses the Eastern Counties Regional Library at Port Hawkesbury. Most of the historical information on the area is available at the Father John Angus Rankin Cultural Centre. The museum at Port Hastings also has some historical information on the Glendale area, about as far as Melford.

In terms of sport and recreation, Glendale's Cape Clear Trail is an official snowmobile and ATV trail which can also be used for walking or cross-country skiing. The trail, which is

Inverness County Community Profiles

part of the Nova Scotia Snowmobile Trails Association, goes over the Creignish Hills to Mabou, Judique, or Margaree. Another well-known trail is to the water falls on Maple Brook Road. Glendale has at least one unofficial ball field and a wealth of recreational fishing. Other facilities for the area are rinks at Port Hawkesbury and Whycomomagh, campgrounds at Whycomomagh (Provincial) and Port Hastings.

Residents and visitors alike recognize Glendale's role in keeping the Cape Breton fiddling tradition alive. One of the local fiddlers, Dan Hughie MacEachern of Kingsville was internationally famous for his music composition. Father John Angus Rankin, parish priest for many years, was a major force in the first Cape Breton "Scottish Concert" which was held at St. Mary of the Angels Parish Field in 1973. The concert tradition in Glendale has continued to the present. The "Scottish Concert" itself became a yearly event for many parishes (sometimes for local volunteer fire departments) throughout Cape Breton, including Mi'kmaq and Acadian communities. Two well known musicians living in the Glendale area are Alex Francis MacKay and Mary Jane Lamond.

The major Catholic church in the district is St. Mary of the Angels at Glendale. Built in 1875 this church serves about 220 parishioners from the entire area. Occasional religious or secular celebrations are held at St. Margaret of Scotland Church on River Denys Mountain to commemorate the early community at River Denys Mountain. In the past, this small church at River Denys Mountain was an important mission of the Judique parish. Built about 1840, the small church was 30 feet in length for the 30 families in the community. The story is told of how butter was the currency for buying pews at the time. River Denys has three churches: St. Dionysius Roman Catholic Church, Forbes United Church and River Denys Presbyterian Church. There is a United (Presbyterian tradition) Church at Princeville. Since St. Mary of the Angels became a mission of Lower River, some of the Roman Catholics attend St. Margaret's Church in West Bay Road.

Glendale has a of the Parish Hall located next to the church where most major functions take place. The Glendale Men's Club look after the upkeep . Over the years and through fundraising they have accomplished major renovations such as a sewer system, a new drilled well, a concrete basement, new windows and roof, basement washrooms, new basement kitchen and dinning room. The most recent expansion is an extension to the building which will offer accessible washrooms from the main floor.

Industries and Commercial Services

The main urban centre utilized by the Glendale district is Port Hawkesbury. However, more extensive shopping and other commercial and service activities may be accessed at Antigonish, New Glasgow, Sydney or Halifax. Banking is available in Port Hawkesbury - the Royal Bank, the Scotia Bank, Bank of Montreal, TD Canada Trust, or the East Coast Credit Union.

The major employers in the Glendale area are Nova Scotia Power, Stora Enso at Port Hawkesbury and Georgia Pacific Gypsum at Sugar Camp and soon beginning production at Melford. It is estimated that up to 50% of the employable people work for these companies. Private lot forestry in the form of pulp cutting, logging and lumbering are also important. There are four major farms in the area, and some smaller non-commercial farming operations. There is

Inverness County Community Profiles

a community pasture on Maple Brook Road. Trucking, trades, service (e.g. repair) and professional jobs (teaching, librarian, nursing, clerical, accounting) also contribute to the employment for the people of the Glendale area. The recent Call Centre in Port Hawkesbury has created jobs for some of the residents. It is observed that the rate of unemployment is relatively low.

Tourism accommodation facilities are based mainly in Whycocomagh and Port Hawkesbury, although there is a B&B in the Glendale area.

Sources: Marina MacIntyre; Brenda and Donnie MacInnis; Bobby MacEachern; Natural Resources Canada <http://sts.gsc.nrcan.gc.ca> ; Natural Resources Nova Scotia www.gov.ns.ca/NATR; Nova Scotia Museum Natural History, <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/nhns> ; Nova Scotia Atlas, 5th Edition, Province of Nova Scotia. 2001; Soil Survey of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia (1963); MacDougall's History of Inverness County (1922); Bruce Fergusson, Placenames of Nova Scotia (1963); "Glendale, St. Mary of the Angels", Beaton Institute MG 13,14; St. Mary's Parish, Glendale, Beaton Institute Pam 3831; Mary Jessie MacDonald, "History of the Queensville Pioneers" Beaton Institute Report; Anne Smith, St. Margaret's Church", Beaton Institute MG 13, 13, E11.

Orangedale

This profile of the Orangedale district includes a number of communities, both inland and in sheltered coves on the Bras d'or Lakes. Orangedale East is located almost 10 km from the 105 turnoff at Iron Mines. This secondary (paved) road leads on around the peninsula (61⁰ long/45.57⁰ lat) to South Side Whycocomagh Bay, Whycocomagh Portage, Alba, West Alba, and Gillis Cove. The paved road ends at the tracks in Orangedale which is located in a sheltered cove at the western end of the North Basin. A dead end dirt road continues from Orangedale to Stoney Point. The main paved road from Orangedale crosses south to Seal Cove and Eden, the pavement ending at Crowdis' Bridge over the River Denys. The dirt road then passes through River Denys, one branch turning east to about 3 km past Valley Mills where it becomes paved again following around the North Mountain peninsula to South Side Basin of River Denys. Around the tip of the peninsula is the Malagawatch Reserve, 1000 acres of land held by the Mi'kmaq. There are some year-round residents on this Reserve; there are also a number of summer residents who come from different Mi'kmaq Reserves. The inland areas of the district include, from north to south: Blues Mills (named for Dugald Blue) , Ashfield (named for Ash trees), Big Marsh, River Denys Centre, and South Side River Denys. Upper River Denys is located on the west side of Route 105 alongside the Bornish Hills Nature Reserve.

The very early awareness of the areas is indicated by the placename River Denys, named for either Nicholas Denis in the French colonial period, or Mi'kmaq Chief Denny (in turn, named for Nicholas Denis). The historic Aboriginal presence was additionally marked by

Inverness County Community Profiles

Whycocomagh Portage which “Indians” were known to use as an overland path between waterways.

The first permanent European settlement in the Orangedale district was mainly by Highland Scottish in the early 19th century, although some of the land grants were as late as the 1860s and 1870s. The expertly recorded Orangedale and Gillis Cove Cemetery, located about two km from the Orangedale Presbyterian Church, indicates the strong ethnic patterns of the earlier residents. The rare deviations from the Scottish trend include the names Surette, Veinott, Delaney, and (possibly) McIver. Out-migration strongly affected the district as early as the late 19th century. We see a declining population in the statistics since that period, and also the loss of schools and the amalgamation of denominational parishes. The present population of the area included in this profile is about 500. Please note that exact population figures are impossible to ascertain from census data.

It is clear that the majority of the people in the Orangedale district have historically held with the Presbyterian religious tradition; but Gillis Cove has been historically Roman Catholic. There were a number of Presbyterian and Free (Church of Scotland) Churches in the area, the first one a Free Church Missionary built in 1828. Now adherents attend either the Presbyterian or United churches in Orangedale or Whycocomagh.

This district has traditionally relied on primary resources for its economic base. While farming was the first means of sustenance and livelihood, lumbering was known in the early period as well. In fact, C.M. Bethune in **First Presbyterian Church in Cape Breton** notes that “River Denys is noted for the quality of pine along its courses”.

The villages in the Orangedale district, such as River Denys, Valley Mills and Blues Mills historically had churches, mills, schools, way stations, and stores with a variety of food, hardware and dry good items. The most significant village, Orangedale, had the most important railway station between Port Hawkesbury and Grand Narrows. In 1922 it had “several lively stores, an important post office, good hotel, a comfortable public hall”(probably the Orangemen’s Hall for which the village is named) along with stone quarry, a brick manufacturing enterprise, all of which served the surrounding agricultural area.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The roads, indicated above, are in generally poor condition, with the unpaved roads being in better condition than the paved. The wood construction wharf which was rebuilt in the 1980s, is operated by the Orangedale Improvement Association. The wharf normally serves about 8 boats, but as many as 15 boats have been observed in the cove. There is a concrete small craft ramp into the Bras d’Or lakes from the edge of the Orangedale village. Bus service to points west (usually Halifax) is provided by Acadian Lines or the shuttle from Sydney which can be boarded from Whycocomagh.

The village of Orangedale has a central water supply which comes from a “sink hole” pond located about 2.5 km along the road from Orangedale to Whycocomagh. The system is operated by the Orangedale Water Society and has 55 subscribers, both residential and commercial. The society is currently attempting to find other sources of better quality water for the community. Outside the village, the water source is private wells. Sewage treatment is by

Inverness County Community Profiles

private septics, except for the Lakeview Seniors Complex which has a larger system. There is weekly garbage pick-up for the Big Brook landfill; there is weekly blue bag recycling pick-up for the depot in Port Hawkesbury. Some choose to deliver recyclables directly to the depot.

Fire protection for the Orangedale area is provided from the Volunteer Fire Department at Valley Mills. The Department has 17 volunteers, 4 active trucks (tanker, pumper, utility vehicle, first response van) and one 1941 truck for parades. The maximum distance travelled by the fire department is about 35 km.. The fire insurance rate is based on distance from the fire station: up to 8 km is rated "protected".

The municipal area tax rate is 1.09/\$100 for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes); the commercial rate is 1.85/\$100. The area rate for fire protection is 0.10/\$100 (Valley Mills Fire Department).

Telephone service is provided by MTT. There is cell coverage in the area. Internet service is dial-up. There is no CAP Site in the area. There is no cable television, but satellite dishes are common. Electrical energy is supplied by Nova Scotia Power.

The Orangedale School closed in the early 1990s, and now students in elementary and middle grades travel to Whycomomagh, while high school students go to Mabou. University and vocational students travel to whatever university or community college serves their needs.

Health services are available at Baddeck, Inverness or at the Whycomomagh Clinic. Specialists are in these places on a periodic basis. Lab services are at Baddeck or Inverness. Social services such as housing, home care or welfare are based in Port Hood or Port Hawkesbury.

Orangedale has a Presbyterian Church and a United Church. Roman Catholics attend Mass at the church on the Whycomomagh Reserve. There is a Gospel Hall at Blues Mills.

Probably the most important social/cultural landmark in Orangedale today is the Orangedale Station Museum, organized and operated by the Orangedale Railway Museum Society. The station was part of the Intercolonial Railway service begun in 1886. Jim St. Clair's research shows that the station was built of stacked timbers, reminiscent of the older untrimmed-log construction. The second storey was restored as the station agent's living quarters. The building contains a waiting room, display and archival areas, and a small model railway. Outside the building are several examples of "rolling stock", a diesel locomotive, a rail snow plow, and a caboose. The museum is the result of the committed work of a community group who prevailed upon Canadian National not to destroy the historic landmark, and who then proceeded, with some expert assistance, to turn the old station into one of the best museums in Nova Scotia.

L'Arche at Point Grace, located near a lake just across from the Orangedale Railway Museum, has a workshop and two community houses. There is a L'Arche craft and second-hand clothing outlet on the Orangedale Road to Whycomomagh.

The recreation potential for the area is strong. The Smith Community Centre was built by the Orangedale Improvement Association and can hold up to 250 people. It is the community venue for weddings, dances, concerts, suppers, etc., and voting. Other halls include the fire hall at Valley Mills, and the church basement at the Orangedale United Church. Orangedale Improvement Association is currently considering the possibilities of expanding the potential of Camp Aite Breagh which presently accommodates 80-100 young people per week during the

Inverness County Community Profiles

summer months. There is sailing, fishing, and swimming in the Bras d'Or Lakes. There are many "unofficial" snowmobile and ATV or walking/cross-country trails in the area.

Industries and Commercial Services

Major employers in the Orangedale area are Stora Enso Forest Industries in Port Hawkesbury and Georgia Pacific Gypsum Mining in Sugar Camp and Melford. Forestry in private wood lots is also an important source of employment. This includes pulp cutting, some logging, and silviculture. The silviculture industry goes beyond simply cutting and delivery: safety, disease control, controlled cutting, reforestation, all under environmental guidelines, are recognized as essential for a sustainable forest industry. Farm abandonment in the area since the 1940s, resulting in even old growth forest, is one of the causes of forestry destruction, such as the spruce beetle pest.

Oyster farming is also a major resource employer. The full impact of the recent discovery of disease in the stocks has yet to be realized. Orangedale was once the centre for oyster farming on the Bras d'Or Lakes, and there was a research centre located at Gillis Cove. Most of the oyster farming and research is now being carried through the Mi'kmaq communities around the Bras d'Or Lakes. Lobster is fished commercially on a limited scale.

A sand pit near the Orangedale village supplies sand for the cement plant at Auld's Cove: trucks from several companies are constantly hauling the sand.

Aite Breagh, a summer camp for disadvantaged youth is operated by the YMCA in cooperation with Community Services. Student employment and maintenance jobs are available seasonally. There are plans to expand the facilities and the functions of Camp Aite Breagh.

Other employment is found in the service industries, and trade and professional fields: hair dressing, institutional maintenance, home care, motor vehicle repair, computer sales and repair, teaching, nursing. A significant number of people in the area are retired. There are two commercial establishments in Orangedale: the Smith General Store carries almost everything from gas to groceries to appliances to furniture; the Orangedale Building Merchants has a significant stock of lumber and building supplies. The employment in the area is probably evenly divided between seasonal/trades/professional/service and Stora/Georgia Pacific.

A recent economic investment in the area was the initiation of a marble quarry at Kennedy's Big Brook near River Denys in 2001. MacLeod Resources plan on extracting different grades of marble for various purposes in a three-stage venture. They expect to export the unpolished rare red marble that is found on this site. Processing of marble is hopefully anticipated as well.

Tourism facilities, except for the wharf in Orangedale serving recreational boats, are mainly found in Whycomomagh. Orangedale's hotel is long closed, and the hostel at Gillis Cove is no longer operating.

The "urban" centres which serve the Orangedale district are Whycomomagh (10km.) and Port Hawkesbury (40 km.). Commercial services are also obtained at North Sydney and Sydney. Banking is done at Whycomomagh, Baddeck or Port Hawkesbury from a variety of banks and credit unions.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Sources: Randy MacDonald; John Eddy King; C.D. Blue Forestry Ltd, www.ns.sympatico.ca/c.d.blue ; *Nova Scotia Atlas*, 5th Edition, Province of Nova Scotia. 2001; *Soil Survey of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia* (1963); Orangedale and Gillis Cove Cemetery recorded by R Fraser (1999), www.rootsweb.com/~nscpbret/cem ; C.B. Bethune, "First Presbyterian Church in Cape Breton" from MacTalla (nd); L'Arche Cape Breton, www.larchecapebreton.com ; MG 14, 46: MacAulay, "Valley Mills" 91895-96; MG 13, 14: MacAulay South Side River Denys, 1914; Bruce Fergusson, *Placenames of Nova Scotia* (1963); Orangedale Railway Museum, www.museum.gov.ns.ca ; Jim St. Clair, "The Orangedale Station", www.invernessmunicipality.com.heritage/Orangedale_Station ; Orangedale Home Page, www.bretoned.ca/cbtourism/orange ; ECBC, www.ecbc.ca ; Natural Resources Canada <http://sts.gsc.nrcan.gc.ca> ; Natural Resources Nova Scotia www.gov.ns.ca/NATR ; Nova Scotia Museum Natural History, <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/nhns>

West Bay Road and Area

This profile of the West Bay Road area includes the communities of West Bay Road, West Bay Centre, West Bay, the Marshes, Cleveland, and Riverside.

The orientation of the West Bay district is to the body of water known as West Bay, which is the south western corner of the Bras d'Or Lakes. West Bay is well fed by streams along its shores which have a variety of points and coves. A number of small uninhabited islands, some attached by sand bars, are found in the Bay. The shore area tends to have low elevations of 50 metres or less, with many peat bogs and marshy areas. Some of the areas near the River Inhabitants also have peat bogs. Near the community called the Marshes, at the southern end of the North Mountain, the land has been submerged into the bay, the tree stumps still visible, indicating the general rising sea water levels in Cape Breton (see appendix). The inland areas of the district rise, but not dramatically, to elevations of 75 metres near Riverside to 100 metres around West Bay Centre to 200 metres just north of West Bay Road, where the North Mountain begins its rise. Almost the entire West Bay district has land which is predominantly stony, gently rolling dark reddish brown gravelly clay loam till with imperfect drainage (Millbrook) from the Marshes to the banks of the River Inhabitants. There are a few pockets of peat in the areas of lower elevation. Directly around West Bay Road is an exception with excessively drained greyish brown sandy loam clay stratified materials (Hebert); West Bay Centre has poorly drained greyish and brown clay loam tills (Diligence, Kingsville). The River Inhabitants alluvial area, including Cleveland and Riverside, has the expected variety of soils: low lying Kingsville; Queens and Woodbourne clay loams on gently rolling lands, the latter being conducive to agriculture; and river bank sandy loam alluvial deposits over gravel (Bridgeville). West Bay has some good agricultural Queens soil, but also some Millbrook, less appropriate for agriculture.

Except for a few cleared areas for present or past farms, this district is generally tree-covered with mixed stands of fir and yellow birch on generally rolling land, punctuated by marshy areas. Historically, hay was grown on the marshes..

Inverness County Community Profiles

The district is predominantly of Highland Scottish descent and of the Presbyterian religious tradition, with names such as Ross, MacCuspic, Campbell, and MacLeod. According to Rannie Gillis (Cape Breton Post, Nov. 30), the Scottish came as early as 1813 by way of Pictou and Mabou, and he reports that there may be buried treasure in the islands that dot the Bay, and that some of those islands may be haunted. Other recorded settlements took place in 1817 and 1827. It is possible that the War of 1812 may have been a factor in the history of the West Bay district: the British (including Nova Scotians) and American privateers and pirates were very active in the waters of Nova Scotia (including Cape Breton); and it is possible that some of the settlers were discharged Scottish and other soldiers from that war. In 1904, the population of the Marshes was 85; West Bay had a population of 110 in that year.

Until the Intercolonial Railway went through Cape Breton in the late 19th century, the village of West Bay was the centre of agricultural trade and the active lake commerce. From the mid to late 19th century, West Bay had two tanneries, two carriage shops, one hotel, and several stores. Today, the junction community of West Bay has a small general store (recently closed) and some other buildings which are remnants of a prosperous business past.

West Bay Road appears to have been settled a bit later with a land grant given to the Lacey brothers in 1880. West Bay Road, benefiting from the Intercolonial Railway, had a telegraph and express office.

The present population of the West Bay - West Bay Road Area is about 200. Please note that population figures are difficult to ascertain based on available census data.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The district can be better understood by the complex of roads which run through it. Following the railway line, and weaving back and forth across it, the road goes through River Denys and Big Brook, about 10 km, to West Bay Road. Turning east at West Bay Road and travelling about 5 km brings one to West Bay Centre and onward for another 7 km to West Bay at the "Head of West Bay" on the Bras d'Or Lakes. At West Bay, there are three choices: continue east to Dundee in Richmond County; north and east to the Marshes; or south and west along the county boundary to Cleveland. From Cleveland the road goes either into Richmond County or turns back west and north some 10 km to Riverside. The main local roads tend to be paved and most of the branch roads are dirt or gravel.

The Acadian Lines Bus or shuttle (originating in Sydney) to Halifax can be boarded from Port Hawkesbury. Historically there was a wharf at West Bay, but now there is only a skid-way or landing for small craft.

Private wells provide water for the area's residents, and private septic systems constitute the sewage systems. There is weekly garbage pick-up for the landfill at Big Brook, and weekly blue bag pick-up for the recyclables which are taken to the depot in Port Hawkesbury. Fire protection is provided by the West Bay Road Volunteer Fire Department which has 25 volunteers and one truck and one utility vehicle; another tanker truck will come on stream in May - June, 2003. The department travels a maximum distance of about 15 km, usually as far as

Inverness County Community Profiles

Lime Hill. The fire insurance rating is based on the distance from the fire station: under 8 km is rated "protected".

The Municipal area tax rate is 1.09/\$100 for residential and resource (land not used for commercial purposes) properties and 1.85 for commercial properties. The fire protection rate for each property in this area is 0.10/\$100.

Nova Scotia Power supplies electrical energy to the West Bay Road area, and MTT Aliant provides land line phone service. There is cell phone coverage in the area. There is no cable television, but satellite dishes are common. There is internet dial-up service. The closest CAP Site is at Glendale. Up to 30% of the residents have computers. There is a Post Office at West Bay Road.

Students from all grades attend school in Port Hawkesbury, except for students from Cleveland, who attend school at Evanston in Richmond County.

Health services are available at Port Hawkesbury and the Strait-Richmond Hospital. Specialists are at the hospital periodically. Lab services are at the Strait-Richmond Hospital. Dentists are available in Port Hawkesbury, Antigonish, or Sydney. Social assistance, housing and home care is available through the offices in Port Hawkesbury and Port Hood.

Library facilities are offered through the Eastern Counties Mobile Library unit. The museum at Port Hastings may have some material on the history of the West Bay Road area.

The recreational activities of the area reflect its geography. There is sailing and motor boating off West Bay; and there are a multitude of swimming spots known to the local people. There are excellent unofficial snow mobile and ATV trails which go as far River Denys Mountain. Recreational fishing is popular.

The churches serving the West Bay Road area are the United Church at Princeville and St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church at West Bay Road. There is a United Church at West Bay and another at Cleveland.

The main community hall is the West Bay Road Fire Hall which is available for weddings, variety concerts, fall fairs, suppers, etc., and voting. Church Halls are found at Princeville and West Bay.

The West Bay Road Community Association, which was organized about 5 years ago endeavours to motivate community activities which contribute to economic and social development.

Industries and Commercial Services

The "urban" centres to which West Bay Road and area are oriented are Port Hawkesbury which is a distance of 20-25 km, and also Antigonish and New Glasgow. Banking services are available at Port Hawkesbury which has a Royal Bank, a Scotia Bank, a Bank of Montreal and an East Coast Credit Union.

The major employers in the area are Stora Enso Forest Industries at Port Hawkesbury and Georgia Pacific Gypsum at Sugar Camp and Melford. Private lot forestry is also important for pulp cutting and lumber logging. There are three major farms in the area as well as some small mixed farm non-commercial operations. Four trucking firms in the area respond to other

Inverness County Community Profiles

activities in the primary and secondary sectors. A couple of gravel pits provide materials for road construction. There are carpenters, plumbers and electricians and other building trades people as required. Cleveland has a skidoo/ATV sales and service business. There are 3-4 teachers, several nurses and home care workers.

Although most visitor accommodation is found at Port Hawkesbury, there is a B&B at Cleveland, which is located not far from the Dundee resort.

*Sources: Bob MacEachern; Natural Resources Canada <http://sts.gsc.nrcan.gc.ca> ; Natural Resources Nova Scotia www.gov.ns.ca/NATR; Nova Scotia Museum Natural History, <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/nhns> ; *Nova Scotia Atlas, 5th Edition, Province of Nova Scotia, 2001*; *Soil Survey of Cape Bret on Island, Nova Scotia (1963)*; *MacDougall's History of Inverness County (1922)*; Bruce Fergusson, *Placenames of Nova Scotia (1963)*; Rannie Gillis, "West Bay", *Cape Breton Post* Nov. 30, 2002; "The Marshes" from *Halifax Herald*, Feb 8, 1939 *Beaton Institute A.D. MacLean SB 38, p. 57.**

Marble Mountain

This profile of the Marble Mountain district takes in the communities of Big Harbour Centre, Big Harbour Island, Militia Point, Malagawatch, Marble Mountain and Lime Hill. Marble Mountain, and probably the whole district, was originally known as "North Mountain". All of these communities follow the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes around the North Mountain peninsula. There are clusters of islands all around the eastern tip and northern side of the West Bay which is south of the North Mountain.

The mountain rises steeply from the water to a rolling plateau of about 225 m elevation; the plateau has a number of lakes with peat marshes nearby. The soil on the ridge is well-drained, stony, pale brown to greyish brown sandy loam till (Thom). The soil on the very narrow strip surrounding the ridge at sea level is almost level or gently rolling dark reddish brown clay and gravelly clay loam till (Queens, Millbrook). Historically, this narrow strip of fertile land accounted for very successful farming in the Marble Mountain district. In the late 19th and early 20 centuries, it is said that apples from here were exported to parts of Europe. MacDougall's **History of Inverness County** reports strong farming activity "on a narrow strip of land running from the sea about a mile up into the mountains"; in a piece of land this size, three families would live equidistant from each other.

While the chief transportation was on the Lakes, the overland roads of the past tended to lead to places of commerce where people could buy supplies not available through their own efforts. In 1825 there was a road from Malagawatch to River Denys to Judique Mountain to Long Point on the Atlantic coast.

The European settlement of the district was mainly by Highland Scottish of the Presbyterian religious tradition in the early to mid-19th century.

Starting in the 19th century, granite and lime were exports from the quarries on the sides of the North Mountain from docks at Marble Mountain, Clarke Cove and Lime Hill. It began with exports of lime from small quarries to PEI for slaking (mortar). Alex Fortune, in the **Cape**

Inverness County Community Profiles

Breton's Magazine, said that everyone had their own lime quarry for their fields. The limestone and marble quarrying became formalized in 1884 with the Bras d'Or Lime Company operated by MacLaughlan and Saunders who built a huge kiln. The local communities provided cordwood to fire the kiln. The marble slabs required careful work in the extraction, cleaning and polishing of the marble. The rather delicate drilling procedure to take out a particular width slab did not allow blasting; it was called "plug and feather". The slab was cleaned with steel shavings and polished with clay. An elaborate house in the South End of Halifax was built with this marble.

In 1902, the Dominion Steel and Coal Company (DOSCO) in Sydney, established some quarries to provide dolomite which was used as a flux in steel making (producing molten iron in the blast furnace). With this development the wharves of the Marble Mountain shore became even busier. Photographs show a huge complex of tracks, cranes, conveyors and buildings on the lakeside below the village.

MacLaughlan's Store, a huge building with marble counter tops, adjacent to the MacLaughlan family home, stands as a symbol of those heady times. Other businesses in the booming community belonged to Alex MacDonlad, Blind Billy MacKenzie, and Isaac James. The number of children in the community during the quarry years is also an indicator of the level of activity. In the early part of the century, there were three teachers and 125 children in the school. By contrast, in 1973, there were eight children and one teacher.

Inverness County Community Profiles

Workers came from all over Cape Breton to work in the dolomite operation, up to 1000 men at any given time. During WWI, interned “aliens” who originated in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (mainly Ukrainians) were sent to Marble Mountain to work in the quarries. Other foreign workers also came of their own accord during the entire period of production. Some Mi'kmaq worked on the tracks leading from the quarries to the docks. Most of the workers were single sojourners who lived in boarding houses, but some Acadian workers brought their wives and children to the site on a seasonal basis and they lived in “shacks” near the site. Both workers and horses suffered injuries and even death in the difficult and dangerous work. DOSCO closed down its Marble Mountain operation in 1922-23. After the closure, some 47 houses were moved from Marble Mountain. The population had, by 1956, declined to 68 people.

More recently, in the late 20th century, drilling for oil was carried out in the Malagawatch-Big Harbour Island area. It did not yield any significant results.

The present population of the Marble Mountain area is about 100-150. Please note that exact population figures are impossible to ascertain from the census. There is a substantial number of summer visitors, adding to the population and activity in the community.

Civic and Social/Cultural Amenities

The road around the peninsula is partially unpaved - one section of 3 km; Big Harbour Island and Militia Point are served by unpaved roads. The road from Malagawatch through Marble Mountain to Lime Hill and along the south side of the North Mountain peninsula is paved. Some historical local unpaved roads go “over the mountain”, one comes out at Marble Mountain, another at Lime Hill. They are not passable by ordinary means. Travel to the mainland (usually Halifax) is by bus or shuttle boarded from Whycomomagh or Port Hawkesbury.

Water is supplied to Marble Mountain by private wells and mountain brooks. Sewage treatment is by private septic systems. There is weekly garbage pick-up for the landfill at Big Brook; and weekly blue bag pick-up for recyclables which are brought to Port Hawkesbury.

Fire protection is provided by the Valley Mills Fire Department which has 17 volunteers, four active trucks (pumper, tanker, utility vehicle, and first response van) and one 1941 parade truck. The department travels a maximum of about 35 km. The fire insurance rate is based on a “protected” status for properties less than 8 km from the fire station.

The Municipal area tax rate is 1.09/\$100 for residential or resource (land not used for commercial purposes) properties; and 1.85/\$100 for commercial properties. The fire protection rate based on use of the Valley Mills Fire Department is 0.10/\$100.

The electrical energy source is Nova Scotia Power. Land line telephone service is provided by MTT Aliant. There is no cell phone service. There is dial-up internet service in the area. There is no cable TV service, but satellite dishes are common. There is no CAP Site at Marble Mountain, the closest being at Whycomomagh. The area is served by Rural Mail Delivery with full postal service available at West Bay.

Health services for the Marble Mountain area are available at Baddeck, Port Hawkesbury or the Strait-Richmond Hospital at Whiteside. St. Martha's Hospital in Antigonish serves as the regional hospital. Specialists are available at Baddeck, Port Hawkesbury and Whiteside on a periodic basis. Dentists are at Sydney, Baddeck, and Port Hawkesbury. Housing, social assistance and home care are provided from the Port Hawkesbury and Port Hood Offices.

52

Inverness County Community Profiles

School attendance is to Whycomagh until high school, and then students go to Port Hawkesbury or Mabou. University and vocational students go to whatever institutions provide the courses they need.

The school building from earlier times is now the Marble Mountain Museum, an excellent local historical resource which documents the early experience of the Scottish settlers and also the experience of the later immigrant workers in the quarries. At the museum, post office records of workers' money being sent back to the homeland are of special interest.

Sport and recreation in Marble Mountain responds well to its geographic elements. The unofficial snowmobile and ATV trails are well used, and the "old fire road" over the mountain to Valley Mills is a favourite, although presently in poor condition. The road is discussed as a walking trail in the book, **Walk Cape Breton**. Sailing is popular and some Marble Mountain residents have sailing boats. There is recreational fishing of smelt and trout. The Community Club uses the Odd Fellows Hall to provide space for weddings, suppers, concerts, etc., and voting.

The Marble Mountain Community Club promotes both economic development and historic preservation. The Club acquired the Odd Fellows Hall for use by the community, and it works to support the various initiatives of the community. One of the group's projects was the temporary acquisition of a strip of land from MacLaughlan's Store, to and including the beach below, as well as the use of Medjuck's warehouse for storage purposes. Government grants allow for summer students to be hired to work between the beach and the museum.

The Wharf Preservation Society has taken over ownership and maintenance of the local wharf from the federal and municipal governments. The Society controls the roads leading to the wharf and the beach and a fee is charged for automobile use. A boat launch is available at the wharf.

The first Presbyterian Church was built in 1876. The community's Protestant church, formerly St Mathews Presbyterian, now St. Matthews United, was built in 1903. There is some discussion of moving the historically important Presbyterian Church at Malagawatch to the Iona museum. A Catholic church at Marble Mountain has Mass during the summer months and is served by the pastor of Lower River Inhabitants.

Industries and Commercial Services

The "urban centres" for Marble Mountain are Orangedale, (20km), Whycomagh (32km), and Port Hawkesbury (35 km). Sydney is the largest urban centre normally used by the people of Marble Mountain. Financial services for the Marble Mountain area are available at Port Hawkesbury. Some still go to Whycomagh for banking

Employment for the people of Marble Mountain comes from several sources. A number of people work for Sora Enso Forest Industries in Port Hawkesbury and for Georgia Pacific Gypsum at Sugar Camp and Melford. Others do private wood lot forestry - pulp cutting or lumber logging. There is one lobster boat operating out of Marble Mountain. There are two nurses, several home care workers, a teacher, and a librarian, as well as several building trade contractors - carpenters, electricians, etc. Grapes are grown at Marble Mountain in the micro climate of the southern exposures of mountain to produce the Cote de Bras d'Or Wines by Jost

Inverness County Community Profiles

Vineyards. The vineyard and winery employs up to 12 people seasonally. The majority of the people of Marble Mountain are retired, but employment is generally good for those employable.

Quarry work at Marble Mountain has been minimal and sporadic since the 1920s, but a recent economic investment in the area was the initiation of a marble quarry at Kennedy's Big Brook near River Denys in 2001. MacLeod Resources plan on extracting different grades of marble for various purposes in a three-stage venture. They expect to export the unpolished rare red marble that is found on this site. Processing of other marble is hopefully anticipated as well.

*Sources: Russ White; John "Eddy" King; David MacDonald; Pat O'Neil, **Walk Cape Breton**, 1996; Marble Mountain, <http://aberdeenmotelenglish.hypermart.net> ; Nova Scotia Atlas, 5th Edition, Province of Nova Scotia. 2001; **Soil Survey of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia** (1963); Natural Resources Canada <http://sts.gsc.nrcan.gc.ca> ; Natural Resources Nova Scotia www.gov.ns.ca/NATR ; Nova Scotia Museum Natural History, <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/nhns> ; Jost Wines, www.jostwine.com ; Cape Breton's Magazine, no. 22, Marble Mountain; **MacDougall's History of Inverness County** (1922); Bruce Fergusson, **Placenames of Nova Scotia** (1963); **Making Steel (video)**, co-produced by the Beaton Institute and NFB (1993).*