

Activity Guide 2024

Sunset Side

of Cape Breton

Summer Festivals · Kayaking · Hiking Trails · Camping & Glamping · Museums · Art Galleries ·
Golf · Accommodations · Great Food · Outdoor Concerts · Scottish Concerts · and more



Visit us at canadasmusicalcoast.com

Sunday, July 28th starting at 3pm 68th Broad Cove Scottish Concert

featuring Mary Frances Leahy & Band and Morgan Toney Trio



**Admission \$25 Under 12 Free Canteen Services
Ample Parking Washrooms Beer Tent Security**

**Fun Walk/Run Saturday, July 27th at 9am from
St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Broad Cove**

**Dance to follow the Broad Cove Concert at
the Southwest Parish Hall, SW Margaree**



On the beautiful grounds of St. Margaret of Scotland's Parish, Broad Cove
Visit www.broadcovescottishconcert.ca and follow us on



EVERWIND TERMINALS

Bear Head ENERGY

GRANVILLE GREEN 2024

7 PM SUNDAYS

FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

JOIN US SUNDAY NIGHTS AND CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF GRANVILLE GREEN!

GRANVILLE ST • PORT HAWKESBURY

PERFORMERS:

- JULY 7** PRESENTED BY PORT HAWKESBURY PAPER: **HEATHER RANKIN AND JENN SHEPPARD**
- JULY 14** PRESENTED BY ENBRIDGE: **JON MULLANE AND EVANS AND DOHERTY**
- JULY 21** PRESENTED BY EAST COAST CREDIT UNION: **CAMPBELL AND JOHNSTON AND OUR FATHER'S FOOLS**
- JULY 28** PRESENTED BY ATLANTIC LOTTERY CORPORATION: **CHRISTINA MARTIN AND KRISTEN MARTELL**
- AUGUST 4** PRESENTED BY MAPLE SIGNS & ENGRAVING: **RUM RAGGED AND HAULER**
- AUGUST 11** PRESENTED BY A1 PIZZA: **SONS OF MAXWELL AND FIRE VALLEY FIRE**

MORE INFO AT GRANVILLEGREEN.CA

PORT HAWKESBURY Opportunities Await

SPONSORS: St. John's Ambulance, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, A1 PIZZA, Maple Signs, Maritime Inn, Reporter, 101.5 the Breeze.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COUNTY MAP	2
MUSEUMS	4
PORT HASTINGS	10
PORT HAWKESBURY	13
CREIGNISH	18
JUDIQUE	20
PORT HOOD	23
MABOU	29
LAKE AINSLIE	38
COASTAL TRAIL	39
FESTIVALS AND DANCES	42
WHYCOCOMAGH	45
ORANGEDALE & AREA	48
GLENDALE	49
INVERNESS	50
BROAD COVE	64
MARGAREES	65
CHETICAMP	70
PLEASANT BAY	78
MEAT COVE	79



INVERNESS COMMUNICATIONS LTD.

Tel. 902-258-2253
 oran@ns.aliantzinc.ca
 www.invernessoran.ca

Editor: Ann Morrison
 Editorial Copy: John Gillis,
 K.C. Beaton, and Oran staff
 Graphic Design: Julia Ryan
 Advertising: Roxanne MacPhee
 Cover photo: Steve Rankin

Thank you to Canada's Musical Coast,
 K.C. Beaton, Bill Dunphy, Marilyn El-
 lison, Victor Faubert, Murdo Ferguson,
 John Gillis, Jason Loxton, Francis A.
 MacDonald, Joyce MacDonald, Diane
 Moulard, Steve Rankin, Julia Ryan,
 Michel Soucy, and Len Wang for the
 incredible photos.

In partnership with

CANADA'S
MUSICAL COAST

**RECREATION AND
 COMMUNITY WELLNESS**

PO Box 179
 Port Hood, NS
 B0E 2W0



WELCOME TO Canada's Musical Coast

- Inverness County -

Pjila'si! Welcome! Bienvenue! Fàilte!

The councillors and staff of the Municipality of the County of Inverness are glad to welcome you to the sunset side of Cape Breton Island – Canada's Musical Coast.

We are well known around the world for our rich and diverse cultures, breathtaking scenery, and delicious eats. Whether you're seeking outdoor adventure, live music at our local venues, or taking it easy on our miles of sandy beaches, Inverness County has something for everyone.

Prepare to be immersed in our vibrant music scene, deeply rooted in Gaelic, Acadian, and Mi'kmaq traditions.

Don't miss the opportunity to explore our breathtaking landscapes, whether on foot or by bike, in a boat or by car. The famous Cabot Trail will leave you in awe with its rugged coastline, lush forests, and majestic highland plateaus.

Check out one of our many local museums, which house fascinating collections that tell the stories of our people, our heritage, and the natural world that surrounds us.

Your visit to Inverness County will surely be memorable and we're sure you'll be inspired to return. Join us in being good stewards of the exceptional nature that we are blessed with: that way its beauty will be preserved for future visitors!

For more help planning your stay, visit canadasmusicalcoast.com or visit our visitor information centres in Port Hastings, Inverness, Mabou, Margaree Forks, and Chéticamp.

And to learn more about Inverness County, visit invernesscounty.ca.

Enjoy your stay!

Bonny MacIsaac, Warden

On behalf of Inverness County Council



Inverness County Council (left to right): Claude Poirier, Deputy Warden Catherine Gillis, Warden Bonny MacIsaac, John MacLennan, Blair Phillips, Lynn Chisholm.



FOR DETAILED EVENT LISTINGS FIND
OUR SUMMER & FALL EVENTS GUIDE
AT ANY VISITOR INFORMATION
CENTRE ON CAPE BRETON ISLAND!
YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON FACEBOOK
@INVERNESSCOUNTY

CANADA'S
MUSICAL  **Coast**

INVERNESS COUNTY MUSEUMS

Our museums house more than artifacts. They are run by community groups dedicated to sharing our history with the world. You will be greeted with a smile and leave with a better understanding of the local culture that has shaped our communities. Most museums are open mid-June to October. Check local listings.

Strait Area Museum

24 Highway 19, Port Hastings · Tel: 902-625-1295
straitareamuseum@gmail.com

History comes alive in this modern museum overlooking the Strait of Canso. It houses displays on the construction of the Canso Causeway and its impact on the people and communities in the area, model ship display, local history, early 20th-century lifestyle, railroads, and ferries. Extensive archives and materials

for genealogical research available on-site. Personalized tours of the museum are given. Be sure to visit the gift shop, which features handmade products by local quilters, crafters, and woodworkers. Stop by the gazebo and enjoy an ice cream from the on-site ice cream barn on a hot summer day.

Open: May 17 - October 19, 2024

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Sat & Sun 12 noon - 4 p.m. *subject to change*

Chestico Museum

8095 Route 19, Port Hood (Harbourview) · Tel: 902-787-2244
www.chesticoplace.com

The former Harbourview School houses museum artifacts and historical/genealogical records that relates to the early settlers of the Port Hood area. The Chestico Museum has operated as a community museum since 1986. Highlighting the history and heritage of the Port Hood area, its mission has been to provide local residents and visitors to the area with a unique heritage experience. Volunteers in the community and

summer students under the direction of dedicated museum directors have carried on research and created exhibits for the education and entertainment of all. Port Hood's marine heritage during the Age of Sail, its heyday as a coal mining town in the early twentieth century and its status as the county seat and commercial centre for Inverness have all been sources for new displays over the years.

Open: June 3 - October 18, 2024

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.;

July and August: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Les Trois Pignons

15584 Cabot Trail, Cheticamp · Tel: 902-224-2642
vic@lestroispigno ns.com · www.lestroispignons.com

Visit Les Trois Pignons for a special view into Acadian culture and the history of Chéticamp, a stunning collection of hooked rugs and antiquities, genealogy resource centre and library, and a full range of visitor information services. Guides will be happy to provide information on travel, services, activities

and tourist attractions in the area, as well as a large collection of tourist tips in the form of brochures, maps, guides, etc. Very knowledgeable on this Acadian community, they can help you make the most of your visit with information about the local history, culture and way of life.

Open: May 13 - October 27, 2024

Hours of Operation: Visitor Information Centre is staffed from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (open 'til 6:00 p.m. in July and August)

MacDonald House Museum and Heritage Site

3458 Highway 395, East Lake Ainslie · Tel: 902-258-3317
http://www.macdonaldhousemuseum.ca

MacDonald House Museum overlooks beautiful Lake Ainslie and consists of a restored 1850s gothic style farmhouse, display barns, a restored one-room schoolhouse, a fine collection of early

1900s furniture and artifacts, displays of farm machinery and implements, hand woven fabric displays and much more.

Open: June 24 - August 30, 2024,

Hours of Operation: Tues-Sun: 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Orangedale Railway Museum

1428 Orangedale Road, Orangedale

Built in 1886, this classic 19th century Intercolonial Railway styled structure was operational until 1990. Most artifacts are now displayed in the Freight

Shed Gift Shop and several rail cars also on site. Station Master's quarters are open by appointment.

Open: July 1 - September 2, 2024

Hours of Operation: Daily, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Father John Angus Rankin Cultural Centre

4248 NS-105, Glendale · Tel: 902-625-3441 · glendaleacc@gmail.com

Housed in the former Glebe House, the centre preserves and promotes the rich heritage of Glendale and surrounding area with local archives, photographs, videos, and audio tapes of historical and cultural significance to the Glen-

dale area; kitchen ceilidhs; weaving classes; Gaelic lessons; accessible outdoor 24/7 Free Little Library. Annual Glendale concert: July 6th on the outdoor stage.

Open: June 17 - October 19, 2024

Celtic Music Interpretive Centre Archives

5471 Highway 19, Judique · Tel: 902-787-2708 · info@celticmusiccentre.com or archives@celticmusiccentre.com · www.celticmusiccentre.com

The Centre collects documentary records and other archival materials, preserving memories and techniques, and promotes the tradition of Cape Breton music. The Archive houses documents, recordings, videos, photographs, letters, and items significant to the people, communities, and organizations of music tradition in a climate-controlled vault. Find cassettes, reel-to-reels, CDs, 8-tracks, 33, 45, and 78 records, photographs, 8mm slides, VHS and

DVD video, textual documents, books, and ephemera relating to the sound and sights of Cape Breton's music traditions. The Inverness Music Collection is an extensive resource of interviews with fiddlers, dancers, other musicians, and cultural figures. Tours and workshops are available. Learn more in the Tom Rankin Interactive Exhibit Room. Here you can pick up a fiddle and bow and capture the spirit. A restaurant and bar are on site.

Tom Rankin Exhibit Room Open: June 30 - October 18, 2024

Sun-Fri: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Archives Open: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. or by appointment, *Please check Facebook and the CMIC website to confirm all dates and times*

Storytellers' Gallery & Museum

5663 Highway 19, Judique · storytellersgallery7@gmail.com

This Museum is housed in a Municipal Heritage building that was once a company house in the nearby community of Port Hood. It was Jack MacDougall's Store for many years and now preserves and shares the history of Judique and district through the Suidaic Air an Urlar Historical and Cul-

tural Society. On display are historical photographs and local artifacts of the area depicting lifestyles of the past and a collection of family histories. If you have stories to share or would like to make a visit contact storytellersgallery7@gmail.com or archives.storytellers@gmail.com.

Open: July and August

Check for events on Facebook @StorytellersGalleryJudique

Whale Interpretive Centre

104 Harbour Road, Pleasant Bay · Tel: 902-224-1411

The Whale Centre is a fun and educational space for all ages with various exhibits on the 16 whale species sighted here in Cape Breton. Children will enjoy the "I spy..." game in the kids' corner and visitors of all ages can hear the whales and see a 3D life size model of a pilot whale while enjoying amazing harbour, beach, ocean, and moun-

tain views. Information is displayed on local fishing and wildlife, trails, and businesses in the area. Shop in the marine and wildlife themed gift shop, with souvenirs and work from local artisans. Located next to local whale tours and picnic areas. Group rates available. Bus Tours are welcome.

Open: June 1 - October 15, 2024

Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Margaree Salmon Museum

60 East Big Intervale Road, North East Margaree · Tel: 902-248-2848
margareesalmonmuseum@gmail.com

The Margaree Salmon Museum is located in a former schoolhouse in North East Margaree. It aims to share the rich history of fishing on the Margaree River, a river which is still world renowned for its salmon. The museum also strives to educate visitors on the importance of conservation, in order to ensure the protection of fish stocks for future generations.

The museum houses exhibits relating to salmon angling on the river, as well as an excellent collection of fishing tackle, photos, and memorabilia of famous anglers. Practical information for anglers is also provided, including details on sport fishing regulations, local season dates, and species identification.

Open: June 25 - October 15, 2024

Hours of operation: Thurs-Sun: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

An Drochaid (The Bridge)

11513 Highway 19, Mabou · Tel: 902-945-2311 · mghs1975@gmail.com

Housed in a building that was formerly a general store (c. 1874), An Drochaid (The Bridge) Museum now serves as a centre for research and local music, Gaelic language activities, cultural activities, local artifacts, and genealogical

erations.

Open: June 23 - August 25, 2024

Hours of Operation: Mon: closed, Tues: 12 - 4 p.m.,

Wed-Fri: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sat & Sun: 12 - 5p.m.

Open by request year-round, outside regular summer hours.

Mi-Carême Centre

51 Old Cabot Trail Rd, Grand-Étang · Tel: 902-224-1016 · www.micareme.ca

The Mi-Carême Centre is the only interpretive centre in Canada dedicated to the wonderfully whimsical Mi-Carême (Mid-Lent) celebration. A team of passionate guides will lead you in discovering the centuries-old fantastic and fun-filled Acadian tradition of the Mi-Carême, which is still celebrated every winter in the Grand Étang area.

Open: June 5 - June 30, 2024, Wed-Sun: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 1 - August 31, 2024, Mon-Sun: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

September 1 - October 20, 2024, Wed-Sun: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Welcome to the sunset side!

During a typical summer in western Cape Breton, communities throughout Inverness County would be bustling with visitors, people returning home to reconnect with family, and live music would ring late into the nights as people gathered to make ceilidhs (visits), play tunes, sing songs, and share memories, dancing, stories, and laughter.

Tourism on this part of the island, whether by coincidence or design, often sparks a visitor's connection to the place, and/or the people and/or cultures that thrive here.

You will go back after a visit here and

tell the stories of what you saw, who you met, and what experiences you had/shared, and you will likely feel a pull or a longing to dig deeper and seek out other stories from or about this place. You will realize that the only way to recapture that feeling of connection is to return again and again.

This season we say, "Welcome to the sunset side of Cape Breton. We invite you to get to know this place. We're not about flashy exhibitions or attractions (although we have some of those too!); our strengths lie in our culture, our heritage, and spectacles of nature. We want you to

know our stories, hear our music, walk our woodland paths and trails, and explore the contours of the coastlines.

We hope this guide assists you in discovering or rediscovering the sunset side of Cape Breton.

Enjoy safe and happy travels. We wish you all the best in your visit this year!

DISCLAIMER: While considerable effort has been made to provide accurate information, we take no responsibility for any errors or omissions. The ultimate responsibility for safety lies solely with the user of this guide. Maps are not intended for navigational purposes.



Photo by: John Gillis

EMAIL: ORAN@NS.ALIANTZINC.CA WWW.INVERNESSORAN.CA

PICK UP THE CURRENT ISSUE WEDNESDAY OR CHECK US OUT ONLINE ANY TIME FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION...

COVERING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS ON THE SUNSET SIDE OF CAPE BRETON!

•CEILIDHS

•FESTIVALS

•SQUARE DANCES

•OUTDOOR CONCERTS

15767 CENTRAL AVENUE, INVERNESS, NS, B0E 1N0 TEL: 902-258-2253/3400 FAX: 902-258-2632

Housekeeping tips for enjoying outdoor activities

It’s quite evident to anyone who lives or visits here that we are blessed in Inverness County with a beautiful environment – beautiful ocean vistas, vast beaches and sand dune systems, green fields and forests, all teeming with wildlife. Having said that, there are a few housekeeping requests that will help preserve and enhance the enjoyment of our great outdoors. In short: please don’t litter, follow good beach etiquette, and remember that wildlife is “wild.”

Garbage and recycling

Plastic Free July is a global movement of millions of people who are working – and playing – to be part of the plastic pollution crisis. Every year, 8 million metric tonnes of plastic enter the ocean – that’s the equivalent to one garbage truck full of plastic every minute! So, it is evident that littering remains one of the ways we can ruin the beauty and health of our natural environment.

There are many local initiatives aimed at keeping our roadsides and beaches clean, such as the Inverness County Waste Services Department’s Beach Clean-Up Bingo, designed so that residents can have fun while keeping our beaches clean and pristine, and the many volunteer roadside clean-up days held by individual communities throughout the county. There are many residents throughout the county who have developed the habit of carrying a garbage bag to pick up litter as they take their daily walk. There are trucks conveniently located in many communities that accept refundables as a method of fundraising for local community initiatives.

Despite these initiatives, combatting litter is a constant struggle. So help us out! Live faithfully by the “pack it in, pack it out” rule. Garbage and recycling receptacles are provided in many trail parking areas. Refundables can be donated or taken to the municipal recycling depot in Inverness. To find out about local recycling and refundables, refer to the chart on the back inside cover of this publication.

Beach etiquette

Beach etiquette is another topic where awareness has been raised in recent years. Beachcombers are encouraged to keep on the beaten path and not to disturb the sand dunes that are already being impacted by soil erosion in many areas and that are often home to nesting birds. And if you are enjoying time on the beach, remember to leave nothing behind except your sandcastles and beach stone creations!

Wildlife

If you hike our many trails, you are likely to encounter a variety of wildlife. Deer, bears, moose, beavers, lynx, bobcats, eagles, hawks, piping plovers, and many smaller animals and birds are frequently sighted on or near trails. Remember that wildlife is “wild.” It’s best to enjoy these sightings from a safe distance and not to feed or unnecessarily disturb any animals you encounter.

Keeping these tips in mind will make the outdoor experiences on the Sunset Side of Cape Breton more enjoyable for everyone.

to niche boutiques and gift shops. Many of the retail businesses are locally owned/operated. The businesses play a vital role in the success of our communities offering support that ranges from sponsorship to a spot to sell raffle tickets.

♪ The bright silver stars in the skies over Inverness County shine as brightly as any city lights plus they are abundant, all natural, renewable, and sustainable.

♪ No matter your status in life away from Inverness County, while on the roads you’re going to be greeted by the same two-fingered steering wheel wave from local drivers in oncoming vehicles.

♪ Back road tours are a great way to see the nooks and crannies of Inverness County and test your sense of adventure. GPS-guided back-road tours, however, have been known to result in search and rescue missions and various other mishaps. Get directions and travel tips from a human.

♪ Many of the trails you will hike and the places you will visit are maintained and cared for by volunteers. Be kind, pack it in, pack it out, leave no trace. Thank you.

♪ If someone has told you that the weather may call for shorts, a sundress, and a snowsuit all in one day, they are exaggerating. But a hat, a sweater, or fleece jacket in your bag is never a waste of space.

♪ We have lots to see and much to offer you but one of the things we do best is music. Artists from the west coast of this east coast island have earned nominations and awards including ECMAs, Junos, Folk Alliance and Canadian Folk Music awards, and Grammys. Folk music and fiddles are what many associate with this area but indie rock, alternative, classical, and country music artists thrive here too.

♪ We have the conveniences of all the latest technology, but you can usually get information from the people much faster than it takes to do a search relying on rural internet.

Need-to-knows about Inverness County

A lighthearted look at life in this ruggedly beautiful place from the perspective of the people who call it home.

So, you’ve found your way to Inverness County, what do you do now? The short answer is a little of everything. The food, the cultures, the music, the dancing, the art, the work of the artisans, the whisky, the beer, the golf; these experiences won’t be found anywhere else quite like this. Our sunsets are always in season and easily accessible from our beaches, hiking trails, boardwalks and backroads.

Bienvenue. Failte. Pijila’si. Welcome.

♪ This part of the island is built upon a foundation of people whose cultural values are rooted in hospitality and kindness. Our languages are poetic and lyrical and laced with good-natured humour. Our traditions are filled with the understanding of our history and the knowledge of who we are.

♪ In one day in Inverness County you could play a game of golf, hike a trail, listen to at least one language that isn’t English, tour a distillery, sample a flight at a craft brewery, walk a beach, watch a sunset, and still have time for a seafood dinner.

♪ It’s okay to be in awe of everything you see and do here. We are too.

♪ Shopping options on the sunset side range from national chains

Winding your way along Canada’s Musical Coast

Inverness County is known as Canada’s Musical Coast. We are a place whose earliest settlers were primarily Acadian French and Gaels, welcomed and guided by Indigenous people who inhabited the land thousands of years before the settlers arrived.

As you travel along the sunset side of Cape Breton, you are never far from the song of the sea; sounds of breaking ocean waves on sandy beaches or lapping along the shores of the Bras d’Or Lake which has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Music plays a vital economic role in the sustainability of this region. In a typical summer, weekly concerts and dances are fundraising mainstays for many communities. Local establishments offering live music draw visitors and patrons, providing economic opportunities for professional musicians. Learning opportunities invite people to experience our vibrant and diverse cultures through dance or song or instrument lessons. Toes are once again tapping at dance halls, larger performance stages, and at live music events.

Music in Inverness County has historical significance as well. In 1853, the community of Whycocomagh hosted a gathering of 5,000 - 7,000 who sang Gaelic songs on a hillside. It is thought to be the largest gathering of people to participate in a Gaelic music event in Nova Scotia, if not in all of Canada. In 1972, a documentary called *The Vanishing Cape Breton Fiddler*, produced by Ron MacInnis, theorized that the traditional music of Cape Breton was dying. In 1973, the Cape Breton Fiddlers’ Association unveiled a festival in response to this documentary proving that the tradition was very much alive. One-hundred-and-thirty fiddlers of various ages gathered in Glendale on the grounds of St. Mary of the Angel’s parish for a weekend of music. The festival was a pivotal point in cultural development in this area, as it was a key motivator in securing the future of Cape Breton fiddle music. Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Cape Breton Fiddlers’ Association.

Inverness County is home to worldwide ambassadors of traditional Cape Breton music such as Natalie MacMaster, Heather Rankin, Ronald Bourgeois, and Beolach. MacMaster and Bourgeois were recently recognized with the Order of Nova Scotia for their long-time contributions to music and culture. Rock and folk/rock artists like

The Town Heroes and Villages have deep roots in Inverness County that influence the music they create, as does



Communities that have EV charging stations are indicated on the map on page 3.

The Municipality of the County of Inverness has installed five EV charging stations (J-1772) in the county. They are located at:

- Celtic Music Interpretive Centre:** 5471 Route 19, Judique
- Port Hood Municipal Building:** 375 Main Street, Port Hood
- Inverness (near to Missbrennas):** 32 Broad Cove Banks Road
- Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre:** 9650 Highway 105
- Mi-Carême Centre:** 51 Old Cabot Trail, Grand Etang

the folk/rock and country artist, Aaron MacDonald. Choirs such as Inverness County Singers and Le Choeur du Havre, usually rehearse throughout the year and present concert performances each year.

This year, to get you on your way, we have prepared Spotify playlists to provide you with a sampling of what the musicians of the sunset side have to offer. The musicians selected for these playlists range from internationally acclaimed artists to those that are legends in their home towns. Their offerings include instrumental/Celtic tunes, folk, rap, singer/songwriter, rock, and everything in between! You will find songs in English, Gaelic, Mi’qmaq, and French.

As you wind your way along this musical coast, you can listen to the tunes of Beolach, Ashley MacIsaac, and Natalie MacMaster as you pass through Creignish or you may stop at Christy’s Lookoff and imagine Christy Ellen Francis, a beloved mother and grandmother, putting 32 mittens on the hands of 16 children, as depicted in Madison Violet’s song Christy Ellen Francis.

Passing through Judique you may think of Buddy MacMaster, the contemporary group Alvways, and singer/songwriter Lisa Cameron. You can hear the Rankin Family’s song Lonely Island as Port Hood Island comes into view. You will recognize many of the place names in songs such as The Orangedale Whistle and the anthemic The Mull River Shuffle, and tunes such as The West Mabou Set or The Cheticamp Set.

To access the playlists, scan the QR codes below: You have a choice of a fully instrumental/Celtic playlist, a playlist of lyric-based pieces (singer/songwriter), or a playlist that combines both.

Whether you drive, cycle, hike, sail, or paddle your way around, you can find music throughout Inverness County. Whatever path you follow on the sunset side and whatever playlist you choose, we hope you enjoy the music we have selected! If you particularly enjoy a performer, keep your eyes and ears open because you just might have a chance to hear them live during your travels.



Celtic/Instrumental



Mixed genres



Singer/Songwriter

Some businesses in the county have also installed EV charging stations (J-1772) as well. They are located at:

- The Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre:** 606 Reeves Street (J-1772, Wall)
- Gateway Hyundai:** 42 Paint Street, Port Hawkesbury
- Nova Scotia Power:** 24 Paint Street, Port Hawkesbury
- Glenora Distillery:** 13727 Highway 19, Mabou
- Cape Breton - Chéticamp Visitor Centre:** 16648 Cabot Trail (J-1772, Tesla)
- Cape Breton - MacIntosh Brook Trailhead:** Cape Breton Highlands National Park, 24150 Cabot Trail Road, Pleasant Bay (J-1772, Tesla)

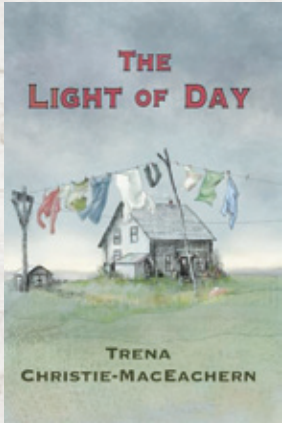
Inverness County authors receive critical acclaim locally and abroad

When one thinks of Cape Breton and Inverness County, one often thinks of its rich musical heritage and its scenic beauty.

While this is so, there is also a very rich writing heritage in this part of the island, one that has often in the past been understated.

Some authors were born here and created their work. Others who were born here spent much of their adult lives living away. Some moved here from afar or live or lived here seasonally. Very often however, it is island life, stories, characters, culture, and history that have inspired their creations.

While this in no way attempts to be complete list of the



In addition to being successful authors, Inverness County natives **Tom Ryan** (*Keep This To Yourself*) and **Kate Beaton** (*Pinecone and Pony*) are seeing their works being turned into television and film projects.

2023 was an especially successful year for Kate Beaton's new graphic novel, *Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands*. In this work Beaton has created a highly-original work that has made top reading lists internationally, being on the *New York Times* best seller list, getting listed on former U.S. President Barack Obama's 13 favourite books of 2022 list and winning the 2023 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's *Canada Reads* contest just

to name a few of its recent accolades.

Morgan Murray made a huge splash across Canada in recent years with his hugely successful novel, *Dirty Birds*.

Rebecca Silver Slayter is artistic director of Cabot Trail Writers Festival and the author of the novels *In the Land of the Birdfishes* and *The Second History*.

Mary Janet MacDonald has had a tremendous success both in print and online with *Tunes and Wooden Spoons*, a recipe book inspired by her mother. She followed up with another delightful recipe book, *Tunes and Wooden Spoons: Love Without Measure*, which builds on her initial offering. The book is full of delicious foods from other grandmothers' kitchens, along with stories profiling many of the women who were involved with the content of the book, women who were kitchen stalwarts over the years. She shares stories about food, culture, and personal histories, stories paying tribute to strong women here and everywhere.

The Broken Ground, The Story of the Inverness Coal Mines is a recent DVD based on the book of the same name by the late local historian, **Ned MacDonald**. The DVD is presented by the Inverness Miners Museum, a Liam Alexander film, produced by Terry MacDonald with a running time of 75 minutes. It's the story of "how wealthy foreign developers arrive from across the world to extract the black gold from the depths."

Inverness native **Michael S. Ryan** and **Kristen Herrington** are the co-authors of *You and Me: Travel, Misadventures and Love Around the World*.

Brenda MacLennan Dunphy is known as a playwright and for her active role as a director of local theatre as well as being the author of the novels *Never Speak of this Again* and *The Silence of the Vessel*.

Anne Levesque of Strathorne is the author of the novel, *Lucy Cloud*. Acadian author **Keigan Deveau** is the writer of a children's book, *T-Rexie*. **Lynn Coady** is the author of *Hellgoing*, *The Antagonist* and *Watching You Watching Me*.

Oisín Curran is the author of *Mopus and Blood Fable*. **Sarah Faber** is the author of *All Is Beauty Now*.

Susan Paddon authored a book of poetry titled *Two Tragedies in 429 Breaths*.

Gaelic artist **Emily MacDonald** is the author of *Bodkin Beag and Bodkin Mor*.

The late **Dr. James O. St. Clair**, historian and educator, was an author whose weekly heritage column *Then and Now* was a staple in *The Inverness*

many authors of the area, it may provide an inspiration or a place to start "reading local" and will give you a sense of the wide range of interesting literary works and the depth of the literary creativity of the multitude of authors who have called the sunset side of Cape Breton Island home.

While it might be a challenge to find some of these publications, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for these or other titles when you are in gift shops, hardware stores, grocery stores, thrift shops, or other spaces in Cape Breton that may sell books. Otherwise, many can be found online or at a local library.

Oran newspaper for decades. Jim's book titles include *Nancy's Wedding Feast* and *MacCallum House 1798*.

Inverness author **Frank Macdonald** is a retired journalist who has been writing a weekly opinion column in *The Inverness Oran* for more than four decades. Macdonald is also known for his works of poetry and his fiction titles including: *Tinker and Blue*, *A Forest for Calum*, *The Smeltdog Man* and *T.R.'s Adventures at Angus the Wheeler's* which was illustrated by his wife, the late Virginia McCoy. He is also the author of the award-winning play, *Her Wake*.

The late, great author **Alistair MacLeod** put Cape Breton Island on the map with his highly respected works in the short story genre. MacLeod spent much of his career teaching literature at The University of Windsor but would continue to spend summers home in Inverness County throughout his life. Many of his works were inspired by Cape Breton Island and include such classics as *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood*, *As Birds Bring Forth the Sun and Other Stories*, *Island* (a collection), *No Great Mischief* (a novel), *Remembrance* and *To Everything There Is a Season* with illustrations by Peter Rankin.

Alexander MacLeod (*Light Lifting*, *Animal Person*), son of Alistair and Anita MacLeod, has followed closely in his father's footsteps in many ways. Dr. MacLeod, a professor of Creative Writing, Literature and Atlantic Canadian Studies at Saint Mary's University, was born in Inverness and raised in Windsor, Ontario. Alexander acknowledges the strong influence of his parents in the dedication of his second book of short stories (*Animal Person*) and his critically acclaimed stories have attracted rave reviews and loyal reading audiences the world over.

Clive Doucet is known for his novel *My Grandfather's Cape Breton*. He is also a frequent contributor to *The Inverness Oran* where he publishes *Everyday Poems* and *Talking to Bees*.

The late **Tessie Gillis** is remembered as the author of *The Woman From Away*.

Painter **Robert Selkowitz** created a beautiful work illustrated with many of his finest paintings in *A Painter's Path on Cape Breton Island*.

Poet **Joyce Rankin** has produced works of poetry with her titles *At My Mother's Door* and *The Wedding Reels*.

In addition to having a stellar career as a journalist, author **Linden MacIntyre** is also known for his novels *Causeway*, *The Bishop's Man*, *The Only Café*, *The Winter Wives*, and *The Wake*.

Trena Christie-MacEachern of Judique is the author of *The Light of Day*, published in 2023.

Wesley Beaton and **Nicole Aucoin** co-authored *Beer League Girls*. **Paul K. MacNeil** of Mabou is the author of *Maggie Nora Liza Mhor*.

Deborah Graham of Judique is the author of *Weaving a Village Together*, a book which is illustrated by local artist Diane MacInnis.

The late **Ray Smith**, **Effie Rankin**, writer and editor **Ronald Caplan** and the late **Dr. and Rev. M.M. Coady** are just some of the other Cape Breton authors you may wish to explore.

Caplan for many years produced *Cape Breton's Magazine* and has edited numerous works featuring Cape Breton and Inverness County subjects including a highly popular annual series of *Cape Breton's Christmas Stories*.

Last year, the community of Glencoe Mills published a parish history called *Up in Glencoe (Àite Cruinneachaich (A Gathering Place))*. Glencoe is also home to the renowned Glencoe Mills family square dances.

Perhaps we have piqued your interest or curiosity with some of these authors and titles. If so, enjoy the adventure and the stories.

Lighthouses of Inverness County

The lighthouses in Inverness County have offered a beacon of hope and guidance for many seafarers, sailors, and fishermen over many years.

In addition to the Balache Point Lighthouse in Port Hastings, featured in this guide, there are numerous other lighthouses in Inverness County that you may see in your travels.

They include: Henry Island Lighthouse, Mabou Harbour Lighthouse, Margaree Island Lighthouse, Margaree Harbour Lighthouse, Cameron Island Lighthouse in Orangedale, Cheticamp Harbour Lighthouse, Caveau Point Rear Range Lighthouse in Cheticamp, and Phantom Point Lighthouse in Pleasant Bay.

According to the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society, the Henry Island Lighthouse was built in 1902 at a cost of \$3,489. The light was electrified in 1985. Henry Island has been privately owned since 1992. The island is maintained by the Henry Island Preservation Society, an Affiliate Member of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society.

The Mabou Harbour Lighthouse is located off Mabou Harbour Road and it was established in 1884. It has a tower height of



Photo by: John Gillis

Provincial Parks on the Sunset Side

Nova Scotia and western Cape Breton is home to many beautiful provincial parks. Included in this list in Inverness County are Port Hood Station Provincial Park where one can stroll along the beach and enjoy a beautiful sunset; Whycocomagh Provincial Park with its camping facilities; Mabou Provincial Park, a day park which is great for its view of the countryside; West Mabou Beach Provincial Park with its wonderful beach and noted hiking trails; South West Margaree Provincial Park, Lake O'Law Provincial Park, and a newly designated Orangedale Provincial Park which make great rest stops along scenic views. Remember to always pack out what you pack in.

Visitor Information Centres

There are five seasonal information centres where you can get up-to-date information on events and attractions in local communities. They are conveniently located in the following communities:

- Port Hastings (902-625-4201)
- Mabou (902-945-2292)
- Inverness (902-258-3740)
- Margaree Forks (902-248-2356)
- Cheticamp (902-224-2642)





PORT HASTINGS

At a Glance

Welcome to Cape Breton! Port Hastings is the first place to see on Cape Breton Island. This community offers a visitor the chance to stop, look and learn about our island, get some travel advice, grab a snack, or take a deep breath before launching into your Cape Breton adventure.

Places to Eat: A&W, Port Hawkesbury Motel (Hearthstone Inn)

Places to Sleep: motels, B&B, cottages

Places to Stop: Nova Scotia Visitor Information Centre and Cape Breton Store, Genealogy/History/Archives: Port Hastings Museum, Pioneer Cemetery

Amenities: Gas station, convenience store, post office, Visitor Information Centre

Churches: St. David's United, 902-625-2178

Port Hastings Gateway to the sunset side

As you cross the Canso Causeway, you arrive in the village of Port Hastings. It is primarily a residential community located next door to the Town of Port Hawkesbury. Canadian author Linden MacIntyre lived here in his youth and has used the community and surrounding places along Route 19 as settings or backdrops for his novels. Port Hastings is where the sunset side of Cape Breton begins.

One of the first stops in the community is the Visitor Information Centre operated by the Province of Nova Scotia. Staff in the centre are well informed about places to stay, spots to eat, and things to do around Inverness County and throughout Cape Breton. There are also services such as internet, washrooms, picnic tables, a gift shop, and information brochures.

This summer may see continued construction of the new and improved rotary which aims to make improvements for drivers navigating the Strait area in and out of Cape Breton.

Across the rotary from the Visitor Information Centre are the Port Hastings Museum and Archives and St. David's United Church. The displays and archives inside the museum tell the stories about the communities of Mulgrave, Port Hastings, and Port Hawkesbury, as well as surrounding places like Rhodena, Long Stretch Road, or Troy. The museum has collections of

continued on next page

Port Hastings: Gateway to the sunset side

hundreds of photographs, archival records, genealogical records, and other artifacts about the area from the time of settlement in 1788 through the time of construction of the Canso Causeway that opened in 1955. There is also information about the impact rails and sails had on this port community.

The museum houses a craft shop featuring quilts and hand-crafts of local artisans, and there is a picnic site in front of the building. Full hours of operation will be posted on the Museum's Facebook page when the opening is confirmed.

There will be a five-day Quilt Sale and Show at St. David's United Church in Port Hastings from August 2nd to 5th from

10:00 a.m. through to 6:00 p.m. daily. Admission is a free-will offering. St. David's United Church was established as the first Presbyterian church in Cape Breton when it opened in 1829. The current building was officially opened in 1855 and still holds services weekly.

Port Hastings is also the launch point of the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail, a 92-kilometre section of the Trans Canada trail stretching along the west coast of Cape Breton to the town of Inverness. Celtic Shores is a multi-use trail meaning it's accessible to hikers, cyclists, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles.

Port Hastings is where your Cape Breton adventure begins.

Balache Point Range Lighthouse

Canso Strait, also known as the Gut of Canso, separates Cape Breton Island from the Nova Scotia mainland.

As industry on Cape Breton grew, due mainly to coal mines and steel plants, so did demand for a railway and road for Canso Strait. Though early proposals called for a long bridge to span the strait, in 1952, work began on a causeway that would cross the strait. Over 10 million tons of rock were quarried from Cape Porcupine to construct the causeway, which was completed on April 13th, 1955, and carries a two-lane highway and a single rail track.

A canal and swing bridge were built at the Cape Breton end of the causeway so ships could continue to utilize the time-saving shortcut the strait had previously offered.

With a width of 832 metres, the narrowest point in Canso Strait is defined by the precipitous Cape Porcupine on the mainland and Balache Point (also known as McMillan Point) on Cape Breton Island.

A lighthouse, as described in the Annual Report of the Department of Marine, was built to mark this narrow section of the strait in 1905.

A lighthouse tower was erected on McMillan point (Balache Point), Gut of Canso, and the light put in operation on December 1st, 1905.

Balache Point Lighthouse was discontinued when the causeway neared completion, but in 1963, a set of range lights was established on Balache Point to guide vessels to the northern entrance to the canal. The front and rear range lights were both displayed from square, wooden towers, until a skeletal tower was put in place for the front light in 1991. The rear tower is situated on a grassy knoll on Balache Point that is home to a cemetery. This is believed to be the only lighthouse in Canada located in a cemetery. The oldest of the six headstones standing in the cemetery is for Douce Elizabeth Belhache, who died on July 23rd, 1795, at the age of six.

As you drive east across Canso Causeway to reach Cape Breton Island, park on the south side of the swing bridge at Canso Canal for good views of Balache Point Range Lights.

The lighthouse is owned by the Canadian Coast Guard. Grounds/tower is closed.

Celtic Shores Coastal Trail

The Celtic Shores Coastal Trail is a multi-use trail that runs for 92 kilometers (57 miles) along the sunset side of Cape Breton. It stretches from Port Hastings to the community of Inverness, offering well-maintained and groomed trails for off-road cycling or long-distance trekking. The easy, flat trail meanders along the coastline, through wilderness, and over streams, following the route that trains once travelled delivering goods and goodies from the mainland, carrying residents away to adventures all over the world, bringing loved ones safely home, including soldiers from foreign battlefields. It is an ideal attraction for runners, cyclists, bird watchers, photographers, artists, and dreamers.

The Celtic Shores Coastal Trail begins at Port Hastings, just as you cross the Canso Causeway. The first four kilometres are rugged and windswept as the trail is level with the water; it is not recommended for cyclists, but it is an adventurous hike. This is the section where you will walk closest to the ocean. You will feel the roll of the sea and experience waves crashing at your feet. On windy days, spray from higher waves is possible so pack or dress appropriately.

For cyclists, the best place to pick up the trail is a few kilometres along Route 19 at Troy Station. The trail here is flat, wide, and well maintained. As the name implies, the trail head is near what once was a train station where people stopped along their journey. Just as a train station

offers travellers a chance to move around, get a breath of fresh air, and perhaps a little nourishment, Troy Station offers ample parking, picnic tables, and benches to sit and view spectacular scenes of the ocean or watch for eagles, herons, or other wildlife.

The trail continues along through Creignish and Craigmore. You will see, hear, and smell the sea all along this

continued on page 17

Port Hastings
#357 Highway #4,
902-625-0033

HOURS OF OPERATION:
7AM-10PM MONDAY TO SUNDAY

TOWNOFPORTHAWKESBURY.CA | 902-625-2591

SPEND YOUR Summer WITH US

Watch out for events happening **all summer!** Visit our website for more details.

Cool down on hot days with our **splash pad!**

Work up a sweat with a game of **basketball!**

Enjoy free outdoor concerts happening Sundays from July 7 - August 11 at **Granville Green!**

Spend some time exploring our beautiful **walking trails!**

PORT HAWKESBURY
Opportunities Await

f @townofporthawkesbury t @PHCivic



Photo by: Murdo Ferguson



TOWN OF PORT HAWKESBURY

At a Glance

Port Hawkesbury is Cape Breton's front porch. The town has a long history with the sea. Ships and fishing vessels were built here in the early and mid-1800s. Port Hawkesbury continued to grow as a port when railway connections were made to the rest of Canada. Today it is a centre of commerce and industry on the west side of Cape Breton.

Places to Eat: A variety of fast food outlets, A1 Pizza, Millers Pub, Papa's Pub, Fleur de Lis Tearoom, China King

Places to Sleep: Maritime Inn, B&Bs

Places to Stop: Port Hawkesbury Waterfront, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre (J. Franklin Wright Gallery, Shannon Studio, Bear Head Conference Room, YMCA fitness facilities), Customs House Artisan Incubator

Trails: Community Woodland Trails, waterfront boardwalk

Amenities: gas stations, larger grocery stores, hardware/sporting goods/automotive repair, Port Hawkesbury Centre (shopping mall, various retail outlets), pharmacies, churches, hair care, aesthetic services, library, CAP (public internet access) site, post office

Music: Port Hawkesbury Ceilidhs (Tuesdays at 7:30 pm), Granville Green (Sundays at 7 pm)

Churches: St. Joseph's Roman Catholic, 902-625-1045; St. Mark's United, 902-625-2229

Port Hawkesbury: A summer of fun

Although situated in the County of Inverness, the Town of Port Hawkesbury has been incorporated as a town since 1889. It is governed by a mayor and councillors and sits between the Canso Causeway at Port Hastings and Point Tupper, Richmond County to its south.

Port Hawkesbury was formerly known as Ship Harbour and it has long been a busy shipping and industrial centre on the southern tip of Inverness County. It is home to a large pulp and paper mill, which has been a dominant employer for the area as well as other heavy industry, especially in the nearby Point Tupper area. The town was also home to a ferry service and railway station, which were very busy prior to the completion of the Canso Causeway in 1955.

Port Hawkesbury today remains an important service and shopping centre for the quad counties of Inverness, Richmond, Antigonish, and Guysborough. It also hosts several fun activities and events throughout the summer months.

Summer in the Town of Port Hawkesbury starts to heat up around the weekend leading up to Canada Day, July 1st.

The Granville Green series celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and will take place from July 7th to August 11th. These concerts run every Sunday evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. and are considered family events. For a list of featured artists, see the schedule on page 1 of this publication.

Then the Tuesday night Port Hawkesbury Ceilidhs at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre (606 Reeves Street) will run every Tuesday starting early July until early October. Concerts take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$15 and you can pay at the door.

The annual Festival of the Strait will run this year from July

4th to July 7th. Festival of the Strait is full of free events for the community and visitors. Additional details were not available prior to press time. For a complete schedule of events, watch the Festival of the Strait Facebook page.

The Port Hawkesbury Trails are a place for you to enjoy the beauty of nature right in your backyard. The trails are comprised of approximately 10 kilometres of natural woodland with groomed walkways for your use. Trail maps are available at the Town of Port Hawkesbury or online at www.townofporthawkesbury.ca.

If you are interested in some free play, the Port Hawkesbury playground is the place for you. Ballfields, tennis courts, lit basketball courts, play structures, and an amazing splash pad are here for your enjoyment. The playground is located behind the Port Hawkesbury Shopping Centre and has activities for all ages.

For information about summer events in Port Hawkesbury, visit www.townofporthawkesbury.ca, or see *The Inverness Oran* published on Wednesdays for the latest updates. Many people in Port Hawkesbury area also tune in to the local radio station, 101.5 FM The Hawk, for local and regional news, community events, and music.



CUSTOMS HOUSE
ARTISAN INCUBATOR

TAKE A PIECE OF CAPE BRETON HOME

Find quality craft created by our artists in residence and other Cape Breton artists at the Customs House located in downtown Port Hawkesbury.

#ILOVEBCRAFT

CAPEBRETONCRAFT.COM/CUSTOMSHOUSE | 402 GRANVILLE STREET, PORT HAWKESBURY | 902 625 1928

Port Hawkesbury Community Trails

The Port Hawkesbury Community trails are conveniently located in and around the Town of Port Hawkesbury.

This wonderful system of all-season trails will appeal to both the avid and casual hiker. Discover a wide variety of plants and wildlife as the 10-kilometre trail system winds its way through majestic hardwood stands, softwood forests, and along gently flowing brooks and streams. A series of rest areas inviting you to stop and enjoy the surrounding scenery can be found throughout the trail. Trail users are encouraged to “pack it in and pack it out” with any garbage.

Parking is located at Grant’s Pond, Crandall Road, the Recreation Grounds, and Tamarac Education Centre. Look for the trail signs at these entry points – with helpful orientation signage featured along the trail system.

The Port Hawkesbury Community Trails system includes the Hemlock Trail (2900 m), Maple Trail (2680 m), Spruce Trail (600 m), Tamarac Trail (1620 m), and the Centennial Woodland Trail.

The trail system connects to the highway, sidewalk sections, and active transportation lanes. There is a lookoff and a waterfall and ample areas for parking.

The trails and walking areas also connect to a number of recreational opportunities in the town. Near the trails is a tennis court, a playground, a splash pad, basketball court, soccer field, baseball field, swimming pool, curling club, a school, a college, library, opportunities for live music, and shopping. We have included here a hiking trail map from The Town of Port Hawkesbury website for additional information.

While in the area, check out local shopping opportunities, the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre, or attend an art show there at its J. Franklin Wright Gallery.

There’s plenty to do in Port Hawkesbury. On summer Sunday evenings, check out the free Granville Green outdoor concert series featuring the finest in local, regional, or national musical talent.



Best pizza and... coldest beer in town

- FULLY LICENSED
- AWESOME DAILY SPECIALS
- FRESH BAKED DESSERTS
- FINEST SEAFOOD

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Wednesday WING NITE

714 REEVES ST., PORT HAWKESBURY

For prices & menu visit A1pizzaphk.com

A1 Pizza 902-625-0000
305 Reeves St., Port Hawkesbury

Marilyn Ellison Photography
marilyn.ellison@yahoo.com

Granville Green 2024

Granville Green is a free outdoor concert series held at the bandshell on Granville Street in Port Hawkesbury. This year marks the 30th anniversary of this popular series.

The 2024 Granville Green concert series will launch on Sunday, July 7th, and continues each Sunday to August 11th. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and are considered family events. For a full list of performers, see the ad on page 1 of this publication. Over the past three decades the concert series has featured a stellar list of local, regional, and national performers.

The bandshell is located near Port Hawkesbury's waterfront, offering the chance to take in the sea air, see the sun set, and listen to music provided by some of the hottest acts in the industry, as well as long-time favourites.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a lawn chair, a blanket, a picnic supper if you wish, or grab a snack from the food vendors on site, and enjoy the evening. In the case of inclement weather, the shows will be held in the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. Social media updates will be provided.

For full details of the summer schedule visit granvillegreen.ca or the Town of Port Hawkesbury on social media.

As you enjoy our great outdoors be vigilant for ticks!

It is a great time of year to enjoy the outdoors, but we need to be aware and careful in areas where there may be blacklegged ticks (also called deer ticks). These ticks can carry the germ that causes a bacterial infection called Lyme disease. Deer ticks are found across Nova Scotia, so it is important to be vigilant and take simple preventative measures. For more information regarding deer ticks and Lyme disease please visit <http://www.novascotia.ca/hpp/cdpc/lyme.asp> or call Public Health at 1-888-823-8224.

J. Franklin Wright Gallery

The J. Franklin Wright Gallery in The Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre has exhibited many wonderful art and craft shows during the time of its existence.

The Civic Centre is located at 606 Reeves Street in Port Hawkesbury.

The gallery is named in honour of the late J. Franklin Wright, a renowned marine painter from Port Hawkesbury, and it is an important cultural space for the local and wider community.

Individuals or groups have had invitations to display their work, pending approval of the art gallery committee, and The J. Franklin Wright Gallery has a selection committee which makes recommendations concerning gallery shows to its larger committee from time to time.

The gallery has welcomed submissions on the Town of Port Hawkesbury website and over the years has provided opportunity for local, regional, and artists from further abroad to showcase their works in various media and genres in the Civic Centre. The gallery has also welcomed exhibition proposals from artists at all stages of their careers and as an example, it has regularly been a venue for showcasing student art works in May and June.

If you have an interest in the visual arts, be sure to stop in and see what is on display!

Locals say when you leave our island,
a piece of your heart remains.
I can help you find that missing piece!



Heidi Arbeau-Wood
REALTOR® with Engel & Völkers
+1 902 955 8377
heidi.arbeau-wood@evrealestate.com



SERVING THE SUNSET SIDE OF CAPE BRETON

Celtic Shore Coastal Trail *continued from page 11*

section. There will also be opportunity to get a glimpse of fishing boats reaping sea harvests or the occasional sailboat from the trail that looks over St. George's Bay. There are public washrooms at the Creignish Recreation Centre, as well as other pit stop necessities such as picnic tables and benches. Christy's Lookoff in Craigmore is another trailhead with parking just off Route 19. This is a perfect spot for photographers looking to capture a magnificent sunset or watch for pods of pilot whales and seals.

The next section of the trail is known as the Judique Flyer Trail. Over the next several kilometres you will view breathtaking seascapes and skylines as the trail hugs the shoreline. This part of the trail is built on cliffs that are 21 metres above Centennial Beach. Watching the waves crash against the shore is all at once awe inspiring and mesmerising.

An interpretive panel at St. Michael's Pioneer Cemetery tells the story of the area, particularly the old Walkers Cove Wharf and Cannery. In 1935, a small freighter known as the *Hurry On* sunk just off the shore in Judique claiming six lives. The six came ashore at Walkers Cove. The trail comes to an intersection with Centennial Road where there is a small parking lot and a path down to the shore. The shore offers views of Port Hood Island and Henry Island and the contours of the mainland shoreline across the bay.

Baxter's Cove Look Off is the next trailhead. Here you will find parking, picnic shelters, and interpretive panels that tell you a bit about the area. Walk a little way of the trail here to visit Baxter's Cove public beach and wharf. This is one of only two known saltwater fishing seaports located directly on the 22,000 kilometre Trans Canada Trail in Canada, the other being Squamish, BC.

For the next two kilometres northbound there's a large wetland teeming with flora and waterfowl and then you arrive the centre of the community of Judique. There is access to a beach and a picnic area to the west of the trail at The Alexander Trail crossing. Travelling east about 700 metres on the Alexander Trail will take you to the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre (CMIC). During the warm months, the CMIC features live Celtic music daily, an interpretive museum, gift shop, and a restaurant. In the community core you will find The Tartan Gardens, St. Andrew's Parish, St. David's Pioneer Cemetery, a convenience store (selling cold beer, wine, and spirits), an ice cream shop, automotive service, and fuel.

As you move past Judique, the trail begins to turn inland. Instead of sweeping seascape vistas, there are shallow flats near harbours, wetlands, and rivers from Judique through to Port Hood. In Port Hood you'll find incredible beaches, a bakery/tearoom, casual dining, and places for a picnic meal. There are gift shops, a grocery store, a credit union for banking needs, and a hardware store.

The Chestico section of the trail carries on for a few more

kilometres through canopies of trees along the Southwest Mabou River, leading to the next section of trail: Mabou Rivers Trail. This section covers 21 kilometres of rivers, meadows, and woodlands, making for opportunities to see a variety of plants and wildflowers, otters at play, beavers at work, eagles, Canada geese, and wild ducks. The village of Mabou is home to the legendary Red Shoe Pub as well as Beaton's Delight Coffee, an ice cream shop, and Mabou River Inn. There is a marina in the heart of the village that offers front row seats for a nightly show of dazzling colours during sunset, as well as a calm early morning spot to enjoy a thermos of coffee. Mabou also has a grocery store, a gas station, and a credit union.

Beyond Mabou you stay inland as you travel through Blackstone and Kenloch where there are lots of opportunities to catch a glimpse of various species of birds, eagles, small wildlife such as rabbits and foxes, as well as larger animals such as deer, bears, and even perhaps moose. In Deepdale, as you get nearer to the end of the trail, you'll cross the grandest of all the 26 bridges on the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail. The Deepdale Trestle is over 91 metres long and nearly 30.5 metres in the air.

And as you come to the end of the trail in the community of Inverness you reunite with the ocean. Inverness Harbour is filled with colourful fishing boats throughout the summer, resting safely after a day's work on the sea. Cabot Links Golf Course is also just beyond the Inverness Shean Trailhead. There are picnic sites, interpretive panels, and benches that offer a chance to get acquainted with the community of Inverness. Amenities such as grocery shopping, a pharmacy, gift shops, banking facilities, post office, coffee shops, several eateries, and a craft brewery are all within walking distance of the trail. Inverness Beach and its legendary sunsets and view to Margaree (Sea Wolf) Island are just at the bottom of Beach Road #1.

The Celtic Shore Coastal Trail that connects several communities across Inverness County is maintained entirely by volunteers. Each of the five sections along these 92 kilometres has a team/committee that devotes many hours and a great deal of energy to ensuring that the trails are maintained, kept safe, groomed, and prepared for the thousands of visitors who travel on it year round.

There are privies installed at six locations along the trail: Troy, Judique, Little Judique Harbour, Glencoe Station, Mabou, and Deepdale Trestle.

Please remember to take a moment and leave a review on TripAdvisor or Google reviews.

Enjoy your time on the trail; please use proper trail etiquette, especially if using motorized vehicles. Remember that wildlife is wild, so respect their space. Also, remember if you pack it in, please pack it out.



Photo by: Julia Ryan



Photo by: John Gillis



CREIGNISH

At a Glance

If you travel on Route 19 just before the gloaming of the day, you can experience a Creignish sunset. Make the most of it by stopping at Creignish Recreation Centre to watch it from the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail. It's a great place to enjoy one of life's simple pleasures afforded by nature.

Places to Stop: Creignish Recreation Centre (community hall, baseball field, playground), Celtic Shores Coastal Trail, artisan shops

Churches: Stella Maris Roman Catholic, 902-625-2919

Creignish is a coastal village located on Route 19 (The Ceilidh Trail), approximately 10 kilometres from the Canso Causeway. It's home to Beolach's Wendy MacIsaac and her musical cousins Ashley and Lisa MacIsaac (Madison Violet). Natalie MacMaster also grew up in nearby Troy.

The community's name refers to the rocky cliffs that stand over the shores of St. George's Bay. The sounds of the sea are ever present and each spring the first sighting of fishing boats in the water is a hopeful sign of warm days to come.

Celtic Shores Coastal Trail runs through Creignish with trail access points at Creignish Recreation Centre, at the trailhead in nearby Troy, or at Christy's Lookoff in Craigmere. The trail through this community is straight, flat, well maintained, and

well suited for leisurely walks, running, cycling, or travel on off-road vehicles. It's also the perfect place to view a spectacular sunset looking over St. George's Bay.

The Store Studio (2384 Route 19) offers local crafts (see feature and ad on the next page)

Melinda By The Sea (2096 Route 19) is an artist's gallery featuring arts and crafts from around eastern Nova Scotia. This shop, located high on a hill overlooking St. George's Bay, offers acrylic and oil paintings, jewellery, fibre art, wood creations, soaps, and much more.

Tucked into the foothills of Creignish Mountain, Stella Maris Catholic Church looks over Route 19. This wooden church was built in 1899 by Gaelic settlers who would have come here after the Highland Clearances in Northern Scotland.

Creignish Recreation Centre is home to a community hall and outdoor spaces including a playground and the Smokey Field ballfield, named in honour of John Dan "Smokey" MacNeil who has dedicated more than 51 years in service to this field and his community. There are public washrooms at the back of the community hall offering a pit stop for the users of the Celtic Shores Trail.

The Creignish Recreation Centre is a vital part of the community. The hall is not just a great place to come together for weddings and funerals. The community members are moving their bodies with yoga classes and dance classes. They are bringing families out for playtime and creativity. They are engaging local readers in a book club and imagining other possibilities for what can be done.

Happy Hour at the Centre is a popular event and every Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. they host local talent and, with plenty of talent around, it is a destination. If you drop in you may also want to try their signature drink, the Creignish sunset.

You may follow Creignish Recreation Centre on Facebook.

Rare large fossil found near Creignish

The community of Creignish is home to a recent and rare fossil discovery in 2024.

Geologists from Cape Breton University recently found fossilized tracks of a 320-million-year-old animal.

The discovery was made while geologist Ted Matheson and a student were conducting unrelated research on geology structures pertaining to earthquakes near Creignish.

"We don't know the exact animal that made these tracks, but given the time period, the size and the shape of the feet, we can say it's probably something called an anthracosaur, which is a transitional animal between amphibians and reptiles," Matt Stimson at The University of New Brunswick told CBC News at the time.

The fossilized claw imprints are said to be remarkable for their size and age, according to Jason Loxton, curator of the Cape Breton Fossil Centre in Sydney Mines, NS, and senior instructor and senior geology instructor at Cape Breton University.

The tracks were found in a sandstone block about 15 centimetres thick, two metres long, and a metre wide.

"Most rocks on the surface in Cape Breton come from the end of the Carboniferous period, when the world was covered by thick, tropical swamps," Loxton said.

Creignish is one of the few spots where rocks from the Mississippian period are accessible at the surface and footprints are regularly found, but not of that size.

The Store Studio: A showcase of local artisans

The Store Studio building in Creignish holds many memories for owner/operator Peggy Burke.

As a young child, Burke often accompanied her father, Angus John MacMaster, there when he operated it for many years as a general store. The store is a fully-restored 120-year-old wooden building. The building's integrity has been maintained and it still holds the memories of its history as a store that first opened over a hundred years ago. This offers a visitor local crafts for sale and some insight into the community.

In addition to operating a general store while raising six daughters, MacMaster also fished for salmon each year after the lobster season ended. The fishing helped supplement his income from the store and to provide for his family.

Peggy's memories of her father include recollections of neighbours and people who came down from the mountain to shop for necessities and those who often stayed a while to socialize with her father, sharing stories or local news in the Gaelic language.

These days, Peggy has kept the tradition of the store alive by running it as an arts and crafts retail outlet where the work of nearly 30 or so artisans is represented including hand-made fibre crafts, knitting, sewing, weaving, and more.

Peggy opens for the summer season on Thursday, June 27th. The store will be open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m.

Be sure to stop by the store at 2384 Highway 19 if you are passing through Creignish and see what her store has to offer.



Photo by: Jason Loxton

CBU geology professor Ted Matheson and student Jessica MacIsaac examine the landscape near Creignish, where Matheson first spotted the fossilized tracks.

More information on this find can be found at the Cape Breton Fossil Discovery Centre, 159 Legatto Street, Sydney Mines, NS.

Scream for ice cream!

Here are just some of the places in Inverness County where you can stop and get ice cream: Dairy Queen, Reeves Street, Port Hawkesbury; McDonald's, Reeves Street, Port Hawkesbury; HelloJoe's canteen at the Port Hood beach, 40 Court Street; Beaton's Delight in Mabou; Brookville Grocery; Skye Glen Creamery; Ivan's Daughters, Inverness; The Pantry, Inverness; The Ice Cream Shop, North East Margaree; Farmer's Daughter, Whycocomagh; Flora's Gift Shop and Ice Cream Parlour, Cheticamp; and Mr. Chicken and Ice Cream Shop, Cheticamp.

The Store Studio

showcases 30 Local Artisans



Open

July to mid October & December
Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10-5
Sun. 12-5

2384 Creignish, Highway 19

Situated at the most beautiful part of the trail - biking towards Port Hood with oceanview most of the time

E-Bike Rentals
(902) 302-4842



2123 Highway 19, Creignish
info@oceanview-cycling.ca
www.oceanview-cycling.ca



JUDIQUE

At a Glance

Music lives in Judique. Stop and see the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre and learn about the unique tradition of Cape Breton fiddle music. Listen to the music and have a bite to eat during a lunchtime ceilidh. Stretch your legs or work off your lunch with a hike on the Judique Flyer Trail.

Places to Eat: Celtic Music Interpretive Centre (breakfast/lunch)

Places to Sleep: Glamping (Shore Road), B&B

Places to Stop: Celtic Music Interpretive Centre Trails: Judique Flyer Trail (Celtic Shores Coastal Trail System)

Amenities: gas station, mechanic shop, gift shop, convenience store (NSLC outlet), CAP (public internet access) site

Music: Celtic Music Interpretive Centre: Daily lunch ceilidhs (11 am - 3 pm, Monday - Friday), 1:30-5 pm (Sunday Ceilidh)

Churches: St. Andrew's Roman Catholic, 902-787-2795

Celtic Music Interpretive Centre

Looking for an unforgettable experience when visiting Cape Breton Island? Look no further than the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre, the official Celtic music centre of Nova Scotia and the official cultural archives for the County of Inverness. The not-for-profit centre is dedicated to preserving and promoting the island's traditional Celtic music and culture, and it has grown into a popular visitor destination while staying true to its mission. With its immersive experience, the centre provides an in-depth insight into the island's history, culture, and music in a lively and authentic atmosphere.

Located in Judique, the centre is a must-visit destination on Route 19. Starting on May 17th through to October 18th, there will be lunchtime ceilidhs, where live music (fiddle and piano) is played Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The centre hosts year-round Sunday afternoon ceilidhs with live fiddle and piano music and dancing from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The centre is celebrating its 25th anniversary this summer and has exciting events planned.

The centre offers more than just music and dancing. Their extensive menu includes a full breakfast for early risers and a great selection for lunch, featuring local favourites such as soup, salad, fish chowder, fish tacos, hamburgers, and sandwiches. If you're interested in learning more about the local music and history, be sure to book a Walking Tour along the Coastal Trail. Additionally, you can visit the exhibit room, which is filled with interactive stations and archives of notable people. The gift shop has a variety of local

traditional and folk music recordings, books, handcrafts, gift ideas, and jewelry. You're sure to find a unique souvenir to commemorate your visit. Their facility is wheelchair accessible and has lots of parking for large vehicles. They also offer free wi-fi.

Sunday Ceilidhs are an authentic experience where you can meet, visit, and catch up with friends while enjoying great music, food, and dancing. The Celtic Music Centre offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere, friendly service, and lively music that will surely satisfy and energize you.

Visitors to the Celtic Music Centre return year after year and consider it a home base during their stay or a focal point of their travel itinerary. Most front-of-house staff are young people raised in the community with a solid knowledge of Cape Breton music, dance, Gaelic language, history, and culture. The centre has a strong sense of community among its patrons.

For full details of all events, hours of operation, and admission fees, please check out the Centre's website, social media feeds, and their weekly ad in *The Inverness Oran* newspaper.

Need gas? Car repairs? Eggs? Yarn? A gift?

Next time you're making a fuel or repair stop at The Judique Service Centre, be sure to take note of some of the exciting changes and improvements that have taken place inside.

On January 1st, 2024, new management began the transformation and revitalization of The Judique Service Centre into what will hopefully one day soon become a destination in itself.

While the main focus remains quality as a full-service gas station and auto repair shop, in the first three months the business has grown to include a gift shop, yarn and fibre craft supply store, a selection of used books, and an expanding selection of farm supplies.

Visitors can also find a variety of souvenirs, hats, and locally-made products. Keep an eye out for Panda, the resident live rabbit, who hangs out among the shelves of toys and plush animals, but he's not for sale!

Hillsdale Mohair

Knit Wear & Hand Dyed Yarn

1533 Hillsdale Rd. | Judique, NS
902-787-2770
hillsdale123@gmail.com



Wayne's Variety

Tel. 902-787-3404

OPEN 8-10 MON. - SAT., 10:30 - 10 SUNDAY



**FULL CONVENIENCE
POSTAL OUTLET
AGENCY STORE**

ROUTE #19, JUDIQUE, NS

St. Andrew's Parish

St. Andrew's Parish in Judique is the oldest Highland Roman Catholic parish in Cape Breton which was established by Scottish Gaels. Sources indicate that a chapel did exist in Judique as early as 1804 but the first parish priest was not officially appointed until 1817. This priest, Fr. Alexander MacDonnell, arrived in February of 1818, travelling from Cape Jack in Antigonish County over the ice.

The first church was constructed and opened in 1820. This structure, and one more, was destroyed by fires caused by lightning strikes. After these losses, parishioners decided to build the third church from sandstone. It was built in 1924 and is the church that stands in the community to this day.



**THE MUSIC
Lives Here**

Immerse yourself in
Cape Breton's Celtic heritage



Live Music
Daily peak season



Food
Breakfast & lunch



Gifts
CD's, books, local



Culture
Exhibits, Tours, Archives



5471 Hwy 19, Judique, NS
902-787 2708
info@celticmusiccentre.com

CELTICMUSICCENTRE.COM



Tartans, gardens, tunes, and more

Driving north on Route 19 you'll come to the community of Judique, which in past years has sported an ornamental tartan garden and now features a community vegetable garden.

The community was honoured in 2022 as the recipient of the Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award.

In 2020, an enthusiastic group of Judique residents decided the community needed its own special tartan. They went to work consulting with the community to find what they wanted represented in the tartan.

They consulted and worked closely with master weaver, Diane Quimby, and chose colours representing community values and attributes.

These days you might see Judique residents proudly wearing their tartans or scarves with this design or find samples of the tartan or throws elsewhere in the village.

The group also applied for an official tartan registration certificate from The Scottish Register of Tartans.

In the fall of 2021, work got underway on the creation of a community quilt, which is now displayed at the Judique Community Centre.

Andrea Beaton, a fiddler and composer who hails from Judique, also composed a tune for the tartan called the Judique Spirit Tartan Reel.

The story of the creation of this community tartan in addition to a whimsical tale about how Judique got its name is also told in *Weaving a Village Together*, a recent book by one of the group members, Deborah Graham, with illustrations by local artist and painter Dianne MacInnis. This book and other local publications are available for purchase at the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre.



Description of Judique Tartan in The Scottish Register of Tartans where it was registered on March 9th, 2021:
The Judique Spirit Tartan was created in 2020 by the Judique Tartan Group to celebrate the strength, faith, culture, and community spirit of the seaside village of Judique, Nova Scotia, Canada. The colours and design are intended to represent the heartbeat of the community: blues for the ocean and sky; green for the forest and fields; dark yellow for the red-orange-yellow sunsets; white for the first settlers' winter arrival; and, red for the faith and strength of the people. The community participated in the selection of tartan colours and the process was a labour of love.



ARCHER'S EDGE
LUXURY CAMPING



OPEN
May - October 2024

902-435-5844
archersedgeluxurycamping@hotmail.com
www.archersedge.info/
archersedgeluxurycamping

1660 Shore Road | Judique, Inverness County



Judique Service Centre
Rooted in Service
FULL SERVICE GAS STATION & AUTO REPAIR
GIFT SHOP · YARN STORE · USED BOOKS
902-787-2977
ASK ABOUT OUR DISCOUNTS FOR PORT HOOD CO-OP MEMBERS





Photo by: Francis A. MacDonald

Home of seven beaches

Port Hood is regarded as the beach capital of Cape Breton. The community also knows how to throw a good festival.

Each year, Port Hood hosts two significant community events that attract visitors, gather neighbours together, and raise funds for ongoing projects that happen throughout the year in Port Hood.

Each Monday, the Port Hood and Area Development Association hosts the Central Park Ceilidh. These are free, informal concerts held in the middle of town from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., offering a program of local musicians and a variety of musical styles.

The fifth season of these ceilidhs begins on Monday, July 1st, and continues each week until the finale concert on Monday, August 19th. These concerts take place on a new stage with a new sound system. Come along and bring a lawn chair to listen to live music as the sun sets over Port Hood. A 50/50 ticket draw is held each week with proceeds going to Port Hood and Area Development initiatives.

In the event of rain or bad weather, the concert is cancelled. For complete details and schedule of this weekly concert series, search Central Park Ceilidhs on Facebook.

Chestico Days is now one of the longest running events of its kind in western Cape Breton. This week-long festival runs from July 29th to August 4th offering a full schedule of events that includes community meals, concerts, horse races, dances, a parade, and events for children and families. The week concludes with a fireworks display at dusk on the final night of the festival.

In 1978, a dedicated group of local residents of Port Hood came together to establish the Chestico Museum and Historical

continued next page



PORT HOOD

At a Glance

So many beaches, all kinds of time...Port Hood is a seaside town that is made for summer! Home to five beaches, fabulous restaurants, hiking trails, and the legendary Chestico Days festival, Port Hood is a place you must see on your Route 19 adventure!

Places to Eat: Admiral Lounge & Dining Room (lunch, dinner), Clove Hitch Bar & Bistro (lunch, dinner), Sandeannie's Tearoom (breakfast, lunch), beach canteen

Places to Sleep: motel, RV/campground, B&B, inns, cottages

Places to Stop: Chestico Museum & Archives (genealogy, local history), Port Hood Day Park, beaches

Trails: Chestico Trail (Celtic Shores Coastal Trail system), Port Hood Boardwalk (at day park)

Amenities: gas station (mechanic on duty Monday to Friday), grocery store, NSLC retail store, hardware/sporting goods, gift shop, photo/art gallery, municipal offices, credit union, car wash, library, CAP (public internet access) site, post office

Music: Admiral Lounge & Dining Room (Saturdays 6-9 pm; Celtic jam on Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm), Clove Hitch Bar & Bistro (nightly mid-June to August)

Churches: St. Peter's Roman Catholic, 902-787-3317; St. Stephen's United, 902-787-2323; Jubilee United, Port Hood Island (summer only), 902-787-2323

continued from previous page

Society. Their goal was to preserve Port Hood’s history and heritage. Their mission has been to provide local residents and visitors to the area with a unique heritage experience.

Volunteers from the community and staff of the museum undertake research projects and create exhibits for the education, entertainment, and benefit of all.

The Chestico Museum and Historical Society and the Municipality of the County of Inverness have also been working towards establishing a facility to serve as an official archive for the communities of Inverness County.

Watch *The Inverness Oran*, published every Wednesday, for further details and a schedule of events for these festivals.



Friendly community by the sea

People who live in the community of Port Hood place high importance on keeping something in for tea. Home baked sweets and treats are shared amongst neighbours as gestures of love, concern, support, and friendship. Homemade cookies, banana bread, and cinnamon rolls can usually be found in many kitchens and lunch boxes.

It’s only fitting that *Tunes and Wooden Spoons*, a weekly internet baking show, broadcasts live from Port Hood each Sunday afternoon. Mary Janet MacDonald, host of the show, offers step-by-step tutorials on how to bake recipes that have been part of Cape Breton gastronomical culture for generations. The show has gained a loyal following around the world, giving everyone a glimpse of hospitality and focus on family that is part of the fabric of the community in Port Hood. MacDonald has followed up on the success of the internet show with two popular cookbooks in the series to date.

This community is also surrounded by some of the warmest water temperatures in Atlantic Canada making it a beach lover’s haven. A total of five beaches run along the coastline, each with their own character and appeal.

With gift shops, a grocery store, restaurants, high quality, super clean accommodations, and a full-service hardware store, Port Hood has something for everyone. Whether you’ve been lured here by the cinnamon rolls or the sunsets, Port Hood is happy to welcome you.

Groceries • Meat • Produce • Bakery
Gardening Supplies
Hardware • Dulux Paints
Farm Supplies • Kitchen

Mon-Sat
8am - 7pm
Sun
10am - 6pm

165 Main St., Port Hood, NS
Ph. (902) 787-3311

902-787-3494
148 Main St.
Port Hood, N.S.

Featured Food
Tues: Butter Chicken
Wed: Pasta
Thur: Steak
Fri & Sat: Pizza

Entertainment
Wed: Celtic jam session 7-8:30pm
Thur: Trivia 7-9pm
Sat: Dart night 7pm
or occasional entertainment

Harbourview, Port Hood, NS
on Route #19
902-787-2558

MAY - DECEMBER
7:30 am - 3:00 pm

JAN-APRIL:
CLOSED MONDAYS
AND TUESDAYS

FREE Wi-Fi

- Meals
- Treats
- All Day Breakfast
- Heart Smart Baking
- Grab & Go
- Frozen meals (single and family dinners)

Port Hood: So many beaches, all kinds of time

Port Hood is a friendly little beach-side community approximately 40 minutes north of the Canso Causeway on the Ceilidh Trail. With waters flowing from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, water temperatures in the summer average around 23 degrees (Celsius), making Port Hood beaches the warmest north of the Carolinas. It is the beach capital of Cape Breton Island.

You have your choice of five beaches, each with their own character and amenities. Sunset Beach and Breakwater are located at the north end of town. These two beaches were separated in 1960 when a barrier was constructed creating a link to Port Hood Island. This breakwater provides protection to Sunset Beach on the south, making for calm waters and sandbars and a family-friendly experience. Breakwater Beach on the north side is patrolled by the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service to keep swimmers safe from what can be more challenging conditions. Canteen services and washroom facilities are available, located in between the access point of the two beaches.

Lawrence’s Beach has been a family favourite for generations. There are miles of sandy coastline with stunning views of Henry Island and Port Hood Island. It is a little bit more out of the way than the other beaches. Access and parking are limited but upgrades have been made recently. If you like to get an early start

on your beach day, Lawrence’s is a great choice.

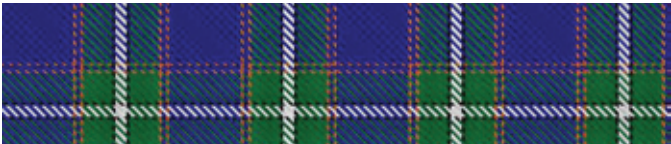
The Boardwalk Beach is located within the Port Hood Day Park, just across Route 19 from the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail. It is the ideal place for hunting beach glass along the shore. The boardwalk runs along the dunes, making it a great place for a romantic stroll or a walk with a friend or your pet. Pack a picnic, a good book, and spend a day hanging out over the boardwalk in Port Hood.

Murphy’s Pond Beach is next to the community’s fishing wharf. It is the smallest section of Port Hood’s coastline, but it offers calm, protected waters with ripples created occasionally by the boats as they come and go from the wharf.

Whichever beach you choose, you are guaranteed a day filled with fresh salt air, the calming sounds of the silver sea breaking upon the shore, and some of the world’s most spectacular sunset views. There are great restaurants in the community, easy access to locally-caught seafood, a campground, lodging accommodations, a grocery store, a gift shop, and a full-service hardware/retail store, all within walking distance to some of the beaches.

Every beach follows the pack it in, pack it out rule: leave no trace and keep these beaches beautiful for everyone to enjoy. So many beaches, all kinds of time.

Port Hood tartan



The information below was obtained from the The Scottish Register of Tartans for the “Chestico” (or Port Hood) tartan.

The tartan was designed by Mary, Ann, and Rachel Smith. It was created in 1993 and registered in 2013

Permission to weave this tartan can be sought from Chestico Museum & Historical Society, phone: 902-787-2244, chesticoplac.com, or email: chesticomuseum@ns.aliantzinc.ca.

Port Hood (Seastago or Chestico in Gaelic) is a small fishing village on the west coast of Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, Canada. The tartan was designed as a tribute to the community. It is managed and promoted by the Chestico Museum & Historical Society and its registration as a district tartan is supported by the Municipality of the County of Inverness. The brown in the tartan recalls the original name for Chestico, in Mi’kmaq, which translates as “sand bar.”

- Coin Operated
- High Quality Foam Brush
- Industrial Heavy Duty Vacuum
- Well Lit Bays
- Coin Machine

Find your paradise along the
SUNSET SIDE OF CAPE BRETON

ENGEL&VÖLKERS

Marina MacIntyre
REALTOR® / REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

Call me! 902.227.8759

MARINAMACINTYRE.EVREALESTATE.COM

Port Hood and Henry Islands

Coming off the Canso Causeway and heading north on Route 19 as a visitor you may note on a map that there are two small islands off the coast of western Cape Breton in the Northumberland Strait.

The first island, a smaller island, is called Henry Island, and the second larger island just to its right is called Port Hood Island.

Henry Island is home to a lighthouse and the island has been privately owned for several decades now.

Port Hood Island used to be home to many year-round residents but those numbers are mainly seasonal now given changes in the economy and people moving to find employment opportunities elsewhere.

Port Hood Island, only a few decades ago, was still inhabited by many full-time residents – many who drove back and forth to mainland Cape Breton across the ice in the depth of winter. Due to climate change, the ice isn't as stable or frequent anymore, so

that's not something that happens much these days.

As you are coming into the village of Port Hood, Henry Island virtually disappears behind Port Hood Island and you will see the remnants of what today is called the breakwater. It's the line of rock that's left of an attempt made in the 1950s to build a permanent causeway to Port Hood Island. That effort was wiped out by a big winter storm not long after the attempt was made.

There are amazing views of both islands from nearby Marble Hill in Port Hood and today fishing boats, swimmers, sailing vessels, and recreational craft frequent the waters along the many beaches in Port Hood.

For more about the stories, artifacts, and the history of the Port Hood area, be sure to visit the Chestico Museum and Archives, 8095 Route 19, Harbourview, just south of the village of Port Hood.

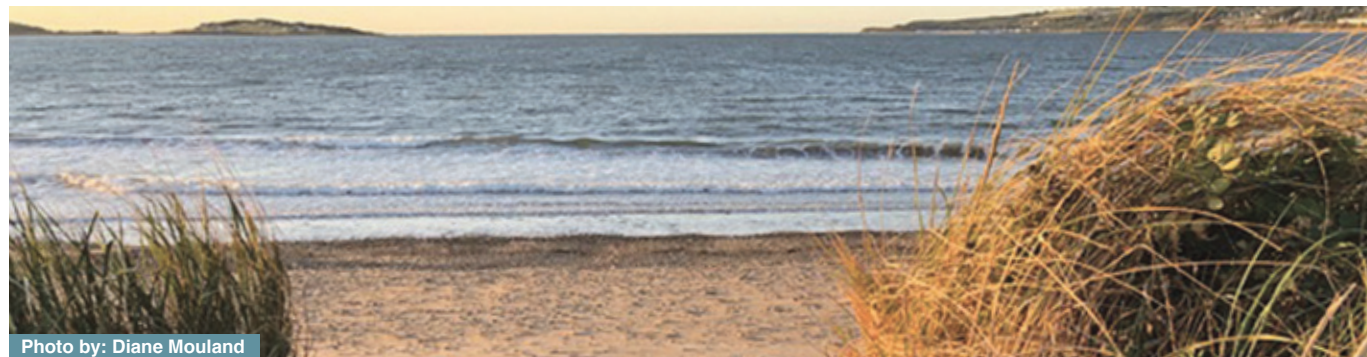


Photo by: Diane Moulard

Lighthouse Cottages
Port Hood, Cape Breton
902.787.3345
sandybeaches@lighthouse-cottages.com

8537 ROUTE 19, PORT HOOD

CEILIDH FISHERMEN CO-OP

Live Lobster & Fresh Seafood
available at
CEILIDH CO-OP POUND
158 Main St., Port Hood, NS

TEL. 902-787-2666 FAX. 902-787-2388
OPEN Monday to Saturday 9 to 5

The Fiddle and the Sea, B & B

AN FHIIDHILL AGUS AN FHARRAIGE, B & B

Ensuite rooms. Near sandy beaches on the warmest waters in eastern Canada

Experience the living Celtic Culture

109 High Road, Port Hood
Nova Scotia, B0E 2W0
902-631-5980
contact@thefiddleandthesea.com
www.thefiddleandthesea.com

West Mabou Provincial Park

West Mabou Beach Provincial Park on Cape Breton Island is a natural environment park with a beautiful large sandy beach and dune system at the south side of the mouth of Mabou Harbour (off Little Mabou Road). The park also consists of old farm fields and marshes with several walking and hiking trails and a picnic area. It is in close proximity to the West Mabou hall, which is home to a family square dance on Saturday nights.

Other park features include parking, change houses, vault toilets, picnic tables, and a small interpretive site. West Mabou Beach Provincial Park is a great place to explore such family friendly activities as: birding, hiking trails near the beach, fishing,

swimming, cross country skiing, and geocaching.

The West Mabou Beach Provincial Park is an important part of Nova Scotia's provincial parks and protected areas network. It has been protected for over 20 years, with proposals from private developers that have been rejected three times over the past 20 years or more.

Nova Scotia has a legislated commitment to protect 20 per cent of its lands and water by 2030. Crown lands, including our protected public lands, by definition belong to all Nova Scotians. West Mabou Beach Provincial Park is truly a gem in the crown of the provincial parks system. Enjoy your visit.



Photo by: John Gillis

Mike's E Bikes
10015 Highway 19, Port Hood

3-Hour Rentals include:

- E Bike Training & Safety Orientation
- Electric bike rental with helmet
- Scenic self-directed ride on the beautiful Celtic Shores Coastal Trail

Highlights:
Bike along the SW Mabou River and through the picturesque village of Mabou. There are breathtaking views of the harbour and wildlife like eagles and geese. Travel from Mike's E Bike headquarters to Glendyre and back. There are lots of picnic areas to stop at for photo ops or to enjoy a snack and beverage along the way.

Book Your Adventure Today!

mikesebikes.ca
902-227-8416
mikesebikerentals@gmail.com

CAPE BRETON REALTY

Karen Gillies

902-631-1778
karen@capebretonrealty.com
www.karengillies.com



Free Coffee • Gift Cards • Kindling •
Camping Supplies • Propane Refill's 20lb
& 30lb • Camping & Beach Supplies •
Key Cutting • Screen Repair • Building &
Decking Material
Plus so much more....

on the Sunset Side of Cape Breton

Scene

Kohltech
Windows & Entrance Systems



Here's How

North End Home Hardware Building Centre
Port Hood, Nova Scotia
902-787-2573

Whycocomagh
Home Hardware Building Centre
902-756-2520

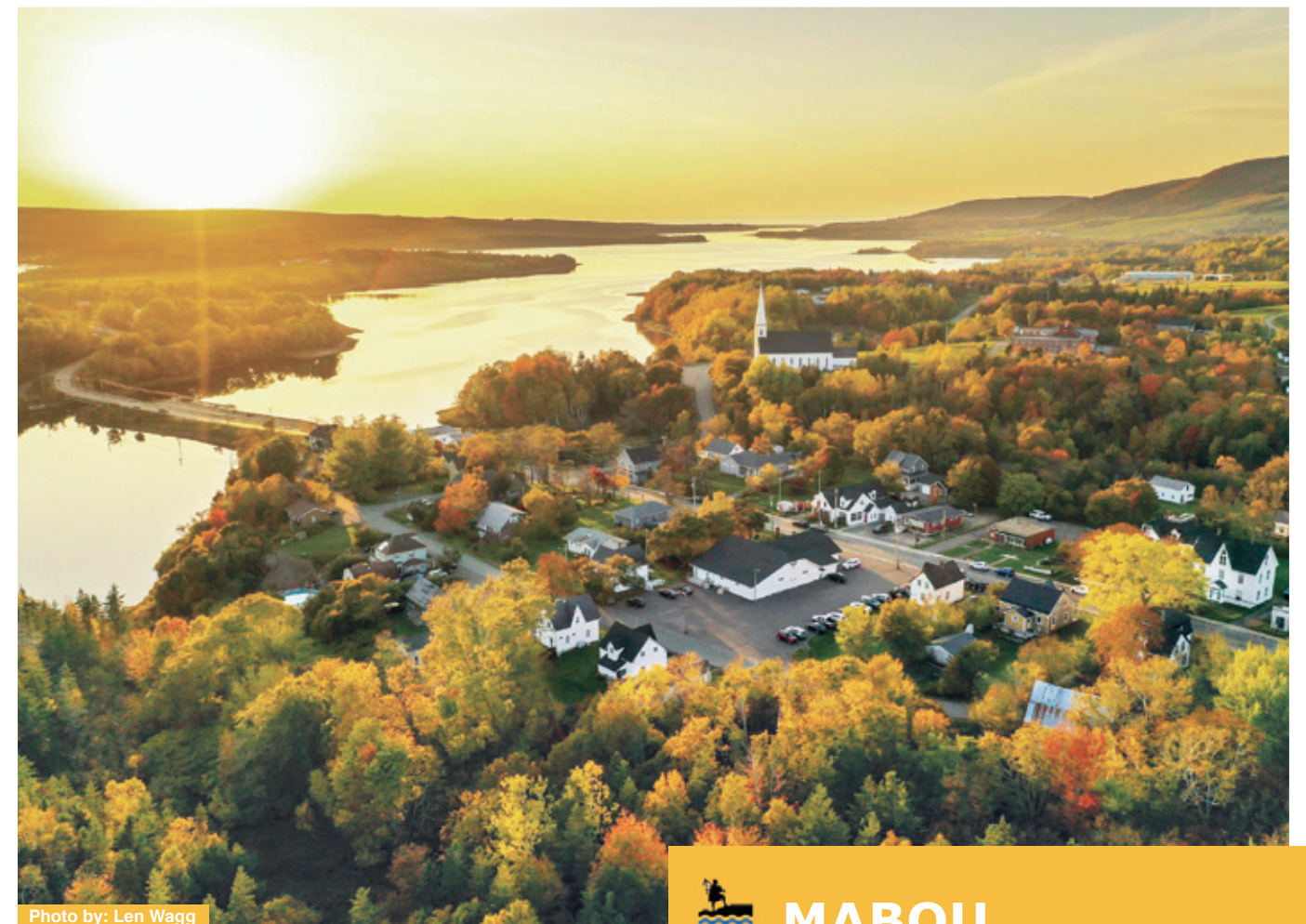


Photo by: Len Wagg



MABOU

At a Glance

Mabou is where Gaelic language and traditions thrive. It is a place renowned for its depth of musical talent; it is not unusual to hear driving tunes ringing through the village day or night during the summer. Nestled in between the highlands and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Mabou is a haven for photographers, nature lovers, dreamers, dancers, musicians, and explorers. Visit for a night or stay forever; Mabou welcomes you!

Places to Eat: Beaton's Delight (breakfast on the go, coffee, espresso drinks), Red Shoe Pub (lunch, dinner), Glenora Distillery (lunch, dinner)

Places to Sleep: campground, B&Bs, inns, motel

Places to Stop: Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine, Nest gift shop, Mabou Farmers' Market, Kinship Place playground, An Drochaid museum

Amenities: Gas station, groceries, NSLC, post office, credit union with ATM

Trails: Mabou River Trails, Celtic Shores Coastal Trail, Cape Mabou Trails, West Mabou Provincial Park (trails around

West Mabou Beach)

Music: Red Shoe Pub (nightly and Sunday matinees), Glenora Inn and Distillery (afternoon and evenings Sunday-Saturday), Mabou Community Hall (Tuesdays at 7:30 pm), Glencoe Mills Hall: Family Dances (Thursdays at 9 pm), Brookvillage Hall: Adult Dances (Mondays at 9 pm), West Mabou Hall: Family Dances (Saturdays at 9 pm), Strathspey Place

History and Genealogy: An Drochaid museum, Alexander Doyle Public Library (inside Dalbrae Academy)

Churches: St. Mary's Roman Catholic, 902-945-2952; St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic (Brook Village), 902-945-2063; St. Joseph Roman Catholic (Glencoe Mills), 902-945-2952



Coming to the well: Square dancing in Cape Breton

Mabou has been home to three iconic dance events in community halls in Brook Village, Glencoe Mills, and West Mabou for more than three generations. These dances have brought traditional music lovers from all over the world to the area, as well as many adventurous souls who discovered the dances by chance and immersed themselves in an authentic cultural experience in Cape Breton.

Brook Village dances happen on Monday nights. These are adult dances; admission is restricted to those aged 19 and over; alcohol is served on the premises. There is also a canteen that serves tea, water, soft drinks, and hot dogs. Dancing begins at 9:00 p.m. and runs until 12:00 a.m. These dances attract some of the finest musicians and dancers on the island.

The Glencoe Hall was built as a one-room schoolhouse. It is situated at the convergence point of several country roads that connect to the surrounding communities of Judique, Port Hood, Mabou, and Whycomagh. It's approximately a 20-minute drive on unpaved roads from any of these communities; part of the adventure of the night is just getting there. Glencoe dances are on Thursday nights and they are family dances, meaning there is no alcohol served inside the dance hall, and it welcomes people of all ages. The Glencoe dances are most closely associated with legendary fiddler Buddy MacMaster. He was the featured player for these dances for over 30 years. After his retirement and since his passing, these dances continue to thrive featuring a rotation of well-known musicians, many of whom were influenced and inspired by Buddy's style of playing Cape Breton fiddle music. The atmosphere of these dances is fun and welcoming much like the character of the people of Glencoe. It's a great place to learn the sets, as seasoned dancers are ready and able to guide novice dancers. This dance runs from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

The dances in West Mabou take place in a hall known as the West Mabou Sports Club. These events began as a community fundraising initiative. The original plan for these dances was a short term one to help with the expenses of a softball team's trip to a regional tournament in Ontario. More than 30 years later, the West Mabou dance has achieved the level of becoming a staple of the Saturday night social scene in Inverness County. It has had profound impact on the growth of Cape Breton fiddle music as it has provided a stage for hundreds of young performers in need of a place to make their first public performance and/or develop their

skills playing for dances. West Mabou has always been a family-friendly event and the place where parents have year-round access to passing on the traditions of Cape Breton social dancing. Young stepdancers have grown up with the opportunity to refine their art by being part of the solo dancers' queues that are a part of each dance. There was a time where square dancing was considered an activity for older generations and was fading in popularity. West Mabou dances have blasted away that old stereotype and made it the cool place for the under-30 set to gather on a Saturday night. Dancing begins at 9:00 p.m. and runs until midnight every Saturday night from June to the end of October.

A lot of the musicians you will see on the stage in these halls have earned worldwide recognition and respect as roots/traditional artists. These artists view the chance to get home to play a square dance as their time to return to the well. These are the spaces where they honed their craft as performers of Cape Breton music either by playing or by observing the tradition bearers who elevated the status of a humble dance in a country hall on a back road to the stuff of legends. A full night of playing tunes in a sultry hall on a summer's night is a workout both physically and creatively. The call and answer connection between themselves and the dancers on the floor are part of what makes home "Home" to these traditional artists.

A Cape Breton square set is a form of folk dancing, done in several parts (known as figures), traditionally in sets of four couples, each element of the figure being repeated four times (hence the designation "square" set). Square sets are danced throughout Cape Breton, each with its own local variation, but the Inverness County square set as it exists today is comprised of three figures, danced to accompanying music in the tempos of two jigs and a reel. The culture of these dances is inclusive so whether it's your first adventure or you're a seasoned pro, there is a place for you to give it a go.

A typical night at a Cape Breton square dance is six square sets, each lasting approximately 20-25 minutes. Dress in cool and comfortable clothing. The halls are well ventilated but there is no air conditioning. Peak season crowds and full dance floors make for sultry conditions. Stay hydrated; canteen services are available at each dance venue. Dancing experience is not necessary. A little bit of a sense of humour, appreciation of adventure, and the willingness to try something new are good things to take with you to a Cape Breton square dance.

Mabou Tuesday Night Ceilidhs

Featuring Performances by some of Cape Breton's Finest Traditional Musicians & Dancers.

Come enjoy the tunes and try a square set!

Mabou Hall, 11538 Highway 19

7:30pm - 9:00pm

Tuesdays, July 2nd to August 20th

Adm: \$12, age 12 & under free





MABOU
Farmers' Market

Sundays 11 - 2
June 2nd - October 13th
Fresh Produce - Artisans -
Live Music - Baked Goods & more

Mabou Arena
186 Mabou Harbour Rd, Mabou NS
www.maboufarmersmarket.ca



Want to learn more about Cape Breton square dance?

The Mabou School of Cape Breton Square Dance, launched in 2017, is offering a week-long program of instruction in the art of percussive dance in Cape Breton.

The week is led by Melody Cameron, a fiddler and dancer with more than 40 years' experience performing and teaching in her hometown of Mabou and around the world. She will be assisted by guest instructors as well.

The 2024 school runs from July 22nd to July 26th. The goal of the school is to give students high-quality stepdance instruction and a week filled with Mabou experiences. There are opportunities to attend local dances, ceilidhs, music sessions, dine at local restaurants, hike trails, or visit beaches.

There may still be some spaces left for the 2024 Mabou School of Cape Breton Stepdance. Contact capebretonstepdance.com for further information about registration for this year or keep it on your radar for your next trip to Inverness County.

Tuesday Night Ceilidhs Mabou Hall

Music is an organic part of existence in this region. Kitchen parties, jam sessions, ceilidhs, and dances happen everywhere, every day throughout the summer season, offering visitors a glimpse of how deep the well of musical talent runs on Canada's Musical Coast.

For over 20 seasons, Joey Beaton and Karen Beaton shone

a light on the pure drop: traditional Cape Breton fiddle music presented in a pristine and simple format. Each Tuesday the duo, along with their special guest musicians, presented a 90-minute concert. Since 2019, this tradition has been carried on by another committed duo: Derrick and Melody Cameron.

If you want to dig a little deeper into this form of traditional music, these Tuesday night ceilidhs are a must see. You will have the opportunity to feel the energy and power of this music; Melody is a renowned dancer who can give a glimpse of the relationship between the music and the dance. The concerts are presented in an environment that is focussed entirely on the tunes; sometimes the only other sound you will hear is the rhythmic cadence of feet tapping in perfect, effortless time to the music.

This series begins on July 2nd and runs every Tuesday for eight weeks, wrapping up on August 20th.

Showtime each week is 7:30 p.m to 9:00 p.m. and admission is \$12 per person and children 12 and under are free. Check *The Inverness Oran*, published on Wednesdays for details of each week's concert.



Check out all Square Dances in Inverness County on page 42



Full Service Grocery Store





NSLC
BEER • WINE • SPIRITS
Agency Outlet
Ample Parking

- PRODUCE • MEATS • PROPANE • ICE
- GROCERIES • GREETING CARDS
- MAGAZINES • NOVELS • LOTTO TICKETS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
902-945-2084



2024 Mabou Ceilidh Days

The Mabou Ceilidh Days Festival, a beloved community tradition spanning over 50 years in Mabou, Nova Scotia, takes place this year from June 27th to July 1st with the theme “Mabou, Home of the Tigers – Hear Us Roar!” This festive weekend will blend cherished past events with exciting new additions, ensuring a memorable experience for all.

Activities include a weekend ball tournament, a teddy bear picnic and book reading, pub nights, milling frolics, square dances, parades on land and sea, teen dances, beach fun, and much more. Noteworthy is the celebration of the 60th anniversary since the opening of the beloved Mabou Consolidated School, (1964-2000) offering a chance to gather, reminisce, and celebrate the cherished memories of days gone by.

This celebration pays homage to Mabou’s rich heritage, spirit, and sense of community, inviting everyone to partake in the festivities. For more information and to join the excitement, visit mabouceilidh.com or connect with them on Facebook and Instagram.



RED SHOE PUB
A BHRÒG DHEARG

A great place to kick up your heels!

www.redshoepub.ca

Weekly Entertainment / Lunch & Dinner
Restaurant/Bar 902.945.2996
Tel. 902.945.2326
Fax 902.945.2552

11533 Hwy 19, Mabou, Cape Breton / Email: redshoe@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Mabou tartan

Like several other communities on the sunset side of Cape Breton, the community of Mabou has an official tartan.

Although designed in 1979 by Maud Hart for the community of Mabou, the tartan was only recently registered with the Scottish Tartan Society with the help of weaver Diane Quinby and The Mabou and District Community Development Association.

As noted by the Scottish Register of Tartans.

“Many of the people of Mabou have ancestors who originated from Scotland through the clearances. Maud’s description for the tartan was ‘Blue is for the beautiful sky and peaceful waters, green



is for the trees so splendid, brown is for the fertile soil, yellow is for the glorious sun, and grey is for the mist over Cape Mabou.’” The tartan was officially recognized as the tartan of the area by Bonny MacIsaac, warden of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, in 2023.

A woven sample of this tartan has been received by the Scottish Register of Tartans for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland.



DISCOVER THE ALLURE OF NORTHEAST COVE GEODOMES

Eco-luxury stays in nature’s embrace.

Panoramic views, sustainability, and comfort await.



Book now for an unforgettable escape

Mabou, Cape Breton | 902-984-1160

www.northeastcove.com

MacFarlane Woods Nature Reserve

Located in Mull River on the side and top of Southwest Mabou Ridge, the woods carry the name of the MacFarlane family, immigrants in 1820 from Isle of Mull, Scotland. Their descendants assigned the old growth forest to the protection of the Special Places Legislation of the Province of Nova Scotia.

The woods are a virgin stand of all varieties of maples, yellow and white birch, and beech trees, as well as some softwood growth. In addition, all kinds of ferns, the three colours of lady slippers, and many other rare plants long resident in eastern forests are found in abundance.

The entrance to the rough walking trail is marked by yellow signs on the eastern side of the road between Mabou Ridge and Glencoe Mills, about 10 kilometres from the village of Mabou. The path to the reserve goes through a small area of harvested forest. The healthy stand of 325 acres is one of the very few preserved remainders of old growth forests in Nova Scotia that are under legal protection.

Jim St. Clair, a descendant of the original colonial settlers, recognized the unique quality of the hardwood stand and offered the original 52.5 hectares as a nature reserve in 1988. He was a community historian, teacher, and naturalist who lived at the family homestead in Mull River for over 50 years.

Between 2001 and 2004, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia purchased four adjacent properties, and in 2004, these plus additional lands from Dr. St. Clair were added to the reserve, bringing it to its present size of 132 hectares.

Since Dr. St. Clair’s death in 2021 at the age of 90, the MacFarlane family descendants continue to steward the homestead

and forest.

They along with community volunteers have recently created a new website to enable the public to learn more about the nature reserve. Learn about the Mi’kmaw Trail that once ran through the property, about the history of the MacFarlane Woods Reserve, about life in a climax hardwood forest, about trail etiquette, and enjoying the trail, and more by visiting <https://macfarlanewoods.ca>. Thanks to a recording from an interview he did with Steve Sutherland, host of *CBC’s Information Morning Cape Breton*, you can also hear Jim speak of his love of the forest in his own voice.



Jim St. Clair in his beloved MacFarlane Woods Nature Reserve.

BC BLACKSTONE Construction

Residential and Commercial Contracting

We are a full-service carpentry company that specializes in new home construction, additions, renovations, roofing and siding, doors and windows, stairs, and concrete services. We offer competitive prices and will work with you to stay within your budget.

We provide service within Cape Breton reaching Inverness, Mabou, Port Hood, Judique, Whycocomagh, Baddeck, Margaree and surrounding areas.

Other services include:

power washing, core drilling, garbage removal, air exchange installation and maintenance (certified to provide balance report), and heat pump cleaning.

Check out our new website
to start your free quote today!
www.blackstone-construction.com

DWAYNE BEATON
Owner
902.258.7856
dwaynebeaton@blackstone-construction.com

Mabou Farmers’ Market:

More than 15 years ago, a group of local food producers and artisans decided to try a small market to showcase their products. At the time, a movement was growing among consumers interested in shopping locally, slow cooking, and knowing where your food was coming from.

In the time since, the Mabou Farmers’ Market has grown from a few tables set up on the Mabou waterfront into a bustling event held each Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Mabou Arena. Each Sunday the market attracts over 50 vendors offering food, fresh vegetables, meat, fish, plants, baked goods, beverages for all ages, local crafts, art, one-of-a-kind gift ideas, and live music.

The Mabou Farmers’ Market is the place to visit on Sunday

mornings.

The property around the arena is also home to Kinship Place, a fully equipped outdoor playground that is a huge hit for parents with children visiting the Farmers’ Market.

More information on The Mabou Farmers’ Market can be found on its official website, its social media pages, and its ads and information in the weekly copy of *The Inverness Oran* published on Wednesdays.

The 2024 season launches June 2nd and continues until October 13th. Hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Mabou Arena is located approximately one kilometre from Route 19, on Mabou Harbour Road.



Blueberry Jam and the Harvest Series

Big Belle Farm on Mabou Ridge has stood for nearly two centuries. The land on this farm has been worked and used to provide essentials for living and thriving such as food, milk, and meat.

In Mabou, music is also an essential element for living and thriving. The owners of Big Belle Farm have been meeting that need since 2019 by presenting the Blueberry Jam Festival each August.

Blueberry Jam is a two-day outdoor festival highlighting the incredible music of Nova Scotia while promoting the wild blueberry industry in Cape Breton/Nova Scotia. This festival has grown in popularity and prominence in recent years, having earned an East Coast Music Award nomination in 2022. The event is a collaboration between Big Belle Farm and musician Rankin MacInnis.

In 2020, Blueberry Jam added a “Harvest Series” for the fall. This weekend series takes the music from the field and into the barn over the Thanksgiving long weekend to celebrate the end of the harvest season.

Blueberry Jam is set for August 16th and 17th this year and the Harvest Series takes place from October 11th to 13th. Big Belle Farm has also hosted some stand-alone concert events throughout the summer months.

Visit www.blueberryjam.ca for full details of artists and schedules.

Beinn Mhàbu

Beinn Mhàbu is a new development in the village of Mabou offering post-secondary education centred around the Gaelic culture of Nova Scotia, in connection with Cape Breton University. Its innovative and community-based foundation year program – Living Cultures: Gaelic Foundations – premiered in 2023. It attracts students and artists-in-residence from around the world and offers a year-round vibrancy to the community of Mabou.

Beinn Mhàbu Kitchen & Dining operates out of the building and is open to visitors.

Beinn Mhàbu operates as a satellite campus of *Colaisde na Gàidhlig* located in St. Ann’s, Cape Breton which has offered education in Gaelic language, music, art, and crafts for over 80 years.

The building that houses *Beinn Mhàbu* was an operating convent and renewal centre for nearly 70 years. St. Joseph’s convent was home to sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame who served the community of Mabou as teachers and spiritual guides for 127 years. It is most fitting that the next generation of the building continues the legacy of education as a touchstone for cultural growth in this area.

The former convent also houses CBFM (an internet radio station focussed on local music), and a community space where spots like the in-house chapel are still in use as they have been for decades.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, *Taigh Sgoile na Drochaide* established an independent, Gaelic immersion primary school for children on site, the first of its kind in North America.

Alexander Doyle Public Library

Inside Dalbrae Academy, there is an oasis of calm known as the Alexander Doyle Public library. It is part of the Eastern Counties Regional Library system that also operates branches in Port Hawkesbury, Port Hood, Margaree Forks, and Cheticamp.

The library offers a vast and varied collection of reading materials for all ages. It also offers a little of the unexpected, such as free meeting space or quiet workspace for individuals and groups, DVDs of movies and popular TV shows for all ages, high-speed internet, free wi-fi, public-use computers, and a fully-equipped recording studio.

So, if you need a book for the beach or a tranquil cottage vacation, a rainy day hang out, a place to re-connect with the rest of the world to check email, social media, or write your travel blog, or a place to even record a podcast, drop by the Alexander Doyle Public Library. It’s open year round. Hours are Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. The library is closed Saturdays and Sundays.

Cape Mabou Highlands

Cape Mabou Highlands offers a network of 17 hiking trails situated alongside the Northumberland Strait between Mabou and Inverness on the west coast of Cape Breton.

These paths follow the rugged coastline, through hardwood glens and highland plateaus covering a total distance of about 30 km. There are three trailheads; the most accessible and popular one is at Mabou Mines, about 12 km from the village of Mabou. These hiking trails are usually uncrowded and offer enough of a challenge to get your heart pumping. The rewards include spectacular views and peaceful surroundings.

The Cape Mabou Highlands were settled in the early 1800s by Gaels who came from Highland regions in Scotland to North America. Several of the trails were originally cart tracks built and used by these pioneers. The Fair Alistair and MacKinnon’s Brook trails were part of the original road from Mabou to Broad Cove (Inverness). Many of the trails bear the names of many of these earlier pioneers. The early 1900s saw most of these settlers leave the area.

These trails traverse both crown land or private lands for the most part. There are also areas that are under a management agreement with The Nature Trust of Nova Scotia or the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Please note that not all trails may be open at any given time. There are a few wet sections, but for the most part the trails are dry, with some small brook crossings. Please respect these lands. The trails are for hiking only; no camping or fires are permitted.

The other two trailheads can be accessed from the village of Inverness on the Sight Point Road (a narrow and often rough road), or from Cape Mabou via Glenora Falls near the windmill.

For more information on the Cape Mabou Hiking Trails visit capemabouhiking.com or search Cape Mabou Trail Club on Facebook for up-to-date information on hiking conditions.

Red Shoe Pub

“Our lively Pub has become a kind of ‘home away from home’ for many locals and visitors over the years. We have created a cozy spot in the hamlet of Mabou, on the west coast of Cape Breton, which offers a delicious menu of Nova Scotia home cooking with a side order of live traditional music, seven days a week!” – The Rankin Sisters

The Red Shoe is slated to open for the 2024 season on May 31st.

The Red Shoe staff are excited to share good music, good food, and good times with everyone who visits during the season.

The Red Shoe is open daily from May 31st to the middle of October. There is live music each day at varying times.

Check out www.redshoe.com or the weekly ad in *The Inverness Oran* for all the latest details on the Red Shoe schedule. *Sláinte!*

Glencoe Mills

Glencoe Mills is home to the renowned Glencoe Mills family square dances. Last year, St. Joseph’s Parish in Glencoe Mills celebrated its 150th anniversary with the publication of *Up in Glencoe àite cruinneachaidh: Celebrating 150 Years of a Gathering Place*. This book reflects on the stories and people of Glencoe, their rich Gaelic history, the Scotch music, their family dances, and their enduring faith.

Every Thursday night in the summer months, the Glencoe Hall hosts the legendary Glencoe Mills family square dances. People are drawn down any of the many dusty gravel roads that lead to Glencoe to hear the strains of the fiddle and piano tunes. Inside the hall, dancers fill the floor, while onlookers line the walls.

This year, there will be a dance on Sunday, June 30th, from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., featuring fiddler Ian MacDougall. Then there will be a dance every Thursday night beginning July 4th with fiddler Wendy MacIsaac and pianist Mac Morin until August 22nd.

Sunday, September 1st, will be Glencoe Day. Starting at 2:00 p.m., the afternoon includes children’s games and bingo games inside the hall. Often there is a horseshoe tournament outside the hall, weather permitting. At 5:00 p.m., there will be a mass at the adjacent St. Joseph’s Parish church followed by a supper prepared by the people in the community. If you leave from a visit to Glencoe hungry, you did it wrong. They day winds up with a family square dance from 9:00 p.m. to midnight that will feature fiddler Howie MacDonald and pianist Beverly MacLean. The whole day will have the feel of a traditional community picnic. It is a fun way to spend the day with friends and family, and hopefully you can still pick up a copy of the commemorative book as well! As the saying goes, “All roads lead to Glencoe.”

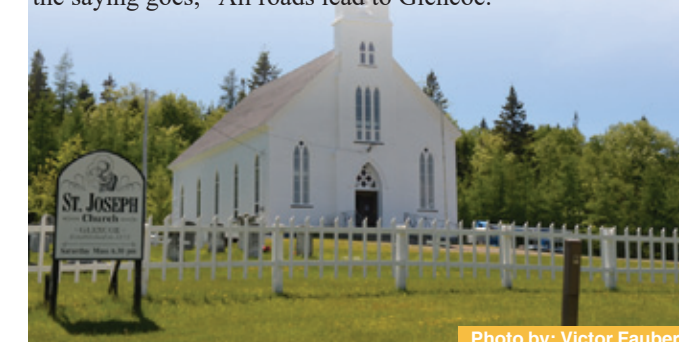


Photo by: Victor Faubert

Glenora Inn & Distillery

Located on Route 19 between Inverness and Mabou, Cape Breton

FREE Entertainment: 1-3 pm and 8-10 pm

Single Malt Distillery - Tour our unique distillery where you can learn the ancient art of distilling whisky and also sample the product.

Guided tours daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Large tours and bus groups by appointment.

Gift Shop - 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Glenora Pub

Entertainment daily and nightly and wonderful pub menu.

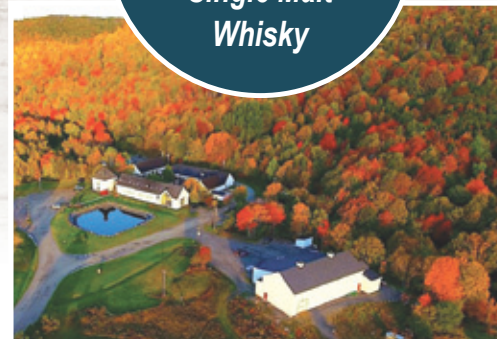
Fine Dining and Accommodations

There is something on the menu to satisfy everyone's palate served in a bright, intimate dining room or outdoor terrace setting. Nine rooms, six chalets, and a 5-room lodge.

Rated in "WHERE TO EAT IN CANADA."

An Amazing Cape Breton Get-away!

Home of
Glen Breton Rare
North America's 1st
Single Malt
Whisky



Nestled at the foot of the Mabou Highlands is the Glenora Distillery, a single malt whisky distillery. The distillery offers tours, as well as providing accommodations and fine dining. It is also a popular location for catching some of the County's traditional musicians.



Tel: 902-258-2662 | Toll Free: 1-800-839-0491 | Fax: 902-258-3572

www.glenoradistillery.com | E-mail: info@glenora1.ca

Destination 252

Highway 252 is the main connector route between the communities of Mabou and Whycocomagh. It runs for about 20 kilometres and it's a road many people travel through to get to somewhere else. Over the last few years, thanks to creative and innovative thinking of people who live along the 252, this area is becoming its own destination.

This road offers incredible natural beauty in every season. The trees along the road offer lush green canopies in spring and summer and a riot of colour in the fall. In the winter these same trees glisten with frost and the surrounding snow-covered pastureland and river flats often sparkle in the sun like fields full of diamonds. The Celtic Shores Coastal Trail intersects with Highway 252 near Mabou at Glendyre, allowing access to the Mabou Rivers Trail.

Six Little Farmers is a farm discovery centre located in Hillsborough. Throughout the summer and fall it operates a petting zoo, a corn maze, a pumpkin patch, and all kinds of hands-on learning opportunities like milking cows, learning about caring for goats, calves, donkeys, pigs, sheep, chickens, and miniature horses. Visitors have an opportunity to get a better understanding of where their food comes from and how each animal has a purpose on the farm. For further information on activities and events at the Six Little Farmers Farm, visit them on social media.

Brook Village Grocery (BVG) has operated continuously as a retail store since first opening in 1880. In the tradition of a country store, Brook Village Grocery is a one-stop shopping experience. A peek inside the store shows you that BVG carries everything from animal feed, hardware, local crafts and lotions, fresh baked goods, gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches, ice cream, ingredients for a variety of ethnic cuisines, and the largest selection of cheeses available in Inverness County. The store has gained national attention for its commitment to sustainable practices and finding ways to have low- or no-waste packaging for many of the products they sell. The store has been described as a rural general store with a long history and old-fashioned charm that carries a little bit of everything with a focus on locally-made products. BVG is a step into the past with a twist of modern sensibility.

Beautiful Hill Farm offers all kinds of fresh produce, fresh eggs, and a friendly visit on their property located in Brook Village. Bows and Throws is a new attraction at Beautiful Hill Farm. Have some fun outside with family and/or friends by testing your skills with archery and hatchet throwing. Visit the Beautiful Hill Farms website or social media pages for details on what they have available at local markets or at the farm gate throughout the summer and fall.

Skye Glen Creamery is also located a few kilometres off Highway 252 at 1080 East Skye Glen Road. Skye Glen Creamery products are available for purchase in several local grocery stores and at the farm gate. You will find fresh full-fat, non-homogenized Jersey milk, a variety of cheeses, curds, dips, yogurt, and gelato.

Highway 252 offers everything for a delicious and interesting day trip on the sunset side of Cape Breton.

Skye Glen and Centreville Hall

Skye Glen is a place with a long history of Gàidhlig song and culture. The area is unceded Mi'kmaw land, to which the Gaelic speaking emigrants from the Isle of Skye arrived in 1830 during the infamous Highland Clearances. At that time, Beaton, MacInnis, Gillis, Nicholson, and MacKinnon families travelled across the Atlantic and settled in the fertile valley of Skye Glen. Many of their descendants still reside in the area today.

Recently, the Skye Glen and Centreville Hall has experienced a resurgence of sorts and a number of events have been taking place including weekly card games, family events, dance classes, paint nights, children's workshops, AA meetings, historical society meetings, and more.

In spring of 2023, the community expressed a desire for some milling frolics. In the early 20th century, frolics were held regularly at the hall.

Since May of 2023, these frolics have been held monthly and have been a great success. With financial support from Nova Scotia Office of Gaelic Affairs, the event has expanded to include a guest fiddler each month. To date, they have had the pleasure of welcoming fiddlers Bradley Murphy, Koryne MacDonald, Shelly Campbell, Stephanie MacDonald, and Dale Gillis. Singers travel from across Inverness County, as well as Richmond, Cape Breton, Victoria, and Antigonish counties to share songs. Audience members include Skye Glen residents, those from across Nova Scotia, and visitors from as far away as Ontario and the *Seann Dùthaich* (The Old County, Scotland). Local youth have helped out with the event, including participants of the Gaelic College's youth Gaelic cultural and immersion program, *Na Gaisgich Òga* (The Young Heroes).

All are welcome to join, enjoy some music, and have a *srùbag* with community members, friends, and visitors.



Photo by: Francis A. MacDonald



We offer on tap Milk & Chocolate Milk.
We also produce Gelato, Yogurt, Cream and
"Farmstead Cheeses", Cheddar, Squeaky
Curds, Fromage Blanc, Storm Chip Dip, Brie,
Feta and Mozzarella

1080 East Skye Glen Road, East Skye Glen



Photo by: Marilyn Ellison



LAKE AINSLIE

At a Glance

Lake Ainslie is the largest freshwater lake in Nova Scotia. The lake is approximately 20 kilometres long, stretching from the southwest side of the Margaree River, flowing into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The communities around Lake Ainslie were settled primarily by Gaels immigrating from northern Scotland starting in 1820. The lake also has great significance to the Mi'kmaq people of Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island). Eagles maintain a presence over Lake Ainslie as a number of bald eagles nest around the shores.

Places to Eat: Tulloch Inn (dinner, reservations only)

Places to Sleep: Inn, campgrounds

Places to Stop: Scotsville School of Crafts, MacDonald House Museum

Trails: Great Trail: Bealach Breagha Trail

Amenities: CAP (public internet access) site

Churches: East Lake Ainslie Presbyterian (times subject to change), 902-258-2824; Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic, West Lake Ainslie, 902-945-2592; East Lake Ainslie United, 902-756-2762

Drive on the 395

Back road tours often find hidden gems in Inverness County, and they are a good alternative to the routes that have heavier traffic. These side roads often wind along bodies of water offering spectacular views. Since the road conditions are not straight and wide as you'd find on a larger highway, you have the option and opportunity to take in these views at a slower pace. It is often easier to pull to the side of the road to take a picture of a landscape or snap a selfie at a scenic vista.

If you turn off the Trans Canada Highway at Whycocomagh on to Routes 252 and 395, you will find yourself at the start of a scenic drive through the communities that surround Lake Ainslie. The body of water itself is the largest freshwater lake in Nova Scotia. There are places to stop and watch eagles soar over this lake, as well as spots to swim or fish, or hike and bike near it.

The MacDonald House Museum located in East Lake offers a glimpse of early days in the Lake Ainslie communities. The property features a one-room schoolhouse, a heritage home, and a barn with antique farm equipment, and it offers beautiful views of the lake, ideal for photographers and artists. The museum is now connected to The Trans Canada Trail, making it a good stopping point for anyone hiking or biking nearby. Visit the museum website, <http://www.macdonaldhousemuseum.ca>, for more details.

The Scotsville School of Crafts was founded in 1991 by the Lake Ainslie Weavers and Craft Guild. Their goal was to create a place to teach and display several traditional crafts such as spinning, weaving, and painting. The organization has converted an old school building into a unique space, achieving their goal.

Continued on page 43

WWW.DESTINATIONTRAILSNOVASCOTIA.COM

WWW.CELTICSHORES.CA

Official Trail Maps available at Cape Breton Island Visitor Information Centres.



**OPEN DAILY
FROM DAWN
TIL DUSK,
YEAR ROUND.**

Use at your own risk

THE CELTIC SHORES COASTAL TRAIL

INVERNESS COUNTY'S TRANS CANADA TRAIL

The Celtic Shores Coastal Trail is comprised of five linked community trails. The major access points for these trails are listed below. The first kiosk is located just to the left of the Canso Causeway as you enter Cape Breton Island.

92 kms – Port Hastings to Inverness
CB Island TCT Trailhead Pavilion & Kiosk @
Canso Canal
0623718 E 5056156 N — 0617365 E

Facebook
@celticshores

Instagram
@celticshores

ROAD CYCLING ROUTES - OFF TRAIL

Inverness County is a cyclist's dream for variety of cycling experiences both on the trail and on our roadways. We have put together a list of full day or half day trips you may want to consider. While on an outing, plan to visit one of our many gift & craft shops, grab lunch at our friendly eateries or take the time to grab a quick swim at one of our fine beaches or rivers.

Please remember that while Nova Scotia has legislated the “one metre” rule, safe passage of highway traffic around road cyclists is mandatory, it is your responsibility as a cyclist to be cautious of road traffic and conditions. Make yourself highly visible and use proper hand signals for approaching traffic. Check out these 10 suggested road route outings.

1. Port Hood to Colindale to West Mabou & return
2. Whycocomagh to Scotsville to Inverness and return via West Lake Ainslie
3. Inverness to Scotsville to Southwest Margaree to Broad Cove Banks Road Return to Inverness
4. Whycocomagh to Malagawatch to West Bay to Dundee Return.
5. Margaree Centre to Margaree Harbour and return via Margaree Forks.
6. Chéticamp to Plateau to St. Joseph Du Moine and return
7. Bay St. Lawrence to Meat Cove and return
8. Cape Clear Look-off via Margaree, St. Joseph Du Moine or Chéticamp **Advisable to use local guides for various route available.**
9. Bornish and St. Margaret of Scotland Pioneer Church via Melford. **Advisable to use local guides for various route available.**
10. Inverness to Mabou via Cape Mabou. **Advisable not to cycle on signed “Cape Mabou” hiking trails. These managed trails do not permit cycling due to trail terrain sensitivity.**

*Leave a review
on TripAdvisor.*



TRAIL HEADS & INFORMATION KIOSKS

THE CEILIDH COASTAL TRAIL SECTION

22kms – Canso Canal to Chisholm's Brook, Long Point Troy Station
Trailhead Kiosk/Access/Parking
0621276 E 5060816 N — 0617365 E 5074458 N

THE JUDIQUE FLYER TRAIL SECTION

19 kms Chisholm's Brook to Little Judique Harbour
Michaels Landing Trailhead Kiosk/Access/Parking
0617546 E 5083790 N — 0614653 E 5090709 N

THE CHESTICO TRAIL SECTION

17 kms – Little Judique Harbour to Zutphen Farm SW Mabou River
Port Hood Station Trailhead Kiosk/Access/Parking
0614653 E 5090709 N — 0619675 E 5097712 N

THE MABOU RIVERS

Trail Section
19.6 kms – Zutphen Farm SW Mabou River to Blackstone
West Mabou Trailhead Kiosk/Access/Parking
0619675 E 5097712 N — 0630129 E 5110225 N

THE INVERNESS SHEAN TRAIL SECTION

16 kms – Blackstone to Inverness Miners Museum
Trailhead Kiosk/Access/Parking

TRAIL RULES AND ETIQUETTE

The Celtic Shores Coastal Trail is a shared use trail that is operational year round. Please use the trail responsibly. Expect to see the following users on the trail: cyclists, hikers, walkers, equestrians and summer motorized. In winter you will find people snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hiking, and snowmobiling.

DISCLAIMER: While considerable effort has been made to provide accurate information, we take no responsibility for any errors or omissions. The ultimate responsibility for safety lies solely with the individual. MAPS ARE NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES.



Inverness County Centre for the Arts 2024 Sunset Series

Renowned Canadian artists
in an idyllic outdoor setting.

July 20: Swift Kick - Taylor Swift Cover Band from PEI
August 3: Brett Matthews - with Claverhouse
August 10: Tracy & Martina - with Andre Pettipas
August 31: Wintersleep - with opening act TBA

For more information and to purchase tickets,
visit invernessarts.com.



canadasmusicalcoast.com
invernesscounty.ca

FESTIVALS in Inverness County



**Roots to Boots -
Racines et Bottines**
June 13th - 16th, Chéticamp
visit: facebook.com/
RootstoBootsfestivalracineset
bottines

KitchenFest
June 28th - July 6th
visit: kitchenfest.ca

**Lake Ainslie Firemen's
Ceilidh Days**
July 3rd - 6th, Lake Ainslie

Festival of the Strait
July 4th - July 7th,
Port Hawkesbury

Mabou Ceilidh Days
June 27th - July 1st, Mabou

Inverness Gathering
July 22nd - 28th, Inverness

Belle Cote Days
July 24th - 27th, Belle Cote

Festival de l'Escaouette
August 1st - 4th, Chéticamp
visit: facebook.com/
FestivalDelEscaouette/

**68th Annual
Broad Cove Concert**
July 28th, 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.,
178 Broad Cove Chapel Road

Outdoor Concert featuring
traditional Celtic music -
fiddle, vocals, pipes and
dance; Admission: \$25,
12 and under are free

Adult Square Dance
at 9 p.m. following the concert
at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, SW
Margaree
Admission: \$10
visit: broadcoveconcert.ca

Chestico Days
July 29th - August 4th, Port Hood
visit: facebook.com/Chestico-
Days

Margaree Highland Games
August 10th - 11th, East Margaree
visit: margareehighlandgames.
com

National Acadian Day
August 15th, Chéticamp
visit: facebook.com/
lestroispignons

Cabot Trail Writers Festival
October 4th - 6th
visit: cabottrailwritersfestival.
com

**Celtic Colours International
Festival**
October 11th - 19th
visit: www.celtic-colours.com

Cabot Trail Food Truck Rally
October 26th - 27th
visit: www.cabottrailfood
truckrally.com

*For up-to-date information
on these and other events,
check out the weekly
Inverness Oran.*



CAPE BRETON SQUARE DANCES in Inverness County

Mondays
**BROOK VILLAGE ADULT
SQUARE DANCES**
Brookvillage Hall
6432 Route 252
Brook Village
Mondays (July - Sept.)
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Admission: \$10 (19+)
Bar and canteen available

Thursdays & Sundays
**GLENCOE MILLS FAMILY
SQUARE DANCES**
Glencoe Mills Hall
Thursdays (June 30 - Aug. 22)
Sundays (Sept. 1 & Oct. 13)
9 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Admission: \$10 / 10 and
under free! (Price may
change.)

Fridays
**SW MARGAREE ADULT
SQUARE DANCES**
St Joseph's Parish Hall
19678 Hwy 19,
SW Margaree
Family: July 12 & August 9
Adult: July 19, 26, August 2
All dances from 8 - 11 p.m.
Admission: \$10

Saturdays
**WEST MABOU FAMILY
SQUARE DANCES**
West Mabou Hall
2399 Little Mabou Road
Saturdays (Starting June 6th)
9 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Admission: \$15 / 10 and
under free!
All ages welcome!

*Check out The Inverness Oran published every
Wednesday for the latest updates!*

Continued from page 38

The Lake Ainslie Weavers and Craft Guild offers classes in fall and winter, and operates a summer gallery and gift shop selling products from local artisans. Each year during the Celtic Colours International Festival, the school offers learning workshops in heritage crafts and art that has wide appeal to people who come from around the world to see this annual 10-day musical event that happens across Cape Breton. Visit the Scotsville School of Crafts website for further information and schedule of events: <http://www.scotsvilleschoolofcrafts.ca>.

See *The Inverness Oran* published every Wednesday for the latest details of events in the community of Lake Ainslie.



Photo by: Ann Morrison



Photo by: John Gillis

MacDonald House Museum



Follow the key signs
to museums in
Nova Scotia



www.macdonaldhousemuseum.ca

On the shores of Lake Ainslie, tour a heritage home, hear stories of the local people and enjoy the views of the sparkling water. Parking, picnic site, access to the Trans Canada Trail through Lake Ainslie and a children's trail.

3458 Highway 395, East Lake Ainslie
Inverness County, Nova Scotia
902-258-3317
Email: lahistorical@seasidehighspeed.com

Assisted by
NSM and CCTH

**We are open from end of June to end of August.
Visit our website or email for a list of events.**



**100 Full
Service Sites**
Water, Electricity and Sewer

- Fishing ▪ Swimming
- Pool ▪ Lake
- Convenience Store
- Recreation Hall
- Trailer Rentals
- Kayak Rentals
- WiFi available

2457 Rte. 395 East Lake Ainslie, CB
THREE ON SITE RENTAL RV'S
Email: mackinnonscampground@gmail.com www.mackinnonscampground.ca

**For Reservations
902-756-2790
(cell) 902-258-5708**

**Visit Nova Scotia's largest natural freshwater lake and
enjoy magnificent scenery, culture and hospitality.**



MODULAR HOMES

Order
Yours
Today!

One and Two Bedrooms
Available with option to expand

Delivering in 2024

Building modular will save time
and money while constructing a
beautiful, economical & energy
efficient home of your dreams.

We have a strong and efficient
team to help bring your dream to
reality!

Contact Us Today
ben@lakeshoreliv.ca
902 615 5664



What's the story with the Cabot Trail Writers Festival?

The 16th anniversary Cabot Trail Writers Festival will unfold over the weekend of October 4th-6th, 2024, based primarily at the Gaelic College in St. Ann's (along with special events in the Chéticamp area).

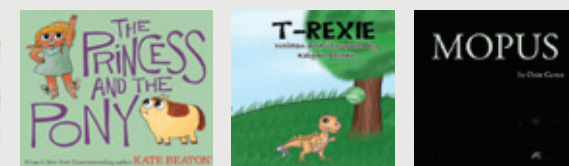
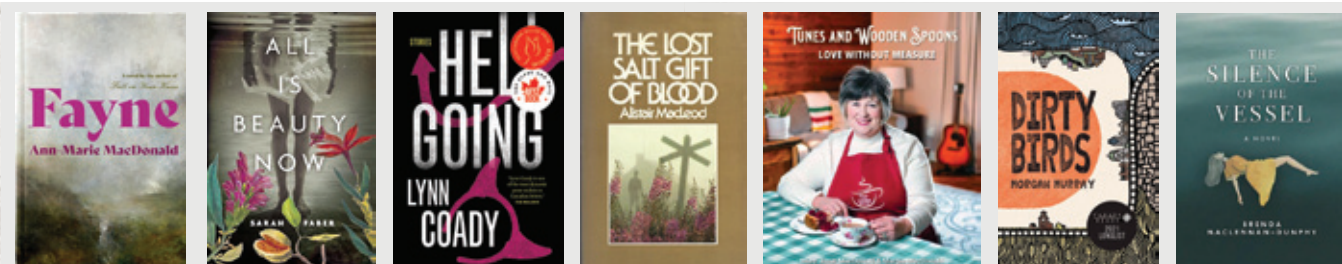
Join them in the heart of this wild, beautiful island as writers and readers come together and experience the magic power of stories to connect them and create community. This unique and lively festival includes forest walks, music, conversations, readings, workshops, and more – all in the company of a stellar lineup of authors and musicians.

This year's featured festival artists include Ann-Marie MacDonald (whose books include the acclaimed Cape Breton-set novel *Fall On Your Knees*, and last year's runaway bestseller, *Fayne*), David

Chariandy (whose award-winning novel *Brother* was recently adapted into a feature film), and Jesse Thistle (author of acclaimed memoir *From the Ashes* and poetry collection *Scars and Stars*), among other emerging and already beloved authors from around the province and across Canada.

Artistic Director Rebecca Silver Slayter notes, "I love to say that our festival is for everyone, because books are about everything. I think of the conversations and events and experiences that unfold at the festival as opening up the world itself – like a book! – celebrating all the things that inspire us, move us, make us laugh...In the end, in so many ways, the Cabot Trail Writers Festival is a festival of joy."

For more information, visit www.cabottrailwritersfestival.com.



CHECK OUT A GREAT SELECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORS

Tulloch Inn & Gifts
2795 West Lake Ainslie Rd.,
~ Overlooking beautiful Lake Ainslie ~
OPEN YEAR ROUND Telephone 258-3194

- Offering deluxe accommodations
- Full breakfast included
- Scent Free
- Winter rates from November to May
- Fine dining featuring local products & homemade foods. Prior reservations required for over night guests
- Dining room open to the public for dinner from 5:30-7:30. Reservations required!

e-mail: tulloch.inn@ns.sympatico.ca
www.tulloch-inn.ca
TOLL FREE 1-866-707-4300

Francis A. MacDonald

- Laptop Repairs
- Portrait Photography
- Photo Restoration
- Video Production
- Social Media Management
- Graphic Design
- Technology Consulting
- Serving Inverness County

Tel: 902 258-3241
Cell: 902 615-3664
Email: capewest@gmail.com
Twitter: @PhotoCapeBreton
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/francisanthonymacdonald>

A+ Certified Technician



Images of Chéticamp & area

The Photography of Michel Soucy
Landscapes, seascapes, wildlife and more at
www.michelsoucy.ca | 902-623-0107



Whycocomagh: Head of the waters

Whycocomagh is the central point of Inverness County. Situated on the Trans Canada Highway, the village is within a 90-minute drive to any major attraction on Cape Breton Island.

The village began to take shape as Gaels who had come to Cape Breton from Northern Scotland sought settlements that allowed for ready access to agriculture and forestry. By the middle of the 19th century mercantile businesses began to develop. Local entrepreneurship started to flourish with the establishment of blacksmith shops, hotels, and other shops. During this time, the shores of Whycocomagh Bay and the Skye River were shared with Indigenous people in the We'koqma'q community for fishing, a tradition that continues today. Boating became an important means of supporting growing commercial initiatives. It became increasingly common to see steamships or commercial fishing vessels in the bay, docked, or passing through on their way to Sydney. The hills which surround Whycocomagh were popular for sustenance hunting.

Today, the action in Whycocomagh Bay is mostly pleasure craft. In the last several years the Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre has been offering a place for water travellers to tie up and take in what the village has to offer – food, gift and supply shopping, hiking trails, musical events, and good people. Whycocomagh is also part of the Great Trail's Bras d'Or Lake water route. Hiking trails have been developed in places hunters once roamed. Whycocomagh is a modern little village that remains true to traditional values of friendship and hospitality. However you choose to travel, water or land, it's a great place to check out!

2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the Whycocomagh summer festival, which takes place this year from July 15th to 21st, 2024.



WHYCOCOMAGH

At a Glance

Whycocomagh is on the sunrise side of Inverness County. The name is derived from a Mi'kmaq word (We'koqma'q) meaning head of the waters. This community is located on the eastern end of Inverness County and sits on the northwest shore of the Bras d'Or Lake. The Skye River flows through the community. Whycocomagh offers beautiful trails, campgrounds, restaurants, and shopping.

Places to Eat: Charlene's Restaurant; The Farmer's Daughter; Tim Hortons

Places to Sleep: motels, cottages, campground

Places to Stop/Shop: We'koqma'q, Whycocomagh Provincial Park

Trails: Whycocomagh Village Trail, Salt Mountain Trail, We'koqma'q Spirit Trail, Skye River Trail

Amenities: gas station (mechanic on duty Monday to Friday), grocery store, liquor store outlet, hardware store, pharmacy, churches, bank, car wash, post office, CAP (public internet access) site

Music: Waterfront Centre (varying schedule)

Churches: Holy Trinity Parish, 902-756-3005; Little Narrows Presbyterian, 902-756-2066; St. Andrews Presbyterian, 902-756-2669; Stewart United Church, 902-756-2762

Whycocomagh Provincial Park and Campground and Salt Mountain:

Hiking above the shores of Hogamagh

The Whycocomagh Provincial Park is located just off Highway 105, approximately 50 kilometres from the Canso Causeway at the turnoff for Provincial Park Road. This park offers a campground with both serviced and unserviced campsites, yurts, picnic areas, water, washroom facilities, cooking shelters, and benches. The history of the park dates to 1959 when the land was donated by Isabel Stewart Farley in memory of her brother Hugh MacLellan who was killed during World War I. The campground 2024 operating season runs from June 7th to October 21st.

The Salt Mountain Trail located inside the park is a short but challenging walk. The Highlander portion of the trail is 230 metres above Bras d'Or Lake that climbs over a 2.5-kilometre

hike. This is a steep climb over rugged terrain that passes mostly through mixed woods. Hikers are encouraged to use caution. Salt Mountain is not recommended for novice hikers.

The exertion of the hike up Salt Mountain is rewarded by spectacular views of Whycocomagh Bay and Bras d'Or Lake, making it abundantly clear why the name Whycocomagh was chosen as it translates from the Mi'kmaw language to mean head of the waters.

If the endeavour of a mountain hike is not for you, there is lots of room to walk around on level ground throughout the park. Sit on a bench or at a picnic table, enjoy a snack or picnic, read a book or the latest edition of *The Inverness Oran* published each Wednesday.





FAIR ISLE MOTEL

"A Beautiful View"

Open June to October 2024

KINGSIZE BEDS • POOL AND CABLE TV
PET FRIENDLY • LAUNDRY ROOM ON SITE
LUXURY VINYL FLOORING THROUGHOUT

TOLL FREE
1 877 238 8950
WHYCOCOMAGH, NS

CONTACTLESS REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE
TEL. 902-756-2291 • www.fairislemotel.com

WHYCOCOMAGH

NSLC AUTHORIZED AGENT



- Groceries • Produce •
- Meat • Liquor and more!
- Gardening Supplies
- Camping Supplies
- Helium
- Propane Exchange
- Hot meals to go

HOURS: Monday-Saturday 8-8 pm Sunday 12-5 pm
9402 TCH, Whycocomagh, NS **902-756-2000**



Skye River Trail:

A place to restore your spirit

The Skye River Trail is located at 9423 Trans Canada Highway in the community of We'koqma'q. It is part of the Great Trail, a nationwide system of trails linking 15,000 communities along 24,000 kilometres across Canada. We'koqma'q is a historic Mi'kmaq community located along the Bras d'Or Lake.

The experience of walking on the Skye River Trail fills you with a sense of peace and serenity that only a walk in the woods can create. While you are not far from a busy highway, being surrounded by trees and water gives you the feeling that you are a world away from the pace of everyday life. The sounds of birds singing and rumbling river water will all at once stir and

soothe your soul. The sun filters through the leaves giving the impression of dancing light. There are opportunities for rough camping, kayaking, and fishing on the Skye River.

The community members of We'koqma'q enjoy a long history of pride in their heritage. This is highlighted and celebrated during cultural showcases that happen during the summer and fall on the Skye River Trail. During these afternoons, displays of Mi'kmaq cultural traditions are featured including music, song, dancing, handcrafts, food, and language.

Pack a picnic lunch and come to the Skye River Trail; your spirit will be grateful.

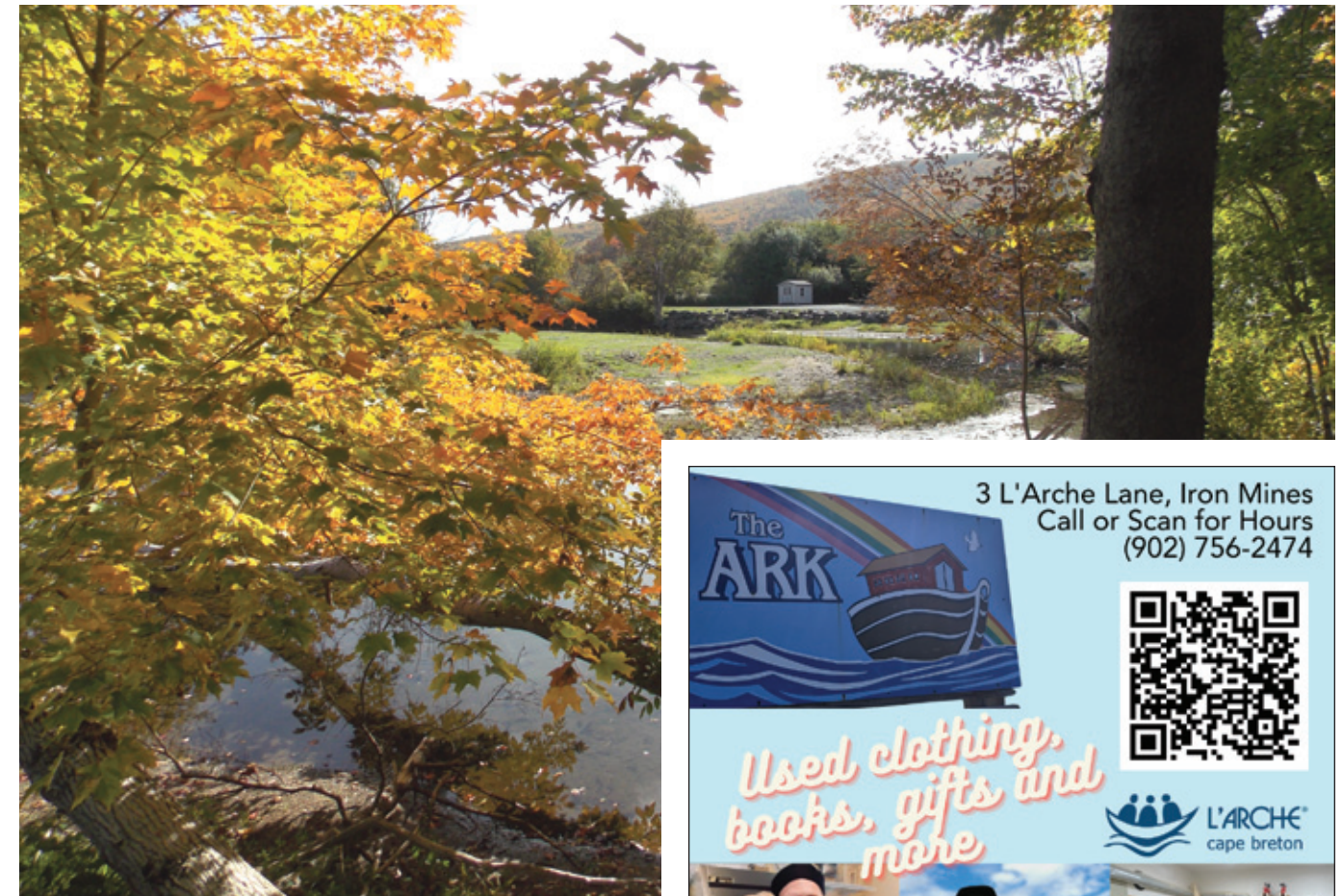


Photo by: Francis A. MacDonald

Whycocomagh

Car Wash

- Coin Operated
- High Quality Foam Brush
- Industrial Heavy Duty Vacuum
- Well Lit Bays
- Coin Machine

The ARK

3 L'Arche Lane, Iron Mines
Call or Scan for Hours
(902) 756-2474



Used clothing, books, gifts and more




24 L'Arche Way, Mabou - (902) 945-2098
Call or Scan for Hours



The Hope Chest

Used Clothing & Books



Photo by: K.C. Beaton



ORANGEDALE/ MARBLE MOUNTAIN/ MALAGAWATCH

At a Glance

These communities on the sunrise side of Inverness County are part of the Bras d'Or Lake scenic drive. Orangedale offers the Railway Museum. Marble Mountain offers beautiful views of the Bras d'Or Lake. There are century-old wooden churches, a beach, and a vineyard located here, and it's part of the Great Trail's water route for those who enjoy paddling.

Places to Stop: Orangedale Station Railway Museum, Eileanan Breagha Vineyard, Marble Mountain Beach

Amenities: convenience store, post office, churches, used clothing store and craft shop (The Ark)

Churches: West Bay United, 902-345-2273; Princeville United (no telephone number posted)

North Mountain Communities

If you're a fan of exploring places that are a bit off the beaten track, consider a drive through the communities of Orangedale to the North Mountain communities that include Malagawatch, Big Harbour Island, and Marble Mountain. If you remember the experience of a Sunday drive, when you just explored places for the sake of seeing what was there, this is worth trying.

Stop at the Orangedale Station Railway Museum to learn about the significance of the railroad to Inverness County. This award-winning museum is the site of one of Canada's oldest railway stations, dating from 1886. There are artifacts, stationmaster quarters, waiting rooms, and an office looking as they would have when the station was operational.

The Province of Nova Scotia also recently added a new provincial park in the community of Orangedale, designated as a "park reserve." Orangedale Provincial Park encompasses 50-hectares of land, east of the town, and is in a mostly rectangular shape that runs north and south, with both ends having waterfrontage on the Bras d'Or lake. It is undeveloped land and its protection value is described on the website as "mature deciduous and coniferous climax forest."

The village of Marble Mountain overlooks some breathtaking scenery. It is known for its pristine white beach – evidence of the deposits of white marble extracted from the mountain behind the village. Two white landmark wooden churches greet visitors entering from the west. An old commercial wharf that has provided safe shelter for many vessels over the years is also a main attraction in Marble Mountain. Pack a picnic lunch and stop at the scenic lookoff at Marble Mountain that offers a stunning view of the lake, or head to the Marble Mountain Beach. This community hosts a Family Day, usually in August, sure to be fun for everyone.

Parts of the road are quiet, others are quite remote; it's all beautiful. The entire route is at the edge of the Bras d'Or Lake, regarded as Canada's inland sea. Keep in mind that these are rural road conditions with winding, hilly, sharp turns. There are places where pavement is at the very end of its life span or a gravel road. These roads are not meant to be rushed on. Cell service is not consistent throughout the drive. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but GPS won't work. So, if you like to use online maps for guidance, download or seek out directions before you go.

This region of Inverness County is steeped in history. In addition to the Orangedale Station Museum and the wooden churches in Marble Mountain, there are wooden churches located in West Bay, West Bay Road, Princeville, and Orangedale. The community of Malagawatch is a First Nations heritage site, as it is a historic home of the Mi'kmaq, the Indigenous people of Cape Breton and Atlantic Canada.

The road to these places can be accessed by venturing off Highway 105. Turn at the sign for Orangedale. The museum is visible from this road. The Marble Mountain Road turnoff is just before you get to the museum. Marble Mountain Road continues through to Port Hawkesbury through the community of West Bay. It's also possible to loop back to Highway 105 by a connecting road that takes you through the community of West Bay Road.



Photo by: Joyce MacDonald



GLENDALE

At a Glance

Glendale is located on the Trans Canada Highway. Settled primarily by Gaels who emigrated from Northern Scotland, the influence of this culture is still evident today. Glendale holds cultural significance for Cape Breton fiddle music as it was the site of a festival that gathered over 100 fiddlers in 1973 in response to a 1972 documentary called The Vanishing Cape Breton Fiddler. The filmmaker notes that the tradition of Scottish fiddling was fading in Cape Breton. The Glendale Festival is largely regarded as the touchstone event that re-grew the Cape Breton fiddling tradition.

Places to Stop: Fr. John Angus Rankin Community Centre

Amenities: church, CAP (public internet access) site

Music: Fr. John Angus Rankin Community Centre Kitchen Ceilidh (alternating Wednesdays beginning June 28th at 7 p.m.), Glendale outdoor concert July 9th

Churches: St. Mary of the Angels Roman Catholic, 902-625-2345

Nestled at the foot of *A' Bheinn Ghorm*, the Blue Mountain, lie the communities of Glendale, Kingsville, and Queensville, referred to collectively in Gaelic as *Bràigh na h-aibhneadh*. The mountain has been a strong influence for the people of this area providing material to build shelter, sustenance through hunting, fishing, and growing since settlers first arrived from the Highlands of Scotland at the end of the 18th century.

The Gaels (the people of Highland Scotland) have a keen appreciation for close family and community ties, merriment, good music, great stories, and good food. The community of Glendale and the surrounding places that make up *Bràigh na h-aibhneadh* remain true to their roots, welcoming everyone to come and see them throughout the summer season.

The Fr. John Angus Rankin Cultural Centre is housed in the former parish glebe house. It is the place to find local archives and genealogical information, a gift shop as well as a Community Access Program (CAP) site with public access computers and internet service.

The late Fr. Rankin and others were a driving force in the resurgence of fiddling in Cape Breton especially during the 1970s. Glendale was a celebration point in 2023 for the 50th anniversary of the Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association.

The Fr. John Angus Rankin Cultural Centre is located on Highway 105 in Glendale, 20 minutes from Canso Causeway.



Photo by: Bill Dunphy



INVERNESS

At a Glance

Inverness is one of the most beautiful spots on the sunset side of Cape Breton. This town has seen a renaissance in the last five years with the development of two world-class golf courses. It's a new home for some, a reclaimed home for others. Small business is thriving; young families are flourishing. Play a round of golf, walk the boardwalk, hang on the beach, catch a night of harness racing, grab a brew, or find unique gifts and treats.

Places to Eat: Coal Miners Café, The Annex (lunch, dinner), Whit's Public House (lunch, dinner), Panorama Dining Room (fine dining), Glenora Distillery (lunch, dinner), Robin's (New Orleans pizza), Route 19 Brewery Pub, The Joint Mobile Grill, Small Town Deli (breakfast, lunch), Bardown Canteen (dinner), The Beach Hut (lunch, snacks), The Pantry (breakfast, lunch), Ivan's Daughters (breakfast, pizza)

Places to Sleep: campground, B&B, inn, cottages, motels, villas.

Places to Stop: Inverness Miners' Museum (local history), Inverness Beach, Inverness Visitors Centre, Inverness County Centre for the Arts (ICCA)

Trails: Inverness Shean Trail (Celtic Shores Coastal Trail system), Inverness Boardwalk

Amenities: hospital (ER, outpatient services), community health centre, gas station (mechanic on duty Monday to Friday), grocery store, convenience stores, NSLC retail store, hardware/sporting goods, gift shops, day spa, art gallery/performance centre, banking, car wash, post office, Visitor Information Centre

Making the most of a stay in Inverness

Golf has earned a rightful place in the spotlight for the town of Inverness. Over the past decade, two courses, Cabot Links and Cabot Cliffs, have gained international attention and won places in the top 100 golf destinations in the world. Cabot Links is 35th on *Golf Digest's* World's 100 Greatest Golf Courses, while Cabot Cliffs is rated number 11. The Nest is a new third new short course, a par 3, 10-hole routing perched on the highest point of Cabot Cliffs.

But there is so much more to see and do in Inverness besides golf. The Celtic Shores Coastal Trail runs from Inverness south towards Mabou. Approximately 20 kilometres of multi-use trail is perfect for walking, cycling, or travel by off-road vehicle. The most dramatic spot on this trail is the Deepdale Trestle. One of 26 bridges on the entire trail, this one is truly spectacular as it is approximately 91.5 metres long and 30.5 metres in the air.

There are lots of little shops to visit, a grocery store to explore, art galleries, live horse racing, restaurants, coffee shops, and food vendors that offer something to suit everyone.

Mill Road Social Enterprises in Inverness operates a bakery (you must try the cinnamon rolls) and The Closet thrift store.

The beach in Inverness is spectacular. Whether you have a few minutes to spend or the whole day, it should be a part of your stay in Inverness.

Music: ICCA (Sunset Series), Whit's Public House (nightly May-October), Broad Cove Scottish Concert (July 31st), The Annex (weekly), Route 19 (weekly)

Churches: Stella Maris Roman Catholic, 902-258-2462; St. Margaret of Scotland Roman Catholic (Broad Cove), 902-258-2462; St. Matthew's United, 902-258-2323; St. John's Presbyterian (Strathlorne), 902-258-2686; Inverness Community Church, 902-258-7135

Growing business in Inverness

Throughout the last two or three generations, most of the stories we read and hear focus on the decline of rural areas. Dwindling populations, downturn in land- and sea-based industries, and the allure of bright lights and big cities have all played a role in drawing people away from small towns and communities all over the world. Inverness, Cape Breton, has bucked this trend over the last decade or more. The growth in this community shows the tenacious character of the people and offers a beacon of hope to anyone who fights what is often an uphill battle for rural development.

The quest to build a golf course in Inverness reads like a classic triumphant underdog movie script. A group of volunteers had a vision: create a large visitor attraction anchor for Inverness that would offer positive economic impact for the community. It took time, patience, dedication, and determination to find the right connection for Inverness. Once it was made, the vision of those volunteers came to fruition and the Cabot Links Golf Resort came into existence. It meant creating the first authentic links golf courses in Canada. These courses have captured the world's attention, ranked as two of the world's top 100 18-hole courses. Cabot Links is built parallel to the town of Inverness, and Cabot Cliffs is located a few kilometres north on Route 19 in Inverside.

In the time since the opening of the Cabot Links Golf Resort, the seaside community of Inverness has experienced a renewal and growth on many levels. The area has garnered worldwide attention. Students have employment in their home community

during the summer season and people come from around the world to work at the resort. Young families have moved to the community or returned home from larger centres to work at the golf resort or are pursuing spin-off employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The promise of a golf course attracted a large coffee chain to set up shop in Inverness, real estate development was sparked, a craft brewery has opened, several gift shops and boutique clothing shops have opened, and the local grocery store has undergone two expansions.

What is perhaps the most encouraging sign of confidence in rural growth has been the successful development of small business in Inverness. Storefronts on, or near, the main street continue to bloom, offering a variety of products and services, unique gifts, handcrafts, clothing, home décor, adventure tours, a gym, convenience items, and fashion accessories.

Some of the newest additions to the main street are SWIG Coffee & Roastery; a Running Man outlet (a Costco distributor) and a New Orleans style pizza outlet, both located inside the Robin's at the north end of town; The Crab Shack, with fresh crab and lobster offerings; and Inverness Adventures, offering e-bike rentals. Like the other amenities in Inverness they are surrounded by unspoiled and rugged beauty that can only be offered by the sea. They also show the spirit of the people who have taken their passion for and commitment to their community and turned the tide on rural decline.



A curated corner store: Classy Cape Breton apparel & paper goods designed by missbrenna, specialty foods, imported Italian products, olive oil, hot sauce, soap, **gluten free**, Watkins spices, non-alcoholic beverages, Trufflebar, candles, novelty candy, stained glass, local jewellery, pop up events, plus beach goods + snacks.

Coffee/iced coffee/tea, housemade treats, focaccia flatbread, Friday pizza kits (pre-order) and more. Enjoy on our deck or take out. **Check updates online.**

Open year-round (7 days a week in summer)
Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm | Sat 10am - 4pm | Sun noon - 4pm
f @missbrennastudio | missbrenna.com

The Corner | 15645 Central Avenue
Inverness, Cape Breton Island | 902.258.2233





IT'S TIME TO BOOK THAT
VACATION

airbnb.com/h/thecompanyhouse
Central Avenue, Inverness

airbnb.com/h/macleanmountain
Hwy 395, East Lake Ainslie

A natural drama unfolds over the ocean in Inverness

When travelling north on Route 19, you will climb a hill known locally as The Corner (presumably because of the intersection of Banks Road and Route 19 at the foot of the hill). About midway to the top of this hill you catch the first glimpse of the sea. A little further up, the harbour comes into view. Depending on the time of day, you can see the fleet of fishing boats sailing out for a day of work, coming back home to safe harbours when the work is done, or as they slumber alongside the wharf at the closing of the day. The harbour waters usually look serene, while the open water offers considerably more drama. The motion of the water ranges from lapping gently on the beach, to a wild and relentless surf that explains the craggy rough-hewn appearance of the shore. The sky over the water is an ever-changing show of light created by sun, wind, and clouds.

The town of Inverness runs parallel to the sea, making the water visible from just about any vantage point. If this fact alone doesn't captivate you, wait until sunset. The colours evolve from soft and subtle pastel blues, yellows, and pinks to intense, vibrant reds, purples, gold, and magenta as the gloaming of the day arrives.

Take a drive through Inverness to see this drama unfold at any time of the year. Or if you want to take the time to appreciate it without the distraction of keeping eyes on the road, walk. The Inverness Boardwalk can be accessed at the top of Beach Road and continues for about two kilometres over the beach. Stairways offer passage to the beach if you want to feel the sand

and water on your feet. Benches and tables are located along the boardwalk offering a peaceful spot to meditate, rest, or enjoy a picnic dinner.

These shows are free, the run is unlimited. Enjoy.



Photo by: Francis A. MacDonald



MAPLE MEADOWS CAMPGROUND

Located 8 km from the town of Inverness

....

34 fully serviced sites available in 30 or 50 amp;
including 10 pull through sites

....

15 tent sites available

....

Coin laundry and free showers

Book online: www.maplemeadowscampground.com

info@maplemeadowscampground.com

14219 Ceilidh Trail | Strathlorne, NS | B0E 1N0



Inverness Adventures

Est. 2024

E-bikes and regular bikes for rent

902-615-5625

15562 Route 19 | Inverness, NS





www.invernessproperties.ca

Leslie Freeman - **902-258-5300**

Paul Smith - **902-258-5923**

Nina Seybolt - **902-623-2553**

Licensed Realtors Serving Western Cape Breton



Inverness County Centre for the Arts:

More than 20 years of showcasing visual arts

The Inverness County Centre for the Arts is a regional touchstone for the arts on the west coast of Cape Breton Island. Located in the town of Inverness, the 8,640 square-foot arts centre houses a gallery, performance space, and a light-filled studio. Walls of windows take in views of the rolling hills, the town, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Exhibitions, concerts, workshops, and other arts-related events at the centre celebrate the creative spirit of the artists of Inverness County as well as the work of artists from across Canada and the United States.

The history of a council serving the art community in Inverness County goes back to the mid-1980s when the Inverness County Council of the Arts was formed with the vision to nurture, enable, and promote the artistic expression and fulfilment of all people. The council became active in planning and presenting visual art exhibits, musical and theatrical performances, and cultural education opportunities.

As the profile of the Arts Council grew, desire to establish a venue that was devoted to the preservation and promotion of art in the community, and the mission to build the Inverness County Centre for the Arts had begun. Construction began in January 2002 and the centre opened in 2003. It is a unique venue built in a tranquil setting overlooking the ocean.

For over 20 years now, the Inverness County Centre for the Arts (ICCA) has hosted at least eight art exhibits a year in the gallery space including shows by internationally known artists,

exhibits featuring student artists, and *Hands Dancing*, an annual non-juried exhibition presented by ICCA members. The reception room hosts musical events, dramatic presentations, and craft shows throughout the year. ICCA also strives to present learning opportunities in various art media.

The Inverness County Centre for the Arts is the home of an outdoor concert series called the Sunset Concert Series, which features some of Canada's best talent. These series runs from July 20th to August 31st. For more information contact the Centre at 1-902-258-2533.

Inverness County Centre for the Arts is located at 16080 Route 19 in Inverness. For further information visit the ICCA website at www.invernessarts.ca.



Photo by: John Gillis

SUMMER HOURS

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8 am to 7 pm

SATURDAY

8 am to 7 pm

SUNDAY

12 am to 4 pm

902-258-2789



**• GROCERIES • MEAT • PRODUCE • BAKERY • HARDWARE • GARDEN CENTRE
• CAMPING SUPPLIES • COMPUTER SUPPLIES AND ELECTRONICS AND MUCH MORE ...**

ICCA
INVERNESS COUNTY
CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Art Gallery & Gift Shop
Tues.-Sun. 12pm-5pm



Outdoor
Concert Series
for more information
www.invernessarts.com

16080 HWY. 19, Inverness, NS



Enjoy
Fresh Local
Seafood

www.thecrabshack.ca

902-877-7862 | Central Avenue, Inverness

The Crab Shack the_crab.shack

FREEMAN'S PHARMACY

SERVING INVERNESS COUNTY SINCE 1946. FOR ALL YOUR DRUGSTORE NEEDS

HOME HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS

- **Sigvaris Compression Stockings**
- **Injury Support Braces**
- **Bath & Mobility safety equipment**
- **Woundcare & Ostomy supplies**
- **Diabetic Appliances & Education**
- **Ambulatory Products**

Compliance Packaging

28 DAY SUPPLY AT
FREEMAN'S
PHARMACHOICE!

LARGE GIFTWARE SELECTION

- **GANZ & Splash**
- **Fran Koppers Import**
- **Vanity jewellery**
- **magazines & pocket novels**
- ... and much more!

HOURS

Monday to Saturday
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday and Holidays
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

TEL. 902-258-2400
FAX 902-258-3655



Rx PharmaChoice

15786 Central Ave., Inverness, NS B0E 1N0

E-mail: freemanpharmacy@ns.sympatico.ca

Inverness Beach:

Making the sun, sand, and surf for everyone

Anyone who is affected by mobility challenges, directly or as a support person, knows that trying to exist as a person with disabilities in a world geared for people without disabilities is filled with obstacles. Some of life's simple pleasures, such as a trip to the beach during a summer day, are feats of planning and logistics – if they're possible at all.

Several years ago, storms ravaged the Inverness Boardwalk causing significant storm damage. As the Inverness Development Association made plans for repairs, they recognized the opportunity to go beyond fixing some broken boards to creating a place that everyone could use. The rebuilt boardwalk added a ramp that leads to the beach and

mats that roll from the bottom of that ramp to the water. Two floating wheelchairs, called Mobi-Chairs are available for anyone wanting to go for a dip. Beach wheelchairs and beach walkers capable

of moving over sand are also there for use. The Beach Hut has also been renovated with accessibility in mind. These changes cost approximately \$60,000. For anyone who loves the beach and lives with

mobility challenges, being able to get to the water independently or with minimal support is priceless.

The Inverness Development Association has led the way in Nova Scotia making a place for everyone to enjoy, as it was the first fully-accessible beach on Cape Breton Island. Inverness Beach was recognized as Atlantic Canada's most accessible beach in 2018.

The project has made the town of Inverness an example of what good things can happen when people are committed to building strong communities. Accessible equipment is free for all to use. Bookings can be made through the Inverness Visitors Centre located at 15756 Central Avenue. Telephone: 902-258-3740.



Photo by: Francis A. MacDonald

INVERNESS RACEWAY

**HARNESS RACING
MAY TO OCTOBER**



**PHONE
902-258-3315
INV.RACEWAY@NS.SYMPATICO.CA**

HORSEMAN'S BINGO - TUESDAY - 7:30

TURN RIGHT OFF ROUTE 19 ON TO FOREST STREET

Race Card
INVERNESS

26/05/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
02/06/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
09/06/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
16/06/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
23/06/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
30/06/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
03/07/2024 - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
10/07/2024 - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
17/07/2024 - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
24/07/2024 - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
28/07/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
31/07/2024 - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
07/08/2024 - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
11/08/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
21/08/2024 - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
28/08/2024 - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
01/09/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
08/09/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
15/09/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
22/09/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
29/09/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
06/10/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
13/10/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
20/10/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
27/10/2024 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sponsored by the Inverness Raceway



**RUNNING MAN
GROCERY MART**
INVERNESS WE BRING IT TO YOU

Daily 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

902-258-2463

15896 Central Avenue
Inverness, NS

WHIT'S PUBLIC HOUSE



- Patio
- Live Music
- Pool Table
- Pub Fare
- Local Craft Beer

Nestled between Cabot Links and the main street of Inverness, Whit's Public House offers a lively place to gather with family & friends. Join us this season and enjoy all Whit's has to offer!



**CABOT
CAPE BRETON**

Cabot Cape Breton | 902.258.3933
18 Cabot Lane, Inverness, NS

Visual artists make us look good!

Inverness County is fortunate to have a number of visual artists in its midst.

You will find an ad in this publication from Inverness County painter Doug Fraser who welcomes visitors to his studio at 178 Loch Ban Road, five minutes from Inverness.

Some other Inverness County artists include: Diane MacInnis (Judique), Tom Ryan (Inverness), Terry MacDonald (Inverness), Dave MacGregor (Inverness), Sarah Tompkins (Mabou), Polycarp LeBlanc (East Margaree), Colonel MacLellan (Margaree) Bill Roach (Cheticamp), and many more.

For more on Inverness County artists visit The Inverness County Centre for the Arts in Inverness, The J. Franklin Wright Gallery in Port Hawkesbury, or Freya and Thor Sunset Gallery in Cheticamp, where work by a number of folk artists from the region are displayed.



Painting by: Tom Ryan

Two days at the races in Inverness

Sunday mornings in Inverness County would look entirely different if it weren't for the sight of horse trailers moving along Route 19. Watching them pass by as they make their way to Inverness is as much a morning ritual as pouring water in the teapot or making coffee.

The Inverness Raceway is an exciting place to watch many of the region's top standardbred horses and drivers as they thrill the crowds with racing action on this half-mile track where parimutual betting is offered.

2024 dates for Inverness Raceway begin on Sunday, May 26th, and the season is set to wrap up on Sunday, October 27th.

The Inverness Raceway has been a top attraction to the town since 1926. Each Sunday afternoon from June to October, a full card of live harness racing is offered to spectators that come from all over Cape Breton, throughout the Maritimes, as well as visitors from beyond. A second evening of races is offered on Wednesday evenings in July and August.

While live harness racing is not unique to the town of Inverness, it's a rare opportunity these days, as there are just a handful of places to see events like it in the Maritimes. The Inverness Raceway is located at 112 Forest Street; turn onto Forest Street from Central Avenue (Route 19) and you'll find the track at the top of the hill.

SWIG: New roastery and take-out coffee

Whether you're a coffee aficionado or just want a nice, hot cup of java to kickstart your day, you'll be happy to hear there's a new place to get both your flavour and caffeine fix. SWIG Coffee & Roastery has opened in Inverness and you'd be hard pressed to find anyone more knowledgeable and passionate about coffee flavour profiles and the nuances of roasting than owner John Begin. John named his coffee shop SWIG, which stands for Sea Wolf Island Gourmet.

Johns says, "I'm happy to have a permanent location that allows me to focus on what excites me, and that is roasting, as well as talking about roasting, which I could do for hours."

John's beans are all ethically sourced from small-scale, fair-trade, organic coffee producers. "I like to have three to four countries of origin for my beans because each one has different growing conditions, such as elevation, that result in different flavour profiles I can explore as I roast. I really like South and Central American beans. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras are some of the most frequent beans I roast," he said.

In addition to fresh-brewed "grab-n-go" coffee, SWIG also offers decaf, espresso, tea, and hot chocolate. It also sells bags of his roasted beans in both whole and ground options.

SWIG, located at 15763 Central Avenue in Inverness, is open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., so stop in and grab-n-go, or grab-n-linger and have a chat with someone who may just talk your ear off about coffee, but who will also serve you a wonderful cup of Joe.

Inverness Adventures

Inverness Adventures is a new business launched in 2024 that offers E-bike rentals. The business will open for the season on the first week of June.

Watch for the sign for Inverness Adventures which is located at 15562 Highway 19 in Inverness with direct easy access to the 92 km Celtic Shores Coastal Trail along western Cape Breton Island from Inverness to Port Hastings which is part of the iconic Trans Canada Trail system. You can easily bike from this location to the Inverness Beach or in the opposite direction to an iconic train trestle or the beautiful northern end of Lake Ainslie. Either direction offers beautiful scenery!

Daily and hourly bike rentals are available and hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

E-bikes are available in various sizes and regular bikes are also available.

For bookings or for more information contact 902-615-5265 or email invernessadventures@gmail.com or visit Inverness Adventures on social media.



Phone 902-258-2205
86 MACLEAN ST., INVERNESS
www.capergymandfitness.ca

The Central Shop
Clothing
Footwear
Swim
Wellness

Follow us @capergym and @thecentralshop_cb

15844 CENTRAL AVE, INVERNESS
www.capergymandfitness.ca/thecentralshop

Food Truck based out of Inverness, NS.
Offerings include fresh Atlantic haddock, burgers & fresh chicken

Always Fresh!
(705) 816-1353

INVERNESS 902-258-3413

Open
7 days a week

15832 Central Ave, Inverness, NS

INVERNESS GATHERING EVENTS

LEGION DAY Thursday, July 25, 2024
CELEBRATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY

2pm-4pm (Free Admission)
Music by Howie MacDonald

9pm-1am
Legion Dance; \$10/person
Music by East of 60

Join us for children's activities, cake, tea & hot dogs

KitchenFest TBD

EVENING EVENTS 19 AND OVER

**Elevated Comfort Food
Good Company**

& Your Favourite Dining Experience
of The Season


66 Lower Railway, Inverness, NS - 902-258-3173
www.theannexinverness.com
Supper Daily 5pm - 10pm, bar 'til late
Brunch Friday-Saturday-Sunday 10am - 3pm

QUINCY
street market

A shopping destination for life by the sea

15876 Central Avenue
Inverness, Cape Breton
www.quincystreetmarket.com

f t i



Dr. Bernie MacLean Golf Classic
Le Portage Golf Course
Monday, July 22nd, 2024
7:00am start
5:00pm dinner at the rink.

Inverness Gathering Dance
Saturday, July 27th, 2024 - 9:00pm-2:00am,
 Dr. Bernie MacLean Cultural &
 Recreation Centre
 19 plus event

Entertainment TBA

WORLD CLASS GOLF | LUXURY REAL ESTATE | INSPIRED DINING | CABOTCAPEBRETON.COM



They say the best golf is played
 where land meets sea...




15796 Central Avenue Inverness
 @sew.thrifty.inv
 THRIFTED - CONSIGNED - HANDMADE



Luxurious artisan chocolates handcrafted in Inverness
 available at local stores throughout Cape Breton
 trufflebarchocolate@gmail.com

Food trucks: Great food for those on the go!

Food trucks have become a common sight throughout the sunset side of Cape Breton, and a popular choice for outdoor enthusiasts on the go. They offer a great addition to local bricks-and-mortar dining choices.

Food trucks have become so popular in the area that last fall in late October, the Cabot Trail was the backdrop for The Cabot Trail Food Truck Rally. This was a project of Destination Cape Breton, in partnership with the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, and the participating food trucks and vendors, with support from the Province of Nova Scotia. The Cabot Trail Food Truck Rally offered people a chance to hike up an appetite and then try some of the best food truck offerings the island has to offer. This year, the rally will take place on October 26th and 27th.

These are just some of the food trucks that regularly operate on the western side of Cape Breton:

The Joint Mobile Grill, Inverness: Operates daily in the parking area near Mill Road Social Enterprises in Inverness. You'll find an assortment of meals, from burgers, fresh seafood, chicken, and more.

Stand and Stuff Your Face, various locations: Offers hot sandwiches, pastas, noodle dishes, burgers, salads, and an assortment of dishes. They visit Port Hood and Inverness regularly as well as other locations.

Da Smoky Fish, Cheticamp: Located in the parking lot across from Aucoin's Bakery in Petite Étang, 16075 Cabot Trail Road, a **cash only**, locally-owned food truck serving Cheticamp and surrounding areas. Come and sample the "made from scratch" delicious eats this truck has to offer. Menu changes daily.

Fish Out of Water, Margaree Forks: Offers Acadian comfort food, with locally-sourced ingredients, including fishcakes, crab croquettes, tortierre hand pies, and more. It reopens June 21st for the 2024 season.

Lawless Lobster Seafood Trailer, Meat Cove: Located in the Meat Cove Campground, Lawless Lobster offers fresh seafood chowder, lobster and crobster (crab and lobster) rolls, and more.

Search for these food trucks on Facebook for their daily specials, regular menu items, locations, and hours of operation.




Our two-bedroom cottages provide a lovely place to relax at the end of the day and a nicely equipped kitchen lets you prepare your meals while you enjoy the views of the surrounding hills and ocean. You'll find the bright and fresh feel of the open concept cottages flows out onto a large deck. Relax in the hot tub, have a BBQ, or enjoy a fire!




Open year round!

902-293-7689 | rivertoseacottages@gmail.com | @rivertoseacottages

Banks Schoolhouse Music Festival

Banks Schoolhouse Music Festival celebrates more than a decade of great music.

DMNikas is hosting the 14th Annual Banks Schoolhouse Music Festival on August 5th, 2024. The concert usually runs from noon until midnight. The rain date is August 6th.

The venue is located at 399 Broad Cove Banks Road (off Route 19). This event promises an evening of music that is sure to be a fun time for everyone.

Admission is free, and the event is open to music lovers of all ages. It's an outdoor event, so bring along a lawn chair and a

blanket to sit on, plus warmer clothes as the air often cools after sunset.

Promotor Michael Nikas says he is booking good and fearless entertaining stage performers for this year's festival like in previous years. The lineup for this year includes Tyler Mullendore (full band), Big Marsh (band), The Brackish, Them Barens, Claverhouse, Lookout Tower, a surprise guest fiddler, and concert headliner Brian Doyle and the "BS" Band. This concert always has a great lineup, so don't miss it if you are in the area on August 5th.



General Store & Greco Express

Serving coffee, breakfast sandwiches, pizza slices and everything in between every day of the week!

(902) 258-3522
Central Ave, Inverness





Free Outdoor Music Festival
BANKS SCHOOLHOUSE
Banks Rd+Foot Cape Rd
INVERNESS Nova Scotia
August 5th, 2024
6 pm - 12 midnight
Rain day: Aug 6th
Host: Michael Nikas




This is the 14th annual free outdoor music party of the year in Inverness NS. Starts at 6:00 pm sharp

Doug Fraser Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden

OPEN DAILY 9 AM - 5 PM

EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



 **Sculpture Garden**
tours available

178 Loch Ban Road, Inverness
(5 minutes from Inverness)

VACATION RENTAL
AVAILABLE
BOOK TODAY!

STAY
WITH
US!

www.dougfraserart.com / 902-258-2455 / dougfraserart57@gmail.com



Getting growing in Inverness County

Mill Road Social Enterprises has been actively coordinating resources and helpful hands to bring healthy food to Inverness County tables. "Mill Road Grows," their Food Security Program, provides meal support through their popular Mobile Meals program, and offers a community garden as an exciting recreational and learning space with lots of "potential for growth."

The Accessible Community Garden and Greenhouse is a place for anyone to plant, harvest, and share gardening practices and a few recipes. The Community Garden has been in place since 2019, and the 2024 season will see the development of a fully accessible and inclusive space.

This year, a portion of the expanded garden will be dedicated to Mill Road Social Enterprises Mobile Meals program, so that local residents can enjoy fresh local produce in their healthy affordable meals. They'll also be establishing "allotments" for people who would like to rent a garden space all their own. Further, "The Nook" will be designed

on site to provide a quiet, natural space for getting grounded and relaxing.

Mill Road Grows operates all year round, through its meal and garden production, and they invite everyone to participate in supporting and reaping the healthy barrier-free benefits. Drop by or contact them at 20 Mill Road, Inverness, 902-258-5768, or mobilemeals.mrse@gmail.com.



Mill Road Social Enterprises

Where everyone has the opportunity to achieve



BAKERY & GENERAL INFORMATION: 902-258-3316

the CLOSET: 902-258-2274

20 Mill Road, Inverness



HOME TOWN BAKERY
fresh baked goods



the CLOSET
gently used clothes



MILL ROAD GROWS
community garden

The 68th Broad Cove Scottish Concert

Welcomes headliners Mary Frances Leahy and Morgan Toney Trio

The Broad Cove Scottish Concert has been held on the last Sunday in July since 1957. For seven decades this concert has been organized and driven entirely by volunteers. The concert is held on the grounds of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Broad Cove (three kilometres north of the town of Inverness) at 178 Broad Cove Marsh Road. These concerts have created a powerful legacy of potent music, spirited dancing, good food, and joyful times. Like many local festivals and events in Cape Breton, the Broad Cove Scottish Concert helps raise funds for community projects, makes positive impact on the economy, and offers employment to summer students each year.

The Broad Cove Scottish Concert is deemed as the largest outdoor Scottish concert in Cape Breton. This annual celebration of music, culture, and heritage gathers talented musicians, dancers, and performers in Broad Cove to entertain its audience.

This year, the concert will take place on Sunday, July 28th, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., rain or shine. Admission is \$25 per person (12 and under are free). The 2024 concert organizers have the distinct pleasure of welcoming Mary Frances Leahy and Morgan Toney Trio as their headliners for this year's 68th concert along with many respected and revered performers from across the island. Mary Frances is the daughter of Natalie McMaster and Donnell Leahy and will take the stage in her first solo appearance at Broad Cove.

East Coast Music Award winner and Juno nominated singer

songwriter, Morgan Toney will be joined by Keith Mullins and the concert weekend kicks off with the annual Fun Walk/Run on Saturday, July 27th, at 9:00 a.m. from St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Broad Cove. Enjoy one of the most scenic runs on the island with friends and family!

Concert organizers are dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish culture, and the Broad Cove Scottish Concert is a tribute to the lasting impact of Scottish music and dance. After the concert, you are invited to a square dance at Southwest Margaree Parish Hall.

Whether you are a passionate follower of Cape Breton music or seeking to discover a distinct cultural experience, the concert is certain to be an unforgettable experience.

Parking is free and plentiful; the field is large enough to ensure appropriate distance while maintaining a great view of the stage. There are on-site canteen and washroom facilities as well as a refreshment tent offering adult beverages. Seating is available near the stage, but feel free to bring along lawn chairs and/or a blanket to sit on and enjoy the afternoon with friends and family.

For more information about the 68th annual Broad Cove Scottish Concert, visit their new website, www.broadcovescottishconcert.ca, or search social media for Annual Broad Cove Scottish Concert for the latest updates. *The Inverness Oran*, published every Wednesday, will have coverage of the event.

TWO SCENIC PROPERTIES *Along the Ceilidh Trail*

Located on the coastal route to the Cabot Trail, our central location is ideal for exploring Cape Breton Island and enjoying the best of Canada's ocean playground. A place where the sea meets the highlands in the most enchanting of ways and a perfect sunset ends a perfect day. Join in our Celtic traditions, celebrated daily in music, dance, song, and spirit.

MacLeod's Beach Campsite

RV and tenting sites on a
pristine sandy beach
902.258.2433



The Inverness Beach Village

Housekeeping Cottages on a
beautiful three-mile beach
902.258.2653, winter 902.463.1663



FOR MORE INFO VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.MACLEODS.COM



Photo by: Marilyn Ellison

At a Glance

The communities around the Margaree River were settled originally by Gaels, Irish, Welsh, Acadian, and loyalist families. These people sustained themselves through economic endeavours generated by the river. Margaree offers eclectic and unique experiences for visitors through its museums, hiking trails, fly fishing, paddle boarding, and one-of-a-kind craft shops.

Places to Eat: The Dancing Goat (breakfast, lunch, coffee, bakery), Duck Cove Inn (lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch), The Island Sunset (lunch, dinner, lobster pound, fine dining), Belle View Restaurant (lunch, dinner, pizza), The Lakes Restaurant, The Normaway Inn

Places to Sleep: motels, campground, B&B, inn, cottages

Places to Stop: Margaree Salmon Museum, Public Library, Margaree Fish Hatchery

Trails: Cape Clear, Egypt Falls

Fishing: Margaree River (licensing may be required)

Amenities: gas station (mechanic available, North East Margaree), grocery store, convenience store, gift shops,



THE MARGAREES

churches, post office, credit union, craft shops, art gallery, CAP (public internet access) site, Visitor Information Centre

Music: Normaway Inn (Wednesdays in the Barn, July, August; nightly in the dining room; Fridays during September and October); St. Joseph's Parish Hall Southwest Margaree (Fridays); Island Sunset (Tuesdays)

Churches: Margaree Family of Roman Catholic Churches, 902-235-2435; Margaree Valley Baptist, 902-248-2735; Wilson United, 902-248-2846; Calvin United, 902-235-2658



Living life around the Margaree River

If summer in Margaree isn't paradise, it's awfully close. Communities celebrate their vibrant sense of identity with a variety of festivals and local events, welcoming visitors to share in their good times. Summer festivals offer a variety of events that range from golf tournaments, to concerts, to dinners, dances, and athletic events. These festivals give insight into the experience of living like a local and when you support these events, you contribute to community organizations and infrastructure.

The communities around the Margarees offer everything a visitor needs to make for vacation convenience such as grocery shopping, banks, post offices, restaurants, corner stores, and gift shops. Margaree also offers lots of things to do that can make vacation into a great escape. You can enjoy quiet inns, cottages and cabins, spend time at the library, or visit museums. If you need a little more adventure, check out local hiking trails, take a tour of the Margaree River on a paddle board or ride it like a lazy river on a tube. There are places to hear live music, learn to dance, play mini-golf, ride go-carts, sit on the beach, or watch the Anything That Floats race which takes place Saturday, August 3rd.

The Margaree Highland Games take place in 2024 from August 10th-11th on the grounds of St. Michael's Parish located at 1181 East Margaree Road.

Belle Cote Days take place July 24th -27th, just north of the Margaree Harbour bridge.

Margaree is the place to go if you need to slow down, relax, and enjoy the best of what life has to offer.

Anything That Floats Race in Margaree

The Anything that Floats Race is an annual community event taking place on the Margaree River on Saturday, August 3rd. This unique and fun-filled family event invites local people and visitors to come out and enjoy the glory of the Margaree River on a summer day. It's been a summer staple in Margaree for more than 25 years.

The event is now hosted by Live Life In Tents adventure company that invites everyone to bring their brightest, fastest, and most whimsical float to Tanners Run on the Margaree River. Check-in begins at 1:00 p.m., the race begins at 2:00 p.m.

Participants leave Tanners Run and make their way to the finish line at Doyle's Bridge.

The race entries are divided into two categories: (1) Kayaks and canoes, and (2) Everything else.

Prizes are awarded to the top three fastest canoes and kayaks. Three other prizes will be awarded to floats for most creative/artistic (Salvador Dali); most seaworthy (Seaworthy Captain's Award); and the Slow Poke award for the float that defies all the doubters and floats its way through to the end.

The Anything that Floats Race is a free event, but pre-registration is required. Visit livelifeintents.com for further information on the race and how to get your float on the river.



- Gifts
- Kayaks
- Canoes
- Rec Centre
- Pedal Boats
- Mini Golf
- Go Carts
- Laundry



The beaches of the Margarees

The Margarees are home to many beaches and swimming holes!

Margaree Harbour beach is a local favourite which is surrounded by a summer village of the same name. This is a good beach for young swimmers because of its gradual increase in water depth. It is also a great beach for enjoying the legendary sunsets of the sunset side of Cape Breton Island.

Whale Cove beach is a beautiful sheltered beach located on Route 219, the "shore road" between Dunvegan and Margaree Harbour near Whale Cove Cottages. You can take a short walk along the beach and up the hillside for breathtaking sunset views. Occasionally there is a platform installed that swimmers can make their destination for jumping.

Chimney Corner beach is also located on Route 219, south of the Whale Cove beach in Chimney Corner. While privately owned, this beach is enjoyed by all. This protected cove is perfect for a sandy outing with family and friends. This is the choice of local folks not only because of its sheer size, but also its privacy from the road. This gorgeous, clean beach is cradled in a cove, and offers safe swimming with long shallow water areas and great views. It also offers a clean, shallow, freshwater stream which crosses the beach and empties into the Gulf; kids love playing in and around it. There's rocky point to be explored, even in bare feet; the path has been worn smooth by generations of curious traffic. The gravel road to the beach is located on the right, at the bottom of a dip (you'll also see a blue bungalow on

the corner), about eight kilometres south of Margaree Harbour. At the end of the road, there's plenty of parking in a grassy lot beside the beach.

In addition to the coastal beaches, there are many local swimming holes along the Margaree River. If you're a long-time resident, you probably have your favourites. If you're visiting, well, ask a local!

Lake O'Law Provincial Park is a great location to enjoy a break from travel at the water's edge. Lake O'Law Provincial Park is an inland park on the shore of Lake O'Law on the Cabot Trail (24 km north of Highway 105) on Cape Breton Island. The park features picnic areas in fields and mixed-wood stands and a boat launch – a great location for boating and swimming.



BELLE VIEW
RESTAURANT
BELLE CÔTE, NOVA SCOTIA

HOURS:
8:00 A.M.
- 8:00 P.M.
DAILY
~LICENSED~

Grilled Steaks • Hubs • Seafood • Choufurs
Hot Sandwiches • Salads & Desserts
Lobster & Crab In Season • Gluten Free
Items available

TEL. 902-235-2100
CHILDREN'S MENU • A/C • SENIORS MENU

The Lakes
Restaurant Campground & Cottages

CALL 248-2360 OR 1-888-722-2112
4932 Cabot Trail Road, North East Margaree, Nova Scotia

Island Sunset Resort
and Seaside Restaurant

Where the Sun & Ocean Meet

Island Sunset
RESORT

• Sumptuous Dining with Spectacular Scenery
 • Many Local outdoor activities such as...

Golfing | Whale Watching | Hiking & Canoeing
Call today 1-866-515-2900

Luxury Suites, all with ocean views

Belle Côte, Cape Breton Island, on the Cabot Trail
www.islandsunset.com

Colonel MacLellan
 Art Gallery • Landscape & Portraits

Purchase one-of-a-kind original artwork

902-248-2457
 1691 West Big Intervale Rd.
 Margaree Centre

Colonel MacLellan Studio

You don't really need a reason to take a drive through the Margarees.

Along with the scenery, you can stop for an ice cream at The Ice Cream Shop, soup, and a sandwich at The Dancing Goat, a walk along the river, or go all in and visit Ruth and Herman at the Big Intervale Fishing Lodge.

But if you need another reason, then a visit to Colonel MacLellan's art gallery is certainly worth the drive to Margaree Centre.

MacLellan was born in Southwest Margaree on the Farquhar Road, grew up in New Waterford, did a stint out west before coming back to Nova Scotia to work as a rigger at the Halifax dockyard up to his retirement.

"Then Jackie (his wife) and I came to paradise," he said.

Needing a hobby to take into retirement with him, MacLellan began painting at the age of 40.

"I'm pretty much self taught. I took in some workshops, painted with Jean Watson (founder of Tartan Day) in Halifax, and joined a couple of art groups. But at the end of the day, you develop your own style."

One of those art groups was the Inverness-based Colour

Blind Collective. That group included the late Virginia McCoy, A.J. Aucoin, Dave MacGregor, Terry (Lake) MacDonald, and Tom Ryan, among others.

"When I decide to paint something, it's for the challenge. That's what it's all about for me," he said, laughingly pointing to a portrait in pencil of one of his favourite authors, Fyodor Dostoevsky. "Nobody but me would know who that is."



Painting by: Colonel MacLellan

MacLellan's work ranges mainly within landscapes, wildlife, and portraits.

"Everything I do is all original work, there are no copies or prints. It's all one of a kind."

MacLellan, 74, said the gallery hours aren't set in stone and he will be open every day throughout the summer and early fall.

"I go fishing for a couple of hours in the morning, I read for two hours, paint for two hours – everything in two-hour stints," he said.

"I'm not looking for a job. I just like seeing people who can come in for a chat."

To view his art, you can find Colonel MacLellan at 1691 West Big Intervale Road in Margaree Centre. You can also reach him by email: rigger_23@yahoo.ca or by phone at 902-248-2457.

Margaree Salmon Museum

The Margaree River is known throughout the world for its salmon fishing. People have come from all over the world for a chance to cast a line and catch big fish or tell the stories about ones that got away.

For more than 50 years, the Margaree Salmon Museum has been a destination for visitors to Margaree.

The building was once a one-room schoolhouse in North East Margaree. Today, it's a cultural touchstone that strives to share the rich history of fishing on the Margaree River and educate visitors on the importance of conservation to preserve the stocks for future generations.

The Margaree River has been a designated Canadian Heritage River for more than two decades.

The Margaree Salmon Museum is a registered charitable organization devoted to the history and preservation of artifacts associated with the peoples, activities and nature of the Margaree River," according to its website.

The museum offers displays that relate to salmon angling on the river, photos, and memorabilia from renowned anglers. There is also practical information for those who want to fish the river, including season information, species identification, and need-to-know guidance about fishing on the Margaree River.

The Margaree Salmon Museum is located at 60 East Big In-

tervale Road in North East Margaree.

For the 2024 season The Margaree Salmon Museum is opening on June 25th and running to October 15th. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., (Wednesday to Sunday). The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

For more information call 902-248-2848, or visit the museum in person or online or email at margareesalmonmuseum@gmail.com.

Lake O'Law Provincial Park

Inverness County is known for its many quiet places to pull over and enjoy the scenery. One of these locations includes the Lake O' Law Provincial Park in Lake O' Law, just past The Lakes Restaurant Campground and Cottages.

This is the only provincial park in Inverness County on the scenic Cabot Trail.

Lake O' Law is one of numerous day-use provincial parks in Cape Breton. It's a great place to take a rest, launch a boat, picnic, or just watch the river winding past.

At this location there is a rock cairn dedicated to first Irish settlers in the area.

This is a popular stop with the travelling public – from local residents to tour buses that use it as a rest/viewing location.

Day use of parks in operational season is from May 17th to October 14th.



LARCH WOOD CANADA



Stop by for a tour and pick up one of these world famous boards!

1-866-735-2949
info@larchwoodcanada.com
www.larchwoodcanada.com

Factory and Factory Outlet
Monday – Friday: 8am – 4:30pm

Kiosk Outlet
May – Oct Daily 10am – 5pm



Directions here

CAJUN CEDAR
LOG COTTAGES
 (902) 248 -2494
 Margaree Forks, Cabot Trail

LAUNDRY FACILITIES ON SITE

cajuncedarlogcottages.com

BROWN'S BRUAICH NA H'AIBHNE

Housekeeping Suites & COTTAGES
1-800-575-2935

YOUR HOSTS: John & Alice Brown

SEASONAL 3-1/2 miles off the Cabot Trail

- Cottages
- Air Conditioned Suites

WEBSITE: capebretonet.com/Margaree/Browns
 EMAIL: brownsinn@ns.sympatico.ca

Caper Gas  **Drive'er**

BELLE CÔTE GAS & CONVENIENCE

Smiles and Great Service, Propane Exchange, Ice, Convenience items, Bicycle Parts and Cabot Trail/Nova Scotia

FILL UP BEFORE THE HIGHLANDS
 10787 Cabot Trail Road
902-235-2416

MARGAREE CO-OP

• Groceries • Produce • Camping supplies and much more...

Check us out on facebook
 7883 Cabot trail, Margaree Forks, NS
 Ph. (902) 248-2543 Fax (902) 248-2977

NSLC AGENCY

IRVING

231 CRANTON CROSSROADS
 MARGAREE CENTRE
 902-248-2629

INGRAHAM'S IRVING GARAGE RITE STOP CONVENIENCE

- SANDWICHES AND SWEETS
- CONVENIENCE STORE
- ICE DISTRIBUTOR
- ICE CREAM



Photo by: Michel Soucy



CHETICAMP

At a Glance

Chéticamp is an Acadian community on the northern side of Inverness County. Throughout its history a primary economic driver in the town has been the fishing industry. The community sits at the entrance to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park; since its opening in 1936, tourism initiatives built around a robust Acadian culture have made Chéticamp a must-see destination on the sunset side of Cape Breton.

Places to Eat: L'Abri Cafe, Restaurant et Bar (breakfast, lunch, dinner), Robin's Donuts (breakfast, coffee), The Harbour Restaurant (lunch, dinner), Doryman Pub & Grill (lunch, dinner), Le Gabriel (lunch, dinner), Seafood Stop (lunch, dinner), Freya & Thor Gallery and Cafe (coffee, fresh baked goods), The Evangeline (lunch, dinner), Wabo's (pizza), Mr. Chicken, Aucoin Bakery (lunch, snacks)

Places to Sleep: motels, campground, B&B, inn, cottages

Places to Stop: Les Trois Pignons, Flora's, Elizabeth LeFort Gallery, Marguerite Gallant Museum, Père Charles Aucoin Genealogy Centre, folk art galleries

Trails: Gypsum Mine Trail, Cape Breton Highlands National Park trails

Golf: Le Portage (18 hole)

Amenities: gas stations, grocery store/hardware store, convenience stores, pharmacy, gift shops, banking, craft shops, art gallery, liquor store, bakeries, CAP (public internet access) site, post office, Visitor Information Centre

A jam-packed summer in Chéticamp

The village of Chéticamp has a full schedule of events offering visitors the opportunity to see, hear, taste, and experience the very best of everything Acadian culture has to offer.

Summer launches with the Roots to Boots Festival from June 13th to 16th. This festival promises a weekend of unique events filled with music, storytelling, local flavour, hiking excursions, good food, fun, and late-night square dancing. Check out www.rootstoboostfestival.ca or their Facebook page for complete schedule details.

On July 1st, celebrate Canada Day with a full afternoon of family-focussed activities beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Festival de L'Escaouette takes place from August 1st-4th. This festival offers four days of activities for all ages that celebrate Acadian culture and traditions. The event features a moveable feast of kitchen parties held at restaurants around the community, an official opening event at *Place du Pêcheur*, children's activities, and nightly festival jams at various locations in the community. In between, the weekend is filled with workshops, music, dancing, dramatic productions, parades, and music.

National Acadian Day events will be held on August 15th.

On September 13th to 22nd, at the close of summer, there will be the Hike the Highlands Festival, a fall hiking festival held each September along the Cabot Trail on Cape Breton

Music: Doryman Pub & Grill, Le Gabriel (varied schedule)

Churches: St. Peter's Roman Catholic, 902-224-2064; Christian Community Church, 902-248-2107; St. Joseph's Roman Catholic (St. Joseph du Moine) 902-224-3333

Island that features guided hikes and evening activities and presentations. For more information on this festival, see www.hikethehighlands.com.

There are loads of opportunities to discover traditional Acadian music as musical talent can be found everywhere from the grand stage of the *Place des arts Père Anselme-Chiasson* to the more intimate venues of local bars and restaurants. There are also many opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities and all the sights the Chéticamp area has to offer. Chéticamp welcomes the world, offering an unparalleled experience celebrating Acadian culture taking place throughout the region during the summer season. Visit the Chéticamp Visitor Information Centre located at Les Trois Pignons Museum and Archives, 15584 Cabot Trail, for information and insight into all that there is to see and do in Chéticamp. Their website is www.lestroispignons.com and their telephone number is 902-224-2642.

Whale watching

Whale watching is one of the unique experiences offered in the northern Inverness County communities of Chéticamp and Pleasant Bay. Visitors have raved about their experiences spending time among the whales in the northern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Gulf of St. Lawrence hosts numerous whale species each season including finback whales, pilot whales, minke whales, humpback whales, as well as dolphins and other rare whale species such as right whales, killer whales, blue whales, beluga whales, and more. Most seasons, 8-12 species are recorded. You may also spot seals, water birds, sea caves, and more! There are several whale watching

opportunities available.

In Chéticamp, you can contact Captain Zodiac Whale Cruise or Chéticamp Adventure Company. In Pleasant Bay, you can contact Pleasant Bay Whale Watching, Captain Mark's Whale and Seal Cruise, or Cabot Trail Guaranteed Whale Adventures.

Captain Zodiac Whale Cruise: This cruise is aboard a 8.5-metre (28-foot) Zodiac vessel powered by 225 HP 4-stroke engines with a maximum capacity of 12 passengers. The experienced captain also serves as your tour guide. The tour is approximately a 2- to 3-hour trip (depending on distance to whales and weather conditions). Head out in search of the migrating whales visiting the waters off Cape Breton Island. There will be time for you to do some sightseeing as your boat cruises along the Cape Breton Highland's National Park on the return trip to port. Their policy is if no whales are seen, customers get a no-questions-asked full refund! For more information, please email: captain.zodiac@outlook.com or go to their website at <https://www.novascotiawhales.com>.

Chéticamp Adventure Company: Experience Cape Breton from the water. Come on this 1.5- to 3-hour-long Zodiac excursion that takes you along Cape Breton's most scenic section of coastline! Maximum capacity is 12. For more information, please call 902-224-0407 or visit their website at <https://www.cheticampadventure.ca>.

Pleasant Bay Whale Watching: Join them on an intimate-sized tour, as they explore the coastal waters of Cape Breton and discover the area's abundant wildlife and spectacular beauty. Their tours generally run 1.5 to 2 hours. Every tour is guided by an experienced captain.

Their vessel, *The Danny Lynn*, is a 24-passenger fully-equipped

WWW.CHETICAMPNS.COM/SEAFOODSTOP

SEAFOOD STOP
FULLY LICENSED RESTAURANT

• FULL MENU
• FREE WIFI

Seafood Stop RESTAURANT
Fish Market

LOBSTER DINNERS
And the largest selection of
SEAFOOD
on Cape Breton Island

902-224-1717
14803 CABOT TRAIL RD CHETICAMP

CONSEIL DES ARTS
DE CHÉTICAMP

celebrating 25 years!

Visit our website for information on our upcoming concerts and events!

1-902-224-1876
Place des arts Père-Anselme-Chiasson
15118 Cabot Trail Chéticamp, N.S.
www.conseildesartsdecheticamp.ca

touring vessel with VHF radios, washroom, 24-person life raft, and all safety equipment. For more information, please email pleasantbayzodiactours@gmail.com or go to their website at <http://www.pleasantbaywhalewatching.com>.

Captain Mark's Whale and Seal Cruise: Their Zodiac vessel is known for having a personal feel with the water and whales, and they offer a chance to see various marine wildlife and spectacular coastal views of Cape Breton Highlands National Park. The highland coast scenery is breathtaking and wild, with spectacular rock and cliff formations, mysterious sea caves, cascading waterfalls, abandoned pioneer settlements, a contemporary Tibetan Buddhist monastery, and traditional maritime fisherman at work.

Captain Mark's operates this year from June 1st to October 19th, with tours at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. For more information, please email them at markszodiacs@gmail.com or go to their website at <https://www.whaleandsealcruise.com>.

Cabot Trail Guaranteed Whale Adventures: Join them on their 11.6-metre (38-foot) Cape Island Style Touring vessel. It is rated #1 safest tour vessel in Cape Breton. It is the only big boat in Pleasant Bay with padded seats for comfortable viewing and also has a roof to protect from the elements. They have a hydrophone to hear whales singing. Maximum 35 passenger capacity.

For more information, please contact them at 1-855-942-5315 or go to their website at <https://www.guaranteedwhales.ca>.



Chéticamp Boardwalk: A stroll by the roll of the sea

Need to stretch your legs after a road trip? Do you need an early walk to shake off the dew of sleep or maybe an after-dinner stroll to aid digestion before turning in for the night? Or maybe you need to sit in a peaceful spot to watch the sun go down? Whatever the motivation, be sure to see the boardwalk and *Quai Mathieu* during your visit to Chéticamp.

Quai Mathieu, named after the ship that carried John Cabot on his discovery mission to Cape Breton, offers free parking and washroom facilities, and access to the promenade/boardwalk that runs along Chéticamp Harbour through the centre of town. The smell of sea air is invigorating and the view from the harbour as it opens out to the Atlantic Ocean is inspiring. Enjoy a morning coffee from a local café or a picnic lunch as you sit and watch the activity of fishing boats coming and going from the wharf, or a variety of sea birds doing a bit of meal planning.

The Chéticamp boardwalk is a perfect spot to stop and catch your breath during your adventure in Cape Breton.



Photo by: K.C. Beaton

Église Saint-Pierre A testament to the Acadian spirit

The earliest settlers in the community of Chéticamp are believed to have arrived in 1785. These pioneers chose to establish themselves in the mountains overlooking the harbour. Over the next 50 years, the people of Chéticamp dredged a channel to the sea and grew the community into a port. Fishing became more and more of an economic driver in the area.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the population was growing in Chéticamp. People increasingly chose to establish their homes closer to the water. The church that was built in 1862 soon became too small and was no longer central to the population.

Planning began to build a new church in the centre of the village of Chéticamp. Father Pierre Fiset, parish priest, had a vision to build a magnificent structure that could be seen from any vantage point in the parish. Funds to build this church were gathered through levies on each parishioner. Local fishers donated a day's catch to the parish with revenue from the sales of the fish added to the fund. In time, David Ouellet, a Québec architect known for his work in design of churches was contracted to design the new church. Much of the building material was given freely by local merchants and business operators. Parishioners contributed to the construction, the wood, and the mortar. The first mass was celebrated in December 1892. Total construction costs for the church were approximately \$42,000. The Cassavant pipe organ, which by today's valuation would be worth in the vicinity of \$100,000, was installed in 1905 for \$1,496.

L'Église Saint-Pierre stands solidly in the centre of Chéticamp today. The building remains a testament to the faith and the fortitude of the people of the parish as well as the Acadian spirit. It is recognized as one of the most iconic and beautiful churches in Atlantic Canada.

The Père Charles Aucoin Genealogy Centre

When Father Charles Aucoin (1911-1999) retired in 1973, the beneficiary of that retirement was Chéticamp. For the next quarter of a century, the Chéticamp native threw himself into a labour of love: undertaking the laborious task of transcribing by hand all of the old church records from 200 years of Acadian settlement in northern Inverness County. Father Aucoin prepared more than 100,000 personal file cards. He also wrote a number of articles on Acadian life and history.

The results of his work are of particular help to former Chéticamp people and their descendants who return to the village in search of information about their ancestors and family history. A very important department at *Les Trois Pignons* is that of the history and genealogy of the Chéticamp-tins. Under the able direction of volunteers Jean-Doris (*à Joe à Joe*) LeBlanc and Charles D. (*à Freddie à Damien*) Roach, there is an accumulation here of all possible documentation on these subjects: books, copies of parish registers, census lists, listing of names from all the headstones in the cemetery, and old photographs.



Laura Graham
Broker

Cell: 902-224-0931
seaglassrealtycapebreton@gmail.com

**LEBLANC'S
GENERAL STORE**

LOTTERY TICKETS •
ICE • CAMPING SUPPLIES •
GREETING CARDS • ICE CREAM •
GROCERIES • GIFT CARDS

ATM MACHINE

Last Store Before National Park

HOURS: 8:00am-10:00pm
Petit Etang, Nova Scotia
PHONE 902-224-1302

L★Acabie

**Cheticamp
Shuttle Service**

We offer safe, reliable and
affordable service to get you
where you need to go.
Pre-booking is required.
Prices and destinations vary.

regular hours
Mon-Fri 8-5

902-224-5069

LE GABRIEL FAMILY RESTAURANT AND SPORTS LOUNGE
Unsurpassed Acadian Hospitality and Cruise

HOME OF THE BIG LOBSTER

- Fully Licensed
- Free wifi
- Free use of Pool Tables
- Air Conditioned
- Mini Casino
- Outdoor Patio
- Bilingual Service
- Lighthouse Dining

Listed as **TOP 10 Restaurants in Cape Breton** two years running by Culture Trip

LIVE ACADIAN MUSIC | WWW.LEGABRIEL.COM

15424 Cabot Trail Cheticamp, NS | TEL: 902-224-3685 Cell 902-224-5284
Fax 902-224-1178 Email: legabriel@acnet.ca

Le MOYNE

- Groceries
- Produce
- Meats and ...

so much more!

SUMMER HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 - 8
SATURDAY 8 - 5 & SUNDAY 11 - 5

GRAND ETANG, NS 902-224-3335

Aucoin's

PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL

Offering great savings

HOURS: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
14803 Cabot Trail - Chéticamp
Telephone 902-224-2100 Fax: 902-224-3155

PICNIC TABLES OVERLOOKING CHETICAMP HARBOUR ON THE CABOT TRAIL

Mr. Chicken & ICE CREAM BAR

THE ULTIMATE TASTE!
Own Recipe

Please check our Facebook page for Hours and Menu

TELEPHONE 902-224-2975

106.1 • 92.5 • 97.5 FM

CKJM
Cooperative Radio Chéticamp Ltée

www.ckjmfmm.ca

radiockjm

Radio CKJM

Tel.: (902) 224-1242
Fax: (902) 224-1770

JE J'AIME C'QUE J'AIME C'QUE



Parade • Race • Dance • Gala • Children's activities and much more!

Check out our Facebook page: Festival de l'Escaouette for all the details!

AUGUST 1ST TO 4TH, 2024

Your Acadian festival on the Cabot Trail!

902-224-2642
info@lestroispignons.com





LA BOULANGERIE AUCOIN BAKERY

**Chauds et frais à chaque jour
Hot and Fresh from the Oven Daily
style maison / Homemade Style**

- ↓ Pains et petits pains
- ↓ Pâtés à la viande
- ↓ Assorted Bread & Rolls
- ↓ Acadian Meat Pies
- ↓ Pâtisseries maison
- ↓ Thé et café
- ↓ Homemade Pastries
- ↓ Tea & Coffee
- ↓ Sandwiches
- ↓ Wi-Fi gratuit
- ↓ Sandwiches
- ↓ FREE Wi-Fi

Ouvert de 7h00 à 17h00 du lundi au samedi • Open 7:00am - 5:00pm (Mon. - Sat.)

14 chemin Lapointe Road, Chéticamp

À 2 kilomètres du Parc national • 2km from Cape Breton Highlands National Park

Tél./Fax : 902-224-3220 • info@aucoinbakery.com

www.AucoinBakery.com



Marguerite Gallant Museum

Marguerite Gallant (1890-1983) was a native of Chéticamp with a profound love of collecting. She worked in Pennsylvania for many years as a maid for the Edward Cahill family. It is said that she learned the value of collecting from Mr. Cahill who was an ardent collector.

When she returned to Chéticamp in 1938, Marguerite moved into a tiny house which she filled with objects of all kinds. As Marguerite's reputation for collecting spread through the community, people brought objects to her rather than let them be thrown away.

After Marguerite's death, *La Société Saint-Pierre* became custodians of the collection and moved it to *Les Trois Pignons*. Thanks to this incurable collector, many valuable artifacts from Chéticamp's history have been preserved.

The Elizabeth LeFort Gallery

Elizabeth LeFort learned to hook rugs at a very young age, mastering landscapes and photographic reproductions, and has been hailed as "an artist in wool."

Elizabeth was so skillful at reproducing photographs that she began to create portraits in wool. Her portrait of American president Dwight Eisenhower was presented to him at the White House in 1957. This was followed with a series of portraits including Queen Elizabeth II, Pope Pius XII, Pope John XXIII, Jacqueline Kennedy, President Lyndon Johnson, Prime Ministers Lester Pearson and John Diefenbaker, and Prince Charles (now King Charles!). Consequently, her art has graced Buckingham Palace,

the White House, and Vatican City in Rome.

Always striving for more challenges, she completed a series of reproductions of religious paintings, including DaVinci's *The Last Supper*, and scenes from the life of Jesus.

Two of her large original works, depicting important events in the history of Canada and the United States, leave no doubt as to her sense of design and her mastery of the craft.

Elizabeth LeFort, Chéticamp's most famous artist in wool, was awarded an honorary doctorate by *Université de Moncton* in 1975 and was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1987.

Festival de L'Escaouette

Escaouette: In Latin, the word ESCA means "food, nourishment." When our ancestors celebrated Candlemas, they were above all celebrating the feast of food, the feast of ESCA.

In 1976, festival organizers unanimously chose a name typical of the region: *Le Festival de l'Escaouette*, an Acadian cultural event in the Acadian region of Chéticamp in early August.

The 49th celebration of *Le Festival de l'Escaouette* will take place August 1st to 4th. The festival is organized every year to celebrate Acadian culture with family, friends, and visitors. The busy weekend includes music, dances, *Course de l'Escaouette* (festival race), children's parade, a festival parade on the Sunday, and much more. This year's festival gala will be a special tribute to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Le Grand Cercle*. Come relive beautiful moments of this musical first presented in 2004 during the *Congrès mondial acadien* on Sunday, August 4th at 7:30 p.m. (second show on Monday, August 5th at 2:00 p.m.). For more information call 902-224-2642 or email: info@lestroispignons.com.



PharmaChoice
Cheticamp Pharmacy *Advice for Life*
 Committed to meeting your health care needs

Nous nous engageons à répondre à tous vos besoins en soins de santé.

15388 Cabot Trail 902-224-2841

MAY TO OCTOBER - OPEN 10AM TO 5PM | TEL: 902-224-7064

PROUD TO BE Lola's HOOKERS



Handmade Rug Hooking Hooking Kits Hooking Demos Local Handcrafts

proudtobehookers@bellaliant.net | 15359 Cabot Trail Rd, Cheticamp

ADM CONVENIENCE

Tel: 902-224-3782
marcelcor@hotmail.com

**MUSIC ACCESSORIES • ICE
 CONVENIENCE • OFFICE SUPPLIES •
 PRINTING SERVICES • SOUVENIRS •
 PROPANE • FIREWOOD**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
 7:30 A.M. - 9 P.M.**

P.O. Box 1005, Cheticamp, NS B0E-1H0 2 miles south of Cheticamp on the Cabot Trail

CAISSE POPULAIRE CREDIT UNION ACADIENNE/ACADIAN

902-224-2055
 15089 Cabot Trail, PO Box 250
 Cheticamp, NS B0E 1H0

ATM
 (Guichet Automatique)

WWW.ACADIANCREDITU.CA
TOLL FREE 1-877-477-7724

Gypsum Mine Trail Chéticamp

The Gypsum Mine Trail was started in 2008, the trail has been opened since 2011. It is a multi-purpose trail, meaning it is accessible for hiking, cycling, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles. It is built on the railroad bed that once ran from Chéticamp Harbour to the mine, which operated from 1911-1939. The full trail route is approximately 12 kilometres, beginning at *Quai de Mathieu*, in the middle of the town, and continuing along the harbour. This portion of the trail is mostly straight, flat, and well groomed. It offers an easy walk or cycle along the water with views of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The latter part of the trail is at the mine site itself. It is approximately five kilometres round trip from the parking area on the Chéticamp Back Road to the Gypsum Mine Lake. This part of the hike would be little-to-no challenge for an experienced hiker or anyone in peak physical condition. It is well maintained, but there is a gentle-yet-steady incline for most of the route to the lake. It might be a bit more demanding to a novice hiker or if you're in less-than-peak physical condition. Embrace the challenge! There are spots to rest along the way.

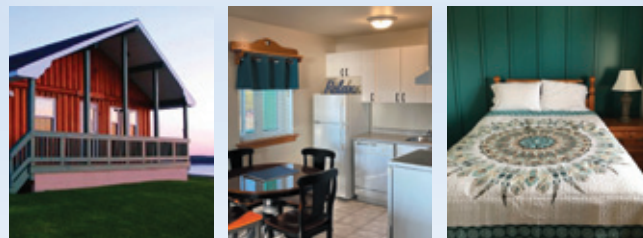
Along the trail you will see pieces of gypsum – a crystalline white rock flecked with black or gray – embedded in the path. The path is lined by wildflowers and bordered by natural bogs. You may even see eagles soar overhead. You will have a view of the surrounding mountains of the Cape Breton Highlands and see craggy and rugged rock formations that were once the face of the mine. At the top of the trail is a man-made lake that

shimmers in the sun and reflects hues of greenish-blue water from the surrounding gypsum deposits. This lake has been a hidden-gem swimming hole for years. Swimmers need to be cautious, however, as the true depth of the water is unknown. Trail developers have added benches beside the lake making it a serene spot to rest, take photos, have a snack, or a full picnic.

The Gypsum Mine Trail is accessible year round. As with most of the trails in the region, if you pack it in, pack it out, and respect that you are sharing the area with wildlife.



PILOT WHALE CHALETs



Salty Air, Sunset Hikes and Starry Nights Await
Cheticamp 902-224-1040



Cape Breton Island, NS



Visit Les Trois Pignons for a special view into Acadian culture and the history of Chéticamp

- Gallery of Hooked Rugs
- Gift Shop
- Visitor Information Centre
- Genealogy Centre

TEL. (902) 224-2642
info@lestroispignons.com www.lestroispignons.com
15584 Cabot Trail, Chéticamp



BIENVENUE!

Le Conseil des arts de Chéticamp

Le Conseil des arts de Chéticamp is a proactive and dynamic non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the Chéticamp region by supporting artists as well as by developing the artistic skills of young talents. They look to preserve and promote the French language and Acadian culture, while encouraging cultural diversity.

Their commitment translates into concrete actions: offering quality training, organizing artistic events, and creating opportunities for the community's future artists. Additionally, *le Conseil des arts* manages an impressive venue and is able to seat 363 spectators in a very comfortable and elegant concert hall.

As for exciting news, *le Conseil des arts de Chéticamp* is celebrating its 25th anniversary season this year.

There will also be a Raveston Music School's Spring Recital on Sunday, June 2nd, as well as the annual *Swing du Suête* dance show on Sunday, June 9th.

Please visit their website (conseildesartsdecheticamp.ca), call their main office, or check the weekly *Inverness Oran* for more information on further upcoming concerts and events!



FREYA & THOR

GALLERY & CAFE

- FOLK ART GALLERY
- OVER 80 ARTISANS
- HANDMADE IN THE MARITIMES
- UNIQUE AND ECLECTIC GIFTS
- ESPRESSO, LUNCH & TASTY TREATS
- TO ENJOY ON OUR OUTDOOR PATIO

15856 CABOT TRAIL RD
902-224-1831
WWW.FREYAANDTHOR.COM
OPEN 9-4:30 MAY-OCTOBER



- Picnics for the park
- Fresh salads & sandwiches
- Vegan, vegetarian & gluten free
- Breakfast biscuits, coffee & treats
- A thoughtfully curated mercantile highlighting the best of indie



Open 8am-3pm May to October
10 La Prairie Rd. 2km from Highlands National Park
902-224-2411

lunch@lastchancesandwich.com www.lastchancesandwich.com



Photo by: Michel Soucy



PLEASANT BAY

At a Glance

Pleasant Bay is the halfway point of the Cabot Trail. The community offers experiences to visitors that range from great adventures, such as whale cruises, to hiking expeditions over unspoiled terrain, to the serenity of Gampo Abbey, a Buddhist monastery and retreat centre that invites visitors in for tours at scheduled times throughout the summer.

Places to Eat: Mid-Trail Motel, Rusty Anchor, Mountain View Restaurant

Places to Sleep: motels, campground, B&B, inn, cottages, luxury domes

Places to Stop: Whale Interpretive Centre, Gampo Abbey

Trails: Robert’s Mountain, MacIntosh Brook, Pollett’s Cove, Cape Breton Highlands National Park (many trails in this region are considered suitable for advanced, experienced hikers)

Whale Watching: sea cruises (zodiac, fishing boat)

Amenities: convenience store, gift shops

Church: Pleasant Bay United, 902-383-2059

Pleasant Bay is a village on the Cabot Trail that has been a fishing community for the entirety of its history. The earliest settlers were believed to have arrived in 1828 from the Isle of Skye. Immigrants from other parts of Scotland and Ireland soon followed and began to build settlements along the shore and coastal lowlands area. One of these settlement areas is the site of the present-day Fishing Cove hiking trail in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

The Skyline Trail offers some of the most iconic views of the Cabot Trail. This seven-kilometre loop trail features a dramatic headland cliff look-off over the Atlantic Ocean. As you stand on this cliff, you may see whales in the sea below or watch eagles soar above in the sky. Vehicles moving on the Cabot Trail look miniature. In the moment, as you take all this in, it feels like you are standing on top of the world.

While hiking the trails, please remember to give wildlife space and not to feed the animals.

The Whale Interpretive Centre in Pleasant Bay promotes and preserves awareness of whales and marine life by creating a unique visitor experience. There are exhibits, interpretive displays, and scale illustrations of 16 species of whales found in the waters off Cape Breton Island. The centre is open from June 1st through October 15th, 2024. Tours are provided throughout the day. Located at 104 Harbour Road, the Whale Interpretive Centre is just beside a wharf from where whale-watching cruises depart several times a day. Stop and learn about the whale habitat before setting off on a sea adventure to watch whales up close.

Look as well for arts, crafts, and gift shops and check out the Lone Sheiling at the Scottish Crofters’ hut nearby to learn about the early European settlers.

Pleasant Bay is also home to Gampo Abbey, a western Buddhist monastery in the Shambala tradition. Visitors are welcome to walk the grounds, hike the trails, and visit the Stupa of Enlightenment.



MEAT COVE

Meat Cove: Breathtaking views on Cape Breton's northern tip

Meat Cove is often described as a place to escape modern life. While the community is linked to the rest of the planet with current telecommunication technology, one look at the views from any point in this tiny place on the northern-most tip of Nova Scotia and you will feel the urge to go unplugged.

Be prepared to slow down, enjoy the scenery, and take care with your vehicles on some challenging road conditions.

Like most of the other places in northern Inverness County, Meat Cove has been a fishing community for most of its existence. With a population of approximately 70 people, you get the sense that living here full time is a test of mettle. Some of the residents who live here can trace their roots back to the original settlers of Meat Cove who arrived in the 1850s.

Meat Cove Campground and The Lawless Lobster Seafood trailer are located right in the middle of Meat Cove. They are family owned and operated on property that has been in the MacLellan family for eight generations. They offer a wealth of knowledge on local hiking trails and activities. Meat Cove Campground offers tent camping and six upgraded oceanside solar-powered cabins, where you can drift off to sleep under a star-filled sky listening to waves breaking on the shore. There are kayak rentals, hiking trails, free showers, new washroom facilities, and free wi-fi. They also operate a three-bedroom guest house which is available for rent. For information contact them at 902-383-2379. Bookings begin May 1st, but the campground doesn’t officially open until June 1st.

Don’t leave Meat Cove without checking out its beautiful beach, and just remember to pack out what you pack in as that’s how these special places are kept beautiful.

You can also check out Hines Lodge for accommodations.

Whether you visit Meat Cove for a few hours or a few days, the experience will stay with you long after you rejoin modern life.

Meat Cove, a beautiful fishing village located on the northern tip of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, whose name is believed to

At a Glance

If you sit on a hilltop or hike on the Seawall Trail in Meat Cove, you may think you are on top of the world. You wouldn’t be completely wrong. The community is located on the northern tip of Cape Breton Island. Meat Cove offers the ultimate in rugged, unspoiled beauty, unparalleled ocean vistas, encounters with good, kind people, and fantastic seafood.

Places to Eat: Lawless Lobster Seafood trailer

Places to Sleep: campground, inn, chalets

Places to Stop/Shop: Meat Cove CAP site (local history museum)

Trails: Hiking trails (see next page), beach, boardwalk

Amenities: CAP (public access internet) site

have originated from the area being used as a popular location for hunters to dress animal carcasses during its early history.

Its small population is descended from Scottish settlers and most are employed in the fishing and tourism industries. Surrounded by the Cape Breton Highlands on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, Meat Cove makes for a popular tourist destination in the summer for tourists!

Kayak rentals

Try renting a kayak and explore some of the many coves and inlets around Meat Cove. The campground has many kayaks and sea kayaks available for your kayaking pleasure! Don’t forget to ask how to kayak to “The Arch,” which is roughly a 20-minute kayak ride from the Meat Cove Campground.

Meat Cove: 2024 solar eclipse destination!



People flocked to the tiny community of Meat Cove to experience the total solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024. The community, which was greatly outnumbered by visitors, gave them a warm welcome!

HIKING

Meat Cove is widely known for all its wonderful hiking trails. It offers a variety of trails that will not disappoint you, all with amazing views that you will not forget. Be sure to bring your camera to capture the scenes on film!

CAPE ST. LAWRENCE TRAIL

Trail length is five kilometres one way, maximum elevation 259 metres (850 ft.). This trail starts by the office at the Meat Cove Community Centre/Restaurant (check with the office if you plan to leave your vehicle near here) on the gravel road and changes to a narrow track after 150 metres and proceeds up the hill. This is by far the steepest and most challenging part of the hike. In the first kilometre you will climb nearly 214 metres (700 ft.) and pass by a wooden gate and the sign for the Meat Cove Look Off trail to your left. By the time you reach a meadow and corral to your right, most of the climbing is finished. About two kilometres from the start you will see the side trail to Cape St. Lawrence to your right. As of July 2009, this was well marked with flagging tape on both sides. It's the first trail to your right, past the meadows, of any size and suitable for an ATV or horse and cart originally. The rest of the hike is an easy three kilometres proceeding gradually downhill, except for one short steep section. Be sure to check the look-off at the top of this section just past Big Pond.

LOWLANDS COVE TRAIL

Is five kilometres to the coast from the Cape St. Lawrence turn-off or seven kilometres from the Meat Cove Community Centre/Restaurant. Instead of taking the Cape St. Lawrence turn-off at the two kilometre mark, keep straight on. After another kilometre, you will see the Pollett's Cove turn-off to your left; after about another kilometre you should see the disused road and trail to the abandoned zinc mine (1.5 km); another 0.75 km takes you to an abandoned farm. All that remains is a clearing and some farm implements. The trail proceeds gradually down to the coast. The topographic map indicates a side trail to Lowlands Cove Brook starting 0.7 km from the coast. I was day-dreaming and totally missed this turn-off. Judging by the stunning scenery it would be worth locating.

LOWLANDS COVE COASTAL TRAIL

Is a 3.2 km coastal trail. Just keep a safe distance from the cliff edge and follow ATV and animal tracks along the coast. If proceeding from Lowlands Cove, the Cape St. Lawrence Lighthouse and start of the trail to Meat Cove is easy to find. Proceeding the other way to Lowland Cove, be on the lookout for the trail just before the grassy area changes to a wooden area as Lowlands Brook is approached. Steel posts painted red can be found throughout the Lowlands. There are a couple of posts located close to where the trail starts inland.

MEAT COVE MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Is 1.3 km to eastern end of ridge. This trail starts a short distance up the road from the Internet Café and is marked by a sign on a tree and a few stones placed to form steps. The trail climbs steeply, nearly 275 metres (900 ft.) in the first 0.75 km, and then levels off somewhat. The grassy ridge of the mountain extends over a kilometre with fantastic views in all directions.

RIVER BOARD WALK TRAIL

This pleasant boardwalk trail extends nearly a kilometre from the Internet Café to the beach.

GPS Data

Cape St. Lawrence Lighthouse Turn	W60°35.277'
N47°01.423'W60°34.696'	Pollett's Cove Turn off
Cattle Corral N47°01.560' W60°34.381'	N47°01.013'W60°35.294'
Meat Cove Lookout-1 Turning	Abandoned Farm
N47°01.413' W60°34.233'	N47°00.856'W60°36.219'
Meat Cove Lookout -2 N47°01.225'	Lowland Cove inland/Coastal Junction
W60°34.146'	N47°01.299' W60°37.144'
View of Light from 525ft N47°01.796'	Wooden Gate N47°01.446' W60°34.150'

Residential Sort It Out Guide

GARBAGE



Aerosol cans (empty)
All styrofoam products
Baggies (soiled)
Bathroom waste
Broken glass (please box & label for safety)
Candy wrappers
Chip & cookie bags
Coffee/tea pods (Keurig, etc.)
Clothing (please donate to charity)
Dirty diapers
Giftwrap & gift bags
Food waste – Meat, fish, chicken
Kitty litter, bagged pet waste
Laundry detergent boxes
Light bulbs (not CFL)
Toys & household items
Personal hygiene products
Pet food bags
Ribbons & bows
Soiled paper towels
Soiled pizza boxes
Tooth, hair & lint brushes
Used tinfoil, stretch wrap & plastic wrap
Waxed paper

RECYCLING Paper



Boxboard (cereal & tissue boxes)
Catalogues
Corrugated cardboard (flattened & bundled)
Egg cartons
File folders
Flyers paper & glossy
Hard cover books, covers removed
Paper back books
Magazines, newspaper/ flyers
Office/computer paper
Paper towel cores
Toilet paper cores
Paper carry out trays
Phone books
Shredded paper

RECYCLING Non Paper



Aluminum pie plates & trays
Bags (bread, grocery, shopping)
Cans (aluminum, steel, tin)
Frozen food bags
Glass bottles and jars
Laundry detergent jugs
Milk containers, bags & jugs
Plastic cookie & cake trays
Plastic veggie & fruit trays
Shampoo & conditioner bottles
Yogurt & pudding cups
Plastic containers & packaging

Not accepted



Construction waste
Medical waste (e.g. needles)
Used tires
Windows
Paint
Motor oil/ filters
Electronics
Batteries
CFL light bulbs
Household hazardous waste

For more information:

invernesscounty.ca/sortitout
waste@invernesscounty.ca
1-866-258-0223 (toll free)

ORGANICS



Backyard Composting?



Bread & baked goods
Egg shells
Fruit & vegetable peelings
Hay, leaves & grass clippings
Rice, grains & pasta
Soiled paper products
Tea bags & coffee grounds



Kenloch Waste Management Facility
420 West Lake Ainslie Road

Monday to Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm
Saturday: 8:30am - Noon
Sundays and Holidays: Closed

Municipal Recycling Facility
15109 Route 19, Strathlorne

Monday to Friday: 7am - 4pm
Saturday: 7am - Noon
Sundays and holidays: Closed



KITCHENFEST!
JUNE 28-JULY 6, 2024

Féis a' Chidsin!
KitchenFest!
PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE BIG BASH

FEATURING



JIMMY RANKIN



**JP CORMIER &
DAVE GUNNING**



**RANKIN MACINNIS
AND THE BROKEN REEDS**



**RACHEL DAVIS
& DARREN MCMULLEN**



PRETTY ARCHIE



DÀIMH



SUNDAY, JUNE 30



COLAISDE NA GÀIDHLIG | THE GAELIC COLLEGE OUTDOOR STAGE, ST. ANN'S
3PM-10PM • \$80 • 19+ • RAIN OR SHINE

Free shuttle service to Baddeck | Food and bar on-site | Bring seating to enjoy the full day!

TO VIEW FULL FESTIVAL SCHEDULE, VISIT [KITCHENFEST.CA](https://kitchenfest.ca) AND FOR TICKETS, SCAN HERE

