

Richmond County

Table of Contents

<i>Welcome to Richmond County</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Location is Important</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Europeans Arrive</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>On the Move</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>The Glory Days of Richmond County</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Taking Charge of the Future</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>Picture Gallery</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>Why Joe David Burned the House</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Dan Alex MacDonald's Song</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>Thoughts from Richmond County Learners</i>	<i>85</i>
<i>Richmond County Website Resources</i>	<i>93</i>

Welcome to Richmond County!

Welcome to Richmond County!

Word Preview

affect

effect

When we listen to the news these days we often hear about the "global economy." How people make their living may be affected by things that happen in another country. But the global economy isn't something new. In fact, Richmond County was part of a global economy hundreds of years ago. People from many countries in Europe were interested in this area then. Some even fought people from their own countries to get a piece of Richmond County for themselves!

Of course, this area wasn't always called Richmond County. Long ago, before Europeans arrived, Mi'kmaw people lived here. The land they lived in included all the Atlantic provinces and part of



Place Names

- Richmond County
- Europe
- Atlantic Provinces
- Québec
- Cape Breton Island



RICHMONT COUNTY

Quebec. They called their land Mi'kma'ki, or Mi'kmaq Homeland. They called Cape Breton Island Unama'kik.

The Richmond County area is an exciting place to learn about. If you know a lot about Richmond County, you know a lot about many things.

Getting Our Bearings

1. *In an atlas find the four Atlantic Provinces—New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Now find the border between Quebec and New Brunswick. The Mi'kmaq lived in these areas.*
2. *What do the Atlantic Provinces have in common?*
3. *Looking at a map of the world, would you say there is more land or water?*
4. *Land divides the water of the earth into four large oceans. The land areas are called continents. There are seven continents: North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Antarctica and Australia. Find all seven on a map of the world.*

Did You Know?

In some dictionaries there are 16 meanings for the word "bear"! "Bearings" means to be aware of where you are in relation to other things.



Using Vocabulary

Affect and effect are often mixed up.

Affect means to act upon or to make a difference in something.

Example: *I wonder how the new baby will affect the other children.*

Effect means something that happened because of something else.

Example: *Joining that ball team had a good effect on her.*

Complete these sentences using "affect" or "effect" correctly.

How will moving away from home _____ him? He might start making his own meals. Moving could have a good _____ on him.

Location is Important

Why were people so interested in the Richmond County area hundreds

Word Preview			
<i>location</i>	<i>mainland</i>	<i>regularly</i>	<i>concerned</i>
	<i>governing</i>	<i>portaged</i>	

of years ago? It was because of its location. If you look on a map you will see that one side of Richmond County is on the Atlantic Ocean close to mainland Nova Scotia. The other side of the county is on the Bras d'Or Lakes. Of course, there were no roads here hundreds of years ago. Most travel was by water.

Mi'kmaw people were the first to see the importance of the area as far back as 10,000 years ago. From this area they could travel to other parts of Cape Breton Island by canoe on the Bras d'Or Lakes. To travel to the mainland they paddled to a thin strip of land called an isthmus at St. Peter's. Then they portaged over the isthmus and set their canoes into the Atlantic Ocean. The mainland wasn't very far away. The location was so important to them that Mi'kmaq from many places met regularly near where the Chapel Island



Place Names

- Richmond County
- Atlantic Ocean
- Mainland Nova Scotia
- Bras d'Or Lakes
- Cape Breton Island
- St. Peter's
- Chapel Island Reserve
- Barra Head



Reserve is now. Chapel Island is near Barra Head. There they would discuss matters such as how to share hunting grounds and other things that concerned them all. The meetings were part of their way of governing themselves.

* * * * *

"Mi'kmaw" and "Mi'kmaq"

Mi'kmaq means "the family" and should be used as a noun (a person, place or thing), or the subject of a sentence.

Example: *The Mi'kmaq had their own laws.*

*Mi'kmaw is the singular of Mi'kmaq. **Example:** He is a Mi'kmaw.*

*Mi'kmaw is also an adjective. **Example:** The Mi'kmaw people have lived here a long time. Mi'kmaw treaties were signed with England.*

Using Vocabulary

water

isthmus

Bras d'Or Lakes

mainland

location

Complete this paragraph using words from the word bank above.

People were interested in the Richmond County area because of its

_____. Travel by _____ was the easiest way to get

from one place to another. Mi'kmaw people crossed the _____

near St. Peter's to get from the _____ to the Atlantic Ocean.

Comprehension Question

1. Why was the Richmond County area a good location for the Mi'kmaq?

Something to Think About



- *Look at a map of Cape Breton Island in an atlas. Why would traveling on the Bras d'Or Lakes be a good way to get to other parts of the island?*
- *Why might location be important to someone who wants to open a store?*
- *Locate Truro on a map of Nova Scotia. Why might food cost more on Cape Breton Island than in Truro?*
- *If you wanted to open a motel on Cape Breton Island, where would you put it?*
- *Write a list of things you like about the location of where you live. Beside it, write a list of things you would change about your location if you could.*

Europeans Arrive

Word Preview

settlement	merchants	eventually	destroyed
resources	supplying	descendants	
	method	tenant	

In the 1500s fishermen from Portugal discovered good fishing grounds near Richmond County. Soon they built summer camps and began to trade with the Mi'kmaq, who had furs. The Portuguese did not settle there, though.

In the 1600s the French came and saw that the area was rich in fish and furs. Nicolas Denys built a fur trading post at St. Peter's. Denys and his brother made good money when the fish and furs were sold back in France. Other French merchants heard about it and wanted to make the money themselves. A few of them attacked Denys and drove him out. He later returned and ran a trading post for many years but it was eventually destroyed by fire. Today the Nicolas Denys Museum reminds us of this man. Much of what we know



Place Names

- Portugal
- Richmond County
- France
- England
- North America
- Newfoundland
- Cape Breton Island
- Louisbourg
- St. Peter's
- Isle Madame
- Mainland Nova Scotia
- Louisbourg
- Isle of Jersey

about those times is because of the writing he did.

The French Build Louisbourg

At that time, England and France were fighting each other to see which country would claim North America and its rich resources such as fish, fur and lumber. By 1713 the English had won control over Newfoundland. The last safe place for the French to fish from was Cape Breton Island. This time the King of France took charge so Frenchmen would not be fighting each other. He named Cape Breton Island "Isle Royale" which means "Royal Island" and built a large fortress at Louisbourg to protect the French claim on the island.

French settlements at St. Peter's and on Isle Madame also started during this time. These settlements were close to Louisbourg. People there earned money by supplying fish, wood and food from their farms to Louisbourg.

The French lost Cape Breton Island to the English for a time, but regained it in 1748 and brought new French settlers back with them. A few years later they were joined by Acadians. These French-speaking people had been living in mainland Nova Scotia but were forced out by the English.

In 1758, France lost Cape Breton Island again to the English for the last time. The English forced most of the people living in or near Louisbourg to return to France, but some of them escaped and hid in the woods. Many of them eventually returned to the settlements. In some cases their descendants still live there today.

New People Come

Over the next 100 years many more people settled in the area. The different groups had different reasons for coming to their new home.

- Some **Irish** fishermen from Newfoundland had moved to Louisbourg after the English defeated the French. After the English left Louisbourg these Irish people moved to the closest settlements they could find. These were in Richmond County.
- Merchants from the **Isle of Jersey** came to the area to buy fish.
- **Loyalists** who had remained loyal to England during the American Revolution did not feel safe there after England was defeated. Thousands of them came to Nova Scotia, including the Richmond County area.
- About 20,000 **Scottish Highlanders** came to Cape Breton Island in the early 1800s. Their landlords had forced them off the land in Scotland because the method of farming was changing there. Landlords had started to use fenced fields for farming, instead of open fields. This change in farming methods was called the Enclosure Movement. This way of farming made more money for the landowners, but left many tenant farmers with nothing. Some of the Highlanders settled in parts of Richmond County.

* * * * *

Using Vocabulary**Portugal****tenants****loyal****France****merchants****descendants****regained****resources**

Finish these sentences using words in dark print above.

1. *Europeans were interested in the _____ of North America.*
2. _____ *saw ways to make money buying and selling fish and furs.*
3. *The King of _____ had a large fortress built at Louisbourg.*
4. *Some people in Richmond County are _____ of Acadians.*
5. *Americans who had been _____ to England were afraid to stay in the United States.*
6. *Landlords owned the land and could force _____ off.*

Comprehension Questions

1. *Why were Europeans interested in Cape Breton Island?*
2. *Which country first started settlements in Richmond County?*
3. *Which two groups came to Cape Breton Island because their side had been defeated in a war?*
4. *Which people came because changes in farming in their country meant they could no longer earn a living?*

*Word Problems
Adding and Subtracting*

During Nicolas Denys' time at St. Peter's (around the year 1650), people used money that was different from the money we see today. Sometimes, they used French "livres" and other kinds of money called "deniers" and "sols." Picture yourself back in 1650 and see if you can figure out the answers to these money problems.

- 1. Nicolas Denys traded 5000 livres worth of fish during the first year he lived in St. Peter's. The second year he earned 5500 livres by trading fish and lumber. In his third year he did more trading and earned 6000 livres.*
 - a) How many livres did he earn in all three years?*
 - b) How much more did Nicolas make in his third year than in his first year?*
- 2. A fisherman near St. Peter's might earn 300 livres a year. A soldier earned about 18 livres per year. How much more than the soldier did the fisherman earn?*
- 3. A chicken and a pound of tea leaves would cost about 1 livre each. A new jacket would cost about 10 livres.*
 - a) How much would a chicken, a pound of tea leaves and a jacket cost all together?*
 - b) What would the total cost of 2 chickens and three pounds of tea be?*
 - c) What would the difference in price be between a new jacket and 8 chickens?*

Word Problems Continued

4. *A worker in St. Peter's might earn 12 livres a year. If he wanted to buy a new jacket for 10 livres, how much money would he have left over for the rest of the year? Would he buy a new jacket very often?*
5. *A fisherman named Pierre caught 25 pounds of fish in one day. Simon, another fisherman, caught 13 pounds of fish in one day. How much more fish did Pierre catch than Simon?*

*Multiplying and Dividing*

1. *A fisherman can earn 10 livres a day by selling his catch.*
 - a) *How much would 25 fishermen make all together in one day?*
 - b) *How much would the same 25 fishermen make in three days?*
 - c) *How much would the 25 fishermen make in one week?*
2. *Nicolas Denys sold 250 furs for 7500 livres. What is the selling price of each fur?*
3. *Armchairs cost 80 livres in St. Peter's in 1650. How many chairs could Nicolas buy for 320 livres?*
4. *One pound of fish could be sold for 25 sols. How much would 52 pounds of fish be worth?*

Word Problems Continued

5. *If one pair of shoes cost 10 livres, how much do five pairs cost?*

More Multiplying and Dividing, Percents

1 livre = 20 sols

1 sol = 12 deniers

6 livres and 12 sols = 1 écu

24 livres = 1 louis d'or

Use the information above to solve these French money problems.

1. *Twenty sols make up 1 livre. How many livres are 1,300 sols?*
2. *If 20 sols make up 1 livre, how many sols make up 6 livres?*
3. *Twelve deniers make up one sol. How many sols are 120 deniers?*
4. *If 12 deniers make up one sol, how many deniers make up 8 sols?*
5. *How many livres make up 5 louis d'or?*
6. *If you added 8 sols to an écu, what would you have?*
7. *Nicolas Denys earned 8,000 livres in one year. He earned 3,600 livres for trading fish, 3,200 livres for selling lumber and 1,200 livres for writing a book about life in St. Peter's.*
 - a) *What percent of his income does he get from selling fish?*
 - b) *What percent of his income does he get from selling timber?*
 - c) *What percent of his income does he get from writing his book?*

Which is Which??

As you can see, people from many places came to live in Richmond County. Can you match these place names with the correct background information?

Potlotek

*This area is named after a
Jerseyman who owned land here*

Cannes

Named after Irish settlers

Grand Anse

*The Mi'kmaq name for this place was
"Nerichac"*

San Pedro

*The French called it "Port Toulouse"
which the Mi'kmaq changed to this*

Lake Uist

*This area was once known as
"Acadiaville"*

Janvrin's Island

*This is what the Portuguese called
St. Peter's*

Irish Cove

Named after a seaport in France

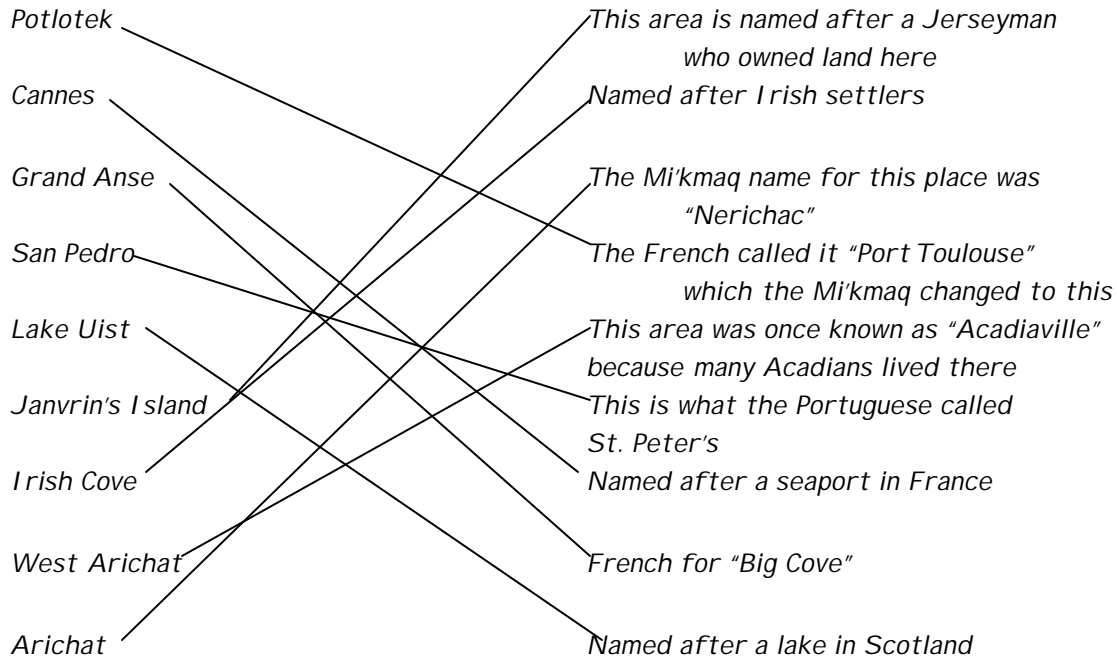
West Arichat

French for "Big Cove"

Arichat

Named after a lake in Scotland

Which is Which?? (Answers)



What's in a Name?



A telephone book can tell you a lot about a community.

For example, which name in Arichat has more listings - Boudreau (French), MacDonald (Scottish) or Kehoe (Irish)? What does this tell you about the people who settled here hundreds of years ago? What other names are common in Arichat? Where did these names come from?

Now look at telephone listings in another Cape Breton community. Which names are common? Where do you think they came from?

Your library may have books on common family names where you live. Or look up "origin of surnames" on the internet to find out about where names came from. Try your own last name.

NICOLAS DENYS MATH EXERCISES
ANSWER KEY

Exercise #1:

- 1a. 16,500 livres
- 1b. 1000 livres
- 2. 282 livres
- 3a. 12 livres
- 3b. 5 livres
- 3c. 2 livres
- 4. 2 livres
- 5. 12 pounds

Exercise #2:

- 1a. 250 livres
- 1b. 750 livres
- 1c. 1750 livres
- 2. 30 livres per fur
- 3. 4 armchairs
- 4. 1300 sols
- 5. 50 livres

Exercise #3:

- 1. 65 livres
- 2. 120 sols
- 3. 10 sols
- 4. 96 deniers
- 5. 120 livres
- 6. 6 livres and 20 sols OR 7 livres
- 7a. 45%
- 7b. 40%
- 7c. 15%

Sentence Punctuation

Try and read the following:

in the 1600s the French came and saw that the area was rich in fish and furs Nicolas Denys built a fur trading post at St. Peter's Denys and his brother made good money when the fish and furs were sold back in France

It is hard to read and understand these lines because there is no punctuation. Sometimes when we speak, we pause between words or change our voices. We lower our voices at the end of our thoughts. We raise our voices at the end of questions.

When we write, we have to use punctuation because we cannot hear these changes. Punctuation lets us get more meaning from groups of words.

Here are basic rules for punctuation:

- 1. All sentences begin with a capital letter.*
- 2. If the sentence is a statement, it ends with a period. (.)*
- 3. If the sentence is a question, it ends with a question mark. (?)*
- 4. If the sentence expresses strong feeling, it ends with an exclamation mark. (!)*

Put in the correct punctuation at the end of each sentence below.

- 1. When is your birthday__*
- 2. I think I will have pizza for lunch__*
- 3.*

Sentence Punctuation Continued

3. *That car is going to hit us ____*
4. *Fire ____*
5. *I wonder where she is going ____*
6. *If you ask me, she's up to no good ____*
7. *Don't you talk to me like that ____*
8. *What got into him ____*
9. *I think I'll have a rest ____*

Copy the sentences below and put in capital letters and punctuation where needed.

1. *the French were interested in the fish near Cape Breton Island*
2. *who attacked Nicolas Denys*
3. *I wonder where the Nicolas Denys Museum is*
4. *people on Isle Madame sold fish to Fortress Louisbourg*
5. *do you know what happened to the Acadians*
6. *run for help*
7. *many people came to Cape Breton Island*
8. *she didn't know if they could get land here*
9. *we bought a new car last week*
10. *what do you think of our new car*
11. *wow*
12. *you can help me wax the car*

More Punctuation Rules

Exclamation marks suggest strong feeling.

Examples: *Ouch! Help!*

Exclamation marks are also used for commands if they should be shouted or spoken with strong feeling.

Examples: *Attention! Don't move!*

Use exclamation marks with sentences that follow strong exclamations or explain shouted commands.

Examples: *Finally! You got here! Run! There's a ghost!*

We mostly use exclamation marks when we are writing something that was spoken with strong feeling. We should not use them just to add excitement. The following sentences should be punctuated with a period, not an exclamation mark.

Examples: *I was really tired. He couldn't believe what he saw.*

Put in the correct punctuation at the end of each sentence below.

Look out ___ That tree is falling ___

Do you know when we will be finished ___ I don't know ___

I find this house so cold ___

Get away from the stove ___ You'll get burned ___

Friday was the hottest day of the year ___

Would you believe she is 89 years old ___

Was the first coal mine in North America at Port Morien ___

Could I interest you in a cup of tea ___

I would like that ___ I'll have some oatcakes, too ___

On the Move

Word Preview

opportunities

desperate

make a living

ancestors

native

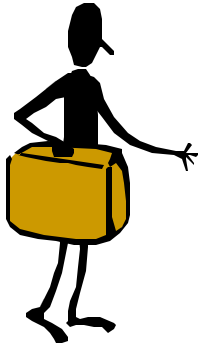
The Mi'kmaq, the French, the Acadians, the Jerseymen, the Loyalists, the Irish and the Scottish all had different reasons for coming to Cape Breton Island. Some, like the Scottish, had been forced off the land in their native country. They were desperate to find a place where they could earn a living. The Acadians had been forced from their homes in the Annapolis Valley because the English did not trust them. The Jerseymen were merchants who wanted new business opportunities. The Loyalists had supported England in the American War of Independence. They had to leave the United States after they lost the war because they were no longer wanted there. They also faced an unusual punishment if they stayed - they were tarred and feathered! Even the Mi'kmaq were here because their ancestors had slowly moved southward from the Arctic more than 10,000 years ago. They had been looking for food. All of these people migrated to



Place Names

- Scotland
- Annapolis Valley
- Isle of Jersey
- England
- United States
- The Arctic
- Canada
- Toronto
- Vancouver
- Cape Breton Island
- Calgary
- Alberta

their new homes. Each group has added something to our way of life.



Do people still migrate today? Yes! On television you might see people who are leaving their country because of war.

Many people come to Canada because they like our freedom.

Some come here to make a better living. Toronto and Vancouver are two cities that have a large number of immigrants coming from other countries.

Cape Breton Island has received many immigrants. In the early 1900s people came from many countries to work in the coal and steel industries. The island has also sent out many emigrants. Often, people leave to find jobs. Researchers at the University of Calgary are interested in why some of us stay in new places and why some of us don't. The newspaper story on the next page appeared in the Tuesday, October 9, 2001 edition of the Cape Breton Post. It tells about the University of Calgary study.

* * * * *

Comprehension Question

- 1. In your own words explain what "migrate", "immigrate" and "emigrate" mean.*

Western province favoured destination for migrants

BY CRIS CONNORS

CAPE BRETON POST

Cape Bretoners searching for work have been passing over Ontario in favour of Alberta in recent years, says a researcher studying the growing migration from Atlantic Canada.

The University of Calgary study on the Atlantic Canadian flow to Alberta shows that 15,000 Nova Scotians moved to Alberta from 1996 to 2000.

Of those, Dr. Harry Hillier of the University of Calgary sociology department figures more than 10,000 are Cape Bretoners who traditionally found jobs in Ontario.

"Now they jump over Ontario," Hillier said in a Phone interview, noting he's encountered Cape Bretoners and other Atlantic Canadians in every region of Alberta.

"We're not used to having this many people from Atlantic Canada."

The study began last year with researchers asking some 300 migrants why they moved to Alberta.

While most of the Cape Bretoners and others surveyed were men under 30 years of age looking for labour jobs, Hillier said he's also spoken to dozens of professionals, such as teachers and nurses, who headed west to fulfill growing demands there.

There were also stories of people fleeing Cape Breton as the traditional coal and steel-fired economy bottomed out and of men who had left wives and children behind to explore their job chances in Alberta.

In other cases, entire families used

their last pennies to go looking for a new beginning.

"I've heard stories from Cape Breton that could make you cry," Hillier said.

"I spoke to people who lost everything, had nothing, so they packed up in the family car and went looking for a fresh start.

Still, Hillier noted, when the migrants were asked how long they intended to stay in Alberta, most planned to eventually return to their home province.

While people from most provinces indicated they were now permanently Albertans, those from what Hillier calls the "three islands" - Cape Breton, Newfoundland and P.E.I. - tended to set deadlines.

"It was not unusual to hear them say they had to go away, but that they also have to go back," Hillier said. "We didn't find that with anyone we spoke to from Saskatchewan.

"They seem to close the door once they leave."

Hillier is trying uncover the mysteries of this homing beacon as part of the second phase of his study. He has been travelling to various provinces since September, looking for people who once lived in Alberta, as well as people interested in the meaning and consequences of migration.

Volunteer participants are invited to phone toll-free at 1-866-646-6600.

"The key thing is I want input from the area," he said. "I want to get a better sense of how people feel about so many leaving, and I want to get a better sense of what causes these people to leave and then, ultimately, come back."

Courtesy of the Cape Breton Post

Using Vocabulary

Fill in the word (or words) that best completes each sentence.

native desperate ancestors opportunities

1. *The Cape Breton Literacy Network gives people _____ to learn.*
2. *The Scottish settlers were _____ for land.*
3. *The _____ of the Mi'kmaq came to Cape Breton Island thousands of years ago.*
4. *Many immigrants wondered if they would ever see their _____ land again.*

Something to Think About

*There are some good reasons why people would want to leave the place they live in. These are called “**push factors**” because they push people away. Push factors can include lack of jobs, war, lack of health care and even cold weather. Reasons why people would want to go to a place are “**pull factors**” because they pull people to that place. Pull factors can include being close to family and friends, jobs or the excitement of a big city.*

1. *Can you name four push factors that would cause people to leave Cape Breton Island? Can you think of four pull factors that would make people want to come here?*
2. *List people you know who have moved away. Write down why they left and where they went. Compare your list with others in your class.*

The Glory Days of Richmond County

In the early 1800s, about 2,000 people lived in the St. Peter's area

Word Preview

municipal government

fertile

locks

processing

glory

manufactured goods

agriculture

traffic

cathedral

of Richmond County. There were more people in the St. Peter's area than in all the rest of Cape Breton Island.

There were also many people living in Arichat on Isle Madame. Arichat's location made it an important port. Ships could stop there before going through the Strait of Canso to ports along the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Arichat was also in a good place to trade fish for rum and molasses with the Caribbean and to trade fish for manufactured goods with Europe.

These were the glory days of Arichat. There were 24 large wharves, two Protestant churches, a Catholic cathedral, doctors, lawyers, high schools, hotels and four bars in Arichat in the 1860s! Because it was so important, Arichat, was chosen as the county seat of Richmond County. The county seat is where the municipi-



Place Names

- St. Peter's
- Richmond County
- Cape Breton Island
- Arichat
- Isle Madame
- Strait of Canso
- Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Caribbean
- Europe
- Scotland
- Inverness County
- Glace Bay
- Bras d'Or Lakes

pal government offices are.

Change Comes

However, things started to change after thousands of immigrants came to Cape Breton from Scotland. For one thing, the Scots opened up other parts of Cape Breton Island. They did very well in Inverness County where the soil was fertile and good for agriculture.

Other people were moving to Eastern Cape Breton Island, near what is now Glace Bay, to work in coal mines and to fish. Soon there were more people living in Inverness and in Eastern Cape Breton Island than in Richmond County.

At that time, coal, fish, and other goods from Cape Breton Island were carried to other places on ships. The St. Peter's Canal was built in 1869 so these ships could leave the Bras d'Or Lakes at St. Peter's. This would be a much shorter route than going out through the Great Bras d'Or Lake. The canal was built to keep St. Peter's and Arichat in the centre of the boat traffic that carried goods between Cape Breton Island and other places. If they were at the centre of boat traffic, then businesses would open there and more people would come.

Communities Get Smaller

However, that never happened. By 1891, a railway was built that carried goods over the Strait of Canso without going near St. Peter's or Arichat. And even though the locks in the canal were made larger, they still weren't big enough for the huge new ships that were being built.

The numbers of people living in Arichat and St. Peter's fell in the

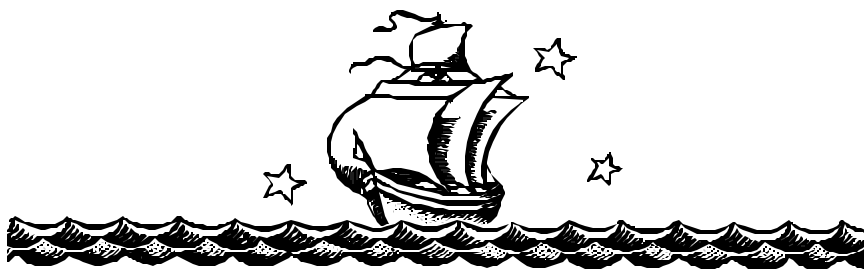
years that followed. Still, communities in Richmond County were good places to live. Most people who stayed worked in the fishery. They either fished or worked in fish processing plants as their parents and grandparents had done.

Suddenly, in 1992 all that changed. For over 400 years people had been fishing northern cod off this part of Cape Breton Island. But by 1992 there were no fish left. What could the fishing communities do?

* * * * *

Comprehension Questions

- 1. Why was Arichat so busy in the early 1800s?*
- 2. Why were the early 1800s called the "glory days" of Arichat in the story?*
- 3. How did the new railway hurt St. Peter's and Arichat?*



Finding Your Bearings



1. On a map of Cape Breton Island trace the route that many ships took in the early 1800s: Start in the **Bras d'Or Lakes** where ships picked up lumber and other products, go through the **St. Peter's Canal**, around Cape Breton Island and through the **Strait of Canso** and on to the **Gulf of St. Lawrence**.
2. Find the **Great Bras d'Or Lake** on a map of Cape Breton Island. Now find the place marked "**Seal Island**". Before the canal at St. Peter's was built, ships left the Bras d'Or Lakes through this narrow opening. Then they circled around **Cape Breton Island** and went through the **Strait of Canso** and on to the **Gulf of St. Lawrence**. Compare this route with the route described above. You can see how much shorter the trip was when ships could use the canal.
3. Trace the route from Arichat to the Caribbean, then to Europe and back to Arichat. Why was it called a "triangular trade route"?

Strait and Straight

A **strait** is a narrow waterway that connects two larger bodies of water. The Strait of Canso connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Gulf of St. Lawrence. **Straight** means not having any curves or bends, such as a straight road.

Circle the correct word in the sentences below.

1. He always wanted to see the (Strait/Straight) of Gibraltar, near Spain.
2. A (straight/strait) may be the shortest way between seas.
3. That river flows in a (straight/strait) line to the ocean.
4. She stood up (strait/straight) to look her best.

Using Vocabulary

Fill in the word (or words) that best completes each sentence.

1. St. Peter's wanted to be in the centre of shipping _____.
location traffic opportunities
2. The soil was _____ in Inverness County.
agriculture important fertile
3. Richmond County merchants traded fish for _____ from Europe.
manufactured goods furs glory
4. Arichat was good for shipping because of its _____.
agriculture location people

*Something to Think About*

Ask a parent, grandparent or an older neighbour if the community where they were born has changed in size over the years. Why do they think it got larger or smaller? Or, why did it not change at all? Write down what they say.

What do you think your community will be like 50 years from now? What things might change? Write your answers down and share them with another student.

Three Levels of Government

In Richmond County the local (**municipal**), government offices are located in Arichat. Under the Canadian Constitution, municipal governments in our country have the power to make decisions on local matters that affect the community. The **provincial** and **territorial** governments have responsibilities over matters that deal with the provinces and the territories. Provincial and territorial governments sit in the capital of each province or territory. Our provincial government sits in Halifax. The **federal** government decides on matters that concern the whole country and is based in Ottawa.

Canada is a **democracy**. That means ordinary citizens take part in governing Canada by voting. Respect for democracy is one of the most important values Canadians share. Here are some examples of government responsibilities.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Protection • Garbage Collection • Street Cleaning • Police • Property Tax Collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Hospitals • Health-care system • Natural Resources • Highways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defense • International Trade • Banking • Natural Resources • Income Tax Collection • Broadcasting • Air Travel

Taking Charge of the Future

Word Preview

<i>industries</i>	<i>scientists</i>	<i>community</i>	<i>committee</i>
<i>realistic</i>	<i>success</i>	<i>employer</i>	<i>future</i>

In 1992, the people of Richmond County faced a frightening future.

For 400 years people in the area had made their living from the sea. The North Atlantic cod fishery had been the backbone of communities all over the Atlantic Provinces. But suddenly the fish were gone. Nearly 19,000 people in Atlantic Canada would lose their jobs over the next few years.

Where did the fish go? Scientists are still studying what happened. One thing they agree on is that technology (new tools and ways of fishing) played a big part. Too many fish had been caught. In July, 1992, the federal government placed a moratorium on the fishery. No one was allowed to fish cod until the government said they could. The moratorium was supposed to last just a few years but the fish have still not returned.



Place Names

- Richmond County
- Atlantic Provinces
- Atlantic Canada
- Petit de Grat
- Isle Madame
- Port Hawkesbury
- Point Tupper

Richmond Fisheries in Petit de Grat was the largest employer on Isle

Madame. Five hundred men and women depended on the fish processing plant for their jobs. Once these people were out of work local stores and other businesses would close. What was Isle Madame, with its 4,300 people, going to do?

Most of the people in the fishery had never worked anywhere else. Their grandfathers and their grandfathers' grandfathers had worked in the fishery. Now they had to change.

Some people saw the end of the cod fishery coming. They wanted their community to have a future so they volunteered their time and formed a committee. They had meetings to decide what could be done to help Isle Madame. The people of the community had to look at themselves very closely and to be honest. They had to list:

- their strengths*
- their weaknesses*
- their choices*
- new things they could do*

Trying to change can be very hard to do. The people of Isle Madame went to many, many meetings before they came up with a plan. The plan was to start new industries that had a realistic chance of success in the area.

Today many people from Isle Madame work in Port Hawkesbury and Point Tupper, about a 45-minute drive away. However, many others work in jobs that had never existed in Richmond County. Some of the new jobs are in aquaculture, (fish farming), a call centre and eco-tourism, (such as wilderness adventures), kayak tours and boating. Other small businesses include truck driving and a wood kiln. Today, the future looks much brighter

for these people who love their Cape Breton Island home.

Volunteer Skills

John Boudreau is a high school counselor who lives in Petit de Grat. He is the son of a fisherman and has been involved with the fishery in many ways for much of his life. He was one of the early volunteers who worked to find new jobs on Isle Madame. He says all the volunteers who went to the meetings learned skills which helped them be good volunteers. Without these skills the meetings would not have been successful and Isle Madame would have had no future.

- **Know your strengths and weaknesses.** *"I know I'm good at communicating and that's where I can help," Mr. Boudreau said. "But my shortcoming is in accounting and business. I wouldn't know if a business plan was a good one. If you become involved in activities you are weak in, your interest will fade. When you are volunteering you should deal in your strengths."*
- **Set realistic goals.** *"Sometimes I thought I could save everyone I got involved with. I had to recognize there are certain things I couldn't fix. If you aren't realistic, you will get discouraged and end up not helping at all."*
- **Express ideas and feelings.** *"The thing I learned from those meetings is that the answers to our problem were all here. The fishermen and the ladies who had worked at the fish plant—they all had ideas. But they had to express them. This was their contribution as volunteers. All volunteers should have no fear of being put down for what they say. They must get respect. At our early meetings we all sat in a circle. We went around and listened to what everyone had to say. The best information came from that."*

- **Be a good listener.** *"Volunteers have information that can help solve a problem. To get that information we have to listen carefully. Then we have to say what we have heard in our own words. This tells the speaker we understand what was said."*

"Before these meetings everyone thought they only knew how to do things in the fishery. But the volunteers showed they had many talents and strengths," Mr. Boudreau said.



Comprehension Questions

1. *Why were people of Richmond County afraid of the future?*
2. *What is one reason why there are not enough fish to catch now?*
3. *Why could people who worked in stores lose their jobs if the fish plant closed?*
4. *How long had the people of Isle Madame worked in the fishery?*
5. *Why did people volunteer to be part of a committee? What was the committee's job? Was the committee successful?*

Using Vocabulary

Draw a line to match each word with the phrase that best describes what the word means.

<i>industry</i>	<i>a number of people living in the same place</i>
<i>scientist</i>	<i>what will happen in the future</i>
<i>community</i>	<i>as if it was real</i>
<i>committee</i>	<i>a good result</i>
<i>realistic</i>	<i>a person or business who pays someone to work</i>
<i>success</i>	<i>someone who has a job in science</i>
<i>employer</i>	<i>a group of persons who have been elected or chosen to do a certain task</i>
<i>future</i>	<i>a type of business</i>

Something to Think About



1. Think of a volunteer group in your community. The volunteers probably have many things to do such as fundraising, decorating, driving or telephoning. Which jobs would you be good at doing? Which jobs would you not be as good at doing?

2. Read "Volunteer Skills" with your instructor. In the meetings Mr. Boudreau went to, what do you think would have been an unrealistic goal? Why do you think it would have been unrealistic?

3. Because of the meetings Mr. Boudreau went to, there are now many new businesses in Isle Madame. Other new businesses are still being planned.

What do you think would have happened if only one person had spoken at the meeting?

4. How can you tell if someone is listening to you? How can you tell if they understand what you are saying?

5. Do you know a volunteer in your community? Ask them how they use each of the skills Mr. Boudreau talks about. Share what they say with your class.

Scenes from Richmond County



A boat in the canal at St. Peter's. (ECBC photo)



This Richmond County road sign shows the French speaking background of many of the county's people.



Petit de Grat



A common scene of Richmond County with the Atlantic Ocean in the background.

(All photos courtesy of ECBC)

Why Joe David Burned the House

Word Preview

*childbirth**refused**midnight**chimney**curious**knocking**kerosene**publishes*

(This is a retelling of a story that you can find in Cape Breton Book of the Night by Ron Caplan. The story was first told in French. Many people in Richmond County are descended from French-speaking people. Ron Caplan also publishes Cape Breton's Magazine. There are lots of other Cape Breton stories in these magazines.)



Place Names

- *Richmond County*
- *Petit de Grat*

I was born in Petit de Grat in 1911. The old women from Petit de Grat told stories to scare people. They would say, "If you go out tonight and you don't say your prayers, you're going to see the devil." I didn't pay much attention to them. I went out and came home as I pleased.

We moved to our house outside the village when I was nine years old. My mother used to visit an old woman who lived up the road. One day my mother told her, "Last night I went to my room to put something there. When I looked out the window I saw a man. I thought it was my husband Fred. But he told me later he had not gone outside."

"Was it a tall man?" asked the old woman. "Pretty tall," my mother

answered. "He had a hat and a coat on, with a belt around the waist."

"Do you know who that was? I t was the man who used to live here," the old woman said.

She said it was a man who had been dead a long time. People had bought the house from him but they had not paid him all the money they owed him for it. Then they sold it to us, but they didn't tell us about the money they still owed.

Problems

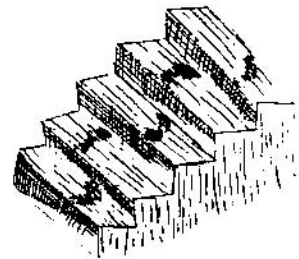
We started having problems as soon as we moved in. The first morning we woke up there, we couldn't open the doors or windows to get out. They seemed to be locked or stuck. A girl going to school was coming for my sisters and she came right in with no trouble! That was our first morning there.

After that my father hurt himself and he couldn't work. Not long after that my mother died in childbirth. She was only forty-one. By then I was sixteen.

Then the problems really started.

I t would come at noon and then at midnight. You could hear it walk upstairs. I t would come to the door at the top of the stairs and stop a while.

At midnight the same thing would happen. My brothers and sisters were so scared they wouldn't even go to get a drink in the porch where we kept our water bucket. But I wasn't scared. I'd go in the porch, have a drink and come back saying, "Damn, that's good water!"



My father was away working in Mulgrave. Soon my brothers and sisters refused to stay in the house overnight. They slept at an old woman's, nearby.

I t got so bad that I didn't want to stay in the house. Something was there at noon and at midnight. I soon found somewhere else to stay, too. Then there was no one living at the house.

After we left the house for good, fishermen said they could see smoke coming from the chimney when they were in their boats. But there was no one in the house!

Father Didn't Believe Me

An old man, Johnny Goyetche, was curious. "Would it bother you if I went to see for myself?" he asked. "I'll leave it unlocked," I answered. "I t's no use going before midnight. You won't hear anything before then. Or else go at noon, during the day." On the night he went, I watched from outside. After half an hour he came out and said, "Joe, I wouldn't stay here."

But my father didn't believe there was anything wrong. He thought it was me playing tricks. One night when he was back from Mulgrave he decided we would both stay in the house overnight. At midnight he asked me "Did you hear anything?" We had both heard knocking on the wall. He lit his pipe and looked at me. "You say you've stayed here all alone at night? You're brave!" he said.

Still, he wanted to fix the house up and have us move back in. My



Comprehension Questions

1. Who did the old woman say Joe David's mother saw through the window?
2. Why would the dead man be unhappy?
3. What came at noon and again at midnight?
4. Why did Joe and his sister set the house on fire?

Words that Sound Alike

Some words sound the same but have different spellings and meanings.

Example: This is the biggest **beet** I ever grew.

The cookbook says to **beat** the eggs and sugar together.

"beet" and "beat" sound the same but have different meanings.

Circle the correct word to complete the following sentences.

1. The children did not want to live (there, their, they're) anymore.
2. The man (wore, war) his belt around his (waist, waste).
3. I could (here, hear) strange noises. "Get me out of (here, hear)!" I cried.
4. Night after night I would (wait, weight) for the noise to come.
5. My sister turned (pale, pail) when she (herd, heard) the noise.
6. My mother saw a man through the (pane, pain) of glass.
7. Even I couldn't (bare, bear) it any longer.
8. That (fir, fur) coat makes her feel rich.
9. The (to, too, two) of us set fire to the house.
10. The spirit (one, won). We never moved back in the house.
11. Will that (be, bee) coffee or (tee, tea)?
12. (Would, Wood) you please read that story to me?

Compound Words

*This story has many **compound** words in it. Compound words are formed by joining two or more smaller words together.*

Example: some + thing = something

Choose one word from Column 1 and another word from Column 2 to make one new compound word. You can find all the new words in the story.

Column 1	Column 2	Compound Word
out	thing	_____
child	self	_____
up	night	_____
mid	men	_____
some	room	_____
fisher	night	_____
over	stairs	_____
my	side	_____
any	where	_____
down	birth	_____
door	knob	_____
bed	stairs	_____

Compound Words Continued

Below is a list of compound words. Write the smaller words that were used to make the compound word.

<i>telltale</i>	_____	_____
<i>kindhearted</i>	_____	_____
<i>firefighter</i>	_____	_____
<i>crossroad</i>	_____	_____
<i>moonlight</i>	_____	_____
<i>inside</i>	_____	_____
<i>waistband</i>	_____	_____
<i>daytime</i>	_____	_____
<i>themselves</i>	_____	_____
<i>nearby</i>	_____	_____
<i>somewhere</i>	_____	_____
<i>anything</i>	_____	_____
<i>campfire</i>	_____	_____
<i>flagpole</i>	_____	_____
<i>tablecloth</i>	_____	_____
<i>cornflakes</i>	_____	_____
<i>hatpin</i>	_____	_____
<i>humankind</i>	_____	_____
<i>kingpin</i>	_____	_____
<i>backfire</i>	_____	_____

Dan Alex MacDonald's Song

Word Preview

<i>glens</i>	<i>mounds</i>	<i>vapour</i>
<i>Gaelic</i>	<i>thickets</i>	<i>ravenous</i>
<i>milling frolic</i>	<i>milling board</i>	



Place Names

- Cape Breton Island
- Framboise

Song to Cape Breton

By: Dan Alex MacDonald

Chorus:

*Cape Breton is the land I love,
Land of trees and high mountains;
Cape Breton is the land I love,
To me, the most beautiful land on
earth.*

¹ *Because I now live*

*In the land of the mountains;
Though my Gaelic is poor,
I will fashion a verse to the land of
the glens.*

² *I can not rightly describe*

*Nor can I put into words,
The fullness of beauty and glory
That exists in this land of blessings.*

Oran do Cheap Breatuinn

By: Dan Alex MacDonald

Chorus.

*'S e Ceap Breatuinn tìr mo
ghraidh,
Tìr nan craobh 's nam beanntan
àrd.
'Se Ceap Breatuinn tìr mo
graidh
Tìr is aillidh leinn air thalamh.*

¹ *Bho'n a tha mi anns an am
Comhnaidh ann an tìr nam beann,
'S ged a tha mo Ghaidhlig gann,
Ni mi rann do thìr nan gleannan.*

² *Chan urrainn dhomhsa chur air
doigh*

*No chur sìos le briathran beoil,
Na tha do mhaise agus do ghloir
Comhnaidh ann an tìr nam
beannachd.*

³ *This is the loveliest land under the
sun;
Robins sing from the ends of the
branches
And swallows happily frolic
together,
Their nests tucked under the
rafters.*

⁴ *At haymaking time, on an evening in
Autumn,
When the clouds would close in over
us,
Mounds of rolling ocean fog
Would settle like vapour on the
mountain tops.*

⁵ *When the sun would set in the
west,
When the dew would form on the
grass,
The voice of the birds was music to
me
As they eagerly sang from the
branches.*

⁶ *We would hear the clanging of
cow-bells
Worn by cattle on the side of the
glen,
The young calves would hide in the
thickets,
Tormented by ravenous flies.*

³ *Ait's as maisich' tha fo'n ghrein,
Smeoraich seinn air bharr nan geug;
Gobhlan-gaoithe cuichd ri cheil'
'S an nead gleidhte fo na ceangail.*

⁴ *Feasgar foghair am an fheoir
Nuair a dhunadh oirnn na neoil,
Ceo na mara tighinn 'na thorr,
'S e 'na sgleo air bharr nam
beannaibh.*

⁵ *Nuair theid a 'ghrian dha 'n aird'
an iar,
'S a thig an dealt air an fheur,
'S binne leam guth nan ian
Seinn cho dian air bharr nam
meangan.*

⁶ *Chluinntte "bellichean" le gliong
Air a ' chrodh ri taobh a ' ghlinn;
'S na laoigh oga 'stigh 's na tuim'
'S iad fo chuing na cuileig sheanga.*

⁷In winter, in the season of cold,
In the season of weddings and
milling frolics,
Young men could be heard at the
milling-board;
The girls' clear voices would follow
their lead.

⁸And when the milling was finished.
The fiddle then would be tuned.
And we would dance on the smooth,
bare floor;
"Cabar Feidh" was our favourite tune.

⁹A kind, pleasant old lady then would
be seen
Coming round to measure the cloth;
Using the bent middle finger of her
fist as a measure.
There was no way anyone could
deceive her.

¹⁰Tonight, sadness has come over me
As I recall the says of my youth
And those who used to have fun with
us—
Some of them today are no longer
living.

¹¹But although these friends have
left us,
They have gone to their everlasting
home
In the Palace of the King of Hosts
Where there is enduring happiness.

⁷Anns a 'gheamhradh, am an
fhuachd,
Am nam bainnsean, am nan luadh,
Chluinnteach gillean air cleith-luaidh,
'S gruagaich' le guth cruaidh 'g an
leantainn.

⁸Nuair bhiodh am fucadh ullamh,
reidh,
Chuirtear an fhidheall sin air ghleus;
Dhannsamaid air urlar reidh,
Gur e "Cabar Reidh" bu mhath leinn

⁹Chite cailleach ghasda, choir,
Tighinn mu'n cuart a thomhas a'
chlo,
An cromadh aice air a dorn,
'S cha robh doigh ac' air a mealladh.

¹⁰'S e chuir mise nochd fo bhron,
Cuimhneachadh air laithean m'òig;
An fheadhainn a bhiodh leinn ri
spors,
Gu bheil cuid diubh nach eil
maireann.

¹¹'S ged a dh'fhalbh a 'chuid sin
bhuainn,
Chaidh iad anns an dachaidh bhuan,
Ann am Palas Rìgh nan Sluagh,
Far bheil solas buan bhios maireann.

¹² *In Framboise, I was raised in
my youth
In the neighbourhood of the Clan
MacLeod.
Often we used to frolic and play
In the joyful days now long gone
by.*

¹³ *I cannot tell you the half
Of the beauty found in this land
I will end now, since I am weary,
So bless you, and good-night.*

¹² *Am Framboise fhuair mi m'arach og
Ann an nabachd Chlann 'icLeoid'
'S tric bha sinn ri mir is spors,
An laithean solasach nach maireann.*

¹³ *Chan urrainn dhomhsa leth dhuibh
inns'
Na tha de mhaisealachd 's an tir;
Stadaidh mi bho'n tha mi sgith,
Beannachd leibh, is oidhche mhath
leibh.*

Comprehension Questions

1. *In what language did Dan Alex MacDonald first write his song?*
2. *What did people do in Autumn when Dan Alex MacDonald was young?*
3. *What events often took place in winter?*
4. *What was the old lady measuring in the song?*
5. *Why does he feel a little bit sad when he remembers the days of his youth?*
6. *Look through the song again and find things that Dan Alex likes about Cape Breton Island.*
7. *Where in Richmond County did Dan Alex live?*
8. *Thinking about the things he talks about in his song, what do you think he did for a living?*

*Thoughts From
Richmond County Learners*



Life In Cape Breton



I lived in Cape Breton most of my young life. What I remember of what I missed the most about Cape Breton is the ocean, and the way it talks to you. When it's windy the ocean seems like it's angry. When there is no wind it is so calm. I would sit by the shore and listen to the birds and the breeze in the trees close to the shore. I would miss hearing the shells and rocks cracking under my feet. There are so many different sounds. It's like going for therapy. These are such relaxing sounds, they could even put you off to sleep.

The scenery around here is breath taking. The ocean is such a beautiful color. The blues and greens of the ocean are so beautiful to look at. There are sail boats, speed boats, and jet skies. It is so relaxing just watching people and children enjoying the ocean and the land around us. Summer is the most enjoyable part of Cape Breton. There are the beaches, the barbeque, baseball games, clam digging, hiking, diving for muscles, and fishing. There are so many things you can do in the summer. The only down fall about summer is it is not long enough.

The fall in Cape Breton is so beautiful. If you want to see beautiful scenery, go around the Cabot Trail or Marble Mountain. The mountains are so colorful with so many different shades. The colors with the ocean is such a peaceful picture. My children always enjoyed coming to Cape Breton on vacation.

The winters in Cape Breton are very cold and long. Everything looks so dark and dirty. You can go skating or sliding; nevertheless, I feel that there are not too many other things to do in the winter in Cape Breton.

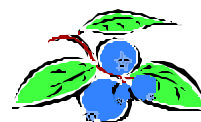
Brenda Landry

Home

I've recently made Louisdale, Nova Scotia, my home. One of the most fantastic attractions here is the ocean. The ocean here can change from night to day in a very short while. It can be crystal clear or deadly. Sometimes when I walk along the beach, the wind howls so loud that it actually sings to me. The wind blows my hair away from my face giving me a sense of freedom. I can smell seaweed, and on certain day I can taste a slight resin of salt on my lips. When it is this windy, you can scream or cry; no one can hear you. For you are drowned out by the crashing waves. This can be very purifying.

On other calm days, the water is like glass, and voices can echo for miles. This can be so tranquil and can give you a great sense of inner peace. People really take this place for granted. For example, a generous portion of seafood, such as clams and muscles, in Fredericton, New Brunswick, can cost a fortune. Here in Louisdale, a short walk, a bucket, and a shovel allows you to eat and be merry. Seafood here is plentiful.

Here we have the most breath taking views. Our fields are filled with an assortment of berries. The blueberries here are as large as marbles and as sweet as nature. God has sure provided for this land.



Rent or housing is very affordable. People actually care to know your name. My children and I have a sense of security and feel safe here. Sometimes I forget to lock my door.

They say , "Home is where your heart is."

Johanne Vautour

Places To Cherish In Richmond County

My favorite attractions in Richmond County are places I've been at my whole life. These places are very peaceful and so relaxing and refreshing, especially the smell of the outdoors. It's the land that's the best part. There are so many outdoor things to do in the winter, summer, spring and fall. I love the fall when all the leaves on the trees turn colors. And in winter there are poker runs with four wheelers going through the trails in every different direction, and all the people visit the cabins everywhere; it's really fun. In the summer the beaches are so beautiful and the smell of the ocean is unforgettable. The most relaxing thing is walking on the beach, taking it all in. Richmond County is very beautiful and is such a tourist attraction because of what we have a lot of; oceans, lakes, and trees upon trees. It's a great place to live. This is all something I will not forget when I leave here and would miss.



There's only one fault about Richmond County. There are few good paying jobs and there's not a lot to do for the younger generation.

I think Richmond County has some of the best tourist attractions I know, and I would recommend this place for a vacation anytime or to retire. But if you're young, you might not find work here. That's the only problem; besides, it has the best scenery you could find. If there was work around here the younger generation wouldn't leave. I know I wouldn't.

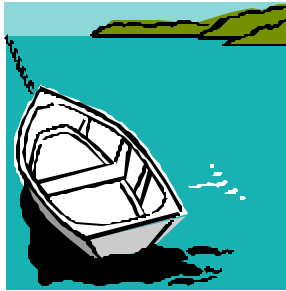
By Amanda Boudreau

Tour of Isle Madame

If I had a friend that would visit from far away I would take them for a tour of Isle Madame. I would start from my place in D'Escousse. Then I would take them down to the Yatch Club to see the boats at the wharf. Then I'd take them to Cape Le Ronde to see the beautiful beach and rocks; then, work my way to Rocky Bay, then Arichat, Petit de Grat, and Little Anse. I'm sure that they would enjoy the villages of the Island because they are all beautiful places to visit.

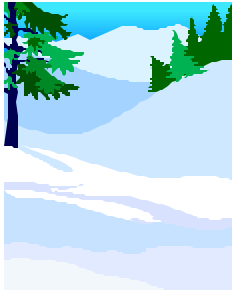
If I had to move away from home , I think I would get homesick, because I'm a country girl. I would miss all the beautiful events which goes on all summer long. I would miss going to dig clams, pick berries, and BINGO. I would also miss my family and friends.

Lena Boudreau



Isle Madame, "Canada's Forgotten Ocean Playground"

Some of the unique attractions in my area of Arichat, Richmond County are the fresh water lakes where residents and tourists can go kayaking in the summer, the small communities where people are known for their hospitality, Arichat Harbor's scenic view, and the cannon monument on the Lower Road. These are just some special unique attractions of Richmond County.



If I ever left Isle Madame, the things I would miss the most are my home, my friends, and places such as Jerseyman's Island across Arichat Harbor. I would also miss the winding roads in Little Anse and the salt water smell from the great North Atlantic near the coastline where I live.

Learner from Richmond County

Fun in Richmond County

I will always remember how much fun I had when I used to go on the four wheeler trails on the island. I usually don't plan where I go. Sometimes I go by my self or with my cousin, JR. It's more fun when you go with some friends who have a bike, because then you can race with them, or, if you get stuck really, bad, they can help you. I think the best place to go is at the pit because there is a lot of room and ramps that you can jump. You just have to be careful that you don't flip and smash your bike or break your neck. The best time I had was last summer when I got an old car from my mother's brother. I took the car up to the pit and jumped ramps with it. I got good height with the car until the car smashed apart. It was fun! I'm going to do it again!

By: Dale Kennedy

The PLACE I LOVE

The unique attractions of Isle Madame that I would miss if I went away would include the ocean ,the noises the seagulls make ,the forests and lakes, farm houses and dirt roads. I like to walk along the shore and throw rocks in the water. If I couldn't do that, I would be very lonesome. I moved away once and I missed these things so much; I felt like a part of me had died. I couldn't stay away; I had to come back to the place I love , Isle Madame. Below the Arichat Church there are cannons, and from the cannons you can see the lighthouse in Cape Auget . The Lenoir Museum is a very nice site also.

By: Raven Ivy Boudreau

MY BEST FRIEND

One hot summer day, I took my dog, King, to the beach. The tide was low. I spent an hour walking on the beach watching the bit waves hit up against the rocks and the shore. We picked up little crabs that were trying to hide under rocks. We also found about one thousand sea urchins, and my dog just loves to eat them, shell and all. I threw sticks in the water for him, and after he was sick of swimming, we played in the sun until he was dry, and then we went home.



By: Raven Ivy Boudreau

Living on Isle Madame

One of the most important things that I would miss when I leave home would be the water. Going fishing on a boat for several days out at sea gives me great pleasure. I like getting up in the morning on the boat and see the whales coming up for air when the sun rises. Sometimes the whales get curious and try to look inside the boat by jumping up right next to the boat and sticking their head in the air. I like the fresh air and the quietness of me sitting on the deck of the boat, drinking tea, and looking at the whales coming right by the boat. I look all around and all I can see is water and no land. It's a very beautiful site! I love fishing because everyone around here, pretty much, does the same thing or knows someone who fishes.

I also like going out in the woods in the winter time on the four wheelers. I like going out all night on the four wheelers. It's the most enjoyable time when I can go out with my friends and can do whatever I want.

It's "super fun" in the snow to get stuck and all kinds of things like that. You also go and sit down in the cabins and warm up, play cards, eat steak, and all sorts of good food. Finally we go back home and the next day talk about our night biking.

Learner from Isle Madame



RICHMOND COUNTY WEBSITE RESOURCES

1. www.richmondcounty.ca
Municipal government site with links to tourism, culture and recreation; administration; economic development; finance; council; public works; communications; and Point Tupper Industrial Park.
2. www.communitycalendar.ns.ca/west.html
Mostly advertisements but has a useful community calendar which lists local events by month.
3. <http://ecrl.library.ns.ca/countyrich.htm>
Short bibliography of Richmond County books available in the Regional Library system.
4. www.destination-ns.com/common/trails/ArealD.asp?ArealD=7
Includes brief descriptions of all counties of Cape Breton Island (with population statistics) and descriptions of various trails on Cape Breton Island. Place names are clickable and give latitude-longitude coordinates.
5. www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/heritage/nslps/jerseymn.htm
One of the member sites of "Lighthouses of Nova Scotia." Describes the lighthouse at Jerseyman Harbour near Arichat. Gives latitude-longitude coordinates; location; description; boyhood memories of Russ Latimer who lived there as a child and the lighthouse today.
6. www.herald.ns.ca/pop/counties/richm.html
Halifax Herald website which gives listings for populations in each Nova Scotia County. Also includes graphs which show change over time.
7. www.islemadame.com
Links to various sites about Isle Madame.

8. www.islemadame.com/info/index.html
Visitor's guide to Isle Madame with links for geography, history, activities, aquaculture, festivals, culture, arts and crafts.
9. www.islemadame.com/dima/buslink.html
Links to Isle Madame businesses.
10. www.grassroutes.ns.ca/telile
Website for Telile Video Production advertising a videotape about Isle Madame.