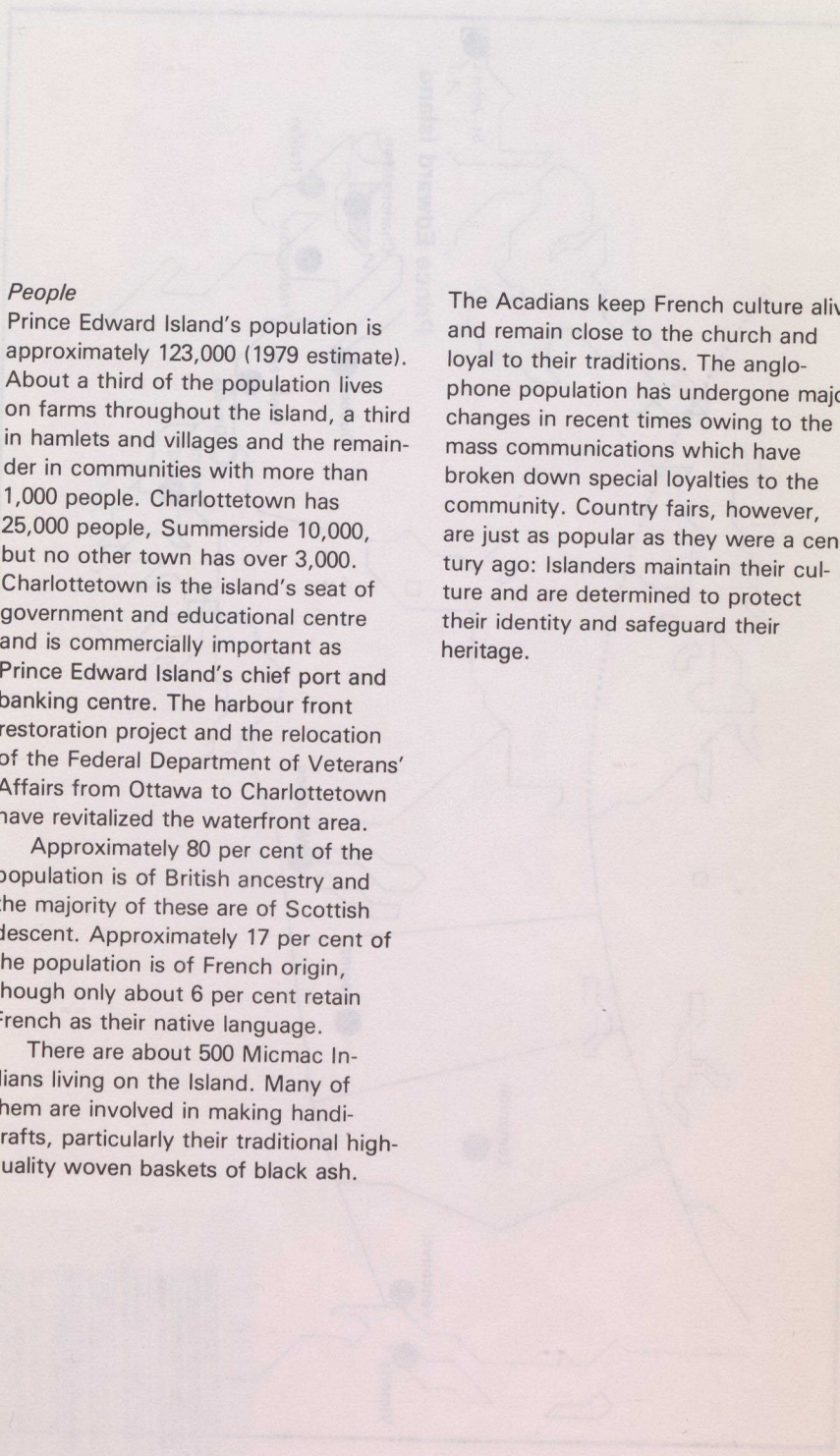




People

Prince Edward Island's population is approximately 123,000 (1979 estimate). About a third of the population lives on farms throughout the island, a third in hamlets and villages and the remainder in communities with more than 1,000 people. Charlottetown has 1,000 people, Summerside 10,000, but no other town has over 3,000. Charlottetown is the island's seat of government and educational centre and is commercially important as Prince Edward Island's chief port and banking centre. The harbour front restoration project and the relocation of the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs from Ottawa to Charlottetown have revitalized the waterfront area.

Approximately 80 per cent of the population is of British ancestry and the majority of these are of Scottish descent. Approximately 17 per cent of the population is of French origin, though only about 6 per cent retain French as their native language.

There are about 500 Micmac Indians living on the Island. Many of them are involved in making handicrafts, particularly their traditional high-quality woven baskets of black ash.

The Acadians keep French culture alive and remain close to the church and loyal to their traditions. The anglophone population has undergone major changes in recent times owing to the mass communications which have broken down special loyalties to the community. Country fairs, however, are just as popular as they were a century ago: Islanders maintain their culture and are determined to protect their identity and safeguard their heritage.