Canada

Nova Scotia

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Nova Scotia is one of the four original partners in the Canadian Confederation of 1867. The province extends southwest into the Atlantic Ocean, a position which gives it a great commercial advantage and marks it as a natural highway for travel between Europe and Canada.

Geography and climate

Nova Scotia's major Atlantic ports lie almost astride the Great Circle Route to Europe and are a full day's sailing closer to Europe than any other North American mainland port. This geographic location, together with large, ice-free, and deep-water harbours, has been a key factor in the province's economic development. Nova Scotia's 55,491-km^2 (21,425-square-mile) area is larger than Denmark although somewhat smaller than Scotland, after which it is named. The 579-km (360-mile) length of the province is a one-day journey by car, and the average width of 128 km (80 miles) means that no part is far from the sea.

Nova Scotia is a mosaic of rugged headlands, tranquil harbours and ocean beaches. Its indented shoreline stretches 10,424 km (6,479 salty miles), while inland is a myriad of lakes and streams. The land is framed by the rocky Atlantic uplands, the Cape Breton highlands and the wooded Cobequid hills. The agricultural areas of Nova Scotia are predominantly lowlands. When the glacial ice withdrew from coastal Nova Scotia fifteen to eighteen thousand years ago, the level of the ocean rose and flooded ancient river valleys and carved from the upland coasts hundreds of small protected harbours which later became fishing ports. The immense tides of the Bay of Fundy are another phenomenon of the Maritimes. Average tides range from 5 metres (16 feet) at the Bay of Fundy's entrance to 11 metres (36 feet) at the head of Minas Basin. There maximum tides reach 16 metres (53 feet) and are the highest in the world.

Nova Scotia lies in the northern temperate zone and although it is almost surrounded by the Atlantic and its coastal seas, including the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, the climate is continental rather than maritime. The temperature extremes of a continental climate, however, are modified by the ocean. Though temperatures vary, the average growing period for farm crops is 156 days. Annual precipitation ranges from 39 to 63 inches.

Its geographic location, straddling the 45th parallel, gives the province a greater variety of forest cover than most areas its size. There are ten native softwood and 14 native hardwood trees with 13 less common hardwoods and several dozen species introduced from outside. Forests cover 80 per cent of Nova Scotia, a higher proportion than that of a century ago. Some 12 species supply industrial wood. The first foresters in Nova Scotia were probably the "King's

Surveyors" who roamed the province's woodlands two centuries ago marking tall and sturdy pines destined to become masts and spars for Britain's warships and commercial vessels.

History

Micmac Indians and their ancestors have lived in Nova Scotia since very ancient times. There is evidence, also, that Europeans landed on the coast of Nova Scotia long before John Cabot's voyage of discovery in 1497. Though the history of European settlement in the province dates from that voyage, Basques and Norsemen are known to have visited Canada much earlier.

During the sixteenth century, both the French and Spanish tried to establish colonies in Nova Scotia but neither succeeded. In 1603, Henry IV of France and Navarre granted Sieur de Monts a licence to colonize "Acadia" between the 40th and 46th parallels. De Monts recruited 70 adventurers and prospective colonists, among them geographer Samuel de Champlain. The expedition sailed from France in 1604 and landed at the Bay of Fundy where Champlain founded the settlement of Port Royal in 1606. That winter Champlain organized a social club to lift morale among the Port Royal colonists — the "Order of Good Cheer". When de Mont's monopoly was revoked in 1607, the expedition returned to France. The French were after furs and they quickly focused their attention on the richer fur supplies of the St. Lawrence, which became the centre of the French Empire in America.

In 1610 Port Royal was once again occupied by the French, but three years later a group led by Samuel Argall from Britain's New England colony attacked the settlement and burned it. In 1621, the land was granted by James VI of Scotland to Sir William Alexander, who renamed Acadia "Nova Scotia". Small parties of Scots settled there in 1622 and 1623, but Port Royal was returned to France in 1632 and most of the settlers returned to Europe. By 1635 the French Governor of Acadia had begun a new Port Royal (8 km from the former post), which changed hands several times until 1710 when Colonel Francis Nicholson forced its capitulation and renamed it Annapolis Royal in honour of Queen Anne. Under the Treaty of Utrecht signed in 1713, France conceded mainland Nova Scotia to the British but Cape Breton and other islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence remained under French control. The heart of French power on the Atlantic Coast was then the great fortress of Louisbourg, which dominated the approaches to the St. Lawrence River and effectively dominated the northern approaches to North America. The British built the port of Halifax in 1749 to counter this power and established a settlement there to prevent the possibility of France's regaining Acadia. It

was from Halifax nine years later that the force that reduced Louisbourg was dispatched, and in the following year of 1759, the forces under Wolfe and Amherst that captured Quebec and asserted British dominance over the St. Lawrence System.

In the years before the fall of Louisbourg, the presence in Nova Scotia of large numbers of French-speaking Acadians who refused to take an oath of allegiance to the British Crown was seen as an unacceptable danger by the military command in Halifax, under pressure from the New Englanders. Many thousands of Acadians were rounded up and transported to various settlements in New England, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Following the settlement of Halifax, there was a major immigration to the area from Germany and Switzerland. These "foreign Protestants" settled for the most part along the south shore, where the town of Lunenburg grew up. When the Acadians were expelled from their land, large numbers of settlers from Connecticut and other New England states moved in to take over.

With the end of hostilities in 1763 many Acadians returned and were resettled. During the same period, large numbers of Ulster and Yorkshire settlers moved into the area around the present town of Truro. A small group of Highland Scot pioneers settled in Pictou and proved to be the first wave in a flood of immigration from the Highlands to the area. During and after the American Revolution, approximately 30,000 Loyalists moved to Nova Scotia. Black free men and slaves were among those who came as Loyalists. They multiplied Nova Scotia's population many times.

Economic development

From the 1780s, shipbuilding was an economic staple for the colony. Nova Scotia produced small vessels for coastal and West Indian trade and when the wars ended Nova Scotia provided many ships to carry vast quantities of lumber to Britain. Halifax was a port of call for Cunard Lines from the late 1830s to 1869. The shipyards of Nova Scotia had never been busier. For the next twenty years more than a thousand ships were built in Yarmouth and nearby ports. Soon, sailors from Nova Scotia were to be found around the globe. Lunenburg became famous as a fishing port and for the quality of schooners built there. The Nova Scotia fishing schooner *Bluenose*, the most famous of its day, is commemorated in the *Bluenose II*, a reproduction of the old vessel, based in Halifax. A similar ship is portrayed on the Canadian ten-cent coin.

When Nova Scotia joined Confederation, the era of sailing ships was at its height. But within two decades the situation had changed dramatically. As more and more steamships entered service, shipyards and lumber operations went into decline and old skills

were no longer needed. However, steamers required coal in great quantity and few coalfields were as close to the sea as those of Cape Breton. Sydney became a coal port of international significance. At the same time, a considerable coal export trade developed in Nova Scotia, which provided steady jobs for those laid off from the shipyards. The mines also attracted hundreds of marginal farmers and homesteaders. Nova Scotia's change in emphasis from shipbuilding to mining was an industrial revolution that had profound consequences for the whole province. The north and east became industrialized while the south and west (apart from Halifax) remained largely rural and relied on fishing, agriculture and forest industries. That was the position until the 1950s when coal could no longer compete with oil as a cheap source of energy.

New initiatives in manufacturing, tourism, fishing, agriculture, and renewed interest in coal today have sparked an up-swing in Nova Scotia's economy.

Fishing

The fishing industry has always been an essential part of Nova Scotia's seafaring tradition and economic development. Today the fishery is the economic mainstay of more than 200 coastal communities. It employs more than 10,000 fishermen and close to 5,000 shore-based processing workers in the province and supports many related industries such as shipbuilding. A fleet of some 6,200 fishing vessels and small craft supplies fish to 185 different processing plants. These vessels vary from small inshore boats, owned by the fishermen who operate them, to large ocean-going trawlers. One of the characteristics of the Nova Scotia fisheries is its diversity. The most important species are lobsters, scallops, cod, haddock and herring, though many others are caught and processed.

The industry promises to have a very bright future. Following a series of bilateral agreements, Canada in 1977 declared a 200-mile economic control zone which gave it control of fisheries and other resources on much of its continental shelf. This will allow depleted fish stocks to recover and will gradually rebuild Canada's sea fishery. It will also augment Nova Scotia's offshore deep sea fishery and its highly important inshore fishery which engages 70 per cent of the province's fishermen. The effects are already being felt. Last year Canada became the leading fish-exporting nation in the world, and Nova Scotia contributed close to a third of these exports.

Agriculture

Agriculture has flourished in Nova Scotia almost as long as fishing. The Acadians were the first to reclaim land by draining saltwater marshes and keeping out the sea using series of dykes and *aboiteau*. The fertile marshland is ideal for growing hay,

grains and pasture, which are the mainstay of the dairy industry, the largest sector in the agricultural economy. The region around the Annapolis Valley accounts for one-third by value of Nova Scotia's agricultural production. The province's three biggest fruit crops — apples, blueberries and strawberries — are rivalled by dairy products, poultry, hogs and alternate crops like vegetables and potatoes.

Forestry

In the 1880s there were some 1,400 sawmills in Nova Scotia; they now number about 400, though the production levels are much the same. Forest lands total more than 10.7 million acres. About 70 per cent is held by hundreds of small-woodlot owners and by forest products corporations. The remainder is the provincial government's Crown land.

The forestry industry employs more than 8,000 Nova Scotians in harvesting and processing. Approximately 140 million cubic feet of timber are used annually in the production of pulp, paper, hardboard and sawn products.

Mining

Nova Scotia is endowed with rich resources of industrial minerals, notably coal, gypsum and salt. Until the 1950s when the demand for coal dropped sharply, coal fields were a major force in the provincial economy. Today the rising cost of alternative fuels has restored coal's popularity and the industry is expanding. Coal production is about 3 million tons a year and includes both thermal and metallurgical coal used in steel-making processes. Gypsum is produced from five major quarries and much is shipped to the United States.

Two lead and zinc mines began operation in 1978 and interest is being shown in indications of tungsten, tin, molybdenum and uranium in the province. Recent finds of hydrocarbons in the offshore areas suggest the possibility of oil and natural gas deposits.

Manufacturing

Of every 100 persons in the Nova Scotia labour force in 1978, 14.7 were engaged in manufacturing. This represents a labour force of 46,000 persons in more than 700 plants across the province. In less than a decade, manufacturing shipments have doubled and are now nearly $3 billion annually. Almost 65 per cent of manufacture is exported outside the province, a quarter of this abroad. While 70 per cent of products sold abroad go to the United States, many firms manufacture for overseas markets.

The main areas of manufacturing are petroleum refining, food and beverages, pulp, paper and wood products and transportation equipment, including automobile and automotive parts, ships, railway stock and aircraft parts.

Energy

Nova Scotia is turning from imported oil to native coal to fulfil its energy needs and the province is also assessing its hydroelectric potential. For years Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have conducted studies on harnessing the high tides of the Bay of Fundy, a very unconventional source of hydro-electrical power. Tidal power may be a key element in Nova Scotia's program to secure needed energy resources.

Education

In Nova Scotia interest in education flows from a strong tradition which gave rise to Canada's first university and one of the first free public school systems in Canada. St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish is famous as the home of the Antigonish Movement, which encouraged establishment of co-operatives through the Maritimes. The public school system provides a thirteen-year program of elementary and secondary education. Nine degree-granting institutions offer a wide variety of post-secondary educational opportunities including medicine, engineering and law. Other facilities include a teachers' college, an agricultural college, a land survey institute, a nautical institute and an institute of technology.

The province's natural interest in the sea is reflected in an emphasis on the study of oceanography. The Bedford Institute is one of the largest oceanographic research centres in the world. The Nova Scotia Research Foundation is developing special devices for undersea exploration that are being introduced to world markets. Other oceanographic studies are carried out in the laboratories of Dalhousie University, which is also a major centre for medical research.

In conjunction with the full-time education program, Nova Scotia offers part-time courses to over 25,000 people. A massive renaissance of public participation in the recreational field is also under way. Nova Scotians of all ages and backgrounds take courses in painting, crafts, music, cultural pursuits and other pastimes.

Arts and culture

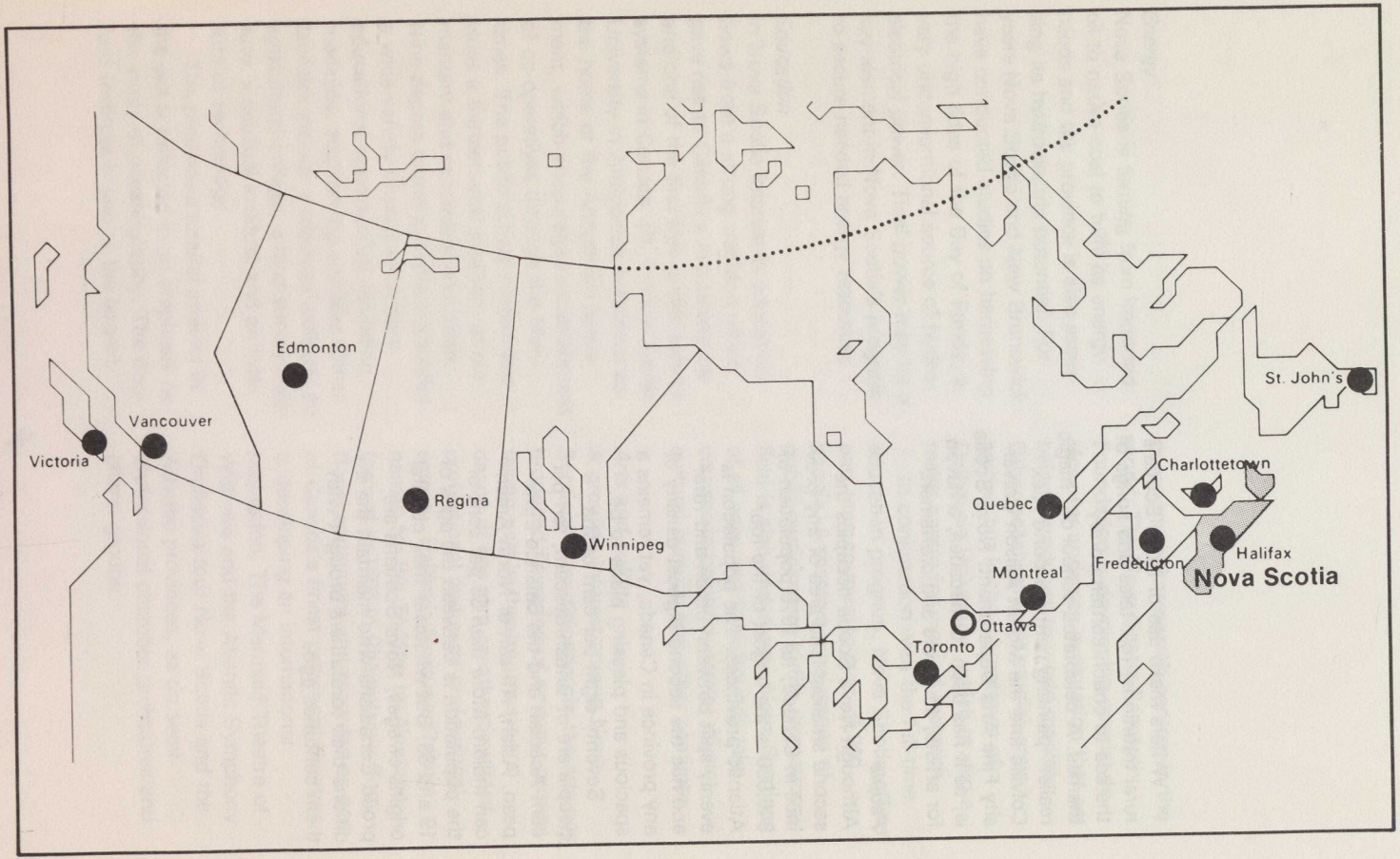
A growing interest among Nova Scotians in participating in the arts has produced flowering of amateur groups taking part in theatre, music and dance. It has also greatly stimulated professional and semi-professional activity. Halifax's Neptune Theatre, named for the *Théâtre du Neptune* formed in 1606 in Champlain's Port Royal settlement and regarded as one of Canada's finest provincial theatres, is developing an international reputation. The Mermaid Theatre of Wolfville and the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra tour Nova Scotia and the Atlantic provinces, as do semi-professional chamber orchestras and choral groups.

Writers make use of Nova Scotia's rural traditions, folk tales and songs of the sea to enrich contemporary themes. A celebrated school of "magic realist" painting centre around Alex Colville and the Mount Allison University Fine Arts Department. Nova Scotia is, as it has been for decades, a haven for artists, sculptors and craftsmen.

People

Although Nova Scotia occupies the second smallest land area of any province in Canada, its 1979 population of 846,900 is the largest of the four Atlantic provinces. The population is evenly split between urban and rural and has the second highest density of any province in Canada, yet remains a spacious and pleasing place to be.

Seventy-eight per cent of the people are of British descent, ten per cent Acadian and the balance European, Asian, African or North American Indian. More than 55 per cent of the population is between the ages of 19 and 65. But whatever their cultural origins or ages, Nova Scotians are proud Canadians who maintain the traditions their forefathers brought with them centuries ago.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