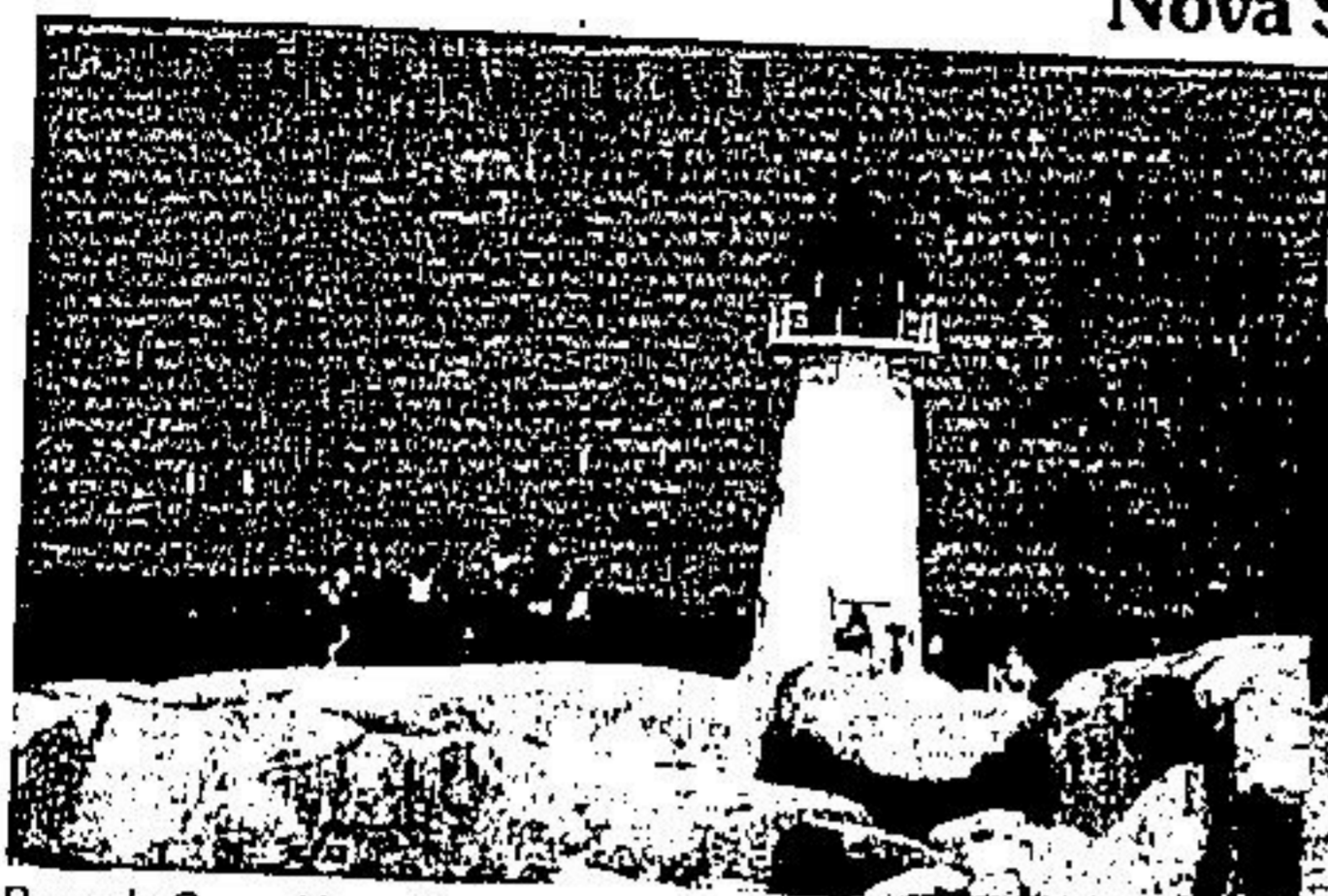


Nova Scotia



Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia.



Fortress Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island.

Going strong since 1605

by Samuel McEvoy

This summer in Nova Scotia eighty thousand people of Acadian origin will be going all out to show North America where they live and how they live as they celebrate the 375th anniversary of the founding of Port Royal by French explorers Sleur de Monts and Samuel de Champlain.

The Port Royal *Habitation*, founded in 1605, is the oldest permanent white settlement north of Florida and served as a stepping stone for the colonization of North America by France. France lost her bid for a North American empire following the fall of Quebec and Louisbourg in the late 1750's.

Today there are large numbers of French speaking people in Quebec, Louisiana, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. The Acadians of Nova Scotia will be toasting their heritage, rediscovering their roots, and singing the praises of life in L'Acadie.

There are two main areas of Acadian concentration—the "French Shore" along the St. Mary's Bay and Richmond County, Cape Breton. There are also important Acadian communities in Inverness County and in Yarmouth County.

These descendents of hardy immigrant stock still speak a colourful language that goes back more than three hundred years;

they display a strong sense of community fostered by church and family; and this summer they're welcoming people of Acadian extraction to come home to Nova Scotia to celebrate. Of course, even if you don't own a drop of Acadian blood, you're invited to the celebrations.

The Acadian festivals will be marked by fairs, exhibitions, craft displays, musical programs, parades, re-enactments, and sporting events. An Acadian village may appear like any other Nova Scotia community, but there are numerous distinguishing signs. Of course, the language of the inhabitants is French, flavoured with Acadian and English words and phrases. You will see the Acadian flag—the French tri-colour with a yellow star in the blue field, Acadian music and food have a unique character and flavour of their own—especially the food! Each village has its own bakery specializing in home-style rolls and breads.

This year 41 women from the Cheticamp area have been working on a giant tapestry 30 feet square, which will be displayed May 16 in Halifax. Most Acadian communities will feature craft displays during their festivals with major exhibits in Cheticamp August 20-24, and at College Ste. Anne, Church Point, July 7-13. On

the grounds of College Ste. Anne stands the impressive St. Mary's Church, believed to be the tallest wooden church on the continent.

Probably the most outstanding quality of these communities is the genuine hospitality of the people. They are gregarious and friendly to visitors. If you would like more information about Nova Scotia vacations write Department of Tourism, 5151 Terminal Road, Box 456, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2R5.



Port Royal re-enactment.



Kings Co. Acadians.