

# Cape Bretoners have enormous pride

By ANNE WANSTALL  
TRAVEL EDITOR  
SYDNEY, N.S. — You don't hear talk of separation in this part of Canada, but Cape Bretoners tend to feel they belong to a province within a province and prefer to be called Cape Bretoners rather than Nova Scotians.



## TRAVEL

Their patch — or rather, patches, since Cape Breton is made up of several islands joined together by high span bridges and ferries — is cut away from the mainland, and its people have an enormous pride in one of the most exquisite pieces of territory in Canada.

It wasn't so long ago that Canadians from other provinces thought of Cape Breton as one huge mining area, frequently struck down by underground tragedy and depression times. This notion was reinforced by business travellers whose only sight of Cape Breton was from a hotel room in one of the least attractive of Canadian cities, Sydney.

Even the people of Sydney have little to say in its favor. It's dead, dull, rather grubby, virtually devoid of culture, and has only one ameliorating circumstance — it is the gateway to the spectacular beauty of the Cabot Trail and more attractions than anyone can possibly cope with during a week's vacation.

Still, if you fly in, or get there by train, you'll almost certainly have to begin and end in Sydney, and might find it sensible to make the city your base. In which case, look at the small colony of motels outside the downtown area for better

accommodation at reasonable prices. Reservations can be made ahead of departure by calling 1-800-565-7105. It's a toll free number, computerized reservation system for all of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Your next problem is more easily solved — what to do on your vacation. Nova Scotia is a delightful province and Cape Breton has more attractions, natural and man-made, than almost anywhere else in Canada.

First thoughts naturally swing towards the rolling surf that beats against Cape Breton's shores. The terrain is very much like that of the Scottish highlands, but the weather is generally better. There are times when you can have a sandy inlet all to yourself, using the rugged rocks as a backrest.

There's 180 miles of scenic driving along the Cape Breton route, all marked and mostly on first-class roads. The Cape Breton Tourist Office in Sydney can provide you with maps and information on where to stay, but don't take the route too quickly because there's more than scenery to see.

Fort Louisbourg, reconstructed under a federal grant by miners forced out of work a decade ago is an absolute must for anyone finding themselves within 100 miles of the historic monument. The small town where time stands still in the mid-18th century, puts the visitor into the ghost-like position of walking through the past without

being seen. The "locals" ignore anyone not asking questions, carrying on with the day-to-day life of one of our earliest commercial cities that doubled as a fortress.

Children love a trip down the mine, and at Glace Bay, decked out in a miner's outfit they can tour Ocean Deeps Colliery and the Miner's Village. The village shows the home life of the miners in the period 1850 to 1900 and includes a company store and gift shop.

Other mines open to tourists in Cape Breton are Port Morien — the reconstructed workings of the first coal mine in North America — and Princess Colliery Tourist mine. If you want to add to the authenticity of the tour, take a steam train out of Glace Bay to Port Morien.

Little more than one hour's drive out of Sydney is Baddeck, where Alexander Graham Bell spent many summers in the countryside that reminded him of his native Scotland. There's a museum at Baddeck that's full of the inventor's memorabilia including original drawings and family photographs.

Originally a teacher of the deaf (his wife, Mabel, was one of his pupils, and some of his research led towards his best known invention, the telephone), Bell was also in-

strumental in John A. D. McCurdy's flight in the Silver Dart (the first plane flight in the British Empire), the invention of the hydrofoil and the first experiments with solar energy.

The museum contents are fascinating to all ages, so reckon about three hours of exploration. If you make the museum tour in the morning, drive into the small town for lunch at Telegraph House. Built in 1861 as the office for the first Trans Oceanic Cable Company, it is now a comfortable motel specializing in home cooking.

Baddeck is on the shore of a 450-square-mile inland sea, Bras d'Or, whose unpolluted salt waters are a paradise for sailboat enthusiasts. There are many landing ramps around the sea, and boats can be rented or chartered. For information contact the Cape Breton Tourist Association Information Centre at the Baddeck intersection on Route 205 and 105. Canoes can also be rented for trips along the inland waterways.

With all that water around you'd expect to find good fishing. The western shores are highly recommended for both salt and fresh water fish. Margaree is world famous for its salmon, and a world record for tuna was established off the village of Judique.

## TRAVELCHAT

### Program successful

Now in its second year, Ontario's "We Treat You Royally" program is having good results, according to Industry and Tourism Minister Larry Grossman.

More than a slogan, the program runs courses in the basics of good hosting, like having a ready smile, dealing with the unpleasant tourist politely, and being proud to let others enjoy Ontario.

Mr. Grossman, who is a cheerful character himself, pointed out at a recent Ontario Place press conference that tourism is Ontario's second largest industry, but needs the help of every citizen to keep the business flowing.

Cayuga II will cross Lake Ontario between Toronto and Niagara-on-the-Lake, June 15 through Labor Day. There will be two trips daily each way with seats reserved under a computer system. Fare is \$6.50 each way. Going with one and returning with the next gives enough time to explore Niagara-on-the-Lake and see the lunchtime theatre (not the Shaw as yet) in a

day, or you can stay overnight and return next day.

Subject to government approval, CP Air will be increasing its present discount to seniors over 65 years of age to 25 per cent off the normal one-way economy fare on Canadian routes from June 6.

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<b>Apples, Pears &amp; Peaches</b> \$665 (reg \$8.90 ea)	<b>Black &amp; Red Currants</b> \$150 (reg \$2.05 ea)	<b>Raspberries</b> \$345 (reg 10 for \$4.60)
<b>Plums, Sweet Cherries &amp; Sour Cherries</b> \$740 (reg \$9.90 ea)	<b>Gooseberries</b> \$150 (reg \$2.05 ea)	<b>Selection of plants still available may vary from location to location.</b>

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