

The future of the Coast of Bays region is as unlimited as the vast number of coves and inlets along our rugged shore. For hundreds of years people have been thriving in this area cultivating a way of life, found no where else in the world. Now, as we enter a new millennium, we can be very optimistic about our future.

While staying closely connected with our historical background, we steadily progress towards new and exciting opportunities. The spectacular beauty of our area holds tremendous potential for tourism. The wide variety of cultural industries in the Coast of Bays are reflected in our unique rural culture. Communities in our region offer all the services anyone would need for a quiet rural lifestyle. We have a vast amount of natural resources, with a large territory yet to be investigated. With its established markets, aquaculture, is a multi-million dollar industry. Our adjacency to the greatest fishing grounds in the world, makes the fishery our most prominent resource. The people living in this area are the Coast of Bays= most important resource, building strong, close net communities, where everyone is your neighbor.

Both inland and coastal areas are excellent vacation sites for tourists. The pristine environment attracts visitors from all around the world who enjoy the regions natural and untouched beauty. The abundance of wild game in the inland areas can be taken advantage of by people who enjoy hunting expeditions, from small game such as rabbit, partridge, duck, grouse, and geese to moose, caribou and bear. The thrill of catching an Atlantic salmon or Rainbow trout in one of our many rivers and brooks brings tourists back each year.

The countless number of small bays, inlets, coves and water ways, provides an excellent place to take part in sailing, scuba diving, canoeing, sea kayaking, whale watching, and bird observation. Fortune Bay boasts a large bald eagle colony and Hermitage Bay is well known for its migrating whales.

Warmth and hospitality can be found among our many accommodations such as old fashioned bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels, cabins along with many parks and lodges. The old time charm in many of these accommodations are typical of the culture in the Coast of Bays region.

People take advantage of our interesting past and use it in many cultural industries. Music, festivals, crafts and museums reflect our past and try to preserve it in the present. The Coast of Bays is home to many talented artists and musicians. Groups such as The Fortune Bay Sons and Simani, do a great job preserving Newfoundland's traditional folk music. Crafts such as clothing, knitted goods, baskets, paintings, carvings, and local folk art continue to depict our history of coastal living to tourists.

The communities of the Coast of Bays provide all the services of modern day living. The regions link to the Internet keeps us connected to the rest of the world. There are many ways to travel in our area - highways, ferries, heli-pads, air strips, as well as the Gander International airport which is less than three hours away. Deep ice free ports are ideal for shipping cargo along the coast at any time of the year. Many businesses are supported by services such as lending and economic agencies, which help to promote the private sectors of our communities. Other services that support our way of life are health care and education with many modern and well equipped centers such as hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, nutritional centers, schools, distance education, Family Resource Center and Open Learning Centers.

Our natural resources provide untapped potential for development. The Coast of Bays holds vast resources that could be used for speciality foods, like wild berries for making jams, jellies and wines. Crops and livestock can thrive in this area because of our rich topsoil which is among the best in the province.

Our forests are abundant in hardwood and softwood which can be used for manufacturing. Balsam fir has almost a 100% regeneration rate and the region is one of only a few sites where Eastern White Pine can still be found. Silviculture ensures that these resources will be sustainable in the future.

Mining is another resource that holds promise for the future, with granite and gold deposits known to exist.

This regions hydroelectric resource is one of the largest in Eastern Canada, and is helped by a large number of rivers and lakes covering 6051 square kilometers.

A new resource to our area is aquaculture. The marine environment is perfect for several species of shellfish and finfish because we have the warmest water temperature in the province. These excellent conditions ensures that we have a thriving scallop and mussel production. Millions of Atlantic salmon and steelhead trout are hatched here every year. Because of exceptional conditions and aquaculture spin-offs, this means significant development for the future.

The Coast of Bays region owes its existence to our rich fishing resource, which as gone on for nearly 500 years. In recent years the fishing industry has begun to diversify, with many plants upgrading to secondary processing. The abundance of groundfish, pelagics, snow crab, sea urchins, lobster, shrimp, skate, eels, shark and sea weed provide local and international markets. With so many traditional and non-traditional species being developed the fishery is looking very bright and promising for the future.

Rural Newfoundland communities offer a special kind of lifestyle that can be envied by people all around the world. Things like the lower cost of living, minimal crime and the cleanest air in Canada makes for a happy environment to live and work in. This would benefit any business

that would choose to take advantage of our workforce.

Although we are known for being hard workers, we also enjoy a wide variety of recreational activities. Festivals and community celebrations take place year round, as well as the many out door activities, that can be enjoyed in our clean environment. These include arenas, soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds and community centers and areas that are ideal for hiking, sailing, canoeing, hunting, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, and skiing.

With all of the things that the Coast of Bays has to offer, its residents can feel confident and enthusiastic about their future. If we continue to work hard and build on our resources, the potential of our communities will be extremely bright.