

When traveling in the central region of Newfoundland, take time to explore the Coast of Bays, nestled on the south coast of the province. This area has tremendous potential for tourism, and is a spectacular location to visit. The area has beautiful scenery and a lower cost of living than in urban areas. The people involved with the Coast of Bays have a strong sense of social and family values, they are hard workers, and they enjoy recreational activities to the fullest.

In the future I think our natural environment will be developed to attract tourists. For example, the Deadman's Cove area will possibly become a recreational vehicle park with all the services and facilities needed to draw attention to the natural beauty and attract tourists. The Bay du Nord wilderness area will possibly be totally developed for tourism. Some things that might become of this area are kayaking , nature walks, camping and also an extensive Interpretation Center. The center will inform visitors about the entire area. One area of tourism that can easily be developed is boat tours from almost any community to especially resettled communities. Tourists will be amazed by our rugged landscape, and will learn more about these resettled communities. Another way that the Coast of Bays region draws tourists to the area is through the quality summer festivals that we hold each year. In Harbour Breton in 1997, during the Tradition By The Sea Festival, when the Matthew was here, thousands of people from Harbour Breton, other towns, provinces, and even other countries lined the streets. There are many other annual festivals that take place in the Coast of Bays region each year. A few of these festivals are: The Iron Skull Festival held in Belleoram , Rainbow Trout Festival held in Bay d'Espoir, and the South Coast Arts Festival held in St. Jacques. In the years to come, I think these festivals will become more successful and will continue to attract crowds from all areas of the province.

There are also things that we can do to develop aquaculture in the Coast of Bays region. We can try to further develop mussel farms, scallop farms, shrimp farms and cod farms. These farms will employ many people in the primary and secondary industries. We can also try to get more of these farms in different areas of the region.

In the future, I think our services will be more enticing to visitors. Some things we can do to develop the service industry are: build better quality hotels and improve existing hotels to meet the needs of customers, have more bed and breakfasts because many tourists prefer the experience of local living rather than staying in a hotel. We can improve our restaurants by improving the menu. The meals should be more traditional and healthy. Another important area in the service industry is customer service. Companies will have to train their employees to meet the needs of their clients. For example: giving directions, knowing exactly what services are available, such as gas stations, banks, post offices, drug stores, hospitals, etc., and above all, to be courteous and polite.

The fishery is one area where great changes have to be made. The traditional cod fishery is almost a thing of the past. All other species have to be given a try. In Newfoundland we catch lumpfish just for the spawn whereas other areas withdraw the spawn with a needle allowing the fish to reproduce again. This is one change that should be made in the future. The Coast of Bays will probably develop the kelp industry for both fertilizer and medicinal purposes. I also see a snail factory opening in the area where snails will be processed and shipped overseas. There will possibly be a change in quotas for licensed fisher persons where there will be a better chance for

regrowth in the fish stocks.

The Coast of Bays has some of the richest natural resources in the province. Some resources are water, rich soil, forests, minerals, wildlife, and friendly people. We have massive supplies of salt and fresh water. The ocean will support many of the tourism ideas, such as boat tours, and our rivers and lakes will support many recreational activities, such as swimming, as well as further hydro-electric possibilities. Our rich soil will allow for more local farming and is also a source of our rich forests. The forest in the Coast of Bays region provides an excellent home for all types of wildlife that attracts many visitors each year. I see a gold mine opening in the Little River area where many people will be employed. Also the granite quarry in Seal Cove will be developed. Some of the friendliest people in Newfoundland live in the Coast of Bays area. They will enhance the region with their hospitality and good nature.

Well structured community living is very important. In the future I hope to see more heritage centers developed. The only two in the Coast of Bays region are found here in Harbour Breton, the Sunny Cottage Heritage Center, and in Belleoram, Cluett House. There are many fine structures in the area that have the potential to become heritage centers, I hope to see these developed in the future. Since there is only one hospital in the Coast of Bays region, and four small clinics, I hope to see more in the future. There should be at least one serviced clinic with a licenced nurse in each community. There should always be a helicopter available (day and night) to the region, especially to the isolated communities of Gaultois, McCallum, and Rencontre East, in case there is an emergency. The entire Coast of Bays is serviced by only three RCMP detachments, Harbour Breton, Milltown, and St. Albans. This should be upgraded to at least one officer in each community. There should also be more sports facilities and competitions between the communities in the region. Most sports teams are school based which leaves athletes with nothing to do in the summer. There should be more teams and/or competitions available to people of all ages in each community. All communities in the region should have easy access to the internet. For example, it would help people in rural communities do their shopping, get current news, improve their educational resources, have quicker means of communication by e-mail, and they can also use it as a source of entertainment. The communities in the Coast of Bays region should also generate teen facilities. Harbour Breton is working on a youth network center where teenagers can watch a big screen television, explore the Internet, get tutoring, and also play various arcade games and sports. I think that other communities should have a network like this for the benefit of their teenagers. If all these services were available to each community, it would improve their quality of life and make it a better place for all citizens.

I hope to see a lot of changes in the Coast of Bays region in the future. I believe that in the years to come, more and more tourists will be attracted to our part of the province. I think the fishery will become more successful and employ more people than ever before. Hopefully, there will be more facilities for teenagers and sports activities some time down the road. The Coast of Bays region has great potential for development and it's up to the imagination and the determination of people to what extent the development occurs. I live in this region, and I hope it becomes all it can be.

The Future of the
Coast of Bays
as I See It

Submitted to: Mr. Rogers
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