

6.2 Content Framework

The Content Framework identifies the significant stories of Nova Scotia's natural and cultural history and groups them into **five conceptual themes, with corresponding topics and sub-topics**. The Content Framework was initially developed in a workshop in May 2008, attended by key Heritage Division staff and outside experts. The group developed topics and then grouped them to form the five main conceptual themes outlined below. Since then, the Content Framework has been further refined by the consultant group and tested through discussion during several workshops.

The objectives of the Content Framework are to:

- » Integrate natural and human history
- » Address both tangible and intangible heritage
- » Identify key contexts, places, subjects, events, and people
- » Group these elements into levels (i.e., unifying themes, topics and sub-topics)
- » Be inclusive (e.g., effectively help to address issues of gender, race and minorities)
- » Be usable in the NSM context, but not constrained by current collections, exhibits or interpretive presentations

Form:Media



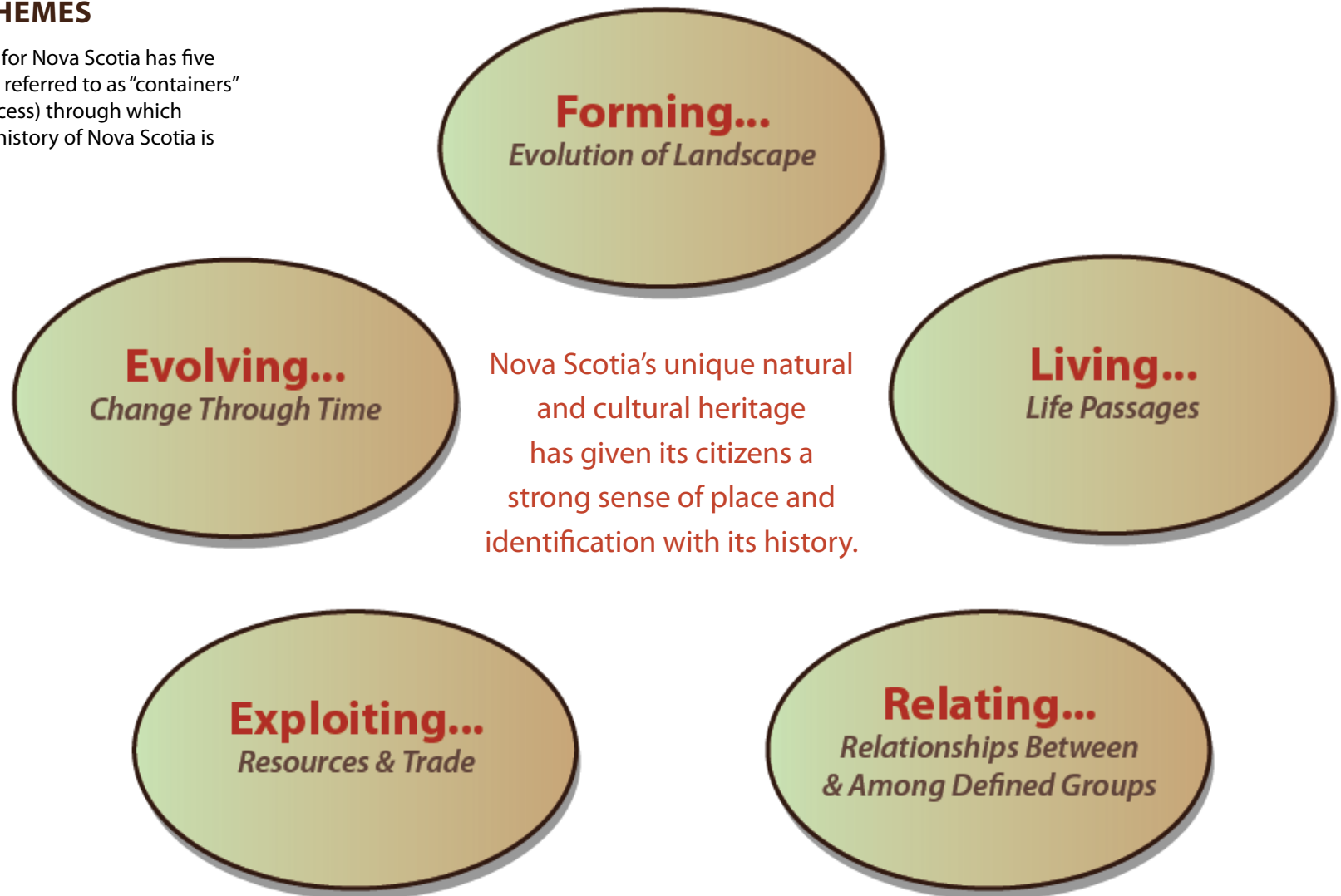
- » Be usable over time to direct interpretive development, and as a result, help direct research, collecting and education
- » Be relevant to all Nova Scotia's interpreted places
- » Be relevant to Nova Scotians, encouraging pride without ignoring difficult stories

The idea of using a structure of themes and topics to create meaningful groupings of subject matter to guide historical resource preservation and interpretation planning is not new. In order to develop this Content Framework, the consultant group also examined frameworks used by other heritage bodies, including the Historic Sites Branch of the Ontario Division of Parks, Alberta Culture, Parks Canada, the United States Park Service, and the Australian Heritage Commission.

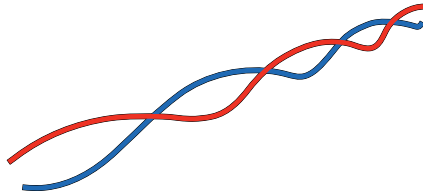
Australia's efforts to create "a framework for use in heritage assessment and management," is particularly relevant to this project. It takes a fresh look at Australian history and makes new connections between the stories, relates themes to place, and provides links between different stories in the nation's history and the heritage sites that can best be used to illustrate these stories.

CONCEPTUAL THEMES

The Content Framework for Nova Scotia has five conceptual themes (also referred to as “containers” during the planning process) through which the natural and cultural history of Nova Scotia is outlined.



While each theme can be approached and understood separately, they are best viewed as an interconnected whole that moves on a continuum from the natural world into, and through, the human experience. At its core, the Framework also underlines the principle that **human beings are inseparable from the natural world and that all human activity takes place in the context of that environment**. Given that the NSM is mandated to address both natural history and human history, the two are presented together, intimately connected like the strands of a DNA's double helix.



While the interpretive themes in the previous section of this report deal with a set of overarching “big ideas,” **the Content Framework identifies the key components of Nova Scotia’s natural and human history and organizes them in a way that emphasizes diversity and interconnection**.

A strict listing of topics dealt with chronologically, like the table of contents in a textbook, was rejected during the consultation process in favour of a more challenging approach that provided the flexibility desired. Our inherited environment is continually evolving and changing, and in human society the pull and push of different, often competing forces means that history does not unfold in a linear way. Thus, different aspects of the same topic appear in different places in the Framework. For example, the forces involved with the creation of climate, and the changing effect of climate on human activity are recognized as being quite different, as is the geological formation of the province as a whole and the more specific creation, identification and exploitation of mineral deposits.

The rejection of a chronological approach also points to the evolving nature of history. The Framework is able to consider, and support, the latest in historical scholarship. This ensures that the Heritage Division interprets subject matter that is current and relevant for visitors. The Framework can, and should, be continually updated to include recent history.

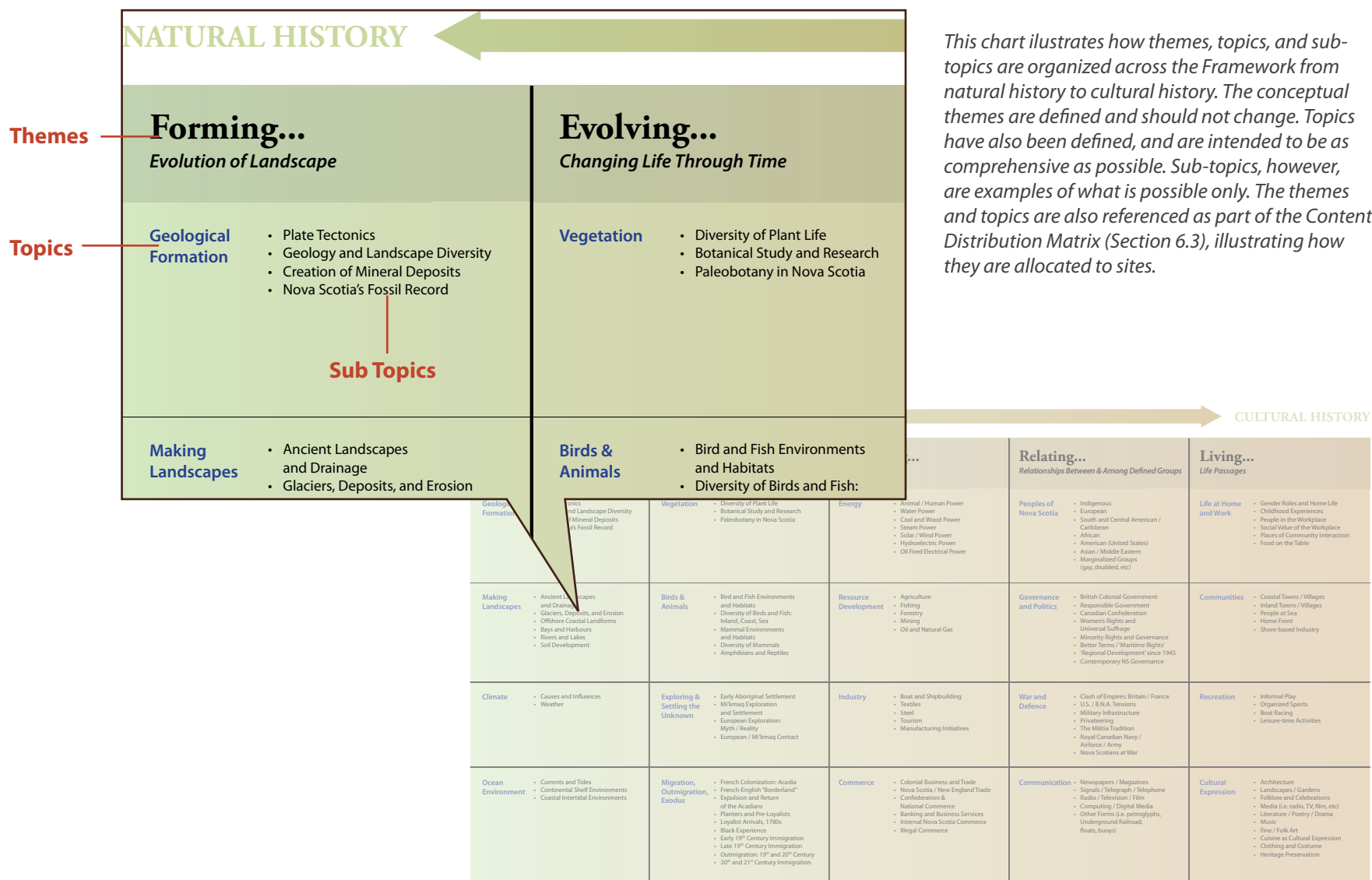
The Content Framework is a tool for interpretation and a way to group relevant topics and sub-topics. While recent historical scholarship emphasizes the need to present social and economic history as equally important to political or military history, subjects such as cultural diversity or the role of women are not identified as topics in this Framework. Issues like ethnicity and the contribution of women to Nova Scotian society, actually transcend any one theme or topic, and are part of those interpretive threads that should infuse all interpretation throughout the Heritage Division. The Framework is an opportunity to present and interpret multiple perspectives and multiple meanings.

THEMES, TOPICS AND SUB-TOPICS

The five conceptual themes identified in the Content Framework collectively define the province's natural and cultural history stories. Understanding what is meant by terms like *Forming, Evolving, Exploiting, Relating, and Living* is therefore crucial to interpreting and using the Content Framework effectively. As such, this section provides an essential understanding of each conceptual theme, topic and sub-topic.

It is important to note that this section does not provide exhaustive descriptions of the content contained within each conceptual theme, topic, and sub-topic. Providing even a generalized narrative of the content featured within each conceptual theme violates the province's rich and diverse natural and cultural history. Detailed narratives and content descriptions are best saved for such existing resources as *The Natural History of Nova Scotia* (developed by Derek Davis and Susan Browne).

During the development of the Content Framework, the consultant team learned that a single, defined source for the Museum's cultural history stories does not exist in the same way it does for its natural history stories. It would serve the NSM well to work towards developing the equivalent body of information for the province's cultural history. The Content Framework is an excellent foundation for developing this body of knowledge, however it is not intended to hold an ever-growing list of sub-topics and stories. A cultural history document is the ideal place to begin to capture this information in a more comprehensive manner.



CONTENT FRAMEWORK

NATURAL HISTORY

CULTURAL HISTORY

Forming... <i>Evolution of Landscape</i>	Evolving... <i>Changing Life Through Time</i>	Exploiting... <i>Resources & Trade</i>	Relating... <i>Relationships Between & Among Defined Groups</i>	Living... <i>Life Passages</i>
Geological Formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plate Tectonics • Geology and Landscape Diversity • Creation of Mineral Deposits • Nova Scotia's Fossil Record 	Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of Plant Life • Botanical Study and Research • Paleobotany in Nova Scotia 	Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal / Human Power • Water Power • Coal and Wood Power • Steam Power • Solar / Wind Power • Hydroelectric Power • Oil Fired Electrical Power 	Peoples of Nova Scotia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous • European • South and Central American / Caribbean • African • American (United States) • Asian / Middle Eastern • Marginalized Groups (gay, disabled, etc) 	Life at Home and Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Roles and Home Life • Childhood Experiences • People in the Workplace • Social Value of the Workplace • Places of Community Interaction • Food on the Table
Making Landscapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Landscapes and Drainage • Glaciers, Deposits, and Erosion • Offshore Coastal Landforms • Bays and Harbours • Rivers and Lakes • Soil Development 	Birds & Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird and Fish Environments and Habitats • Diversity of Birds and Fish: Inland, Coast, Sea • Mammal Environments and Habitats • Diversity of Mammals • Amphibians and Reptiles 	Resource Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Fishing • Forestry • Mining • Oil and Natural Gas 	Governance and Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Colonial Government • Responsible Government • Canadian Confederation • Women's Rights and Universal Suffrage • Minority Rights and Governance • Better Terms / 'Maritime Rights' • 'Regional Development' since 1945 • Contemporary NS Governance 	Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Towns / Villages • Inland Towns / Villages • People at Sea • Home Front • Shore-based Industry
Climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes and Influences • Weather 	Exploring & Settling the Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Aboriginal Settlement • Mi'kmaq Exploration and Settlement • European Exploration: Myth / Reality • European / Mi'kmaq Contact 	Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat and Shipbuilding • Textiles • Steel • Tourism • Manufacturing Initiatives 	War and Defence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clash of Empires: Britain / France • U.S. / B.N.A. Tensions • Military Infrastructure • Privateering • The Militia Tradition • Royal Canadian Navy / Airforce / Army • Nova Scotians at War 	Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal Play • Organized Sports • Boat Racing • Leisure-time Activities
Ocean Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currents and Tides • Continental Shelf Environments • Coastal Intertidal Environments 	Migration, Outmigration, Exodus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Colonization: Acadia • French-English "Borderland" • Expulsion and Return of the Acadians • Planters and Pre-Loyalists • Loyalist Arrivals, 1780s • Black Experience • Early 19th Century Immigration • Late 19th Century Immigration • Outmigration: 19th and 20th Century • 20th and 21st Century Immigration 	Commerce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonial Business and Trade • Nova Scotia / New England Trade • Confederation & National Commerce • Banking and Business Services • Internal Nova Scotia Commerce • Illegal Commerce 	Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers / Magazines • Signals / Telegraph / Telephone • Radio / Television / Film • Computing / Digital Media • Other Forms (i.e. petroglyphs, Underground Railroad, floats, buoys) 	Cultural Expression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture • Landscapes / Gardens • Folklore and Celebrations • Media (i.e. radio, TV, film, etc) • Literature / Poetry / Drama • Music • Fine / Folk Art • Cuisine as Cultural Expression • Clothing and Costume • Heritage Preservation

CONTENT FRAMEWORK CONTINUED

NATURAL HISTORY

CULTURAL HISTORY

Forming... <i>Evolution of Landscape</i>	Evolving... <i>Changing Life Through Time</i>	Exploiting... <i>Resources & Trade</i>	Relating... <i>Relationships Between & Among Defined Groups</i>	Living... <i>Life Passages</i>
Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Forms and Ecosystems Species Diversity Ecosystem Diversity Genetic Diversity Extinction of Species Contemporary Research 	Response to Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mi'kmaq Settlement Patterns Acadian Marshland Settlement Strategic Halifax and Louisbourg Coastal Communities Age of Sail: 1830 - 1880 Mining Towns, Farming Towns, Logging Towns Halifax: Metropolis Building Technologies / Materials 	Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ships and Watercraft Roads / Vehicles Railways Aviation Waterways and Canals 	Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schooling Before 1864/5 Universal Education, 1864/5 Mechanics and Nautical Institutes / Trade Schools and Colleges Higher Education Lifelong & Informal Learning 	Social Development and Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Security: Protection, Prevention, Response Justice Health Care Temperance & Prohibition Antigonish Movement Religious Observance Philanthropy & Social Conscience Unions Boards of Trade Fraternal Organizations Volunteerism
	Agents of Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change and NS Environment Human Activity and the Environment Inadvertent / Introduced Migrants New Technology: Effects / Experience Rural Depopulation since 1945 Challenges of Urbanization Outmigration Social / Economic Effects Responses to Deindustrialization 	Environmental Values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depletion of Natural Resources Environmental Impact (Then & Now) Endangered Environments / Species Air Quality Protecting Cultural Resources 	Religion and Spirituality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mi'kmaq Spirituality Catholicism and Identity 'Non-Conformity' Religious Affiliation 	
	Understanding our World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific Enquiry: 19th - 21st Century Archaeology History and Sociology since 1945 Amateur Inquiry and Collecting 		Social Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Slavery Social Conflict Labour and Capital (including indentured) Privilege / Social Circles 	

A. FORMING...

Evolution of Landscape

Nova Scotia has been shaped by at least 1.2 billion years of geological time and climatic change. It is a long story, but one that has incredible relevance to the natural and cultural history of the province. Nova Scotia's landscape has been shaped by dramatic tectonic movements, the influence of the sea (which almost completely surrounds the province) and the effects of thousands of years of climate change. Together, these elements explain the biodiversity of land and sea, and the changes that continue to happen today.



Geological Formation

The rocks of Nova Scotia are amongst the oldest in existence and provide evidence of millions of years of ancient mountain building, erosion, inundation by water, earthquakes, and volcanic eruption.

The two geologically distinct parts of the province – the Avalon and the Meguma terranes, which are separated by the fault line running between Cobequid Bay and Chedabucto Bay – provide evidence of two great landmasses that came together over 360 million years ago to form the super continent of Pangea. Nova Scotia, including its continental shelf, found itself in the centre of that continent, far above sea level, and subject to extensive erosion that formed the distinctive red sands and mud of the northeastern parts of the province.

As the earth's crust weakened, Pangea split apart and Nova Scotia became part of the North American continental plate, separated by what became the Atlantic Ocean from the other remains of the two ancient landmasses in Northern Europe and Africa. However, Nova Scotia retained small sections of each of these other two continents.

Form:Media

Stock.XCHNG



Making Landscapes

Fifty million years ago, Nova Scotia approached its current position in North America, and by three million years ago the landscapes that we see today had largely been produced by successive periods of glaciation. When the last of the ice finally melted, about 12,000 years ago, the sea once again filled the Bay of Fundy. Rich sedimentary deposits were left behind in the Annapolis Valley; these would become the building blocks for agricultural development thousands of years later.

Ultimately, the melting of the Appalachian Ice Complex allowed for the most recent introduction of plants, animals and people. Archaeological evidence found in the Debert area, west of Truro, indicates that nomadic peoples hunted here at least 10,600 years ago. With climatic warming the sea level continued to rise, submerging much of the coastal area of Nova Scotia and producing the distinctive deep inlets and harbours of the south shore that are apparent today and have been important landscapes in our human history. Eventually, a mixed forest developed, covering the entire province, except in the highest parts of Cape Breton.



Form:Media

Climate

Wikipedia



The sea has a large effect on Nova Scotia's climate, causing variable winters, late springs, fresh summers, and enduring falls. Fog, rain and winds are common elements of the weather, as storms

– including late summer remnants of hurricanes and tropical storms – from the south and west consistently move across the province. In 1873, the Great Nova Scotia Cyclone swept over Cape Breton, causing untold damage; more recently, Hurricane Beth in 1971 and Hurricane Juan in 2003 caused extensive damage and flooding. In recent years, questions of climate change are tied to dramatic weather patterns – is the province experiencing more severe weather as a result of global warming? What will be the long-term effects on Nova Scotian landscapes and the people who live there?

NASA



Ocean Environment

Nova Scotia's ocean environment is key to understanding many elements of our natural and cultural history. Generations of Nova Scotians living and working along the shoreline have developed a keen understanding of the tides and currents at work. The continental shelf and nutrient-rich currents provided an incredibly rich resource of fish, which has become severely threatened in recent years.

Biodiversity

Nova Scotia has an amazing variety of habitats, plants, animals, and people – all interconnected in a fragile web of life. Over thousands of years, millions of different species have evolved and remain today in a constant state of evolution.

Contemporary research in biodiversity focuses on the ecological integrity of our landscapes; examining the larger picture of how plants and animals are connected to each other. We now understand that losing even one animal or plant to extinction positions us to lose many others that are connected to the missing species. The implications this has on Nova Scotia's rich and varied natural habitats – and everything living within them – are far-reaching and ever present in the minds of many Nova Scotians today.

Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage (2 images)



Form:Media

Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage

B. EVOLVING...

Change through Time

While the amazing biodiversity of Nova Scotia's numerous ecosystems is a crucial aspect of the *Forming* theme, the ongoing changes affecting these ecosystems are equally important to the concept of *Evolving*. This theme addresses the issues of change and adaptation, in both the natural and cultural spheres of our history. Genetic diversity in plants and animals and cultural diversity in people are both responses to adaptation to the environment and to each other.

Vegetation

The vegetation of Nova Scotia has evolved in response to the changing environment. Through the techniques of paleobotany, researchers are able to show the changes in vegetation over thousands of years as the climate changed over time. Relatively recently, Acadian Forest covered most of the province. However, as a result of clearing and logging, little of this old growth remains. More recent changes in vegetation are due to climate change, as vegetation from south of the province reaches marches north and cold-loving vegetation disappears.



Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History



Stock.XCHNG

Birds, Animals and Fish

Combined tree and shrub habitat, which covers 90% of the province, supports substantial bird diversity including such songbirds as flycatchers, chickadees and thrushes, and larger species including birds of prey (hawks and owls), grouse, crows, jays, and woodpeckers. Freshwater and wetland habitats support ducks and geese, and the extensive coastal environments of the province support a large variety of shorebirds like the many species of sandpiper and duck, as well as fish-eating birds such as herons, cormorants, eagles, and the osprey – the provincial bird. Seabirds include gulls, puffins, storm petrels, and gannets.

Wikipedia



Terrestrial and aquatic environments that support numerous species of birds equally support mammals. In the cooler uplands, species include moose, beaver, fox, squirrels, and deer mice. At lower elevations, where there is an abundance of cleared land, deer, skunk, raccoons, shrews, and white-footed mice abound. The wilder parts of the province are the home of lynx. Marine animals include a number of species of whale, dolphin and porpoise.

Over 500 species of fish reside in Nova Scotia's ocean environments. The largest are sharks, and the smallest sticklebacks, lump suckers and snailfish. Cod, flounder, halibut, and plaice are among those most important to Nova Scotia's economy, however these populations have suffered greatly from overfishing.

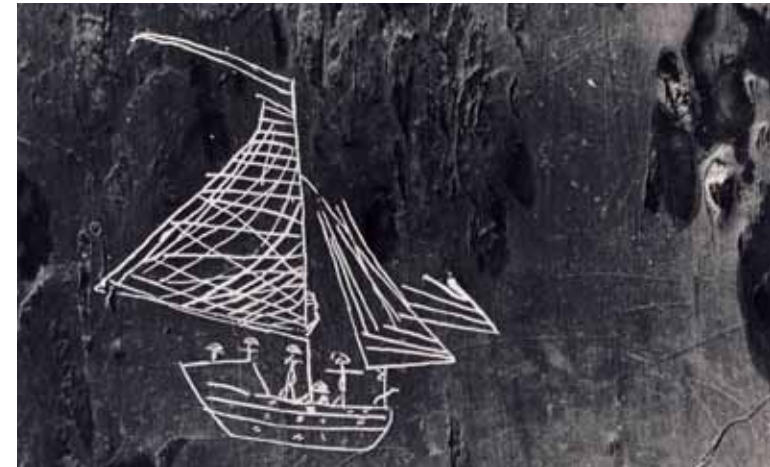
As Nova Scotia is almost an island, freshwater fish are much more scarce than in other parts of Canada. Native species, however, include those that migrate up rivers from the sea, including the sea lamprey, Atlantic sturgeon, Blueback herring, several species of salmon, Atlantic whitefish, and bass, as well as those which live exclusively in freshwater (e.g., brook and lake trout, stickleback and perch).

The presence of humans (also part of the mammal family) in Nova Scotia has changed the habitats of some species of birds, animals and fish. Some animals, such as wolves, caribou and eastern cougar, have been lost. Others, such as moose residing on Nova Scotia's mainland and some species of salamanders, are close to extinction.

Exploring and Settling the Unknown

The first travellers to this continent arrived in Nova Scotia over 12,000 years ago as the last ice cap receded, and continuous settlement of the ancestors of the Mi'kmaq dates from about 5,000 BC. Ancient voyagers from northern Europe may have reached the province and encountered these first inhabitants long before John Cabot and Jacques Cartier arrived in the 16th century. Natural resources and topography initially determined where these people lived but over time they began a much more complex interaction with the land. Human relationship to the land has rapidly evolved over the last 150 years, and continues to do so today.

Nova Scotia Museum - Ethnology Collection



Nova Scotia Museum (2 images)

Defining Nova Scotia's Stories

Migration, Outmigration, Exodus

For centuries people have moved into, through, and out of Nova Scotia. While many have arrived and departed of their own accord, others have been driven both to and from the province by forces beyond their control.

At the beginning of the 17th century the French arrived in Nova Scotia. Thereafter, successive waves of immigrants made Nova Scotia their home. Initially, this began with a scattering of English immigrants from New England and

the British Isles, followed by the Planters (who succeeded many of the expelled Acadians), German Protestants, Lowland Scots, Gaels, and Irish.

The American Revolution confirmed the British presence in the province, bringing Loyalists to the area and expanding the Black experience that had its roots in the French regime. As the colony prospered in the early 19th century, immigration from the United States and British Isles occurred. Toward the end of the century, another wave of British immigration took place as a result of industrialization and the opportunities it presented.

During the 20th century, the face of Nova Scotia changed dramatically. Conflict and poverty elsewhere in the world created a surge of migration to the area. At the same time, provincial outmigration to central and western Canada and the United States occurred as a result of failed promises of industrial strength and expansion during the 19th century. Despite this, a spirit of perseverance exists in the province. Nova Scotians have long been resourceful and have placed a priority on staying in their home province, strengthening their connection with a particular ethnolinguistic group. Today, it is common for many Nova Scotian families to have members working in other provinces for months and years at a time.

Nova Scotia Museum



Response to Place

How have Nova Scotians responded to their environment? Place – its nature, constraints, and opportunities – has influenced lives and shaped the history of this province. Noteworthy responses to place in Nova Scotia include successful Acadian marshland settlement and agriculture through the use of the aboiteau; the development of vibrant coastal communities based on fishing that led to shipbuilding and provided transportation, access to the fishery, and commercial links to the world in the 19th century's Age of Sail; the growth of Halifax as a strategic naval base, natural port and metropolis; and the use of the province's natural beauties to support tourism.

Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage



Wikipedia



Agents of Change

This topic deals with large-scale changes in Nova Scotia's natural and human history: the effect of climate change on the environment, our effect on the environment, technologies that have changed our lives, and the effects of rural depopulation, outmigration, and immigration. These topics lead us to grapple with questions about what might happen to Nova Scotia in the future. Will new industries appear to replace those that are being lost? Will sustainable living practices reduce the threat to native species of plants and animals? How will the advancing effects of global warming change the face, indeed the very fabric, of the province we enjoy today?

Understanding Our World

In the 19th and 20th centuries, scientists and scholars from Nova Scotia and around the world introduced an age of scientific inquiry, changing the way we understand the world. Nova Scotia was particularly interesting for its geology and fossils and, as a result, academics from around the world flocked to Nova Scotia to study.

In the last 30 years or so, the way we study history has again changed dramatically. This has had, and will continue to have, implications for interpretation at heritage sites. Recently, academic focus has shifted away from an Anglo-centric history of the social elite toward a more comprehensive, all-inclusive approach to social history. Issues of gender and social life, for example, have enriched our understanding of what it means to be Nova Scotian.



Wikipedia



Form:Media

C. EXPLOITING... *Resources and Trade*

All species use, and to some extent modify, their environments to exist, but only humans have the ability to conceive of modifying the natural world through their own activities and by using technology. Historically, the exploitation of the environment through the harnessing of energy, the development of natural resources for food and industry, and the introduction of trade has underpinned the development of economies and the progress of civilization.

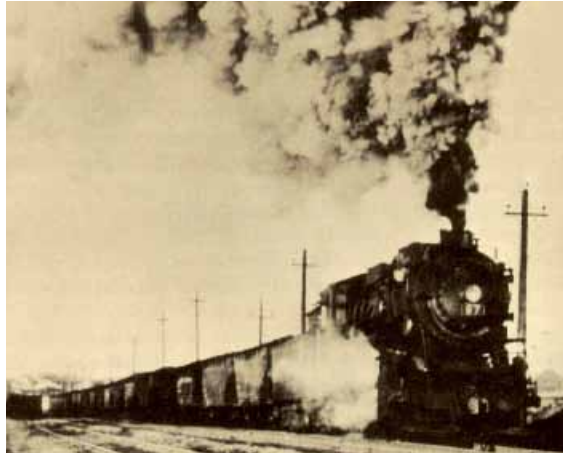
As elsewhere in the world, these topics have played out in Nova Scotia. Although the term “exploitation” may have a negative connotation, it is important to remember that not all exploitation is detrimental to the environment, and that the exploitation of resources has afforded us comfortable and prosperous lives. Balance is key.

Today, however, environmental scientists warn that the natural world is so out of balance that without the necessary leadership and societal will to make large-scale changes, catastrophic results may occur. Nova Scotians are very aware of this shift in thinking and are changing their day-to-day lives accordingly.



Energy

The creation of energy is central to exploitation, development and human progress. Until the advent of the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century, human power and animal power were combined with tools and simple technology to clear forests, build homes, develop crafts, produce goods, and advance transportation through the building of carts and coaches, boat and ships. Water and wind were harnessed to drive mills, and these were a feature of rural Nova Scotia throughout the 19th century and beyond. Today, these earlier methods of creating energy are being revisited by Nova Scotians desiring a more sustainable lifestyle. Wind power, for example, was recently reintroduced as a cleaner energy source.



The use of steam power, coal and oil-fired generating plants for electricity and hydroelectric power have all found a place in the province's energy picture, and the harnessing of offshore gas and oil remains a prime focus today to meet provincial needs. In 1984, the largest turbine ever built to that date for hydroelectricity was installed in the continent's first tidal plant, located here in Nova Scotia at Annapolis Royal.



Resource Development

For thousands of years, the Mi'kmaq demonstrated an ability to live in balance with the natural world and to use the resources it offered, whether these

were trees for building shelter, bark for building canoes, natural fibres and grasses for making clothing and baskets, or the forests for hunting.

Early settlers from Europe and other American colonies learned from these experiences, which complemented the traditions they, in turn, introduced to Nova Scotia.

Although only 10% of the province's land base is useable for agriculture, has been, and continues to be, a vital part of the economy. Early settlers in the province grew food out of necessity. French settlers grew the first grain at Port Royal and in 1609 built the first gristmill in North America. Acadians dyked the Annapolis Valley marshlands to create land for farming, a tradition that has been carried forward to the present day. Successful upland farming and small, scattered subsistence farming were practiced throughout the 19th century and have also continued into the present. More recently, dairy and poultry farming have expanded, becoming as important as the growing of fruits and vegetables. A new interest in eating locally and reducing the transportation of food may well increase demand on this aspect of the economy in the future.

Fishing for food and export has been the most important constant in Nova Scotia's economic and social life since the 17th century. Although some fisheries have collapsed today, fishing remains a vital part of the heritage of the province and one of its most unique stories. In the 19th century, forestry emerged to fuel the timber trade and to meet local needs. Most of the province's original Acadian forest was logged. Today, the production of pulp and paper from managed tree plantations remains a cornerstone of the economy.



Coal mining, closely connected with the steel industry in Cape Breton, was the key to the province's industrial strength in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and was important for the generation of electricity. It dramatically changed the day-to-day lives of many Nova Scotians, as central heating became popular in homes across the province. In addition to coal, gypsum and salt have long been the valued minerals in the province. The promise of abundant, cheap energy from offshore oil and gas has yet to be fully realized but remains a central focus of future industrial expansion.



The Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association

Defining Nova Scotia's Stories

Industry

From dories to huge barques, wooden boat and ship building provided the province with its signature industrial occupation in the 19th century.

Later, the success of manufacturing in the province (such as steel and textiles) was judged relative to central Canada, with its superior access to labour and expanding markets. Many plants since World War II were established with the help of government investment programs such as the Industrial Estates initiative of the 1960s, which spawned both success (e.g., Michelin) and failure (e.g., Clairtone). Overall, plants remain small and deal in primary products like wood for local building products, and fruit and vegetables for export.



Wikipedia

Today, a highly successful tourism industry capitalizes on the natural beauty of the coasts and a rich provincial history stretching back hundreds of years. New jobs have been developed in the service industry to respond to the tourist market. Through its efforts to welcome the world, Nova Scotia has discovered one of the bases for its economic survival.



Form:Media

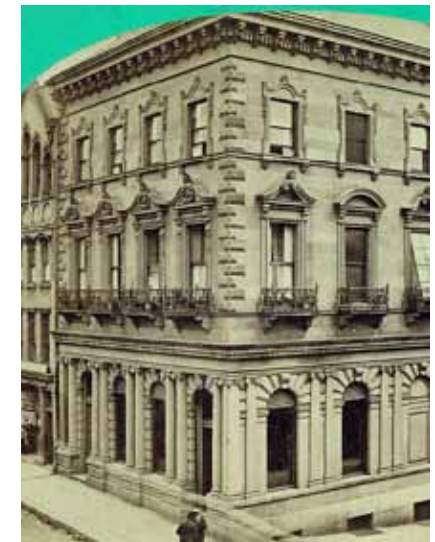


Nova Scotia Museum (2 images)

Commerce

Commercial challenges posed by geography and transportation costs, as well as national economic policies that favoured central Canada, plagued the province in the 20th century – but it was not always this way. In colonial times, trade and commerce across the oceans of the world were a rich feature of the British Empire (for example, triangular trade between Nova Scotia/Britain/Caribbean). With trade came smuggling and privateering: a common enterprise in coastal communities throughout the province.

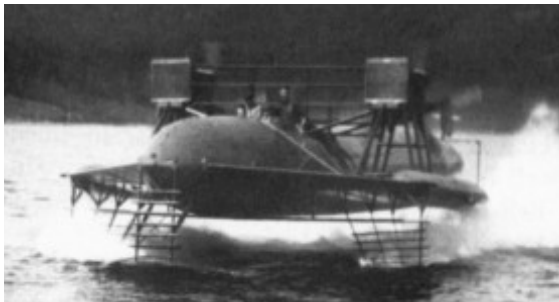
Halifax continues to be an important regional financial and business centre, exemplified by the continued success of the Bank of Nova Scotia. Today, successful internal trading networks are built on a great deal of earlier local self-sufficiency, which also featured the unique contribution of numerous peddlers.



Transportation

For a long time, communication and transportation of goods took place via sea and canal, which remained important well into the 20th century. Today, ferries remain an integral part of provincial transportation, operating between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Maine. The construction of roads did not begin until the second half of the 18th century. Gradually, a network of roads reached every corner of the province. Expanded automobile ownership and commercial trucking improved roads substantially during the latter half of the twentieth century.

Parks Canada



Encouraged by the availability of coal, railways became the key to internal communication and commerce from the mid 19th century until the 1920s. Railway building and financing dominated political debate as over 1900 kilometres of track were constructed. Completed in 1867, the Intercolonial Railroad was a promise of Confederation and an essential part of Nova Scotia's position as an important economic partner with the rest of Canada.



Unfortunately, freight rates became a source of unrelenting tension and the railway was absorbed by Canadian National in 1919. Although not a commercial success, the railway remained a vital part of community development and employment, especially in its role as a carrier of Nova Scotia coal.

The province's small geographical size and population meant that air travel only developed for general public use and commerce in the years following World War II. Prior to this, most major aviation activity was related to the armed forces.



Environmental Values

As Nova Scotia benefited from the general rising tide of prosperity in the late 20th century, its citizens became more aware of the costs of overusing valued resources like fish and forests, and losing agricultural land and environmental damage due to pesticides, pollution and common waste. Greater awareness of the need to protect air quality, cultural resources represented by the province's diverse landscapes and built heritage, and the endangered environments of flora and fauna, suggest that an alternative way of life and looking at the world is emerging.

Finding new sustainable ways of living has become increasingly important to Nova Scotians. Alternative energy sources, agricultural land preservation, and the ecological integrity of our ecosystems are central to this new way of thinking about the world around us. In concert with people all around the world, Nova Scotians have begun to tackle these issues in their daily lives, changing their values and behaviours accordingly.



Marine Education Centre



River Watch Program - Tusket River Chapter Trout Unlimited Canada

D. RELATING...

Relationships between and among Defined Groups

Nova Scotia has been, and continues to be, shaped by a diverse array of people and their relationships with each other. This conceptual theme explores how the people of Nova Scotia relate to each other, and how these relationships have changed over time and through a myriad of landscapes – from politics and education, to war and religion.



Peoples of Nova Scotia

The Mi'kmaq are the surviving founding peoples of Nova Scotia, having lived in the province for several millennia. The Mi'kmaq began interacting with Europeans in the 16th century when they came to fish and to trade for furs. As the European presence grew, conflict became a defining feature of the landscape. Nearly 150 years of conflict between the French and English in North America would sweep through the province before resolution in favour of the British Empire occurred.

Perhaps the most dramatic aspect of this resolution was the expulsion of the Acadians in the mid 1750s, although a number survived the deportation and others returned. Together they

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management



developed a proud, independent and rich culture founded in the French language and Catholicism.



Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage (2 images)

Defining Nova Scotia's Stories

National Archives Canada



Early English-speaking arrivals were boosted by the Planters and the Loyalists (both black and white, slave and free). Thereafter, the colony grew within the context of the British Empire, and was predominantly populated by settlers from the British Isles and the United States. As a result, the province's founding peoples – the Mi'kmaq – became an increasingly marginalized group, pushed to the edges of the province's physical, social, economic, and cultural spheres.

The Black Nova Scotian experience (both slave and free) began during the Planter and Loyalist migrations from the United States, and grew during arrivals from Jamaica and the Caribbean after the defeat of Napoleon. Birchtown, Brindley and Preston were some of the early settlements. Gradually, more and more Blacks gravitated to Halifax after legislation in the mid 19th century enabled them to sell land and relocate.

Although the Scottish Gaelic presence in Nova Scotia dates back to the 17th century, peak immigration from Gaelic Scotland came during the early part of the 19th century. During this period, communities all over Cape Breton Island and the eastern mainland were established, creating two distinct ethnolinguistic cultural groups: English-speaking Lowland Scots and Celtic-speaking Highland Gaels.

Other ethnic groups arrived from continental Europe, Asia and Africa – from the Irish, Germans, and Swiss, to the Huguenots and Maronite Lebanese. Strong ties to all of these diverse cultural groups remain a recognizable part of Nova Scotia today, and are paired with a regular influx of immigrants from all over the world.

Governance and Politics

Although the Mi'kmaq had a long established system of governance, the European presence in Nova Scotia quickly introduced vastly different ways of living and interacting.

Traditions of government that are part of the province today initially developed in a colonial context. The struggle for Responsible Government against oligarchy, championed by Joseph Howe in the 1830s, is a prime example and was a first in the British Empire. Responsible Government was propelled,



Wikipedia (2 images)

however, by a narrow view of democracy: only black and white property-owning men had the right to vote. All women and people of Aboriginal descent, were not enfranchised at this time.

Intense political debates, such as those surrounding Canadian Confederation, contribute to the province's colourful political history. Although Charles Tupper engineered Nova Scotia's entry into Canada, his success came despite strong and widespread popular opposition. In the end, the insistence of the British government and the potential threat of a resurgent post-civil war United States, propelled Nova Scotia to join this monumental Canadian achievement.

Other issues, such as the Maritime Rights movement, illustrate how Nova Scotian politics have extended beyond the province's physical boundaries and brought about change with regard to important issues.

War and Defence

Born in a lengthy period of intense imperial conflict between the French and the English, Nova Scotia's strategic location would always make it an important military stronghold, as demonstrated by its experiences in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the two great wars of the 20th century – and their impact on Nova Scotians (e.g., Halifax Explosion). A significant militia tradition, developed in the 18th century, continues strong to this very day. The province's military infrastructure, and particularly the role played by Halifax as the country's premier naval base, is a reflection of this long heritage.



Nova Scotia Museum



Jay Piggot



Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage



Form:Media

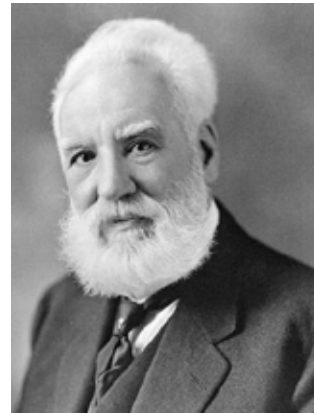
Communications

From petroglyphs and signals, to the radio and telephone, Nova Scotians have long been connecting through the need to communicate. Until the 19th century, English was a minority language throughout much of Nova Scotia; Gaelic, Acadian, French, German, and Mi'kmaq were the dominant languages of the province. With this came many diverse vehicles for communicating information. Newspapers, for example, were a popular means of communicating the news of the day and a vital means of expressing the values of the province. Canada's first newspaper was the Halifax Gazette of March 23, 1752. Since then, more than 750 dailies and weeklies dating from the 18th century through to the present time have graced Nova Scotian stands. Today, new technology (websites, blogs, podcasts, etc.) is changing the way Nova Scotians obtain their news and information, and communicate with each other and those around the world.



Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (2 images)

Nova Scotia has also enjoyed a special relationship with the telephone and radio through its association with two remarkable inventors. Alexander Graham Bell is credited with inventing the telephone in 1876, an invention that would soon sweep the globe. Another famous name, Guglielmo Marconi, transmitted the first wireless message across the Atlantic between Ireland and Glace Bay on December 17, 1902. Radio service expanded dramatically throughout the 20th century, especially after World War II, and along with the telephone was especially important to Nova Scotians



Stock.XCHNG

living in rural communities and to coastal and oceanic shipping. Today, the province is an important centre for both radio and television production, particularly by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in Halifax.

Education

Like the other colonies of British North America, Nova Scotia experienced many educational reforms. The most notable was universal education, which reached the province's children in 1864-65. By Confederation, Canada's three other founding provinces also introduced free, public school systems. The strength of the Mechanics Institutes were complemented by the increasing importance placed on higher education during the 19th century. This long, progressive tradition has allowed many contemporary universities to flourish in a context that values widespread access to university and college education, a commitment to lifelong learning, and, given the small population of the province, excellent support for public libraries and museums. It has also allowed such alternative educational methods from around the world, such as those developed by Italian educator Maria Montessori, to take root in the province.



Wikipedia (2 images)

Religion and Spirituality



With an increasingly diverse array of cultural groups taking up residence in the province, a broad range of religious and spiritual affiliations have emerged over the years, connecting Nova Scotians in countless ways.

Until the arrival of Europeans in the 16th century, Mi'kmaq spirituality was the most prevalent in the province; an intimate relationship with the



Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage (2 images)

land founded in the recognition of, and respect for, the living spirit within all things. With the arrival of European settlers, however, religious denominations such as Catholicism and Anglicism swept through the province. On their heels followed a significant non-conformist thread advocating religious liberty. In more recent years, many other religious beliefs and practices – from Islam to Buddhism – have found a place in the province.

Traditionally, many religious affiliations were linked to status and power. Throughout the 19th century, and well into the 20th, intolerance between denominations and inter-religion tensions became quite pronounced. Religion was also closely tied to education in Nova Scotian society and continues to be so today – the Shambhala School in Halifax is an excellent contemporary example of the ways education and spirituality often mingle. In addition to influencing educational opportunities, religion affected social relationships and even success in the workplace.

Social Equality

Struggles for equality have long been a part of Nova Scotia's history. In the 18th century, for example, slavery existed in Nova Scotia. Although slavery was eventually abolished, indentured service for many of the province's labourers endured and lasted through waves of immigration into the 19th century. Despite their long struggle for freedom, issues of equality for Black Nova Scotians continued well into the 20th century.

In a province that has endured long periods of economic hardship, class tensions were often linked to fighting the excesses of unbridled capitalism that benefited the rich. Nevertheless, upper and middle class social reformers worked to reduce problems associated with poverty and class. Many of them were women.

At the same time, women were fighting the concept of "separate spheres" for the two sexes. Adherence to this concept held back the cause of women's rights until the early 20th century, when women in Nova Scotia finally achieved the provincial and federal right to vote in 1918. Nova Scotia had yet many strides to make, however, as people of Asian and Aboriginal descent were still forbidden from voting.

Class featured prominently in the fights between labour and capital. As Nova Scotia industrialized in the late 19th century, trade unions emerged and were strongest in the mining communities of Cape Breton and the northeast where strikes to obtain better working conditions and wages were prominent. The ferocious BESCO strikes of the 1920s became legendary in Canadian labour history.

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management



Class also speaks to social circles and how Nova Scotians relate to each other – whether through entertaining at home, celebrating as a group or coming together to support the arts, political ideas, or heritage. Today, Nova Scotia's diverse population is more multi-textured than past generations. The choices are many; people can come and go between different groups with more ease, whether it be events, religious groups, or environmental societies.

Although this theme deals essentially with human groups and interactions, a large and continually evolving diversity of relationships also exists in the natural world. Landscapes and species of flora and fauna that grow, live and compete in defined association with each other are prime examples of how relating can be applied to the natural world. These associations are present in both the *Evolving* and *Relating* themes.



Reg Giles

E. LIVING... *Life Passages*

What does it mean to be Nova Scotian? This conceptual theme speaks to the human experience: how we live, work, play, and how we express ourselves culturally and socially. This theme is therefore closely associated with the *Relating* theme.



Nova Scotia Museum

Life at Home and Work

Historically, as elsewhere in Canada, there were clear gender roles at home and at work in Nova Scotia. Most men in the province worked in resource industries: on farms, at sea, on the waterfronts, and in mines, forests, and mills. Women played a key role in home life and rearing children. However, as women began to enter the workforce in the late 19th century, and later during World War I, the fabric of life at home and work began to change.

Gaining employment in the manufacturing industry or operating telephone services had important social value for women. These jobs encouraged camaraderie, independent thought and the importance of education and skill development.

The workplace, particularly if unionized, often provided both men and women with a social component, manifested through meetings, entertainment, and organized outings. This was also the case with churches; outside of work, many lives were taken up not just with religious observance but also with social functions centred on membership in a particular congregation.

As we are always “living” at home and at work, this theme contains many ideas that cut across time periods. For example, although the food served at family tables has changed over time, some traditions have endured through generations. Today, focus is turning to where food comes from and how it is produced; many Nova Scotians are returning to the kitchen garden that was once the staple of family food.



Wikipedia

Form:Media (3 images)



Communities

Nova Scotia's coastal communities have long defined the province's development. The nature of these communities shaped lives and continues to do so today. Men were often absent fishing at sea, while women remained in the home. Many children from such families developed a sense of interdependence and strong sense of community through local employment in fish processing plants.

Inland communities also developed slowly, often as a reflection of their rural underpinnings as places of small manufacturing, mining and transportation, where topography determined that roads and railways would meet. In the late 19th century until well into the 20th century, larger centres like New Glasgow and Truro were defined by large scale manufacturing and their role as major railway termini.

Recreation

Like many Canadians, Nova Scotians were constantly occupied by work and leisure. In rural areas, where the distractions of urban centres – theatres, organized sports, circuses, festival days, parades, and parks and playgrounds – were few, the notions of work and leisure were usually more blurred.

In the late 19th century, changing definitions of childhood (particularly among the middle and upper classes) and a growing recognition of the importance of play (both informal play and organized sport), accompanied increased industrialization and urbanization. This led to a clear demarcation line between work time and



Nova Scotia Museum

Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage



leisure time and a definite distinction between indoor and outdoor amusements. As home and garden spaces became

more circumscribed in towns, the street became a playground for informal games like soccer, baseball and hockey. Skating and tobogganing in the winter, and swimming in the summer, were very popular pastimes. Church halls and community centres were used for informal games and also became the focus of Girl Guide and Scout groups.



Although board games have a history stretching back to ancient times, the concept of manufactured toys (dolls, tea sets, soldiers, fire trucks and trains, building blocks and jigsaw puzzles) did not become common until well into the 19th century. Dressing up and “making things” wiled away many a winter day or long, rainy evening. Before the advent of the television in the 1950s, family board games (like Monopoly) and cards (if religious strictures did not prevent their use) were very popular.

Class and age, religion and ethnicity, urban and rural living were all factors that determined the leisure-time activities of individuals. Many people read voraciously until the radio and the television became prime sources of entertainment in the latter part of the 20th century. By the start of the 21st century, computer and video games became widely available and a pastime of choice for many young people.

Organized sports were another strong feature of recreational life for Nova Scotians. The province was one of several cradles of hockey, featured a strong baseball heritage often related to work-based teams, and often took pleasure in the British tradition of rugby and soccer. With many more choices to pursue, Nova Scotians enjoy more time for recreation than previous generations.

The seasonal nature of work in coastal communities meant that there was more time for visiting in the winter months. Families would visit friends and family members close by, and have more time to share meals together, tell stories and play music. This tradition is still enjoyed by many Nova Scotians today.

Cultural Expression

Nova Scotia’s rich heritage has created a strong intermingling of cultural traditions, art forms, and aesthetics that speak to the world about who we are as a people and province. Through art and literature, music and theatre, and even the buildings we erect, the stories of our many cultures are given voice. What the world, in turn, hears is a unique blending of old and new, time-honoured and newfangled voices of the lives of the people that collectively call Nova Scotia home.

The province’s rich architectural heritage is reflective of three centuries of construction in stone, brick and wood from various groups who brought their traditions and building methods to Nova Scotia when they settled. As a result, there are more National Historic Sites in Nova Scotia than anywhere else in Canada outside Quebec. Both the federal and provincial governments,

along with several non-profit organizations, have undertaken major initiatives to preserve these sites and buildings.

Traditional Nova Scotian music has its roots in folklore, often linked to songs and stories of the sea, privateering and rum running, and to the national traditions of the province’s ethnic groups. Music, however, was around long before the days of seafarers and rumrunners; for centuries, the land has been the subject, stage, and instrument for the expression of Mi’kmaq culture. Notable also is the Celtic music revival in the later years of the 20th century, a period that had earlier produced such popular music legends as Hank Snow, Don Messer, and Anne Murray. Symphony Nova Scotia carries on a tradition of orchestral music that dates back to the Halifax Symphony Orchestra, formed in 1897. More recent bands from Nova Scotia that have captured the attention of the province and beyond include Sloan, the Rankin Family, and Buck 65.

Riei Nakagawara



Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage (2 images)

Nova Scotia's literary heritage stretches back to Marc Lescarbot and individuals such as Haliburton, De Mille, Saunders, and Raddall – all of whom speak to a distinguished tradition. The first literary magazine in Canada was published in Halifax in 1789 and by the middle of the 19th century two others had appeared. Other publications, such as the Antigonish Casket (which began as a Gaelic-only publication), are still published today. Today, authors such as Alistair MacLeod, George Elliott Clarke, and Budge Wilson continue to place Nova Scotian literature on the bookshelves of the world.

In what was a unique expression of culture for a society so shaped by the sea, the sailing ship races of the 1920s and 30s, featuring the legendary *Bluenose*, were a local story that became a national phenomenon. These events captured a sailing and rowing race tradition still practiced today that dates back to the 19th century.

Cuisine and costume have been ways of expressing Nova Scotian culture for many generations. Today, we have unprecedented choices with the ability to find foods from all over the world on our grocery store shelf. However, traditional foods related to our own backgrounds and cuisine that is distinctly Nova Scotian are staples Nova Scotians return to, time and again.

Collection of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia



The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) made a unique contribution to the cultural life of the province in the 19th and early 20th centuries, long before the Canada Council began to promote the more formal integration of the visual arts, music, theatre, and dance into the national life of Canada in 1957. Neptune Theatre, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, and the Cultural Foundation (which sponsors the arts as well as numerous festivals) continue this tradition today. Allied to this is a long-standing interest in heritage preservation that befits a province whose recorded history is more than four hundred years old and whose provincial museum dates from 1868. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia (now Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management) was for a long time, and still continues to be, without peer as a provincial institution of its kind.



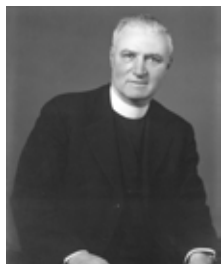
Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage

CUPE Nova Scotia



Social Development and Organizations

Throughout the 19th century, widespread religious observance reflected an assumption of values that were both the social glue and the source of social conflict that defined Nova Scotian society. In a province that experienced great economic hardship and real rural and urban poverty in the 20th century, many Nova Scotians were dislocated and failed to share in the wealth that had been created by earlier industrialization.



Courtesy: St. F.X. Archives

In the face of this reality, there was a strong belief in the need for social reform, perhaps best expressed in the temperance movement that succeeded in passing varying degrees of curtailing legislation. It also fostered individual empowerment through education and

co-operation, best epitomized by Father Moses Coady's Antigonish Movement of the 1930s. Despite the popularity of the temperance movement, the tradition of rum running in the province persisted.

When Nova Scotia industrialized at the end of the 19th century, community leaders involved themselves in Boards of Trade that fought an uphill battle to promote economic expansion for most of the next 100 years. These became important elements in the regional protests that championed economic and political fairness within Canadian Confederation.

Other Nova Scotians expressed their desire for a more equitable society through union activity. A succession of mining disasters brought numerous strikes in the mines, and strikes were also part and parcel of employment in steel mills and textile factories. Other community figures worked through fraternal and related organizations, from Masonic lodges to the Women's Christian Temperance Union and such 20th century groups as the Legion and other service clubs.

As they enter the 21st century, the citizens of Nova Scotia have survived the disappointments of Confederation, the realities of de-industrialization, the boom and bust economies of the World Wars, the depression of the 1920s and 30s, and, in more recent times, the decline associated with the fishery. Enjoying the rising tide of general prosperity experienced by most Canadians over the last 50 years, Nova Scotians have come to grips with outmigration. They are largely content with a way of life that only accepts material benefit if it does not put at risk a society that increasingly seeks to live in balance with nature, enjoy its special relationship with the sea, and welcome others to join them in celebrating their province's unique landscapes and heritage.