

## Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities 2010

### Resilient Communities Day Tour - August 17, 2010

#### *Summerside*

Located in a sheltered harbour on the south shore, home to the second largest population on PEI (15,000), Summerside is known as the little city that could! The closing of CFB Summerside in 1991 was potentially devastating, but the population rallied its community spirit and has pursued other ventures. Created on the former CFB site, Slemmon Park Corporation is host to a mix of public and private sector operations, including Holland College, Atlantic Turbines and several other aerospace companies. Employment at Slemmon Park facilities now exceeds pre-1991 levels. Summerside is also recognized as the recreational capital of the Island, and is well-known throughout the region as a superb host to a variety of sporting events. The Wanda Wyatt Cultural Centre keeps the rich history and traditions alive with a variety of cultural activities. The recent creation of a boardwalk along the city's waterfront is a healthy and scenic addition to the community, and Credit Union place provides a premier cultural, recreational and wellness venue. As well, the College of Piping and Performing Arts is a world-class facility that has proven a potent cultural draw.

#### *Évangéline*

The Evangeline Region, situated in the East Prince county PEI, is the name of the Acadian area that has managed most successfully to retain its French identity, largely because French-speaking Acadians form the vast majority of the 2,500 population. This francophone region has maintained its distinct culture as a minority, partially due to its relative isolation for over 400 years. Those Acadians who survived the Deportation of 1758 were relegated to the rugged coastlands, generating a cultural and linguistic hardiness, as well.

Since Acadians first arrived on the Island, they have demonstrated the value of helping each other and working together to provide for their community - the region has been recognized as a World Capital of Co-operatives. The pervasiveness of the co-operative movement has greatly contributed to the economic development of the region and affected virtually every aspect of society. The Evangeline Credit Union, Evangeline School, Acadian Museum, Collège Acadie Î.-P.-É., and a number of francophone economic development organizations, have created deep wells of strength and resiliency. The Maisons de bouteilles are a unique area attraction, and traditional Acadian fiddles, step-dancing and kitchen parties, rûpure, pâté, fricot and galettes blanches, are the vibrant heart of the *Évangéline*.

#### *Lennox Island*

The Mi'kmaq have had a permanent settlement on Lennox Island since at least the early 19th century. Archaeological evidence and oral traditions indicate a native presence dating back 10,000 years. Located "up west", on the north shores of Malpeque Bay, Lennox Island is itself a small island. Under the leadership of Chief Darlene Bernard, the community is establishing itself as an increasingly resilient economic and cultural survivor. The Lennox Island Development Corporation is initiating aboriginal ecotourism to enhance traditional fishing activities. The "Path of our Forefathers" walking trail has been created along the beach and on the north side of the island, and includes boardwalks and interpretation. Traditional Mi'kmaq crafts and ash-splint baskets are produced in the community. A new Band Office and Canada Games wrestling facility have been constructed, and wind testing has been taking place on Lennox Island since 2004. The recent establishment of the first aboriginal women's shelter on PEI speaks to the reality of violence against women that exists in every society, while acknowledging that the skills and experience of resolving conflict are rooted within the aboriginal culture.