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**DIGBY**  
**AREA**

2017  
Visitor Guide

**FUNDY**



**COASTLINES & CULTURES**

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Explore and Play in the  
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Digby  
Area

Nova Scotia



Experience Our Coastlines & Cultures • [digbyarea.ca](http://digbyarea.ca)

Welcome to  
**DIGBY  
AREA**

The **Digby Area Tourism Association** would like to welcome you to our area.

Located within the *SouthWest Nova UNESCO Biosphere Reserve* right along the Bay of Fundy, the **Digby Area** has something for everyone.

With world-class whale watching, unique architecture, authentic fishing villages, some of the most succulent seafood, local vineyards, hiking, kayaking, golfing, shopping, and a range of one-of-a-kind tours throughout the area, we believe ***you'll be hooked!***

We invite you to join us and be as awed by our beautiful area as we are!



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[digbyarea.ca](http://digbyarea.ca)

## MUNICIPALITY OF DIGBY

*Welcome*

As Warden of the Municipality of the District of Digby, it is my pleasure to welcome you to share, explore and enjoy our home.

The Digby area is recognized around the globe as a haven for outdoor and marine tourism, seafood enthusiasts, and history buffs. Located along the shores of the Bay of Fundy, we offer the world's most spectacular whale watching accessed from charming island communities, winding tidal beaches and rugged hiking trails. All of this is supported by a splendid choice of accommodations and hospitable restaurants.

The only thing that will be hard to find during your visit is a reason to leave.

Sincerely,  
**Jimmy MacAlpine**  
Warden, Municipality of Digby



**Jimmy MacAlpine**  
Warden

[digbydistrict.ca](http://digbydistrict.ca)

## TOWN OF DIGBY

As Mayor of the Town of Digby, I want to welcome you to our town. As Nova Scotia's "Town on the Fundy", Digby offers an exceptional range of experiences for visitors.

Walk our historic waterfront, dine on the delicious scallops harvested from our local waters, sail the beautiful Annapolis Basin, or play our internationally renowned championship golf course. There are a variety of accommodations, cafes, restaurants, shops, and a full service marina for our yachting visitors.

Once described by a national publication as "Canada's Most Romantic Town", we can't guarantee romance on a personal level, but we can assure you that we'd love to see you and that you'll certainly be forever charmed by our seaside community.



**Ben Cleveland**  
Mayor

[digby.ca](http://digby.ca)

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This guide was produced by the **Digby Area Tourism Association** with the generous support of our volunteers and sponsors:



# Bay of Fundy

## Canada's Natural Wonder

Explore one of the world's most dramatic and dynamic coastlines!

Located right along the Bay of Fundy the Digby Area offers expansive coastline with stunning and ever-changing scenery. The Bay of Fundy is recognized nationally and internationally as the world's most dynamic tidal coastline. The 270 km (170 mile) long ocean bay is home to the highest tides in the world with 16 meter (54 feet) tides measured at Burntcoat Head near Maitland. It is considered Canada's Natural Wonder for good reason.

The Digby Area is located within the region known as the "Fundy Aquarium Ecozone". Upwelling deep ocean water generated from tides surging into the Bay of Fundy fosters an ideal environment for marine life.

Great whales, porpoises, dolphins, seals, and seabirds are highlights of this "*aquarium without walls*".



## Top 5 Fundy Experiences

- 1** Some of the best whale watching in North America can be found right from Digby Neck, Long Island and Brier Island. In this unique natural environment, our local experts will immerse you in facts and stories about the whales, birds and local traditions.
- 2** Walk the ocean floor with GAEL Tours. The low tides of the Bay of Fundy expose several zones of seashore life. A local expert will help you experience the wide diversity of life and the interconnections among the species found there. [www.gaeltours.ca](http://www.gaeltours.ca)
- 3** Hike one of many trails along the coastline the horizontal effect of the tides can be experienced all along the Digby Area coastline. If you are venturing out along the rocky shores it is always wise to take note of the tides.
- 4** Digby and its fishermen's wharf is one of the great places to see the vertical effect of the tides. The tide clock at the centre of town will tell you what low and high tide times are that day. Enjoy a meal at one of the restaurants while watching the tides and fishing boats come and go.
- 5** Kayak a tidal river with Hinterland Adventures. Experience the tides and unique landscape from a different perspective while under the guidance of one of the best.

# Bay of Fundy

Canada's Natural Wonder



## Brier Island Lodge & Restaurant



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Bay of Fundy - Canada's Natural Wonder

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# UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

Immerse yourself in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



Adam Cormick

The **Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve (SNBR)** is a UNESCO designated and internationally recognized region of natural and cultural heritage. The SNBR is one of only 16 biosphere reserves in Canada.

The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve is a place where you can appreciate an extraordinary diverse natural landscape, surrounded by the sea, that has and continues to shape local culture.

At our core we have the nationally protected **Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site** combined with the provincially protected **Tobeatic Wilderness Area**, the largest wilderness area in Atlantic Canada.

Referred to at "*Kespukwitk*" by the Mi'kmaw people, this is the place where the flowing waters meet the ocean. Immerse yourself in our many lakes and rivers, surrounded by the majestic Acadian forest or escape to the spectacular seacoast.

The Biosphere includes the rugged coast of the Bay of Fundy, which boasts the highest tides in the world, where water rises and falls as much as 50 feet twice a day and is bountiful in sea vegetables and sea life.

The area is teeming with natural and cultural diversity. Our cultural landscape consists of deep-rooted cultures: Mi'Kmaq, Acadian, Loyalists and Scottish.

## Explore Digby!

*From Streetscapes to Seascapes,  
you don't want to miss it!*

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greg\_fundy

Also on:



## Top 5 UNESCO Experiences

- 1 Whale Watching:** The end of Digby Neck, Long Island and Brier Island represent one of the best whale watching areas in North America. Whale Cove on Digby Neck, Boar's Head (Tiverton) and Beautiful Cove (Freeport) on Long Island, and Northern Point and Western Light on Brier Island are good spots to try your luck from land. By late springtime finback whales, minke whales and harbour porpoises are the first to arrive from their southern migration grounds. In June, the clowns of the sea, humpback whales return and by late June these whales are abundant in the Bay of Fundy. White-sided dolphins are also often seen. Other whales that consider the Bay of Fundy their home are the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale, pilot whales, sperm and blue Whales. White beaked dolphins, bluefin tuna, sea turtles and basking sharks can also be sighted.
- 2 Bird Watching:** Not only do Digby Neck and Islands represent some of the best whale watching, they are also famous for the bird watching. The spring migration and raptor fall migration (August through to October) on Brier Island can be a spectacular sight, and the number of seabirds offer a thrill and possible "lifer's" for many a birdwatcher. Take a whale and seabird tour in summer for a chance of not only whales, but also shearwaters, phalaropes, the occasional jaeger and south polar skua or puffin, or watch from shore. Pond Cove and Northern Light on Brier Island offer some great birding. Northeast Cove in Freeport, Long Island features five different ecosystems.
- 3 Unique flora/fauna:** Brier Island is home to many rare flora, such as the endangered Eastern Mountain Avens, as well as Yellow Iris, Shrubby Cinquefoil, Pitcher Plants, and Dwarf Birch to mention a few. Digby Neck and Islands is one of the only places in Nova Scotia to find skunk cabbage. Keep your eye out for some along the Balancing Rock Trail!
- 4 Rendez vous de la Baie/Musique de la Baie:** Don't miss out on a true Acadian Kitchen Party, sample some unique Acadian dishes or take the opportunity to learn about Acadian history.
- 5 Kejimikujik National Park,** the heart of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, is an easy daytrip from the Digby Area.



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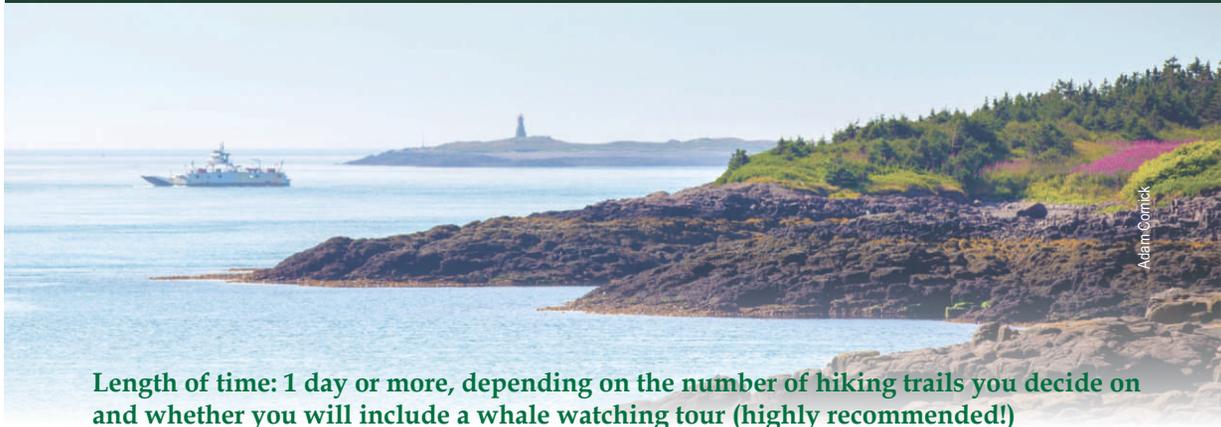


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# The Island Experience

## 217 Scenic Drive



Adam Gornick

**Length of time: 1 day or more, depending on the number of hiking trails you decide on and whether you will include a whale watching tour (highly recommended!)**

Start by picking up a Digby Neck and Islands map. This little brochure will be invaluable in helping you find the best spots. For a local flavour take a tour with Wander with Wonder, where you will experience the most peaceful spots for a walk and meditation or a yoga session

Pick a few hiking trails to your taste and spend a few hours along the way enjoying the scenery and coastal vistas. Lake Midway provincial park offers a great spot for a picnic and a swim, while Sandy Cove beach (turn off onto Bay Road at Sandy Cove and follow to the end) is a great spot for finding beach glass and semi precious stones. Read the story of Jerome and wander the beach.

On Long Island, don't miss the Balancing Rock trail. This 2.5 kilometre trail leads through a mix of marsh

(watch for skunk cabbage!), wooded areas and coastal views. Be aware though of the stairs at the end of the trail (all 235 steps, there are a few benches along the way for the trip back up). The Fundy View Trail at Freeport is another worthwhile coastal trail, with potential of spotting a whale or seal.

Whipple Point on Brier Island is the westernmost point of Nova Scotia. Coastal hiking, and a gull colony will greet you for the ultimate oceanside experience. Pond Cove on Brier Island is one of several excellent bird watching sites, as well as an ideal place for seaglass hunting.

In the evening, make sure to catch the sunset along the Bay of Fundy coastline! The sunsets over the Bay of Fundy are renowned for their ever-changing beauty.

### Insiders tips

- Pack a lunch or pick up a take out lunch at any of the seasonal take-outs available just before and after the first ferry and enjoy some stunning scenery at Boars Head lighthouse
- Hike out to Seal Cove on Brier Island, a 15/20 minute walk from the Coastguard station
- There are 4 lighthouses to visit along Digby Neck and Islands: Boar's Head, Peter's Island, Western Light and Northern Light
- Stop in at The Artist's Mark at Rossway on Digby Neck and watch the artist at work creating unique jewelry from local agate, as well as a host of other beautiful artwork and colourful yarn.

### Taking it easy - Look-off points and short trails:

- Sandy Cove Beach
- Whale Cove bears its' name for good reason. Whales are often spotted from shore here
- Boar's Head lighthouse and lookoff
- Central Grove Provincial Park. Short trail to lookoff
- Brier Island Western Light, Whipple Point trail
- Fundy View Trail Lookoff in Freeport

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# The Island Experience

**FACT:** During the Triassic Period, about 200 million years ago, molten rock welled up from deep within the earth to form a mountain chain, part of the breaking up of the supercontinent Pangea and the opening of the Atlantic Ocean. Over millennia, through erosion and glacial action, the North Mountain, Digby Neck, and the Islands were formed as we see them today.

### Ferry schedule

As a good guideline, it will take you about 45 minutes to drive from Digby to the first ferry. Across Long Island to the second ferry will take you approximately 15 minutes.

<b>Petit Passage:</b> East Ferry to Tiverton (5 minute crossing)	24 Hour Service - On Demand 30 mins. Past the hour from East Ferry On the hour from Tiverton	\$7.00 round-trip (cash only)
<b>Grand Passage:</b> Freeport to Westport (7 minute crossing)	24 Hour Service - On Demand On the hour from Freeport. 25 mins. Past the hour from Westport	\$7.00 round-trip (cash only)



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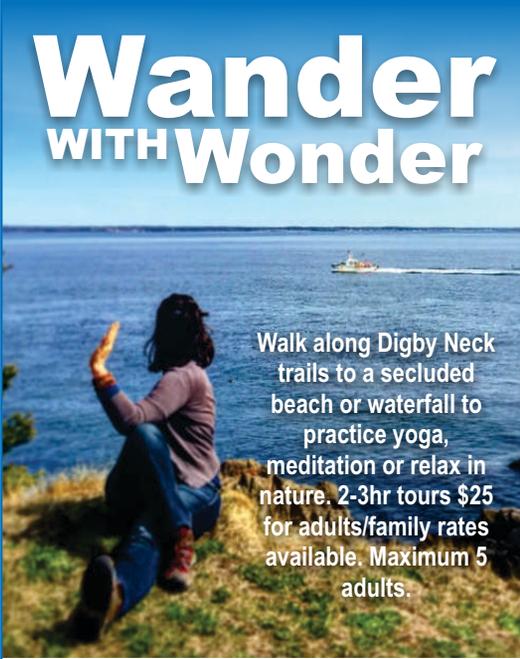


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[wanderwithwonder.yogahikes.com](http://wanderwithwonder.yogahikes.com)  
[melissamryt@gmail.com](mailto:melissamryt@gmail.com)  
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# Bear River Artist's Trail



Adam Cornick

**Length of time:** ½ a day to full day, depending on number of studios visited (follow the signs)

Bear River's nickname alone, "*The Tidal Village on Stilts*", should entice you to stop by this village nestled in the river valley. It is partially built over a tidal river, making it an extremely picturesque village with unique architecture. Some have also called it "Little Switzerland". In fall, the colours of changing leaves along the tidal river make for some stunning vistas. It may be a small village, but it is home to over 25 artisans who live and work here.

The Flight of Fancy has been recognized as the best Fine Art and Fine Craft Retailer in Atlantic Canada for good reason. The Bear River Artworks Gallery in the Oakdene Centre, walking distance uphill from the Flight of Fancy, is a co-operative of 10 local artists, with at least one of the artists on site at any time during opening

hours ([www.bearriverartworks.com](http://www.bearriverartworks.com)). Enjoy a self-directed tour of Bear River Artists' Studios. Follow the signs to the artists' studios and spend the day in the company of some amazing talent. (<http://bearriverartists.com>)

Feed both soul and body by stopping off at the local fair trade coffee roaster, *Sissiboo Coffee Bar and Gallery*: sip a freshly roasted coffee while enjoying the original art. Sample some local wines at one of the local wineries, and stop in for lunch or a scrumptious ice cream at Myrtle and Rosie's. Check the Rebekah Lodge, Sissiboo Coffee and Myrtle and Rosie's for any live music events scheduled. The events will also be listed on [www.digbyarea.ca](http://www.digbyarea.ca) and [www.bearriverarts.wordpress.com](http://www.bearriverarts.wordpress.com).

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## Bear River Artist's Trail

### Insiders tips:

- Take River Road, exit 24 from Highway 101, to Bear River. This scenic drive reveals extensive mudflats at low tide and offers up some stunning colours in fall.
- Stop off behind the Bear River firehall for a great vantage point of the Village on Stilts.
- The tide rises and falls approximately 25 feet twice a day due to the dramatic Fundy tides.
- Follow the Artist's Trail. It will lead you to some unique artist studios, and into some beautiful scenic spots.

*Bear River*



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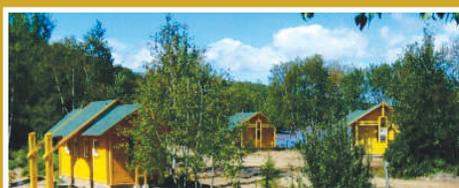
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*C. A. Cooper*



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902.467.4171. [www.theflight.ca](http://www.theflight.ca) [info@theflight.ca](mailto:info@theflight.ca)

# The Blending of Cultures

## Marshalltown to Church Point



**You will visit: Marshalltown, Gilbert's Cove, Weymouth, Belliveau Cove, and Church Point**  
**Length of time: take the day**

Stop off at Marshalltown to visit the memorial of Maud Lewis. Savary Park down the road offers beach access and beautiful picnic spots. Continue on and turn off on Lighthouse Road to visit the Gilberts Cove Lighthouse. In summertime this lighthouse operates as a shop and tearoom, but even in the off season it is a beautiful spot

to visit with some great scenery, a nice short trail to follow, beach access (watch the tides!), as well as some great birding. Snowy owls have been spotted here in fall/winter. Once you have your fill of birds, tea and fresh ocean breeze continue on towards Weymouth.



## Sissiboo Landing

pjila'si • bienvenue • welcome  
*Weymouth, Nova Scotia*  
 902-837-4715

May 15  
 to  
 Oct. 6



[www.facebook.com/SissibooLanding](http://www.facebook.com/SissibooLanding)

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 The Electric City / La Nouvelle France*

## The Blending of Cultures

Take the turnoff into Weymouth. When coming into the village you will see a tap on your left hand side right by an old bottling plant. If you're thirsty, this is your chance to taste some of the best spring water anywhere in the world! This tap represents a tiny amount of the underground spring brought to the surface here. Continue on to Sissiboo Landing, an information centre as well as an interpretive centre and art gallery. This spot is a treasure trove of information about the 5 founding cultures and New France - Electric City, as well as offering some beautiful views over the Sissiboo River.

Belliveau Cove, just a short drive past Weymouth, is located on the "French Shore" with a strong Acadian representation. On the way you will pass by St. Bernard Church, a large granite church and a prime example of early twentieth-century gothic architecture. Stop off at Belliveau Cove for a shoreside walk at the Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas. It features a 5km (3 mile) interpretive trail, a municipal park, a craft centre (open seasonally) and a lighthouse. From May to September, visit the farmers market here on Saturdays from 10-2.

A short trip further down the road is Church Point, home to the largest wooden church in North America. A visit to this magnificent structure will reveal a connection to rumrunners and unique shipping methods of the era.

It is now a museum as well, wheelchair accessible (open mid May to October daily from 9-5, \$2 suggested donation). At Church Point, also visit the Rendez Vous de la Baie, an information and interpretive centre offering a unique glimpse into Acadian culture and history. A small café offers a variety of traditional Acadian dishes. You will also be able to get the latest updated schedule of Musique de la Baie here for a chance to immerse yourself in a true Acadian musical and culinary evening. From the church parking lot or Rendez Vous de la Baie you will find the petit bois trail network, 5 kilometres of looping gravel trail leading through forest, coastal marsh and seaside.

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## The Blending of Cultures

### Sissiboo

The origins of the name “Sissiboo” are not known. One legend is that a loyalist encountered a Mi'kmaq who wanted to show him six owls that were in a tree nearby. He pointed in the direction of the tree and said, in french, “six hiboux.”

The Loyalist thought that he was pointing at the river, which was in the same direction, and was saying Sissiboo. Others think the name is simply a derivation from the Mi'kmaq word for river, “Seboo.”

**Insider Tip:** Story Book Trail in Weymouth (suitable for both adults and children, bird watching)

The trail represents the five founding cultures in less than 1 km of trail through stories of the past displayed on interpretive panels designed to replicate an opened story book. You can enjoy the inspiring stories of the Mi'kmaq, the Black Loyalists, the United Empire Loyalists, the New France Settlers and the Acadians.

Indulge yourself with a quiet walk on the trail or bring your whole family. Enjoy the picturesque waterfront or take yourself back to the age of steam locomotives with a visit to the 1500 ft Sissiboo railway trestle. All this while osprey and eagles soar over head and other types of wildlife are sighted from the gazebos which are located along the trail.

The trail is complemented with playground and fitness equipment ideal for children and adults which are a compliment to a great family outing.

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## 10 "Must Do" Clare Acadian Shore Activities



Info: [baiesaintemarie.com](http://baiesaintemarie.com)

- 1 Admire Acadian architecture at the granite church in Saint-Bernard and at Église Sainte-Marie Church, the largest wooden church in North America.
- 2 Learn about the rich history of Acadie and the vibrant culture of the Acadians of Clare at the Rendez-vous de la Baie Visitor Centre in Church Point.
- 3 Enjoy a lively Musique de la Baie performance and meet locals at an Acadian Shore restaurant.
- 4 Feast on fresh lobsters and steamed clams along St. Mary's Bay in Belliveau Cove, Friday evenings at Les Beaux Vendredis seafood suppers.
- 5 Sample traditional Acadian cuisine like râpure (rappie pie) or fricot.
- 6 Walk along the ocean floor at low tide on the sand at Mavillette Beach Provincial Park (check out the webcam).
- 7 Visit 16 unique art galleries along the Clare Acadian Shore (pick up an "Art de la Baie" map at the VIC).
- 8 Support local artisans and farmers at the Belliveau Cove Farmers Market, Saturday mornings from 10 am to 2 pm.
- 9 Dig for clams with a local expert at Belliveau Cove (check [baiesaintemarie.com](http://baiesaintemarie.com) for schedule).
- 10 Participate in cultural activities during Festival acadien de Clare, from July 29 to August 5, and celebrate the Tintamarre noise parade on August 15!

## Rendez-vous de la Baie Visitor Centre



**Acadian Museum - Art Gallery**  
**Visitor Info - Internet Café**  
**Odyssey Monument**

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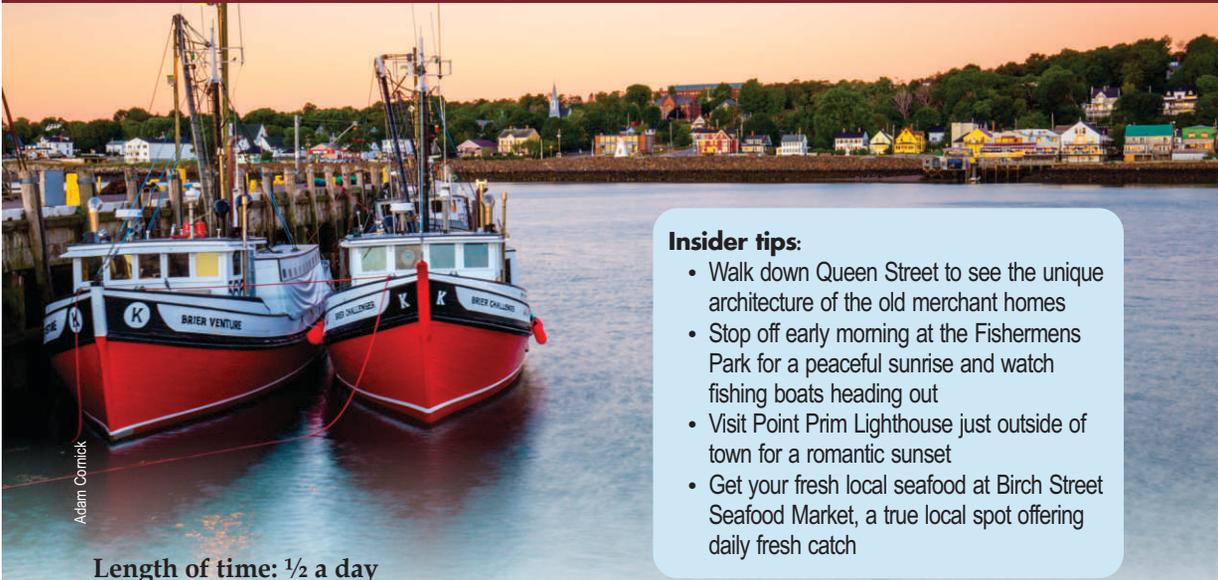
902-769-2345

[info@rendezvousdelabaie.com](mailto:info@rendezvousdelabaie.com)

[www.rendezvousdelabaie.com](http://www.rendezvousdelabaie.com)



# Digby Scallop Capital



Adam Cormick

**Length of time:** ½ a day

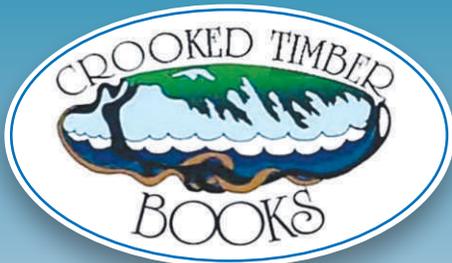
Downtown Digby offers a delightful mix of restaurants, shops and boat builders, all while overlooking the simply stunning waterfront. You may find the book you have tried to find forever or find that antique map for your study at the Crooked Timber Books. The Needle Pulling Thread quilt shop was featured in the Canadian Quilting Magazine for good reason, Fancy Jewellers offers the world's only Digby scallop pearl jewelry, and Marshalls Giftware offers both

a great variety of giftware as well as the practical computer accessories and repairs.

While in Digby, don't miss the opportunity to try the Digby Scallops at their most succulent, or try the equally full of flavour Bay of Fundy lobster. Walk the Admiral's Walk and Boardwalk along the waterfront for some beautiful scenery of the Annapolis Basin and fishermen's wharf. Interpretive panels will give some

**Insider tips:**

- Walk down Queen Street to see the unique architecture of the old merchant homes
- Stop off early morning at the Fishermens Park for a peaceful sunrise and watch fishing boats heading out
- Visit Point Prim Lighthouse just outside of town for a romantic sunset
- Get your fresh local seafood at Birch Street Seafood Market, a true local spot offering daily fresh catch



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## Digby Scallop Capital



Adam Cormick

fascinating details about the Fundy tides, and the strong community bond with the Digby Pier Lighthouse. Take a walk along the fishermen's wharf itself as well. Often you will find fishermen busy offloading catch, or getting ready to head out. Just be aware it is a working wharf, so make sure you give the right of way to those working hard!

For an alternate viewpoint, take a trip with Annapolis Basin Charter Tours ([www.abchartertours.ca](http://www.abchartertours.ca)). Go for a tour of the harbour, go fishing or simply enjoy a nice afternoon on the water.

To get a deeper connection to Digby, its history and

traditions, take a walking tour of the town with the highly recommended GAEL Tours ([www.gaeltours.ca](http://www.gaeltours.ca)). Your local tour guide will prove to be an absolute treasure of information.

The Admiral Digby museum is a quaint museum with some great displays and an extensive Digby Area genealogy department upstairs.

The Trinity Anglican Church on Queen Street, a National Historic Site, is open to visitors during summer and offers a glimpse into the stunning woodworking qualities of the old shipwrights. Keep an eye out for their periodic lunchtime concerts, a special treat.

# Annapolis Basin

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# Digby Area

Trails, Parks, Lighthouses, VICs

## TRAILS

 Wheelchair accessible

- 1** Sentier de Clare Trail
- 2** The Sissiboo Story Book Trail
- 3** Acacia Valley Trail 
- 4** Missing Link Trail
- 5** Admiral's Walk
- 6** Point Prim Trails
- 7** Rail Trail
- 8** Althouse Look Off Trail
- 9** Vantassel Lake Trails
- 10** Balancing Rock Trail
- 11** Central Grove Trail
- 12** Fundy View Trail
- 13** Northern Light & Coastal Trails
- 14** Seal Cove Trail
- 15** Western Light Trails
- 16** Nature Conservancy of Canada Trail

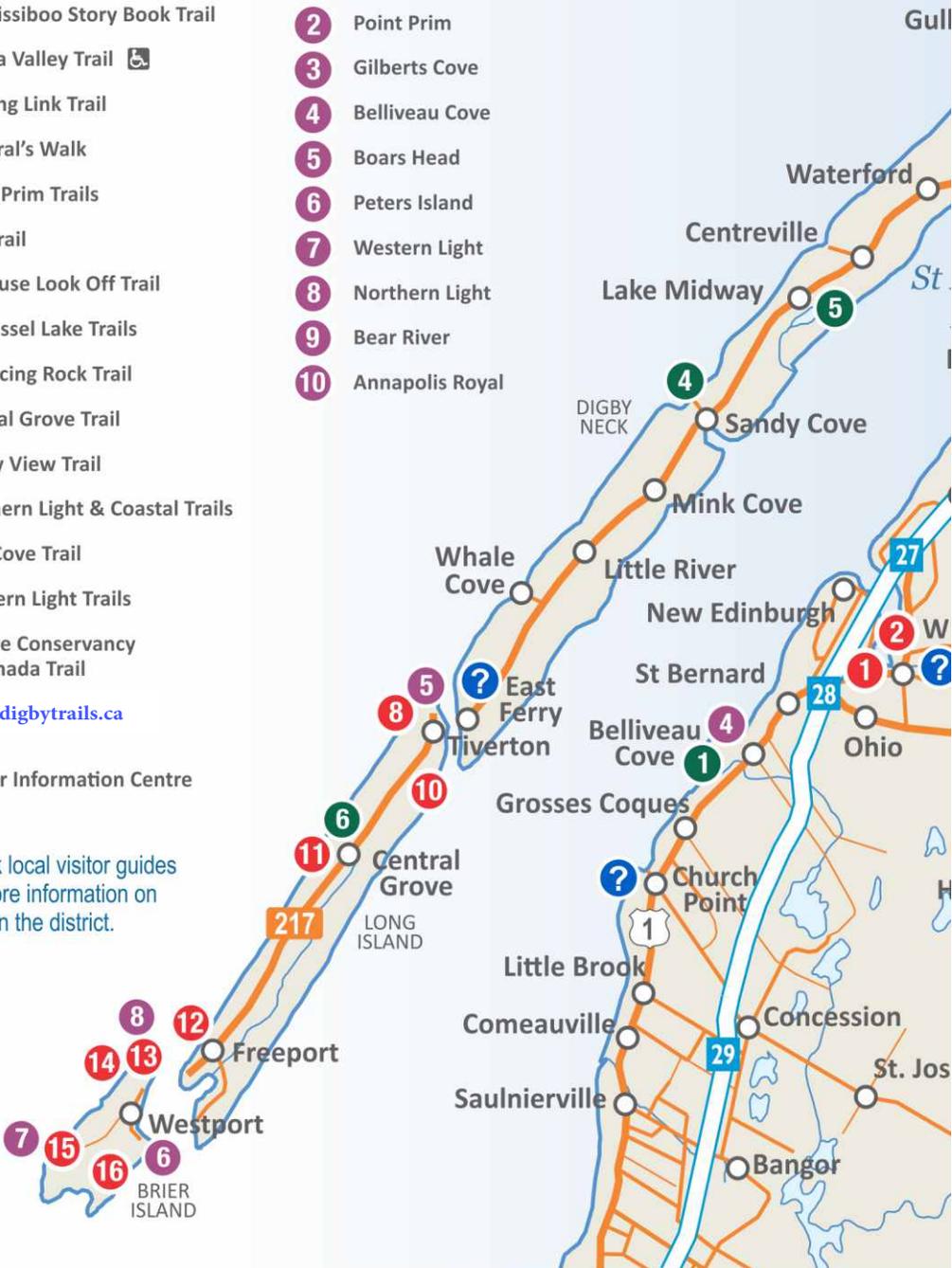
[www.digbytrails.ca](http://www.digbytrails.ca)

- ?** Visitor Information Centre

Check local visitor guides for more information on trails in the district.

## LIGHTHOUSES

- 1** Digby Pier
- 2** Point Prim
- 3** Gilberts Cove
- 4** Belliveau Cove
- 5** Boars Head
- 6** Peters Island
- 7** Western Light
- 8** Northern Light
- 9** Bear River
- 10** Annapolis Royal

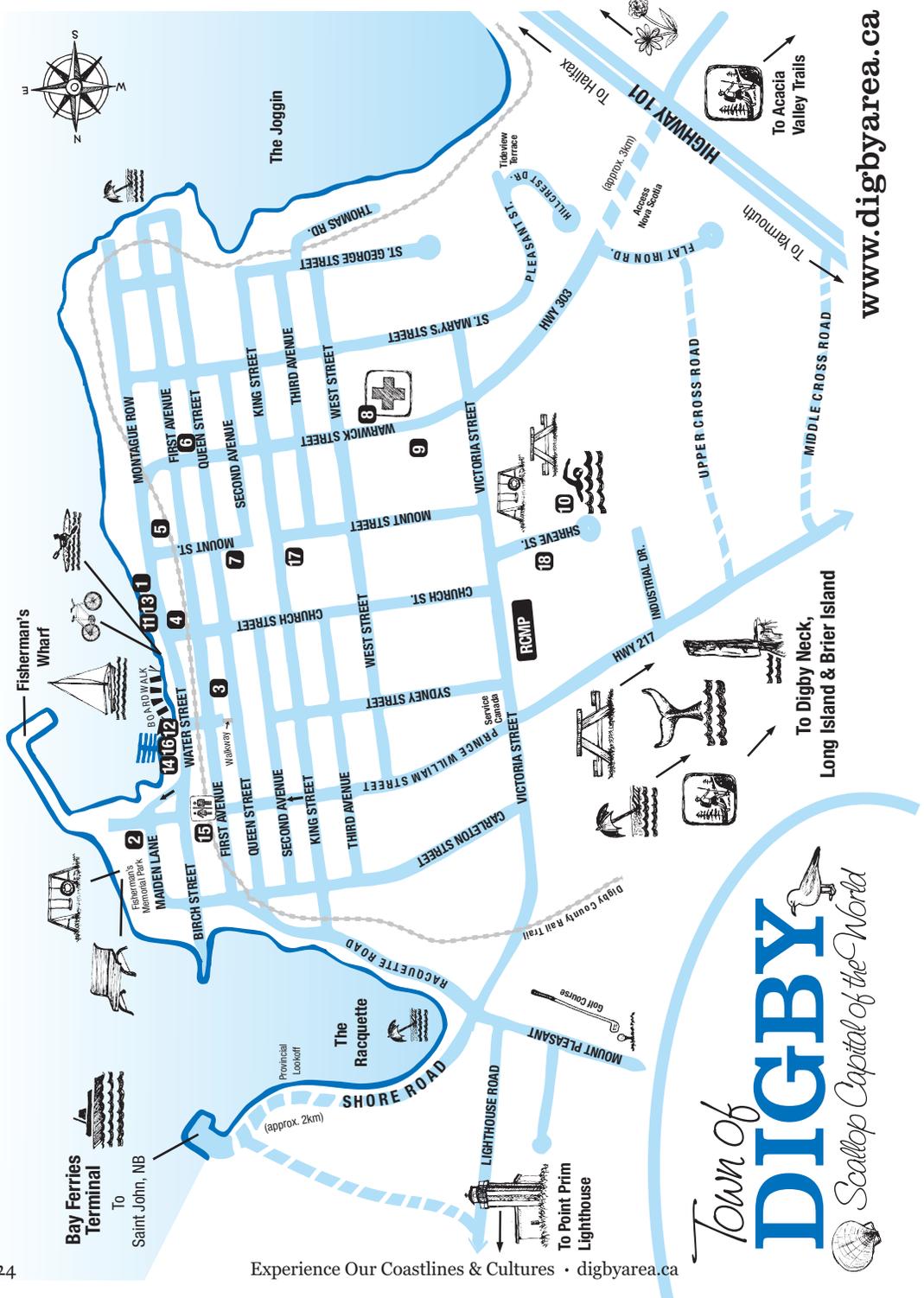




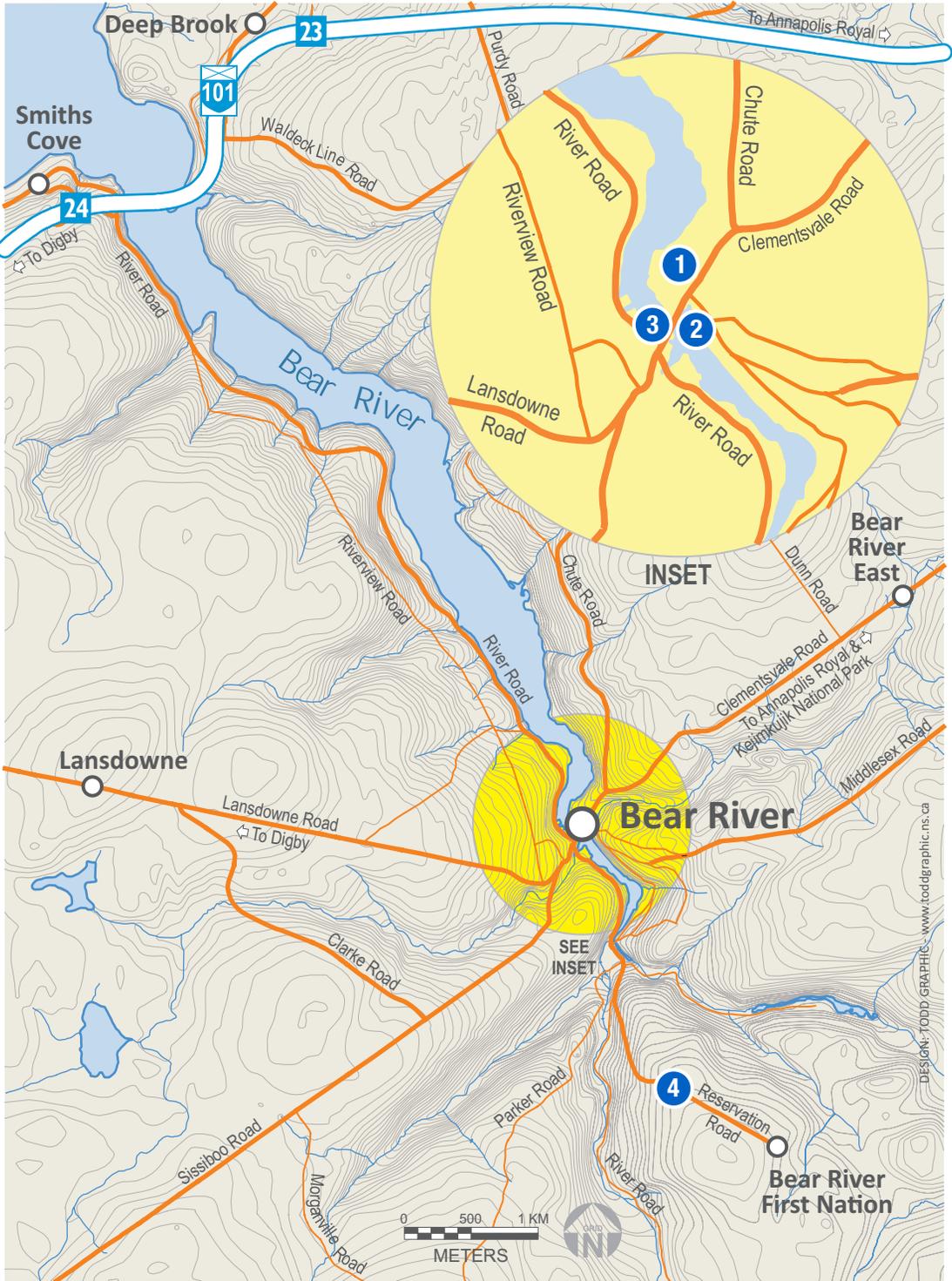
- PARKS**
- 1 Joseph et Marie Dugas Park and Piau's Boardwalk
  - 2 French Basin Trail
  - 3 Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail
  - 4 Sandy Cove Beach
- NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL PARKS:**
- 5 Lake Midway
  - 6 Central Grove
  - 7 Savary Park
  - 8 Upper Clements
  - 9 Annapolis Basin Look Off
  - 10 Mickey Hill
- NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES**
- 11 Fort Anne NHS
  - 12 Port-Royal NHS
  - 13 Melanson Settlement NHS

DESIGN: TODD GRAPHIC - www.toddgraphic.ns.ca

- 1** Town Visitor Information Centre  
(Open May - Oct.)
- 2** Admiral Digby's Well
- 3** Town Hall  
(Open weekdays 8:30-4:30)
- 4** Post Office
- 5** Admiral Digby Museum
- 6** Loyalist Cemetery
- 7** Trinity Anglican Church
- 8** Hospital
- 9** Library
- 10** Digby Arena, Swimming Pool & Playground
- 11** Fisherman's Memorial & Bell
- 12** Admiral's Lookoff & Boardwalk
- 13** Admiral's Walk & Loyalist Park
- 14** Digby Centre-Parking & Marina
- 15** Heritage Centre
- 16** Digby Centre Stage
- 17** Digby Regional High School
- 18** Digby Elementary School



[www.digbyarea.ca](http://www.digbyarea.ca)



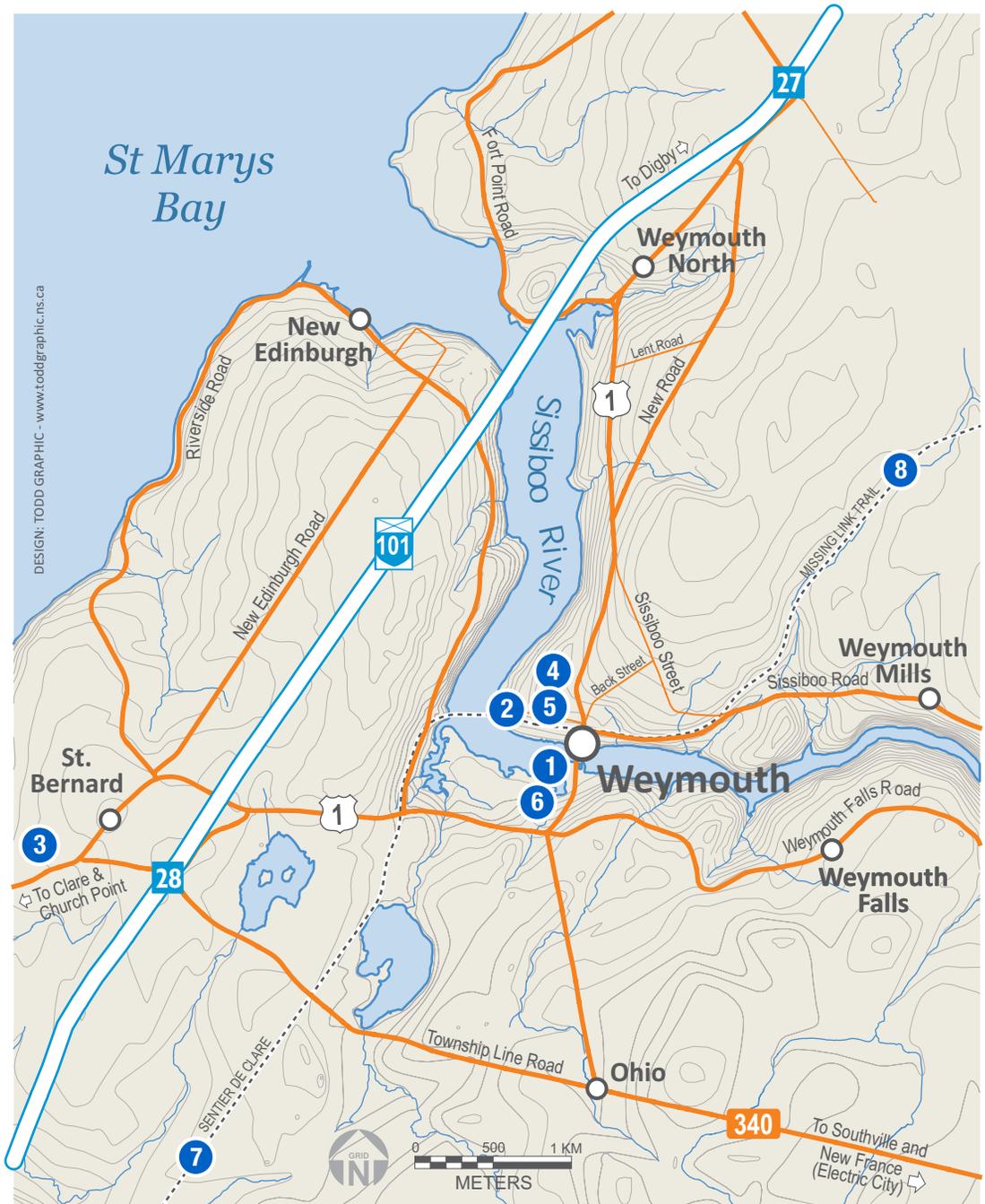
## Bear River

- 1** Art Gallery and Museum
- 2** Visitor Information Centre
- 3** Post Office
- 4** Bear River First Nation Cultural and Heritage Centre

Bear River is located six kilometers inland on a tidal river of the Bay of Fundy. The tide rises and falls approximately 25 feet twice a day due to the dramatic Fundy tides, the highest on earth!

The original peoples of Bear River are the Mi'kmaq who lived here for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans.

When visiting the community, be sure to check out the artisans' shops and studios, galleries, museum and vineyards.



DESIGN: TODD GRAPHIC - www.toddgraphic.ns.ca

## Weymouth

- 1 Sissiboo Landing
- 2 The Sissiboo Story Book Trail
- 3 St. Bernard Church
- 4 Post Office
- 5 NSLC
- 6 Library
- 7 Sentier de Clare
- 8 Missing Link Trail

Weymouth is a small village located on rolling hills banking the Sissiboo River in Digby County, Nova Scotia. Settled in 1783 by British Loyalists, the area has long been known for its rich resources based industries as well as its diverse blend of cultures including Mi'kmaq, British Loyalists, African Canadian and Acadian.

Visitors can partake in Weymouth's recreational and cultural activities, explore local artists' exhibits and one of many annual festivals/events, or simply enjoy a drive to view the rich inventory of Victorian and Georgian style homes.

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## Seven Paddles

This project, started to re-establish traditional Mi'kmaq canoe routes, has become a way for people in **Bear River First Nation** to strengthen their ties with their land and culture. It is also allowing people to learn from their elders and use that knowledge to create new opportunities. They honour seven directions (the Sky, the Earth, the Soul plus North, East, South and West) and live by the Seven Teachings of love, respect, humility, honesty, truth, wisdom and courage.

# Smith's Cove

## Romantic Getaway



Saskia Geerts

### Length of time: spend the night

Smith's Cove is a place of scenery and relaxation. The picturesque village set between Bear River bridge to the east, Joggin bridge to the west, Annapolis Basin on the north and south by the South mountain. It has long been recognized as a destination, offering beautiful vistas, beaches and serenity. Over the centuries Acadians, Planters and Loyalists all made this place home.

The Mi'kmaq people were first to use this area as a hunting and gleaning area from weir fishing and taking of shell fish during the summer. The fine sandy shores, studded by forests, made perfect places for

encampments and setting nets to catch fish.

Wander the beaches right from your accommodation, enjoy a sunrise and walk the rail trail to the Bear River and Bear River Lighthouse. While wandering, stop off at the Lazy Bear Brewery during open hours ([www.lazybearbrewing.ca](http://www.lazybearbrewing.ca)).

Pay a visit to the Old Temperance Hall Museum, home to the Smith's Cove Historical Society. This building is a designated Provincial Heritage Building (c. 1834), open to visitors throughout the summer and also home to the Smith's Cove Hooker group.

**Fact:** Around 1840 an Anglican Church, St. Matthews, was erected in Smith's Cove. However, it was decided around 1880 to move this church from Smith's Cove to Deep Brook, due to the lack of a stable congregation in Smith's Cove and a congregation with lack of church in Deep Brook. This amazing feat was accomplished with oxen to pull the entire Church to the shore, load it on a scow, float up to Deep Brook, and again have oxen pull the Church to the site, which was opposite the current Anglican Hall in Deep Brook. This effort took three days to accomplish. The Mi'kmaq's name for the Smith's Cove area was "Segeegunegunk" which means "a place of canvass tents".

Digging Clams in Smith's Cove



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## Smiths Cove - Romantic Getaway



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# Annapolis Royal

## Historically Vibrant



Wally Hayes

### Length of time: spend the day

A daytrip to Annapolis Royal, Canada's oldest permanent European Settlement, is certainly worth it. Start by walking the main street and realize that this little town of 500 was Nova Scotia's original capital. Because of its tactical location on the Annapolis River this area was one of the most disputed areas between the English and the French. No wonder it has such a rich historical and cultural heritage. Annapolis Royal's

downtown counts a whopping 131 National Historic properties, winning it the status of one of the largest National Historic Districts in Canada!

National Historic Site Fort Anne (Canada's oldest National Historic Site) sits right in the middle of Nova Scotia's smallest incorporated town. Walk the grounds of Fort Anne and visit the museum, browse around the

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## Canada's oldest permanent European Settlement

fine variety of eclectic and delightful shops and stroll the waterfront boardwalk. You will find a great mix of cafes and restaurants as well and are sure to find something to your taste. Just on the edge of town, pay a visit to the Tidal Power Interpretive Centre. In the evening, take a Candlelight Graveyard Tour starting from Fort Anne.

On Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons in summer, make sure to take in the Farmers' Market right downtown, the longest running outdoor farmers' market in the province.

The Historic Gardens right in town have been named 'One of the Top Five Gardens in North America' and Canadian Garden of the Year for good reason and should be high on anyone's list. Spend the afternoon walking through the gardens inspired by different time periods, and don't forget to smell the roses!

Just outside of Annapolis Royal you will find the Annapolis Golf Course, a great spot to swing a club or have a bite to eat. Port Royal National Historic Site is located about 15 kilometres outside of Annapolis Royal and is a reconstruction of the original fort built by Samuel de Champlain. The grounds are beautiful for a wander around and costumed interpreters offer a wealth of stories and information.

Delaps Cove, a short drive from Port Royal National Historic Site, offers a nice hiking trail with varied landscape. From woods, to ocean side to a waterfall: it's all within an easy 1 hour loop! Going the other direction on Route 8, towards Kejimikujik National Park, you will find Mickey Hill Pocket Wilderness. Enjoy a picnic along the brook or a swim at the lake on a warm day. There is a beach along the lake just a short walk through the woods.

### Insiders tips:

- With Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, this is a great year to visit the National Historic Sites. Not only is entry free, but you will be among the first to see the new and improved displays at Fort Anne.
- Take a walk along the French Basin trail for a great variety of birds and wildlife.
- 2017 is THE year to join in celebration during the Natal Days Weekend starting Thursday August 3rd. A huge street dance, along with the 84th regiment encampment at Fort Anne are just a few of the events planned.

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# Historic Tales and Heritage Trails



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## Loyalists

Fort Anne National Historic Site, Annapolis Royal

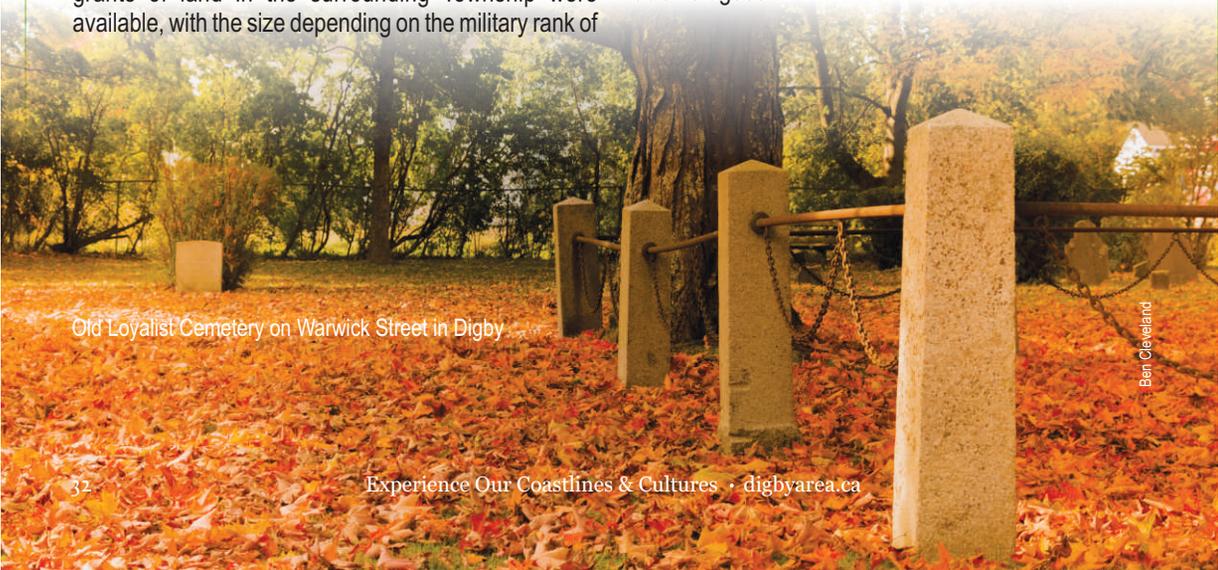
After the American Revolution in 1783 over 1200 United Empire Loyalists arrived on ships from New York and were settled in Conway Township. The Town was named Digby after Admiral Robert Digby, who was responsible for the transportation of the Loyalists.

Today, many of the first Loyalists can be found buried in the Old Loyalist Cemetery on Warwick Street in Digby. Loyalists of the Town and area were also buried in "Trinity" Cemetery around the Anglican Church and many in private graveyards on farms.

After taking the Oath of Allegiance, all Loyalists were able to purchase a town lot. Since these lots were considered improved they had to be purchased. Free grants of land in the surrounding Township were available, with the size depending on the military rank of

the head of the household and 50 additional acres for each family member and servant. The average size of rural lots was 200 acres.

The Loyalists who arrived in Canada were refugees. Through the conflict which has become known as the American Revolution many had lost all or most of their personal possessions. Some called them British Tories. However, they came from many backgrounds including German, Dutch, Scottish, Irish, English, and religious minorities like the Quakers and Mennonites. As well there were native people like the Mohawks who went north to Canada and different racial groups like the approximately 3,000 Black Loyalists who came to Nova Scotia. The Loyalists were Nova Scotia's first Multi-racial refugees.



Old Loyalist Cemetery on Warwick Street in Digby

Ben Cleveland

## Historic Tales and Heritage Trails



### Origins of Bear River (L'sitkuk)

Mi'kmaq at Bear River Bridge, Circa 1920 (Nova Scotia Museum)

Mi'kmaq people have inhabited this scenic glacial valley many thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans and continue to do so today. The tidal river they called "L'sitkuk Elsetuk", provided easy travel to the coast where they harvested various fish and clams. Inland they hunted abundant wild game, including caribou.

During a severe winter storm (around 1605-9) one of Champlain's supply ships in command of Simon Imbert took refuge here and thereafter the river bore his name. Following the French Expulsion of 1755 the English

settled the land and then called the river "Bear" - a corruption of *Imbert*.

In the 1890's Bear River had six shipyards and six lumber mills, even though its population was only 1200. Many shops, supply stores, and service centres were established and large, elaborate homes were constructed along the steep hillsides on both sides of the river. Later, visitors would refer to the area as "The Switzerland of Nova Scotia": a name by which it is often described to this day.

### Joshua Slocum

Joshua Slocum (1844-1909) grew up on Brier Island and became the first person to sail alone around the world in 1898. As a young man working in his family's boot shop, Slocum dreamed of a life at sea. He first went to sea as a boy of 14 and then left home for good at the age of 16. The boot shop still stands to this day on Water Street. In 1895 he set sail on his 37' gaff rigged oyster sloop, named *Spray*, for his solo navigation around the world, a feat no one

else had ever accomplished. Upon his return, Slocum published a detailed memoir of his journey, the classic book "*Sailing Alone Around The World*".

A monument memorial to Joshua Slocum stands on Brier Island, overlooking Peter's Island and St. Mary's Bay. The monument and look-off are just steps from the end of Water Street at Southern Point.



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Canada

## Historic Tales and Heritage Trails

### Maud Lewis

Maud Lewis is still one of Canada's most beloved folk artists. Despite suffering from juvenile arthritis, her paintings are filled with colour and joy. Maud married Everett Lewis, a fish peddler, on January 16, 1938 at the age of 34. According to Everett, Maud unexpectedly showed up at his door step in Marshalltown in response to an advertisement he had posted in the local stores looking for a "live-in or keep house" for a forty year old bachelor.

Several weeks later they were married. Maud accompanied her husband on his daily rounds peddling fish, bringing along Christmas cards she had drawn. She would sell the cards for twenty five cents each. After some success with this, she started painting on various surfaces such as pulp boards (beaverboards), cookie sheets, and Masonite. It was Everett who encouraged Maud to paint and he bought her first set of oils. It was Everett who kept up the housework, while Maud painted.

The tiny home in Marshalltown became her canvas, as well as her shelter. Between 1945-1950, people began to stop at Maud's home and buy her paintings for



two or three dollars. Her paintings gained so much attention through word of mouth that many paintings were sold with the paint still wet. Only in the last three or four years of Maud's life did her paintings begin to sell for seven to ten dollars. Maud lived most of her life in poverty and passed away July 30th 1970. Her paintings now sell for tens of thousands of dollars.

Maud Lewis is buried at the North Range cemetery.

### New France - Electric City

In the late 1800's, in the middle of the forest, a sophisticated and multicultural settlement grew and prospered. Seeking to escape the endless wars that left their area in France in constant turmoil, the entrepreneurial Stehelin family sent their sons to the new world in 1892 seeking a new life with hopes for a new business venture. The sons soon fell in love with the Acadians and their land. They quickly realized the opportunities awaiting the family. So, in 1895, the entire family moved to the new settlement they named New France.

The Stehelins ran a modern, efficient, and highly successful business from their village settlement. The village was soon called "The Electric City" by local Acadians, Blacks, and Mi'kmaq because the dynamo attached to the saw mill on Silver River ran lights in the buildings and street lights along the main thoroughfares of the settlement. A train ran on wooden rails from their location deep in the forest to Weymouth. Emile Stehelin's innovative business practices and his family's respect for the dignity and equality of their workers and visitors, no matter their positions and education, made The Electric City as much a cultural center for celebration as a successful business.

Emile moved into a large house in Weymouth after his wife passed away in 1910. Although the work continued at New France, with 50 plus working crews running the mills and shipping lumber, the spirit of the settlement changed. Then the First World War meant that five sons had to leave their beloved New France and go back to the old France to help save their original homeland.

Emile did not live to see his sons return from The Great War. When they did, they discovered business had changed; lumber prices declined. New France, The Electric City, was put up for sale.

Learn about the ghost stories and legends that have risen from the foundations of this endearing settlement. Learn more about the Stehelin family members and their lives by reading Paul Stehelin's book, *The Electric City The Stehelins of New France*. Paul was the grandson of Emile and Marie Therese. You can find the book at the local library or purchase your own at Sissiboo Landing in Weymouth.

## Historic Tales and Heritage Trails



Ben Cleveland

Digby Waterfront

### Disaster Struck!

Monday, February 13th, 1899, a fire started in the furnace room of G.I. Letteney & Bros. store on Water Street. The Digby business district block was entirely destroyed by this most disastrous fire in the town's history.

Combined with a severe northeast gale and blinding snowstorm, the situation was grave. To make matters worse a storm-bound train blocked Sydney Street, preventing the firemen from crossing to fight the spreading fire. Many residents and firemen were ice-covered as the inferno burnt through the night. Tuesday morning, 3:30am, they got the fire under control, as the furious wind blew snow drifts around. By day break, goods that had been moved to the streets were covered, while foundations still burnt on. A total of 44 businesses and residences were destroyed, and 24 of these were not insured.

Some of the destroyed included these early prominent names and businesses: G. I. Letteney & Bro.'s; J. F. Saunders; Wilson Block; Keen & Hutchinson's Carriage Factory; Shreve Block; Burnham Block; Dunham Block; J. L. Peters; H. B. Short; Turnbull & Welsh Block and Warne Block.

As Digby rebuilt, the Digby Weekly Courier wrote *"much credit must be given to our firemen and citizens, who laboured so faithfully to save the town, and considering disadvantages under which they work...it seemed almost a miracle that the fire did not cross Sydney Street and sweep the entire town."*

As has always been our characteristic, the people showed great resilience and positive attitudes when in the "Digby Weekly Courier" they advertised the places where businesses were being set up to continue "business as usual".

## Historic Tales and Heritage Trails

### Ground Hog Day Storm

February 2nd, 1976 started as countless other days have. By mid-morning, however, despite weather reports not calling for anything akin to what would develop, the worst storm to ever hit Southwestern Nova Scotia arrived. Weather reports were calling for 35 miles per hour winds. However, by noon the people of Southwestern Nova Scotia did not need any weather report to tell them what was unfolding.

Winds were recorded at over 100 miles per hour and everyone near the seacoast was well aware the tides were far higher than they had ever been. High winds coupled with abnormal high water levels threw wharf planking into the air as if the structures were nothing. Roads were flooded and fishing vessels everywhere were damaged, many of them snapping their moorings like a thread. Sunken vessels became a common sight along the waterfront.

The storm lasted throughout the day and, even when it subsided, most of the area was left with a reminder of its fury that will be remembered forever. Electrical power

was cut off due to the many fallen trees and other damage. The age of electricity was quickly replaced by candles, kerosene and wood burning, as many areas were left without power for days. The destruction to the area was such that it was described in the Senate in Ottawa as making the area one in state of emergency.

Despite millions of dollars damage, miraculously there was no loss of life in Southwestern Nova Scotia attributed to the worst storm in the area's history.

#### Samuel de Champlain:

By the time Champlain settled in Port-Royal in 1605, he had already mapped a large portion of the northeastern coast of North America. Consumed with curiosity and an irrepressible spirit of adventure, he continued to sail and chart the coasts, using Port-Royal as a base. Unlike his English and Spanish contemporaries, Champlain was more interested in learning from and cooperating with native people than in exploiting them. He envisioned a world where people of different faiths and races could live and mix together. Today Champlain is remembered as the father of New France. \*Source: Parks Canada

#### Annie Kempton

On January 27th 1896 Annie Kempton was a young girl of almost 15 who lived in Bear River with her father. She was very well liked in her school and community. That night her father was away working.

The next morning Peter Wheeler found Annie's tortured body and the police were summoned. There was blood everywhere and the place looked like a big struggle had taken place. Annie's throat had been slashed three times. The African-born Peter Wheeler lived with Annie's neighbour Tilly Comeau. Even though he had lived in the community for some 12 years, he was still considered an outsider.

After a police investigation Wheeler was arrested for the murder of Annie Kempton, even though there was no evidence tying him to the murder aside from his finding the body and being one of the last persons to see her alive together with a questionable confession later withdrawn. He was, however found guilty and was hanged at 2.21am on September 8, 1896. Peter Wheeler was the last person to be hanged in Digby.

You can find the Annie Kempton monument and gravesite at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Bear River.



### Admiral Digby Museum

#### Genealogy Department/Archives

The mandate of the Admiral Digby Museum is to study, preserve and make available to the public the history of the Town of Digby and Digby County.



facebook.com/Admiral.Digby.Museum/

Museum email: admuseum@ns.sympatico.ca

Genealogy email: adgen1@ns.aliantzinc.ca

902-245-6322 95 Montague Row, Digby, NS

**admiraldigbymuseum.ca**

# DON'T MISS THIS!



Adam Cornick

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- 2 Whale Watching on the Bay of Fundy
- 3 Digby Scallop pearls, a unique gift found only at Fancy Jewellers
- 4 Lunch time concerts at the Trinity Anglican Church in Digby
- 5 A Needle Pulling Thread Quilt Shop in Digby, featured in Canadian Quilter Magazine November 2016, for good reason!
- 6 Play a round of golf at the Digby Pines Stanley Thompson Championship Golf Course
- 7 Stop off at Sissiboo Coffee Roaster in Bear River and Annapolis Royal. With their roastery located in Bear River, they were named one of 5 coffee roasters to know in 2016 according to NUVO magazine
- 8 Feast your eyes and soul at the Flight of Fancy in Bear River - winner of Atlantic Canada Outstanding Crafts Retailer Award

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Ben Cleveland

Sunset on the Bay of Fundy

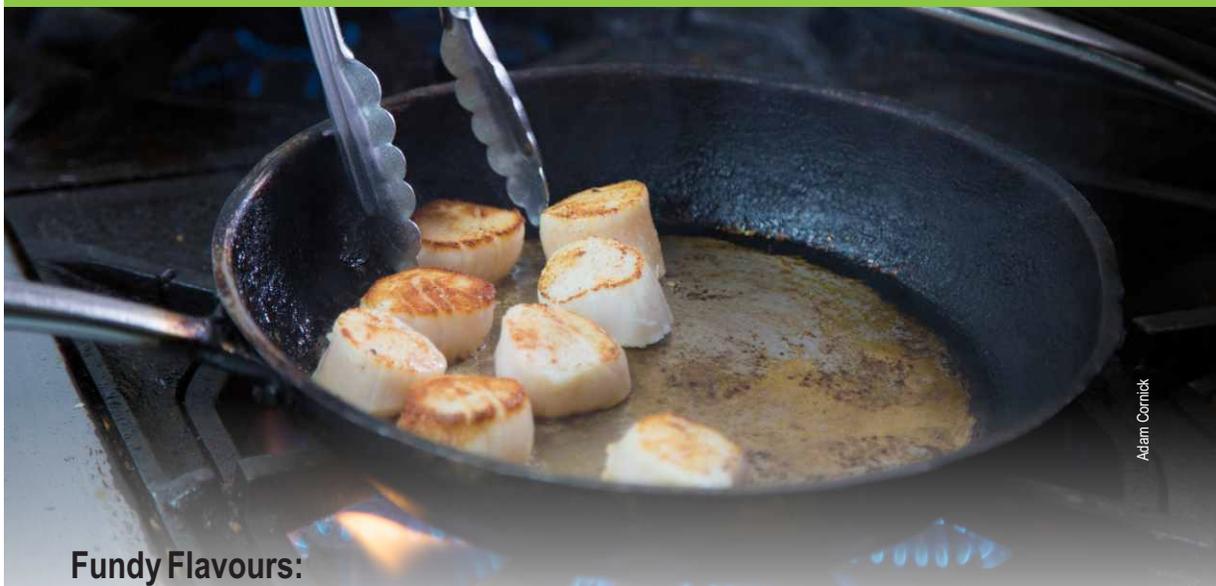
- 9 Spend an afternoon on the Bear River Artisan Trail
- 10 Try a local beer from Lazy Bear Brewing in Smith's Cove - their Braunbär Honey Brown voted 2016 best fruit and field beer in Atlantic Canada
- 11 Let the ocean breeze clear your mind at Sandy Cove Beach on Digby Neck
- 12 Cove Music Concerts. Don't miss these intimate concerts with top notch artists at the Zion United Church in Sandy Cove.  
[www.covemusicconcerts.com](http://www.covemusicconcerts.com)
- 13 Walk the Balancing Rock trail on Long Island
- 14 Bird watching - fall hawk migration Brier Island
- 15 Kayak a tidal river
- 16 Learn about the story of New France Electric City at Sissiboo Landing in Weymouth
- 17 Beaux Vendredi - Belliveau Cove. Lobster and clam dinners along large communal picnic tables while enjoying live local music.
- 18 Blueberry picking in August at a U-pick along Digby Neck or Gilbert's Cove
- 19 Bay of Fundy sunsets
- 20 Spend an early morning on Smith's Cove beaches while watching the sun rise above the Annapolis Basin.

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# Culinary Delights



Adam Cornick

## Fundy Flavours:

Digby is known for its scallops, but while here don't forget to have a taste of succulent Bay of Fundy lobster, try some Digby Chicks and pair your meal with a flavourful local wine or beer.

### The Origins of Digby Chicks

In 1783, after the surrender of New York, ships under the leadership of Sir Robert Digby sailed in through the Digby Gut into the Annapolis Basin. The first winter as such was spent on board the ships by many, which were anchored just off shore. There wasn't enough food to last everyone for the winter and they were not used to hunting in this new place. Herring quickly became the main meal every day.

By Christmas time people were tired and beat down. It was hard living on the ship; quarters were cramped and they longed for different types of food. To try and lighten the mood, someone had the idea to start calling the herring "Digby Chicken". The name caught on and it is still used by people in Digby today, although it has been shortened to Digby Chicks.

### Scallops

As exclusive as scallops may seem, they are really not hard to prepare once you get the hang of it! Preheat your pan with some oil and/or butter over a medium heat while you pat dry your scallops (drying your scallops will ensure browning). Once your pan is nice and hot, add your scallops to the pan. Season with salt and pepper (or garlic) to taste. They will need about 2 to 4 minutes per side depending on size. Once your scallop starts to look translucent it is time to flip them. Just be careful not to overcook them.

To change it up: try scallops with bacon! This candy of the ocean combined with the candy of all meats is simply decadent.

### Lobster

Now we may be biased, but if you ask us: the Bay of Fundy lobster is some of the most succulent and full of taste anywhere. The Digby Area is right on the edge of two lobster fishing areas, meaning the lobster fishery, an owner-operated fishery, is one of the most active

## Sydney Street Pub & Café

Located right behind the Scotiabank, beside The Town Hall. Look up from the town clock



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[www.sydneystreetpub.ca](http://www.sydneystreetpub.ca)

## Culinary Delights

fisheries in the Digby Area. Many restaurants throughout the area offer live lobster and will include instructions on how to eat this delicacy!

### Dulse

Try some Bay of Fundy dulse. Yes, it's dried seaweed! You can buy flakes (great for a salad or as replacement for salt in a meal) or buy it whole to chew on. Tip: add some dulse to the water you boil your lobsters in to give your lobster a special succulent flavour. Try fried dulse or add it as you cook your pan fried scallops.

### Craft Beer & Wine

You will find two vineyards in Bear River with a variety of unique local wines. The Digby Area is also home to two craft breweries, including the award winning Lazy Bear Brewery in Smiths Cove.



Saskia Geerts

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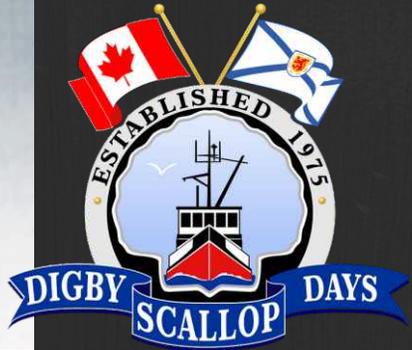
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# Festivals and Events



The Digby Area knows how to celebrate. From down home traditional parties to Nova Scotia Signature Events, we have it all and all are welcome to celebrate with us. After all, when you live in a place like we do: who wouldn't want to celebrate all through the summer!

## 2017 Festival Dates:

- June 30 - July 2 **Lobster Bash**, Digby  
July 1 **Weymouth Canada Day**  
July 15 **Bear River Cherry Carnival**
- July 29 - August 5 & August 15 **Festival Acadien de Clare**, oldest Acadian festival in the world
- August 3-7 **Annapolis Royal Natal Days**  
August 4-6 **Breaking Waves Music Festival**, Freeport - Long Island
- August 11-13 **Digby Scallop Days**  
August 15, 16 **Tall Ships in Digby**  
August 23-26 **Digby County Exhibition**, Bear River
- August 30 - September 3 **Wharf Rat Rally**, Digby
- September 23 - 24 **Gran Fondo Baie Sainte - Marie**

## Ongoing events in 2017...

- July - September: **Weymouth Tea Days**, Weymouth Historical Society
- Saturday mornings May - October **Annapolis Royal Farmers' Market**
- For a full list of Digby Area events, go to [digbyarea.ca](http://digbyarea.ca)

## Ongoing events in 2017:

- Friday's June 23 - September 8: **Beaux Vendredi**, Belliveau Cove
- July - September: **Musique de la Baie**
- Friday evenings in July & August: **Music on the Sissiboo**, Weymouth
- July - September: **Cove Music Concerts**, Sandy Cove

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2017

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Nova Scotia*

[www.whafrat rally.com](http://www.whafrat rally.com)

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June 30th to July 2nd

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PARADE OF LIGHTS - FISH TUB DERBY - WASHER TOSS TOURNAMENT  
BRENTON MERRITT MEMORIAL LOBSTER CRATE RUN - ROW BOAT RACES

## - CONTESTS -

JUMBO LOBSTER CONTEST - CHILDREN'S COLORING CONTEST  
CHILDREN'S COSTUME CONTEST - AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST  
KING & QUEEN

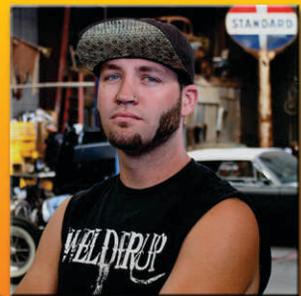
## - EVENTS -

3K MUD DASH - SHOW & SHINE - WOODEN TRAP BUILDING DEMO  
TOUCH TANK - BLESSING OF THE FLEET SERVICE - RAFFLES - BBQ  
INCENDIA MOTUS FIRE PERFORMERS - FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS  
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[www.anybodyyoga.ca](http://www.anybodyyoga.ca)

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[www.kayakingnovascotia.com](http://www.kayakingnovascotia.com)

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243 Highway 217, Freeport, NS B0V 1B0  
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[www.islandshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.islandshistoricalsociety.com)

### L. J. Robicheau & Son Fisheries

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### Mrs. Nicholson Home

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[www.mrsnicholsonhome.com](http://www.mrsnicholsonhome.com)

### School Street Market

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 Email: [schoolstreetmarket@outlook.com](mailto:schoolstreetmarket@outlook.com)  
[www.schoolstreetmarket.wixsite.com](http://www.schoolstreetmarket.wixsite.com)

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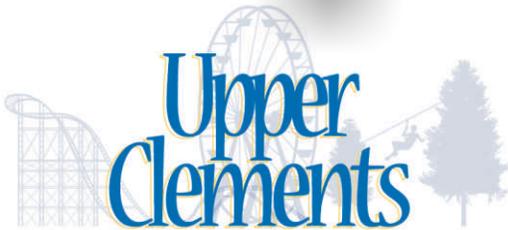
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