

Community Name: **Town of Canso and Eastern Guysborough County**

Key Contact Person: **Susan O'Handley**

Email address: susan.o'handley@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Daytime phone number: **(902)366-2440**

Evening phone number: **(902)366-2146**

Names of Groups within the community who have joined together to put forward this nomination:

1. Eastern Communities Youth Association
2. Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Canso Office
3. Chedabucto Bay Folk Society - (Stan Rogers Folk Festival)
4. Town of Canso
5. Canso Area Development Association
6. Eastern Memorial Hospital
7. Canso Historical Society
8. Canso and Area Arena Commission
9. Canso Curling Club
10. All Saints Church
11. Canso Cooperative Limited
12. Canso Academy
13. Fanning Education Centre
14. 5th Canso Scouts
15. Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society

Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit our community for this prestigious Award. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Best Regards,

Susan O'Handley on behalf of the contributing organizations.

Town of Canso & Eastern Guysborough County - Early History:

The name Canso came from the Mi'kmaq word kamsook which means "opposite the lofty cliff," referring to the steep cliffs of Chedabucto Bay. The Town of Canso and eastern Guysborough County is located on the most eastern point of mainland Nova Scotia.

Our communities are just a few miles from the Scotian Shelf, one of the world's richest fishing grounds. There are records of Basque fishermen using the area as a home port as early as the 1400's. Town historians proudly declare that in the 1600's French and English settlers fished and lived side by side in Canso, united by the life of the sea while their homelands went to war. American exploration literature first mentions Canso in 1604, when DeMonts describes the area's lucrative fishing banks. In 1688, Louis the 14th writes the following "Canso is by all accounts the best and most convenient fishery in any part of the King's dominion."

For the next 400 years, the Town of Canso played an essential role in the shaping of modern history. In the 1700s, Canso gained importance as both a military and trading region mainly due to Grassy Island, a small island near Canso. Grassy Island, which is now part of Canso Islands National Historic Site, played a key role in the struggle between French and English attempts to claim land in North America. The importance of Canso's role in the history of Nova Scotia is clearly demonstrated by the fact that in 1724, a serious attempt was made to locate the seat of provincial government in Canso.

In the 1800's the community continued to flourish. Of particular importance is the presence of two transatlantic cable companies, the Commercial Cable Company and Western Union. The infrastructure brought to Canso as a result of the cable companies is still present in the community.

In 1901, the Town of Canso incorporated. The 1900s brought many changes for the community, with the loss of the cable companies in the 1960s and the downturn in the fisheries in the early 1990s. In recent years the Town has been diversifying its economy, mainly through building capacity in the technology and tourism sectors. One success story is the Stan Rogers Folk Festival, which began in the mid 1990s. The international ECMA award winning festival brings more than twelve thousand visitors to the Town annually.

Unique Strengths:

The Canso area has been a community with many challenges since it was founded in the 1600's. That is what has made us who we are today. The community slogan, which has been adopted is "CAN-SO!" Our history shows how each and every time we are faced with a daunting task, we do what we do best. We rally the troops and get our hands dirty. Like most rural communities we are struggling with the economics and out migration of our young people. However, we continue to work together to create a community that we are very proud of. We have facilities, organizations and events that are unique to a community of our size and we support all these to the best of our abilities. In recognition of our amazing volunteer efforts, our community received the "2008 Model Volunteer Community of the Year" Award from the Province of Nova Scotia and we are held as an example to other rural communities that face adversity straight on and never give up. With the loss of our only fish plant the community has become even more united, and is working very hard to find alternate employment for our people. The newly formed Canso Area Development Association (CADA) has citizens from every walk of life and opens their meetings to the public.

The issue of Governance has been a hot issue that has received a lot of media attention in the past few years. Many people in the community believed that the local media was being very unfair and not delivering a balanced story. The community worked together to send a very strong message to the media that fair and balanced reporting was expected. The people voted overwhelming to remain a town in a plebiscite.

In the mid to late 1990's the unemployment rate was high and a group of citizens got together, wrote proposals, formed partnerships and accomplished some amazing projects. The creation of the Canso Enterprise Centre saw the vacant post office building restored. It then housed a "Digitizing Project" doing contract work, later a Call Centre and a remote learning centre. A need for License Practical Nurses was identified in 2000, the community worked with NSCC and other agencies to develop the learning centre in the Enterprise Centre.

Citizen Participation in Community Projects:

This is where the Canso area has excelled for years. No matter what the cause, a benefit bingo for an ill community member, building infrastructure or to give to other communities around the globe with bigger needs than our own, Canso and area are open and generous people.

In 1909, the "Canso Amateur Athletic Association" was formed which included things like curling. In 1923, they built an outside skating rink and sold shares to citizens to absorb the cost. In 1914, the citizens of Canso built, owned and operated their own Electric Power Plant. Today, we are one of only five or six communities that still own their Electric Utility. In 1924, the community spirit was abundant when a school playground and the Canso Soldiers Memorial were both built by the community. In 1950, the community formed an organization that fund-raised and built a nonprofit

medical facility. A new hospital was in great need by the early 1970's. The community worked with government and various agencies to build the Eastern Memorial Hospital on land donated by a local citizen. In 1974, the Town purchased a home built in 1885 and held public meetings to determine the interest in making this home the Town's Museum. The community responded and the donations of money, antiques furnishings, old photographs, etc. poured in. Local carpenters volunteered their time to make necessary repairs and today the building is a stately and beautiful example of what a community can achieve when they work together. In 1974, an ad hoc group called the "Citizens for the Restoration of Grassy Island" began work to preserve and restore historic Canso. Thanks to the work of this group we now have the Grassy National Historic Site with an Interpretation Center and daily boat tours to the Island in the summer.

A group of local women took on the cause of inadequate child care facilities, back in 1975, when they took over the old hospital building. Today the Canso Area Daycare is the only facility of its kind in the entire County. It is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Canso Lions Club with the communities support erected a "Seamen's Memorial" to honor all the people who lost their lives, while fishing, to the sea in the area. The first Provincial Service was held here in 1976. In the 1980's two separate groups organized themselves in our area and established two trails. One is the Black Duck Cove Walking Trail in Little Dover and the Chapel Gully Hiking Trail in Canso. Another example of projects built and maintained by the people.

We are a community of dreamers, who realize their dreams more often than not. In 1997 the first Stan Rogers International Folk Festival was held, today more than twelve thousand visitors this event each year. This was a collaborative effort of many organization and people to develop and maintain this first class award winning event. More than six hundred volunteers come out to help every year and in a community of less than a thousand people, this is truly an amazing feat.

In 2009, the Town of Canso donated a property, that had been damaged many years ago by fire, for the purpose of a new library. Through donations of money and most significantly the time of many volunteers, the current building has been cleaned up, stabilized and is ready for the next phase. This Project has seen a group of dedicated volunteers spending every day at this building to ensure everything that they can do is done. They organized a community "house raising" day and citizens, carpenters, youth and seniors came forward to work on this building. Many continue to be on the site almost daily, doing what they can to ensure the entire project will be completed in 2010 for all to enjoy.

Community Pride:

The people of this area come together to pull off amazing results on a regular basis. Many of the examples of community pride are included in other categories of this submission. However, the Canso Area Development Association (CADA) recently asked the community to come out and fix up one of the local cemeteries in Canso. More than thirty volunteers, of every denomination, come out to upright stones, clear brush, clean stones and cut grass. It took several more days of hard work but the sense of pride was evident when the project was completed and the cemetery restored to an almost perfect condition. Other cemeteries will receive tender loving care starting in the Spring.

In an effort to further promote and support what we have the CADA has established a "Buy Local" Subcommittee. This Group has brought together the community in an advertising campaign and has secured enough donations of lights to decorate every single building on Main Street (occupied or not) for Christmas. With the assistance of the Eastern Communities Youth Association (ECYA) the Main Street was decorated. ECYA also approached local organizations to donate wreaths to decorate Main Street and the results were amazing and the Town has never looked so great in keeping with the Christmas Spirit.

Creating an Enduring Community:

The area of Eastern Guysborough County is very self sufficient and realizes the importance of the fishery, local businesses and their people. Fr. Jimmy Tompkins was a Catholic Priest in Canso in the early 1900's and his work with the area fisherman boasted the "Cooperative Movement" in Canada. A large meeting of Canso fishermen in 1927, saw the men air their grievances and the desperate situation; it made headlines around the Country and underscored the plight of the fishing sector. From that time on the community has worked together and has established several cooperatives including the Cooperative Fish Federation (1932) Canso Cooperative Limited (1934), Eastern Coop Fisheries (1940's), Coop Fisheries Salt Fish Plant (1950's), Guysco Enterprises (1977), The Canso Professional Coop (1980's) and the Trawlermen's Coop (1990's) many are still in operation today providing employment and services to the citizens of the area. The Canso Cooperative Limited continues to operate successfully. The volunteer Board of Directors over sees this award winning Cooperative. Even during the communities worst economic times this Coop boasts a healthy bottom line because of the community support it receives. In the late 1970's citizens formed a cooperative and today we house our doctors, dentist and other professionals in the Canso Professional Coop building. With the downturn in the ground fishery in the early 1990's it saw the loss of our Trawler Fleet. The men united in a coop and formed the "Canso Trawlermen's Coop" and through consistent hard work and lobbying were able to purchase a trawler and get access to a fishing quota. The Group restored an historic building for their main office and continue to operate on a seasonal bases.

The Guysborough Inshore Fishery Association is a nonprofit association made up of 134 core fisher people who elect a volunteer board of directors from their membership annually. This is a great example of how the community works together to ensure they have a voice in the policies that affect their livelihoods. They provide community-based management of the fishing resources. They built their own Hall in 1980 and currently employ two full time staff people.

Diversity:

The Canso area is one of the most remote and rural areas of Nova Scotia. There are very few different cultural and ethnic groups in our area. In an effort to ensure our youth are aware and educated the Eastern Communities Youth Association (ECYA) holds annual Multi-cultural Workshops for the youth of Canso Academy. At these events guests are invited to teach our youth about the varying cultures that exist beyond our area.

In the early 1980's the area churches got together and formed a partnership to sponsor bringing a Vietnamese Refugee couple to our area.

Welcoming Community:

In the book "Portrait of a Century" there are many stories of people arriving to work in the community from many countries in Europe starting in the early 1900's. Many made the community their home. In 1891 the Woman's Christian Temperance Union erected the Sailors' Rest building, which welcomed sailors from around the world with a place of rest, relaxation and recreation. This building was used during WWI by the military and it reopened in 1919 to welcome sailors again. A group of volunteers formed the Canso Waterfront and Area Development Corporation in the 1990's and built a beautiful Centre Town Park, a boardwalk along the waterfront and a replica of the Sailors' Rest which is now used for community events.

We have had visitors and tourist come to Town and remark that you can't drive or walk down the road and pass a single person or vehicle without receiving a friendly wave of "Hello." On July 13, 2007, Canso experienced a major tragedy when a CFB Greenword Cormorant crashed off the coast while performing exercises of Canso. Unfortunately, three crew members died and four were injured. The community immediately sprang to action to help in any way possible. People opened their homes and hearts to the families involved. Following this tragedy an anonymous group of locals worked hard and

collaborated with the Canadian Forces, Canadian Coast Guard, Auxiliary Coast Guard and Parks Canada to erect a monument on the mainland to always remember this event and the men involved. Family members were very impressed with the support of the community and have made lasting friendships from this very tragic event.

Community Challenges:

The area played an important role in French & English Conflicts of the 18th Century. The British and French worked side by side in the Canso area until the Countries brought their conflicts to the region. Through the past century the community has had many major fires that have destroyed business, homes and even the school. However, each and every time the community came together to replace the lost buildings.

In 1919 the first Fishermen's Strike was held and again in the early 1970's. These were challenging times but the people united in both cases to ensure a successful resolution.

The loss of the Western Union Offices established in Canso in 1881, closed in 1955. The Commercial Cable was established in 1884 in Hazel Hill and closed in 1962. Not only were these a loss of employment, but it effected many aspects and social affairs of the community.

In 1971 the community saw a need for more recreational infrastructure, so a group of volunteers worked together with the three levels of government to realize their dream of a Sport Complex. Today that area houses a basketball court, two lighted ballfields, a soccer field, the Canso & Area Arena, Canso Lions Club, Shamrock Seniors Club and Stan Fest Office and Store. This is the same area the Stan Rogers Folk Fest is held each year.

The downturn in the Atlantic Ground Fishery was a major blow in the 1990's. Being a community solely dependant on a single industry has been the most economic challenging issue facing eastern Guysborough County. With the closure of the only fish processing plant that employed more than 700 people at its peak, it has been extremely difficult to replace such a major employer. Economic instability and the out migration are the most obvious challenge we face daily.

Most recently the Canso and Area Arena was a challenge that the community shows the meaning of community spirit. In true CAN-SO fashion, this community rallied and took on the challenge of raising the estimated replacement cost of \$200,000.00 for a new ice plant, when the current plant failed half way through the winter season. On January 19th, a Telethon was held on the local Community Cable Channel as the first fundraiser. In three hours, an astonishing \$51,000.00 was pledged from local businesses, organizations, concerned citizens and former residents. At the end of the project, enough money was raised (along with Government assistance), allowing us to not only replace the Plant but also do electrical, sprinkler system and general building upgrades. This particular project is a true testament of this community's determination to survive.

The Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society is facing a major challenge. The CCRS is a nonprofit society that is endeavoring to stabilize the former Commercial Cable "Canso Station." Being abandoned for more than 40 years the building requires immediate stabilization. This Group of volunteers has worked for the past couple of years to secure funding to temporarily stabilize the building, secure staff and work toward finding a solution. No one wants to see the loss of this piece of history located in Hazel Hill and the public support for this Organization has been outstanding.

Lack of funds is always a challenge in a community of our size. The Eastern Memorial Hospital has had a large volunteer base that is vital to their organization, in particular the EMH Foundation. This group dedicated the past ten years to raising money and ensuring the patients at our rural Hospital have all the necessary equipment to meet their needs.

Positive Change:

Not to be repetitive but the Cooperative Movement has been one of the major positive changes

in the community in the past one hundred years. This has been a way the community has produced new opportunities and continues to support itself today.

In 1963, the ratepayers attended a meeting and took on the challenge of bringing fresh water to the community via a water utility. The foresight of these people made way for future development in the fishing processing industry.

The stories already written in this submission highlight many of the positive changes throughout our history.

Support for Recreational & Cultural Activity:

A community of our size doesn't usually have the sporting and recreational facilities we have. Thanks to our citizens and business community we have been able to undertake many projects to better the community. In the 1980's, the Town of Canso, Province of Nova Scotia and National Sea Products funded the building of an outdoor swimming pool in the Sports Complex area. Today it is sometimes a struggle to support all the infrastructure and that is where the community comes in yet again. Partnerships with the ECYA, Lions Club and other organizations help to keep all the facilities operating.

The support the Stan Rogers International Folk Festival receives from the community is second to none. More than six hundred volunteers working together makes this Festival the success it is. Entering year fourteen in 2010, the Festival has weathered many storms in more ways than one. No one believed the area could pull off this Project and of course, that is just the challenge Canso and area needed. Today more than 12,000 visitors come and enjoy the wonderful collaborative effort put forth to ensure a world class event happens. There's something valuable about making music that draws from and gives back to its community, which just happens to have been a crucial element in the Stan Rogers Folk Festival's success over the years.

The ECYA is a volunteer organization that has existed for more than eleven years. Living in such a small remote community, we wanted to ensure our youth had as many opportunities as possible to experience various recreational, social and cultural activities. With a very strong partnership with the Strait Regional School Board and the local schools, programming is often offered within the school system to ensure all youth have access. After school activities and programming are offered free of charge, in most cases. When a special camp or an activity is planned that requires a registration fee, no youth is denied, and often the fee is quietly waved in order that all youth have equal opportunity to reap the benefits. ECYA is here today because a group of concerned citizens and agencies got together to address the youth issues. This award winning Organization operates a full time Youth Centre, plans and delivers youth programming and activities, not usually found in a community of this size. ECYA has a Youth Council that advises them and they sit on the volunteer Board of Directors. ECYA is known at a national level and has gone on to present to other communities about their organization and programming. The RCMP has been the main supporter of the ECYA. Thus, they have won to outstanding community policing awards for their volunteer work with this organization. In 2009, they won the International Chiefs of Police - Community Policing Award for a community with less than 20,000 people, which was presented in October in Denver, Colorado. They also won the International Order of the Daughters of the Empire Community Policing Award in 2006 which was presented in Summerside, P.E.I.

Youth Involvement:

The volunteer time dedicated to our community by our youth is commendable. The teenagers are the people who do peer tutoring, teach dance classes and skating lessons to the younger children, work three days a week delivering a physical activity program to children, teach religion, read to seniors, help with minor hockey and work diligently to deliver community events. The youth are very involved in the Canso Regatta each year, they plan and implement many of the child's events. The

ECYA Youth Council was awarded the “2009 Celebrating Communities Award - Youth Leadership” for their community work. This Youth Council organizes and oversees many youth activities throughout the year. They also participate in many community events and activities.

Respect for Seniors:

The needs of our seniors are always at the forefront, none more obvious than the local government and the citizens organizing themselves to raise money and lobby other levels of government to build two senior housing facilities in the 1980's. The Seaside Manor has a volunteer program that allows the residents to feel like part of the community. The volunteers play bingo, hold sing-songs that are opened to the public, read and just spend time with the seniors several times a week. Local youth groups like the Brownies visit our Seniors to sing and socialize together. The Manager of the Manor says that he is very appreciative of the large number of volunteers who give so many hours each week to his residents. There is also a volunteer “Meals on Wheels” Program in the community, which delivers meals to seniors a couple of times a week. The Shamrock Club Seniors Club is a very active group holding events all month long for seniors. They are supported by the community and the youth. They hold bingos, suppers, carpet bowling and lots of other fun activities. They rent their building to other groups and are respected by the community for their work in the community.

Lasting Partnerships:

Partnerships are the backbone of the success of this community. We have a limited population to draw from, therefore, partnerships are the only way we can be successful. The best current example of a lasting partnership is the one that has been established between the youth and the local Royal Canadian Mounted Police Office. The Canso RCMP is the founder of the Eastern Communities Youth Association (ECYA) and continues to work closely with this organization every day to ensure the youths concerns, needs, issues and desires are given appropriate attention. Both the RCMP and the ECYA have been nominated for or won countless awards in the past eleven years for their collaborative efforts. The success of this Youth Organization is based on lasting partnerships with the RCMP, government, the local school board, the business community, our citizens and various agencies that support youth.

The Stan Rogers Folk Festival is the other most prominent example of lasting partnerships. The Chedabucto Bay Folk Society, who is responsible for the Festival, has formed numerous partnerships dating back to fourteen years ago when the first Festival was held. The local businesses, organizations, agencies and government departments that support this Festival are impressive and that is why the Festival has grown to be an example of one of the most talked about International Festivals. On a final note the ECYA, StanFest, Canso Arena, Canso Lions Club and several groups worked together on small projects and fund-raising events throughout the year, this way we are all winners. We use each others volunteers and staff to enhance our programs and activities. We are always looking for opportunities that will help each other.

Decisions Based on Community Input:

A very good example of this was when the community commissioned the St. FXU Extension Department to compile a community plan. This saw well-attended public meetings over several weeks with an end product of a strategic plan and the formation of “Action Groups.” Some of these groups were more successful than others but each took on various community projects and initiatives to improve our community. The community hold public meetings on issues like governance, community planning and many other important issues. All of these meetings are extremely well attended and community input is welcomed at all meetings.

Respecting Churches and Spiritual Groups:

Canso and area have a very strong ecumenical community. The area churches collaborate on several events throughout the year. These include; the Seamen's Memorial Service, Remembrance Day, Torchlight Service and Parade, to name a few. There is a community choir that includes participants from all churches. This ecumenical choir performs a Christmas and Easter Cantata, at the events mentioned above and at funerals.

Number of Community Initiatives:

Never tell us we can't do something, for we "CAN-SO." Former resident Dan Sullivan says it best when he said, "*Adversity defines what Canso is and has been for over 400 years, it has tempered our resolve and instilled a sense of pride and community that has no equal.*"

Citizen Sponsored Youth, Teen & Senior Groups/Programs

Eastern Communities Youth Association - Founded in 1998, operates a Youth Centre and employees one full time and one part-time worker. Youth programming and activities.

Shamrock Seniors Club - Volunteer driven, supported by all citizens and operated by the Seniors of the area. They have a building and they offer it to the community's use as well.

Church Youth Groups - All the local denominations offer various types of youth programs.

Red Hatters - Primarily made up of senior women.

School Groups- Both schools have after school programming and activities that are coordinated by local volunteers. This consists of sports, music, cultural activities and peer tutoring.

Minor Hockey - A strong minor hockey program exists due to the commitment of community volunteers that oversee coaching, managing, administration and all aspects of the programming.

Curling for Seniors - Canso Curling Club members volunteer at a weekly "Senior's Program." Seniors are taught the skills of curling and then all attendees enjoy a curling game. One lady last curled when she was sixteen and started again only two years ago at the age of seventy-five, thanks to the volunteers of the Club assisting her to relearn the game.

Curling for youth & "Little Rocks" - The local Curling Club members volunteer for the youth and "Little Rocks" curling. They teach the skills required and pass on the love of the game to the youth.

CanSkate for youth - A very strong youth skating program has existed since 1984. When the Flying Figures Skating Club first started there was only one adult with previous skating experience. Several mom's took on the challenge of learning the skills necessary to pass on to the youth. Over the next twenty-five years the volunteer base has been stable and the youth have lots of fun while learning to skate.

Skating for advanced youth skaters - After the Skating Club's youth gain enough skills they can enter the advanced program where they obtain lessons from Professional Coaches. However, the supervision and administration of this program are done strictly by volunteers.

Girls Hockey - In an effort to advance and encourage girls to play hockey each year the ECYA volunteers put together a hockey skills camp for girls. This gives girls a chance of all skill levels to try the sport. This has seen many girls go into the regular hockey program once their confidence and skill level is at a place that makes them feel comfortable to proceed.

5th Canso Scouts - Canso's Scouting movement was documented in the local news on March 30, 1911. It was revived again in 1923. However, the present day Scouting Program in Canso started in 1970. The present Scout Leader has been working directly with the youth since 1985.

Brownies - Local volunteers have restarted a Brownie Program in the Canso area over the last few years.

Sea Cadets - This program started in Canso in 1981, receiving their charter in 1982. There are many volunteers working with the youth. The youth participate in most community events such as parades, Remembrance Day and the Seamen's Memorial Service. This is one of the strongest programs

anywhere and our youth have gained much experience thanks to the many volunteers.

Canso Regatta Youth Component - There are many youth related activities during the Town of Canso's annual festival. There are sporting events, arts and crafts, games, etc. for all to enjoy at no cost to the youth.

Young Community Leader Program - The ECYA oversees this program, which has become part of the Canso Regatta. The local businesses sponsor the youth in this Program. These are fun activities spread over a couple of weeks that teach youth about their communities, how to work together, leadership skills and public speaking. This is a very popular event and has existed for six years, replacing a previous "Princess Pageant" and then later the "Youth Ambassador Program." There is tremendous support from the entire community and it is a wonderful experience for all involved.

Regatta Pageant - This is a Pageant for girls and was discontinued many years ago for lack of interest from the youth. This past year (2009) at the coaxing of the youth the Program restarted. The local area fishermen sponsored about a dozen girls in the return of this event. With the fun the girls had learning, leadership skills, doing photography, public speaking and working hard at a community clean up, just to mention a few things, we will probably see the volunteer committee continue.

Canso & Area Daycare - Volunteer Board of Directors - This the only Day Care in the entire County. This volunteer board works very hard all year long, fund-raising and overseeing the programs and activities of the paid staff.

Breakfast Programs at both local schools - staffed by volunteers, five days a week. The Program at the Fanning Education Centre is held up as an example of a very successful program across Nova Scotia and is staffed by adult volunteers. The Canso Academy program is run by student volunteers. In 2010, our Breakfast Program was the only Nova Scotia Program accepted in the National Program called "Breakfast for Learning" which is a three year commitment worth thousands of dollars in upgrades and coupons.

Stan Rogers Folk Festival (Youth and Senior Component) - This world class festival involved both youth and seniors in their volunteer crews. For the youth that are musically inclined, there are workshops during the Festival that are organized for them. These workshops give the youth a chance to learn from the artists that attend the Stan Rogers Folk Festival every year.

Community Voter Turn Out:

In recent years, with the decline in the fishery and the strain on the local economy Canso Town has gathered residents' opinion on Governance. At the time of this submission we were unable to get the percentage of votes who turned out during an official plebiscite which resulted in 82% voting to remain a Town, but our recollection was around 90%.

In the 2007, Municipal election the voter turn out was more than 70%, one of the best turn outs in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Number of Volunteer Agencies: More than fifty volunteer organizations in the area.