

Understand Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island

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With the fisheries and mines in sharp decline, is fracking for natural gas really the answer?

HISTORY226

Pirates, Vikings and settlers moved in while others got kicked out; Atlantic Canada's history reads like a riveting paperback.

MARITIMES MUSIC233

Long winters keep everyone inside to get creative. In summer, out comes the music, and festivals attract international acts.

ATLANTIC CANADIAN ART..... 237

From photo-perfect paintings of bucolic bliss to statues of fishers carved from old logs, creativity flows freely here.

FOOD & DRINK 241

Whether simple or transformed by the hands of master chefs, Atlantic Canada's seafood and earthly bounty is nothing short of spectacular.

LANDSCAPE & WILDLIFE 247

Thar she blows! Don't hit that moose! And yes, those fossils are billions of years old.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island Today

Should they stay or should they go? These provinces with their scenic coastlines, strong family traditions and low cost of living are certainly enticing places to live and raise a family. But are there enough professional opportunities to keep younger generations from moving away? It takes a certain amount of creativity to survive in Atlantic Canada without living the hard and uncertain life of a fisher or taking on newer, and perhaps unsustainable, career choices in the mining industries.

Top Nonfiction

A Whale for the Killing Farley Mowat
Cornwallis, The Violent Birth of
Halifax Jon Tattrie
My Cross-Country Checkup Walter
 Stewart

Good-Read Novels

The Shipping News E Annie Proulx
Mercy among the Children David
 Adams Richards
Fall on Your Knees Anne-Marie
 MacDonald
Anne of Green Gables Lucy Maud
 Montgomery

Films Shot Here

The Shipping News (2001)
Titanic (1997)
The Memory Keeper's Daughter
 (2008)
Scotland, PA (2001)
The River King (2004)
The Weight of Water (2000)

Hockey Teams

Halifax Mooseheads
Cape Breton Screaming Eagles
PEI Rockets
Moncton Wildcats
Saint John Sea Dogs
Acadie-Bathurst Titans

There's No Place Like Home

Until recently, you could sit down at any dinner table in Atlantic Canada and hear the same thing:

'My ____ [fill in the blank: sister, cousin, neighbor] just left for Alberta to work in the oil fields.'

Outward migration, or 'outmigration,' has been the single biggest issue facing the Atlantic provinces during the past 15 to 25 years, but the region is finally experiencing a small rebound. As the provinces' traditional industries – fishing, logging and mining – continue to fall deeper into decline a glimmer of hope is coming from newer industries, particularly gypsum mining and offshore oil and natural gas.

Although Alberta's oil fields offer high-paying industrial jobs, and plenty of people still leave to make their living where it makes economic sense, the quality of life, low cost of living and hope of finding work closer to home is keeping an increasing number of folks on the Atlantic coasts.

Nova Scotia has been the mover and shaker of the crowd by becoming a hub for Canada's defense and aerospace sector (which also tips into Prince Edward Island). In fact, a surprising 40% of the country's military assets are found in this low-key province. Halifax was also given a massive \$25 billion, 30-year military shipbuilding contract in 2011 from the Canadian government; this will theoretically create more than 10,000 jobs during its time span. While some locals complain that most of the jobs go to skilled workers brought in from other provinces, the economic impact of so many paid employees can only be positive on local businesses.