

# 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?

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

## **MARITIMES MUSIC .....232**

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

## **ATLANTIC CANADIAN ART .....236**

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

## **FOOD & DRINK .....240**

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

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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 enticing places for winter-hardy folks to live and raise a family, but recent years have seen a marked decline in professional opportunities that often leaves ambitious youth little choice but to move away. It takes a certain amount of creativity to survive in Atlantic Canada without living the hard and uncertain life of a fisher.

## Best on Film

### **Children of a Lesser God** (1986)

An award-winning romance between a young deaf woman working as a school custodian and a handsome new teacher. Filmed in New Brunswick.

**Titanic** (1997) James Cameron's Hollywood blockbuster successfully embellishes on the *Titanic's* fateful voyage.

**The River King** (2004) An investigator into the apparent suicide of a young boy at an exclusive school suspects there is more to the story than meets the eye.

## Best in Print

### **The Shipping News** (E Annie Proulx)

A series of tragic events sees an upstate New York reporter relocate to his ancestral home in Newfoundland.

**Anne of Green Gables** (Lucy Maud Montgomery) The famous series featuring a shy, red-haired orphan who was mistakenly sent to a farm on PEI.

### **A Whale for the Killing** (Farley Mowat)

A moving exposé of the cruelty of the centuries-old whaling industry.

**Fall on Your Knees** (Anne-Marie MacDonald) Four sisters and five generations of family secrets.

## 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 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.