



This is
NOVA SCOTIA
Canada's Seacoast

Nova Scotia ~New Discoveries~ Story Ideas

Authentic Culture- Our People

Mi-Carême - For Acadian ancestors, Lent was a time of sacrifice during which time no amusement of any kind was permitted. In order to have a break from the monotony of this 40 day period, on the Thursday marking the exact half time of Lent, people began to disguise themselves and go from house to house while trying to keep their identity a secret. The householders would try to guess who was behind the mask and costume. With time, the Mi-Carême was extended to cover the whole third week of Lent. The festivities now begin on Sunday with an evening called "Laissons entrer les mi-carêmes"(Let the mi-carêmes in), which takes place in the community centre. The evening consists of musical entertainment, dancing, goodies, and of course, mi-carêmes!. The Mi-Carême is officially started! We "run" the Mi-Carême every day and every night of that week and the whole thing comes to a close with another social evening on Saturday night. www.cheticampns.ca

Highland Village, Iona, North America's only living-history museum for Gaelic language and culture is offering Gaelic cultural experiences, including storytelling sessions, singing and ceillidh's in the historic Malagawatch Church and language workshops overlooking the scenic Bras d'Or lakes in Cape Breton. <http://museum.gov.ns.ca>

DRUM! Four Cultures... Four Rhythms...One Heart Is Nova Scotia's spectacular new musical production featuring 20 musicians, dancers, drummers, and singers from four of the principle cultures - Black, Acadian, Aboriginal, and Celtic - brought together in a heart-pumping fusion of music, dance, poetry, video, rhythm, and song. www.drumshow.ca

Cape Breton's Celtic Music Interpretive Centre, Judique, Cape Breton Island. The centre promotes the contemporary, preserves the tradition, and collects the history of Cape Breton music. Features vintage recordings, music and language workshops, special interpretive performances, a photo gallery. Home of the Kintyre Farm Scottish Concert. www.celticmusic.com

Historic Sites – early North American History

The Louisbourg Public Archaeology Program provides a unique opportunity for archaeology enthusiasts to join supervised digs at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada. The 2007 season will focus on field study at the De la Valliere property which was occupied by French, British and New Englanders between 1720 and 1758. The program will consist of two 5-day field sessions in early-mid August. During each session, a crew of 10-12 participants will excavate a portion of the De la Valliere



For more information, go to
www.novascotia.com/travelmedia

property, learn about archaeological field and lab techniques, and attend presentations addressing current historical research at the Fortress. Although the crew will spend much of their time with trowels in hand, there will be ample opportunity for experiencing the sites and sounds of Fortress Louisbourg and exploring the rugged Cape Breton coastline. www.fortressoflouisbourg.ca

Coastal Adventures

What is your summer adventure going to be? Come on a voyage with The Nova Scotia Sea School

For generations Nova Scotians have traveled the coast in small boats, learning wisdom and courage from the sea. Today the **Nova Scotia Sea School** takes young people from around the world out to sea in traditional sailing craft. For fun, and for personal challenge. It's a chance to discover Nova Scotia's heritage and to discover themselves. Five, seven or ten day trips or even a 21 day super voyage.

www.seaschool.org

Are you a Harley Davidson motorcycle Fan?

Vineland Motorcycle Tours now have a supply of Harley Davidson motorcycles for rent. They'll show you a luxury vacation you will remember for years to come. Package tours are designed to provide a 2 to 3 day exceptional motorcycling experience. Their Package partners are located in areas especially selected for central location, scenery and interesting roads. Each unique place has something special to offer.

www.vintour.ca

Cuisine and Wine Scene

Economusee-Grand Pre Winery- Nova Scotia's newest ECONOMUSEE- An economuseum is a craft or agri-food business whose products are the fruit of an authentic technique or know-how. The business showcases artisans and craft trades by offering an area for interpreting its production and by opening its doors to the public. By becoming part of the Atlantic Economuseum network, Domaine de Grand Pre Winery has been selected to represent the rich traditions of wine- making in Atlantic Canada. www.grandprewines.ns.ca

Glenora Distillers International Limited,

Canada's only single malt whisky distillery based in Glenville, Inverness county, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia is pleased to announce that in December Glen Breton Rare, Canada's only single malt whisky was rated as one of the "Top 50 Spirits Worldwide 2006" by Wine Enthusiast Magazine.

www.glenoradistillery.com

Gio

Dubbed a culinary adventure, Gio shines a cutting edge on Halifax's dining scene. A kitchen brigade led by Chef Ray Bear presents an adventure in global, new age cuisine. An encompassing menu is presented in an atmosphere that is modern and chic, surrounding you in the warmth of exotic wood, funky objets d'art and high-style comfort. A lengthy bar and lounge area complements an impressive wine and cocktail selection and a semi-private room offers an intimate feature table for group dining.

www.giohalifax.com

Mosaic- A New Halifax Dining Experience

Mosaic Social Dining Lounge reinterprets the centuries old global tradition of communal dining, offering a modern twist to those who hunger for diversity. Located in downtown Halifax, Mosaic combines food, wine & drink in a flirtatious décor. Designed to be shared, their small plates take influence from around the world to offer a dining experience unlike any other in Halifax. There are no limitations to the evening, letting your instincts guide you while creating your own culinary and drinking experience. Argyle Street, Halifax

Natural Wonders

Raft the Roller Coaster Rapids- As the highest tides on earth pour into the Bay of Fundy, it brings an excitement that takes over. Take part in the adventure. Try tidal bore rafting on the Shubenacadie River where the tides actually reverse the flow of the river. A number of operators provide this exhilarating ride. www.tidalboreraftingpark.com

www.shubie.com, www.tidalborerafting.com

Nature

Greenwing Legacy Interpretive Centre and wetlands

This new Ducks Unlimited project located at Shubenacadie Wildlife Park features hands-on exhibits, nature trails (handicap accessible) interactive displays & classrooms with a special focus on conservation education for children.

<http://wildlifepark.gov.ns.ca>

Fossils, Bones & Semi Precious Stones

The Joggins Fossil Cliffs along Nova Scotia's Bay of Fundy coastline are renowned for extensive deposits of 300 million year old fossils. A 10mile site development is being planned for the Joggins Fossil Cliffs including a new interpretive centre which is opening in Fall 2007. Efforts are also currently underway to attain UNESCO World Heritage Site Designation for the area.

www.jogginsfossilcliffs.net

Accolades/Anniversaries

The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Pipefest Nova Scotia

American Bus Association has selected the Tattoo as the Top Event in Canada for 2007. In conjunction with this major event, On July 8th Halifax will host an estimated 1,000 pipers from all over the world. During the matinee they will parade downtown ending up marching into the Tattoo performance.

www.nstatattoo.ca

Happy Birthday Maritime Museum of the Atlantic!

For the past 25 years, the Museum has become a fixture on the Halifax Waterfront, serving as a steward of Nova Scotia's rich marine heritage, and a repository of artifacts from a century of seafaring.

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca>

Statue of Sir Samuel Cunard unveiled- On October 2006, a monument celebrating the legacy of Sir Samuel Cunard, a Halifax, Nova Scotia native who revolutionized commerce and communications between continents by successfully introducing steamships to the North Atlantic nearly two centuries ago was dedicated on the Halifax seawall.

www.portofhalifax.ca

Transportation News

Halifax Stanfield International has more flights to more destinations than any other airport in Atlantic Canada providing passengers and cargo clients with access to markets across the country, the United States and Europe. The Airport welcomes more than three million passengers each year. HSIA has earned two first-place finishes in the 2006 Airport Service Quality survey, a global airport customer service ranking program. www.halifaxairport.com

United Airlines landed in Halifax with Non-stop Daily service to **Washington, D.C** and **Chicago O'Hare**. United Airlines offers daily non-stop service from Halifax International Airport to Washington, Dulles. United's regional partner Shuttle America now operates the route utilizing a 70-seat Embraer 170 regional jet. The Washington flight marked United Airlines first operation in Halifax and marks a long-overdue return of a non-stop flight from the Atlantic region to the U.S. Capital. www.united.ca

Icelandair will again take off from Halifax, beginning with its summer schedule in 2007. There will be three flights per week, on Mon, Thu and Sat, departing from Halifax at 10:00pm and arriving in Keflavik, Iceland the following morning at 5:15am. There, passengers can connect onwards to Icelandair's many other destinations in Scandinavia, Continental Europe and the United Kingdom. The return flights to Halifax are scheduled to depart Iceland at 6:45pm and arrive in Halifax at 8:20pm. www.icelandair.com

American Eagle, added nonstop service between New York LaGuardia Airport and Halifax International Airport, beginning Dec. 14, 2006. American Eagle will operate one daily round-trip flight between the two cities using 37-seat Embraer 135 regional jet aircraft. This new service will give travelers in New York additional access to Eastern Canada and will allow them to take advantage of new U.S. Customs pre-clearance procedures in Halifax. American Eagle also will continue to serve Halifax from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport with two daily round trips. www.ae.com

In addition to **Air Canada's** daily, year round, non stop **Halifax – London Heathrow** service- Air Canada now offers non stop service between **New York LaGuardia and Halifax**. The route will be operated by Air Canada's Jazz unit using a 50-seat Bombardier CRJ regional aircraft. Flights will depart Halifax at 11:45 a.m. and arrive in New York at 12:30 p.m. They will leave New York at 1 p.m. and arrive in Halifax at 3:40 p.m.

Zoom Airlines has recently announced the introduction of two new scheduled transatlantic services from Halifax commencing in early June. Zoom will add air service from Halifax to Paris and Belfast. Zoom airlines is the only Canadian air carrier servicing these destinations from Halifax and will operate both routes through to October.

Festivals, Exhibits & Special Events

Cabot Trail- 75th Anniversary/ Lobsterpalooza 2007 May 27-July 1

- This year the Cabot Trail celebrates its 75th Anniversary with Lobsterpalooza. Visit Nova Scotia's world famous scenic drive, the Cabot Trail, for a taste of mouthwatering seafood and its coastal communities' seafaring traditions. A jam-packed calendar of events awaits the largest "festival" of its kind- 185 miles of seafood.

www.lobsterpalooza.ca

International Gathering of Titanic Societies – April 13-15, 2007

A number of Titanic Societies from around the world including representatives from Swiss, Swedish, British, German, Irish and of course our friends from Titanic International and Canadian Societies will be present at a 95th Memorial Weekend visit to Halifax (N.S.) from April 13th - 15th 2007. Many hundreds are expected to attend. However this is not just for Society members it is for all those who have an interest in the *Titanic*, at any level, as there will be a number of distinguished historians to ask questions or just to have a friendly chat with ... all are welcome.

www.titanic95th.co.uk

Tall Ships visit Halifax - 2007 & 2009

The Halifax Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd has signed agreements with the American Sail Training Association and Sail Training International Group Ltd to bring the highly popular tall ships events to Halifax in 2007 and 2009. [The 2007 Tall Ships Challenge](http://www.wdcl.ca) will start in the United States and head along the east coast to Nova Scotia. The fleet participating in the 2009 event will arrive in Halifax in July after a series of races that will begin in Spain. www.wdcl.ca

2007 International Gathering of the Clans

The quadrennial "International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia" is a function of the Federation of Scottish Clans. Official opening will be on April 06 2007 which also commemorates the 20th Anniversary of Tartan Day. Official Flag Raising takes place at the Hector Heritage Centre, Pictou. <http://scotns.chebucto.org/igc2007.html>

Night at the Museum- Just like the hit movie! Nightwatch Sleepover at the Maritime

Museum of the Atlantic Museums take on a whole different appearance once they are closed for the evening. Imagine having one all to yourself for an entire night. This is all possible with Night Watch, an awesome overnight adventure at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, in the heart of the historic Halifax waterfront! You and your group will have an all access pass to one of the coolest museums in Atlantic Canada!

www.heritageexplorers.com ,
<http://museum.gov.ns.ca>

Second Intern, International Ukulele Ceilidh – Oct 25-28, 2007.

Organizers for the Second International Ukulele Ceilidh recently announced that the 2007 edition of the spectacularly popular event will be held October 25-28, 2007 in Liverpool, Nova Scotia. "We're very excited about the prospects for next year's ceilidh," says organizing co-chairperson, Susan Borgersen, "and that in great measure is due to the outstanding success of the first International Ukulele Ceilidh in 2005." More information is available at www.ukulele.ca

Unique Learning Adventures

The Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts
The Gaelic College was founded in 1938 by Rev. A.W.R. MacKenzie as a school devoted to the study and preservation of the Gaelic language and Celtic arts and culture. Situated in the heart of the earliest Scottish settlement in Cape Breton, the College began as a school of Gaelic language in a small log cabin overlooking St. Ann's Bay. Today they offer a wide range of study and other activities through their Summer School sessions. Weekend learning sessions teach you Highland Bagpipe, Cape Breton fiddle, step dance, drumming, Gaelic language and song, weaving and Bodhran.
www.gaeliccollege.edu

Lunenburg Seaside Craft School
Lunenburg Seaside Craft School offers week-long courses as well as two and three-day workshops in traditional crafts for adults and youth during July and August. Taught by some of Nova Scotia's leading artisans, courses offered include Clay work, Fibre Arts, Basketry, Shibori, Paper Arts, Rug Hooking, Tile Making, Stained Glass, Mosaics and Painting on Location. Classes are held on the top floor of historic Lunenburg Academy where students can enjoy wonderful vistas of land and sea and the Fisheries Museum, one of the most popular destinations on Nova Scotia's Atlantic shore.
www.lunenburgcraftschool.com

Surf Camps - Strap on a wet suit, it's time to try surfing! Seafarers have experienced the tremendous wrath of the Atlantic Ocean for hundreds of years. There are two areas in the region that offer the best surfing opportunities. The South Shore of Nova Scotia is one; Lawrencetown Beach just outside of Halifax is another. These regions provide some of the best surfing opportunities and challenges on the eastern seaboard. Surfers are hard pressed to find any crowds, thus adding to the beauty of it all. **Rossignol Surf Shop** offers 'Learn to Surf Clinics' and 'Surf Camps' at nearby White Point Beach Resort. This facility with a good break beach and a fresh water lake provides the perfect pedagogical setting. .

www.surfnovascotia.com Closer to Halifax is **Dacane Sports offers Billabong Surf Camps.** Participate in a 1/2 day, or full day camps and in no time you'll be riding the waves on Lawrencetown Beach – the mecca for east coast surfers!
www.hurricanesurf.com

Travel Trade News

New Hotel Developments
Downtown Halifax skyline is changing with the addition of the newly built **Courtyard by Marriott Hotel.** Opening in Spring 2007 its design blends in with the adjacent historic 1800's iron stone Brewery Market buildings. Located on the waterfront in the Alexander Keiths Historic District.

Springfield Suites by Marriott- Located at Dartmouth's newest retail development - Dartmouth Crossing. With plans to open in 2008 this 150 room hotel is a welcome addition to this diverse new shopping complex and will bring the total number of Halifax Marriott properties up to 4 within a 4 year period. This is a commitment and testament to the solid Halifax Tourism market.

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