

Return *to* Acadie



EXPLORE The Clare / Argyle Region

After the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763 ending the Seven Years War, the only place that remained French territory in North America were the small islands of Saint Pierre et Miquelon located off the coast of Newfoundland.



While in Clare, enjoy le Rendez-vous de la Baie, Saint Mary's Church, Mavillette Beach, Belliveau's Cove, la Vieille Maison Acadienne, Point-à-Major and Smugglers' Cove.



Distance from Annapolis Royal

The Municipality of Clare is an hour drive from Annapolis Royal, and one can easily use Annapolis Royal as a home base. The Municipality of Argyle is around 2 hours away. Yarmouth is located between Clare and Argyle.

Acadians returning from exile could not resettle on the rich farmlands they had called home. These lands were given by the Governor of Nova Scotia to 8,000 settlers from the British Colonies of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, known as the New England Planters. Some of the Acadians who returned to Nova Scotia settled in Argyle starting in 1767, while others started settling in Clare in 1768. Fishing replaced farming as the main industry.

The Pubnico area in Argyle is the only region in Nova Scotia where Acadians still live on the same lands on which their ancestors resided. Clare is the largest of the French speaking Acadian areas of Nova Scotia.



In Argyle visit Sainte-Anne's Parish Church, Historic Acadian Village, Acadian Museum of Pubnico West, Argyle Township Court House, and the Wedgeport Tuna Museum.

Yarmouth and The Cat Ferry are conveniently located to both Clare and Argyle Acadian regions.



The Municipalities of Clare and Argyle are proud to host the 2024 World Congress of Acadians. Be sure to book early, because summer is a very busy time in Nova Scotia. www.cma2024.ca

WHAT TO SEE & DO

1. Belliveau Cove
2. Pointe-à-Major
3. St. Mary's Church
4. Rendez-vous de la Baie
5. La Vieille Maison Acadienne
6. Smugglers Cove
7. Mavillette Beach
8. Acadian Museum Pubnico West
9. Historic Acadian Village
10. Sainte-Anne's Parish Church
11. Argyle Township Court House
12. Wedgeport Tuna Museum



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For more about Return to Acadie attractions, maps, videos, history, recipes, music and dances visit: www.ExplorerGuide.ca/acadians.html

EXPLORE The Clare/Argyle Region**Return to Acadie****1. Belliveau Cove Municipal Park**

Located about 59 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 3255 Highway 1 in Belliveau Cove, the Belliveau Cove Municipal Park offers many experiences allowing visitors to learn more about the Acadian way of life in the Municipality of Clare. You can walk the 5 kilometre trail and see Saint Mary's Bay and its shoreline. The park features a wharf, lighthouse, a Farmer's Market every Saturday from 10am to 2pm from May to September, as well as "Les Beaux Vendredis" Lobster and Seafood Suppers where visitors can mingle with local Acadians. From June to September folks can try their hand digging clams by partaking in the Clam Digging Experience. There is something for everyone to explore.

2. Pointe-à-Major Historic Site

Located about 50 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 245 Doucette Point Road, the Pointe-à-Major Historic Site where Pierre "Piau" Belliveau, his family and about 100 refugees spent the winter of 1755-1756 after escaping the Deportation at Annapolis Royal in 1755. Those who did not survive the winter are likely buried in the vicinity. The following Spring, the survivors crossed the Bay of Fundy seeking shelter in areas that the British did not control. This is the location of the oldest Acadian Cemetery in Clare and where Acadians celebrated the first mass in Clare. Joseph and Marie Dugas and family were the first Acadians to settle permanently in Clare when they came in 1768. The area between Saint Bernard and Church Point had 30 families 6 years later. The cemetery was in use until 1790.

3. Sainte-Marie Church

Located in the Acadian community of Church Point at 1713 Highway

1, Sainte-Marie Church is the largest wooden church in North America. Construction began in 1903 and completed in 1905, a short timeframe for such an amazing structure. The construction was led by master carpenter Leo Melanson with the help of 1,500 volunteers from the parish. Leo Melanson could not read nor write, but he knew how to build. Unfortunately, the church was closed in 2023. It is located about 1 hour from Annapolis Royal. The parish cemetery is located across the street from the church.

4. Le Rendez-vous de la Baie Visitor Centre

Located at 23 Lighthouse Road on the University Sainte-Anne campus in Church Point, about 55 minutes from Annapolis Royal, le Rendez-vous de la Baie Visitor Centre is the ideal venue to learn more about what to see and do in the Municipality of Clare. By consulting with the staff you can find how best to explore the cultural and natural heritage of the Acadians of Clare. The interpretive centre, located within the complex, will help you gain a better understanding of the history of the largest Acadian region in Nova Scotia.

5. La Vieille Maison Acadienne

Located about 63 minutes from Annapolis Royal on Highway 1 in Meteghan, La Vieille Maison Acadienne was built in 1796 in Church Point by Acadians who came from exile and settled in Clare. Many call it the best-preserved post-Acadian Deportation house in Canada. The dwelling was moved to its present location in 1958 when Adolph Robichaud, an Acadian who went to Boston and gained fame as a ballet teacher in Boston, bought the property to create a museum to

interpret post-exile Acadian history. It operated as a museum until 2002 and is now in need of repairs. A new group of volunteers have taken up the dream of re-opening La Vieille Maison Acadienne to the public. They recently won \$10,000.00 in a nation-wide contest sponsored by The National Trust for Canada. Despite the win, more funds will be necessary to complete the project. Any help is greatly appreciated.

6. Smuggler's Cove Provincial Park

Located about 70 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 7651 Highway 1 in Meteghan, Smuggler's Cove was a centre of rum running in Clare during prohibition in the 1920s. The sheltered coastal inlet gave access to a cave where the liquor could be deposited and then retrieved while working with the tides. There are picnic tables where you can enjoy wonderful vistas of Saint Mary's Bay and the rocky cliffs surrounding the cove. If you are more adventurous you can climb down the stairway and walk the shore of the cove at low tide.

7. Mavillette Beach Provincial Park

Located about 75 minutes from Annapolis Royal between 295-395 John Doucette Road in Mavillette, Mavillette Beach is one of the nicest beaches in Nova Scotia. It is about 1.5 km of sandy beach with fragile marram grass-covered dunes behind the beach. The park offers change houses, vault toilets, and freshwater taps. For the birdwatchers there are viewing platforms. There are parking areas with boardwalks providing access to the beach. Minutes away from Mavillette Beach is the Cape Saint Mary Lighthouse Park.

8. Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos

Located about 1 hour and 51 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 898 Route 335 in West Pubnico, the museum has a very good collection of artefacts, documents, photographs, literature, an Acadian Garden (potager), an aboiteau to help interpret the Acadian story.

The Father Clarence d'Entremont Research Centre and Archives, housed with the museum, contains a treasure trove of information for Acadians trying to research their roots. The Pubnico area is a wonderful Acadian community; why not start your visit right here.

9. Historic Acadian Village

Located about 1 hour and 56 minutes from Annapolis Royal on 91 Old Church Road in Lower West Pubnico, the Historic Acadian Museum of Nova Scotia depicts life in an early 1900s Acadian village. Pubnico was established by Sieur Philippe Mius d'Entremont in 1653. The Pubnico area is the only place that descendants of the original Acadian settlers live on the same land their ancestors inhabited before the 1755 Deportation. The 17 acre site has buildings that visitors can enter and interact with interpreters in period costumes to learn about Acadian life. There are small farm animals, a wharf, lighthouse, an amphitheatre, and a visitor reception centre with a boutique as well as a cafe where you can delight in traditional Acadian food. This is a must for all visitors coming to Nova Scotia.

10. Sainte-Anne's Parish Church

Located about 1 hour and 35 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 7309 Lighthouse Route in Sainte-Anne du Ruisseau, Sainte-Anne Church Parish is recognized as the oldest Acadian Parish on mainland Nova Scotia. In 1767, Acadians who returned and settled in the area built a small chapel here for services. After Father Sigogne's arrival in the area in 1799 to serve the growing Acadian population, a larger church was constructed in 1808. Unfortunately, a fire in 1900 rapidly burned it to the ground. The strong religious faith and the determination of the Acadians led to the large present-day Sainte-Anne Church being completed in roughly 6 months and this 1900 structure still acts as a place of worship for today's Acadians parishioners. The Parish Cemetery is located across the road.

11. Argyle Township Court House, Archives & Museum

Located about 1 hour and 35 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 8162 and 8168 Highway 3 in Tusket, the Archives house a collection of Argyle Township Municipal Records, private sector archival material generated by the surrounding community such as family histories, genealogy records, a large photo collection, church records, business records and the largest collection of micro-films in the area. There is often a genealogist on hand to help researchers. The museum is located in the Argyle Township Courthouse which is Canada's oldest standing Courthouse and jail. Both the Courthouse and Jail dealt with judiciary matters and penal sentences from its construction in 1805 until 1944.

12. Wedgeport Tuna Museum

Located about 1 hour and forty minutes from Annapolis Royal at 57 Tuna Wharf Road in Lower Wedgeport, the Wedgeport Tuna Museum and Interpretive Centre feature displays that interpret Wedgeport as the Sport Tuna Fishing Capital of the World. Look at the interpretive displays, fish tank, watch videos and try the touch tank. Discover some Acadian history as well because after the Deportation, Acadians who settled in Argyle had to look to the sea rather than the land as their main source of livelihood. Do not miss the 2023 Wedgeport Tuna Festival.



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Southwest Nova Scotia
www.cma2024.ca

