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# Municipality of And Scotia

### SEA, SKY, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

rgyle, officially named the Municipality of the District of Argyle, is a municipality in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia. It occupies the southwestern tip of the province and is one of three municipal units in the county - the other two being the Town of Yarmouth and the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth. Argyle is a bilingual community, in which native speakers of English and French each account for about half the population. As of 2016, 60 percent of the population speaks both French and English; one of the highest rates of bilingualism in Canada.

It is a region rich in Acadian history and culture, and home to the oldest region still inhabited by Acadian descendants. In June 1762, when the first census of Nova Scotia was taken, there were two small Planter settlements in what is now Argyle, at Abuptic (present-day Argyle) and

# MUNICIPALITY OF ARGYLE, NOVA SCOTIA

WHAT: A heritage-proud district municipality; population 8,000

WHERE: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia

WEBSITE: www.munargyle.com



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Pubnico, totaling 22 households. Argyle Township was officially incorporated by the provincial legislature in 1771; supposedly by that time it had reached the required 50 families. Today this seaside setting is more than beautiful; it's a means of livelihood and a playground for exploring and relaxing. Fishing, shipbuilding, trading – the coast and its offshore resources, have led the ancestors to put down roots in this area; and the same relationship keeps us here today. For despite all the changes across four centuries, the ocean and the inter-tidal zones remain at the economic heart of the municipality. Nature provides the bounty we harvest and treasure.

Community Development Officer, Charlene LeBlanc, is a champion of today's thriving Municipality of Argyle and not just because it's in her job description. Like every one of its 8,000 residents and countless tourists, she is smitten with the history, the culture, and the downright magical

atmosphere of this friendly, hard-working community on the sea. "I've only worked for the municipality for three years," says LeBlanc, "but I've lived here all my life. Argyle is 73 kilometers long from end to end and much of it is on the water - like a hand with fingers jutting into the sea. So, it's can be a long drive, but as the crow flies, we're not really far from each other. Our people are our biggest asset and have a lot here to highlight!"

Among projects Argyle is currently working on

are alternate and affordable housing for seniors, and a new directional signage project for which they're now accepting applications. To attract new business, the municipality is promoting its business park and sales of sites on the property are going well. The latest venture is a micro-brewery and is the first producer of craft beer in the municipality.

One of the most pronounced developments is in aquaculture. LeBlanc notes, "We presently have



an aquaculture farm for oysters. It's a private-ly-owned business, but we are working to create a 'Business Park on the Sea.' We definitely have a lot of potential in the water. We received money from the province to make an online website with maps and information about nutrients and water quality, so investors can easily apply for leases for aquaculture. We're halfway through that funding – we've been testing the waters and have sites chosen already."

Fishing (primarily lobster) has been the main economic driver for three-and-a-half generations. And with that comes a plethora of spin-off businesses that add to the municipal coffers and employment - boat building shops; fish processing (lobsters and ground fish and oysters, oh my!), fishing gear, assorted and sundry fishing products, repairs, and fish exports. This region has the only



manufacturer of sea cucumbers in Atlantic Canada. Trucking and transportation is big business – as the locals say, "When fishing goes good, everything goes good."

Through a large social media presence, Argyle is actively trying to get the word out about who

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they are and what they're doing. The social marketing and the rare Dark Sky certification is making a huge difference in tourism rates. Visitors come for the delicious culinary seafood delights and stay to experience the Starlight Destination and a taste of rich Acadian history.

LeBlanc reports, "We have a lot of tourism opportunities, including the darkest skies and a privately-owned observatory. Our storied region constitutes the first certified UNESCO-Starlight Tourist Destination in North America. It's a combination of scientific exploration and tourism. We have a Dark Sky Preserve and we have a team working to keep it dark - meaning no light pollution. Tourism operators and others are creating different experiences such as night walks to see the skies. We also have a Starlight Festival."

Culinary expertise is abundant in the Argyle region. With all those extraordinarily fresh offerings from the sea, is it any wonder? Out of the Ten Best Places to Eat in Nova Scotia, three are in the Municipality of Argyle. LeBlanc adds, "We have a big history with a world-famous Tuna Tournament that started in 1937 and attracted celebrities

#### THE STARLIGHT FESTIVAL

Join us to celebrate a "window on the universe" unique in Canada and the United States. The clear and dark skies of southwestern Nova Scotia, Canada allow for jaw-dropping views of the night-time sky and Milky Way!

The 6th Annual Starlight Festival in the Acadian Skies and Mi'kmaq Lands Region will offer events throughout Argyle, Clare, and Yarmouth Municipalities, from September 1st to 22rd, 2018!

More information is available at:

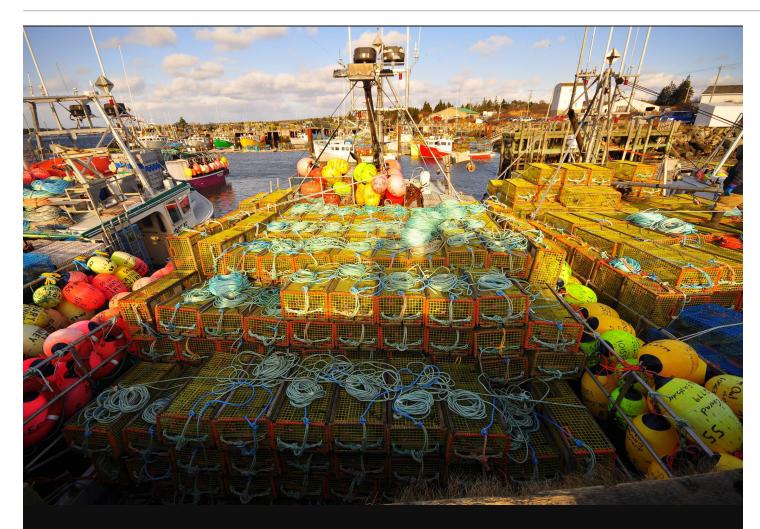
■ http://www.novascotia.com/events/festivalsand-events/6th-annual-starlight-festival/-3810

#### **SEEING IS BELIEVING**

Experience the Municipality of Argyle's endearing community spirit and down-home reality through this collection of short promo videos that truly pluck at the heart strings.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Bm1vFIJqng
  A Place We Are Proud to Call Home video
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xi4DUw9dZZ0
  A video produced with the nearby school. Prime Minister
  Justin Trudeau saw it and sent the school a letter
  expressing his appreciation
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkW2GCrcPdg
  Down the hatch... mmm... Oysters
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyHsUSVsAyY
  Tusket Island Tours. A place of awesomeness and history.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmP\_6kbGjrw Features the Dennis point wharf, (the largest commercial wharf in Atlantic Canada), and the Historic Acadian Village
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eBZKBA4\_AU
  The wind farm (first in Nova Scotia) in the community
  of West Pubnico

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like Babe Ruth, Amelia Earhart, and Ernest Hemingway. The tuna stayed until the 1970s, and then dwindled, but since then it's come back, and we've had the Tuna Tournament, once again, for the last five years."

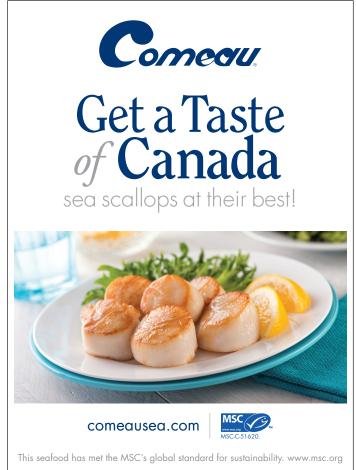
Municipality of Argyle Clerk, Chris Frotten, speaks to the area's environmental and sustainable initiatives. "Renewable energy is here, in terms of tidal, wind, and solar power. We had the first wind farm in Nova Scotia – 17 turbines that have been running for almost 20 years now. The operation is owned by private interests but power is sold back to the grid. Argyle does have a green energy partnership with our two neighboring municipality units. We have two turbines from which we sell

power to the grid as a revenue source for the municipality. And the group we're part of is looking at solar power now, because that's the next program the province is coming out with."

So, what makes Argyle "The Place People Are Proud to Call Home"? Here are just a few reasons:

Tusket Island and Seal Island are havens for historical lore and descendants of the original Acadian families. These are the oldest regions inhabited by the French Acadians, where tall (but true) tales like this one abound: Back in the day, the island of Outer Bald was formally declared as the Principality of Outer Baldonia, and legally recognized by the province of Nova Scotia as a principality, with its own





bylaws and even had its own currency. Believe it.

Newcomers to Argyle say it has the best pace of living and ocean views. Long-timers tell you it's the only place tourists can get welcomed into the house for a cup of tea. The construction industry is busier that it has been for some time. All the people are volunteers. When something needs to get done, they get together and it gets done. Municipal initiatives are focusing on engaging entrepreneurs and people who want to have their own business. There is freedom to do things – green spaces, recreation, and that elusive taste of home that's missing in large cities.

#### PREFERRED VENDOR

■ Comeau Seafoods www.comeausea.com



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