

Glance Bay

Dear Selection Committee,

BayItForward is honoured to be partnering with some amazing community members to nominate Glance Bay for the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award.

BayItForward is a Community Development Society that was incorporated on the initiative of a group of community members, ex-pats, and business owners who share a common interest in shaping a positive future for Glance Bay. Our focus is to build partnerships to promote and advance economic, cultural, and social growth in the community of Glance Bay.

We aim to focus on existing assets to propel the community forward; to effectively engage our youth; connect local assets, resources, heritage and social capital to diversify Glance Bay's economic development and promote its value proposition; engage community leadership; develop Glance Bay's 'Brand', its Arts, Entertainment and Cultural district; promote and support entrepreneurship and raise community awareness.

Our desired outcome is that Glance Bay is seen as an attractive place to live, work, play and invest. Other communities that have fallen on hard times have 're-invented' themselves based on their value proposition. Glance Bay has a value proposition. Residents need to be inspired to BELIEVE. Others need to be made AWARE.



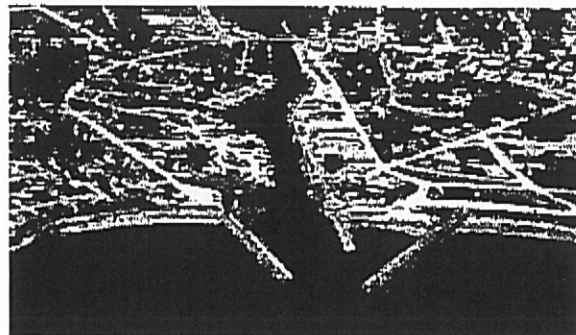
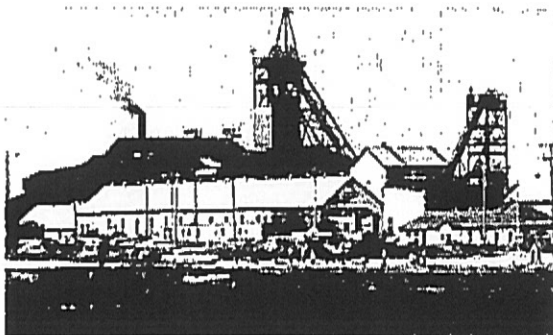
Our History

Glance Bay (Scottish Gaelic: Glasbaidh) is a community in the eastern part of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. First settled in 1785 once an independently incorporated town (1901–1995), the municipal government in Glance Bay was dissolved and the community has been amalgamated into the larger regional municipality. Prior to amalgamation, Glance Bay had been the province's fourth largest urban area and was the largest town in Nova Scotia (in population) and during the 1940s was recognized as the largest populated town in Canada.

The growth and development of Glance Bay is closely linked to the coal mining industry. Glance Bay was once a coal mining community and at its high point had eleven mines operational, employed over 10,000, and was responsible for 40% of Canada's coal production. The last coal mine was closed in 1984 having a huge economic impact on the community. Today the Miners Museum in Glance Bay provides an educational experience to tourist, residents and youth on the life of a miner underground.

Fishing has been a prominent industry in the town since the early 1900s. Glance Bay was once home to a very busy commercial fishing industry. Glance Bay's natural protected harbour provided employment for hundreds of fishers and in fish processing. Depletion of fish stocks in the late 1980s and early 1990s, however, led to a downturn in the industry. Recently there has been a resurgence in the fishing industry.

Glance Bay takes great pride in its heritage, and boasts a thriving art scene that is reflective of its diverse cultural history. We have a vibrant entertainment scene where performances of theatre, music, and dance occur regularly. Music and art enrich our community by connecting people through the power of music. Glance Bay is home to the ninety year old Savoy Theatre, Cape Breton's entertainment and cultural showcase.

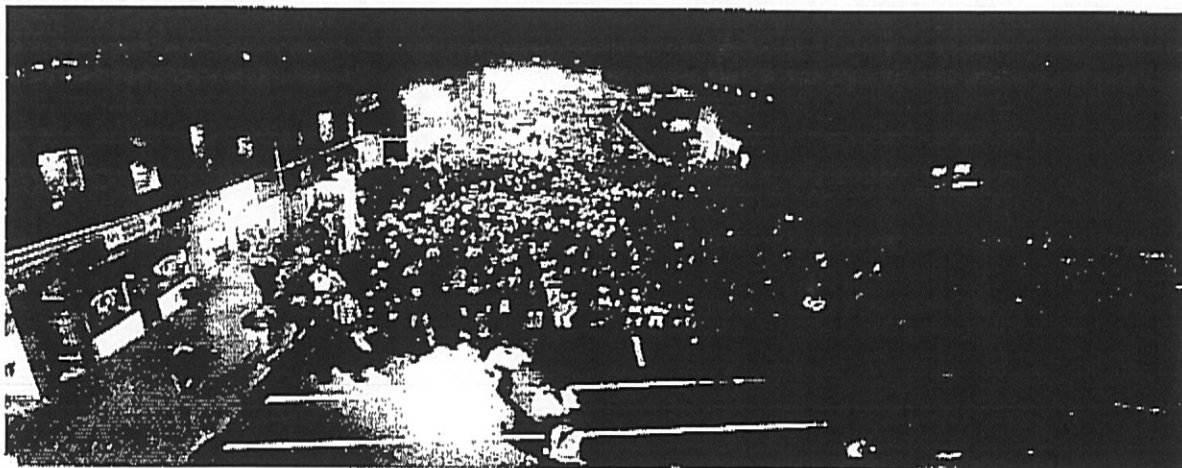


BayItForward

With the closure of our mining industry in 1984 and the downturn in the fishery resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs, Glace Bay's population declined and our Business Community struggled. BayItForward was created in 2016 and identified the need to bring our community together for positive change. Community gatherings were organized, surveys were conducted with an overwhelming response that the residents wanted to become engaged, wanted to be part of implementing change. Bayitforward has done tremendous work in identifying what matters to Glace Bay, engaging the community and making sure we're maximizing our potential.

BayItForward identified our community assets and strengths, emphasizing on what we have in order to improve community life. Glace Bay is home to three amazing museums; Miners Museum, Old Town Hall and Marconi National Historic Site. Other notable assets are our Historic Savoy Theatre, working harbour, ocean shore line and of course our people. With an increase in tourism, the Miners Museum is now the number one destination for Cruise Ship passengers with yearly visitors surpassing 16,000.

Glace Bay's successes are being noticed across the country. Toronto Globe and Mail had a reporter visit for a story, Rogers Hometown Hockey celebrated in Glace Bay and recently the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia and RBC identified BayItForward with a grant to work with youth groups within the community.



Engaging the community is a top priority. Since our inception we have organized many community events. All were very well attended and very successful. In 2017, for the first time since 1984, there was a Xmas light-up in our downtown core. Thousands attended. Same result in 2018.

- community gatherings (17)
- senior socials (7)
- youth conferences (2)
- vendor markets (3)
- business socials (5)
- Xmas light-ups (2)
- International Women's Day Celebrations (2)
- Community cleanups (4)

BayItForward understands that we can not accomplish change on our own and the importance of forming partnerships and collaborating with others on community and economic initiatives. Working together has proven to be very successful and rewarding. We had the opportunity to form many of these partnerships bringing multiple groups together at times. Some examples of partnership;

- BayItForward, New Aberdeen Revitalization, Department of Community Services, Town Daycare and Glace Bay Food Bank to create and a community garden
- BayItForward, Undercurrent Youth Centre and Common Good Solutions for a youth conference
- BayItForward, Savoy Theatre and Cape Breton Chamber of Commerce for a business social
- BayItForward and Cape Breton Environmental Association to celebrate World Oceans Day with a Community Cleanup at Bridgeport Beach
- BayItForward and Cape Breton Regional Municipality for a Community Cleanup
- BayItForward and Glace Bay Citizen Service League to collect winter jackets for those less fortunate.
- BayItForward and Old Town Hall celebrating Mother's Day
- BayItForward and Navigate for a business round table
- BayItForward, Glace Bay Minor Hockey, John Bernard Croak Branch #3 Legion and Cape Breton Regional Municipality for Rogers Hometown Hockey

Music in the Bay Summer Music Series

Bayitforward

Each Week throughout the summer local musicians perform before large crowds in our Town Square. We promote our many youth who showing an increased interest in music. International Students perform their traditional music and dance.

Undercurrent Youth Centre

Dave Sawler is Executive Director.

The Undercurrent Youth Centre has been in operation for 8 years offering youth space for music, mentorship, recreation including floor hockey, basketball, skateboarding, dance fitness, indoor rock climbing slack lining, life skills and many other games and programs. Currently Undercurrent has in excess of 400 youth utilize their facility each week.

Along with our regular weekly programs, Undercurrent hosts many extra kid, youth, and family events. Our summer programs include weekly hike / adventure days across Cape Breton, sports programs, youth camps, and other recreation opportunities.

Undercurrent Youth Centre, Glace Bay Food Bank and Glace Bay Citizen Service League partner each summer for a summer breakfast program as a continuation of the School Program while school is closed for the summer.

Town House

Ed Beaton is Executive Director

Town House believes in community engagement, forging partnerships and consultation. We aim to involve community members in our programs and activities. We seek to include a variety stakeholders such as other non-profit organizations, faith groups, health and mental health organizations, schools and post secondary institutions, businesses, service clubs, senior's groups, and politicians.

Established in 1967, Glace Bay Citizens Service League is a volunteer based non-profit, charitable organization which offers programs that improve the quality of life of the community of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada, and surrounding areas, in response to needs identified by residents.

Town House presents several programs throughout the year. Preschool, Summer Day Camp, March Break Program, March Break Camp, The Back Pack Program, Senior Brunch Program, Senior Contact Program, Meals on Wheels, Community Friends and a Clothing Depot.

Town House offers a wide variety of courses to the community and is open to requests for new courses. The following courses are scheduled regularly and registrations are accepted on an ongoing basis: Safe Boating Course, Babysitting Course, First Aid/CPR, Defensive Driving Course and Tai Chi for Arthritis.

Cape Breton Environmental Association

Dylan Yates is Coordinator

Cape Breton Environmental Association's mission is to spread environmental awareness through participation and education.

Cape Breton Environmental Association (CBEA) is a volunteer community-based organization. Founded in 2017. Its original mission was to help curb Cape Breton's ongoing illegal dumping issue but has since grown into a diverse organization which offers environmental awareness through education and participation. Since its establishment CBEA has been responsible for a variety of community based environmental initiatives all made possible by passionate volunteers.

Glace Bay Community Commons

Community Society

The Community Commons located at South Street Ball Park opened in 2018. A playground, splash pad and basketball court are available for the children's entertainment. The park is now open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m, but it can be accessed before and after those times. On warm days there will be over 100 children playing in the park.

Glace Bay Festival Society

Linda McCrae is Committee Member

Bay Days Summer Festival has been celebrating summer in Glace Bay for over 25 years. For a week each summer there is a parade, music, vendors markets, antique car shows, family day, youth events and games ending with one of Cape Breton largest fireworks displays. Thousands attend the festivities.

The last couple of years Bay Days has integrated our International Students into our program with their traditional song and dance. With today's technology they are able to broadcast their performances in real time to their family and friends at home.

Vince Ryan Memorial Hockey Tournament

Ritchie Warren is Tournament Chair

The tournament sprouted from the established Devco Old-timers Hockey League. The Devco League, formed in 1983, began with just 4 teams. Its purpose was to give coal miners aged 35 and older a chance to get together on Sunday evening to play some hockey. In 1989, they decided to hold a tournament to benefit the local community and the Vince Ryan Tournament was born. Although Devco is now defunct, the League still exists and Devco teams continue to participate in the tournament every year

Every year, approximately 160 teams from across Canada and the United States and recently a team from the Netherlands, bringing thousands of players to 10 rinks across the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) in Nova Scotia. Scholarships are provided to all Cape Breton High Schools.

Conclusion

Glace Bay, after many year's of population decline and businesses struggling, is beginning to see change. Invigorated by BayItForward, Glace Bay is seeing a resurgence in Community Pride and interest from new businesses start-ups and expansions.

Our volunteers are the back bone to our success. With our numerous community events we are never in need of volunteers and their dedicated service are priceless. Our dedicated volunteers cover all ages and each brings a unique skill. Glace Bay consistently has volunteers receive recognition for their services at all levels of Government.

During the last couple of years, community groups in Glace Bay have become more engaged, bringing new ideas and vision to our future. The music and arts industry has seen youth involvement grow dramatically. The residents of Glace Bay are just so more engaged and supportive of the community. To us, the Community Spirit in Glace Bay has been rekindled and we can look to the future with a feeling of positivity and hope.

**Lieutenant Governor's Community Award
Criteria Checklist**



Community Name: GLACE BAY

1. Has your community demonstrated: not so much very much SCORE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	SCORE
ability to build on unique strengths within the community									9		
citizen participation in community initiatives										10	
evidence of community pride										10	
focus on creating a sustainable community										10	

2. How well do the stories in your submission demonstrate the following:

	1	2	3	4	5	SCORE
demonstrated recognition of history, tradition and cultural heritage					5	
demonstrated principles of inclusion & fostered diversity					5	
willingness to welcome and retain newcomers					5	

3. Do your stories tell us more about your:

	1	2	3	4	5	SCORE
ability to find solutions to community challenges by working together					5	
resilience and adaptability					5	
willingness to initiate positive change					5	
ability to form partnerships (formal and informal)					5	
ability to listen to each other in order to form better decisions					5	

4. Has your community demonstrated:

	1	2	3	4	5	SCORE
wide-spread support for recreational and cultural activity					5	
valid engagement of youth				4	5	
authentic respect for seniors					5	
respect for the environment demonstrated by activities or programs					5	

Total Community Score (out of 100): **0**