

Award Application

Community Name: Ballantynes Cove/Cape George

Names of Groups within the community (**minimum requirement of four supporting groups**) who have joined together to put forward this nomination:

1. North Shore Development Association
2. Cape George Heritage Hiking Trails
3. Cape George Development Association

4. North Shore Volunteer Fire Department
5. North Shore Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

☒ I acknowledge that if I am the winning community, my submission in its entirety will be made available to the public and other program sponsors through the Communities, Culture and Heritage website and my story will be used for other related marketing and promotional purposes for the Community Spirit Award Program.

All other information collected for the purposes of administering the Community Spirit Award program will only be used for the purposes for which it was obtained and will be managed in accordance with the ***Freedom of Information, Protection of Privacy Act*** of Nova Scotia.

Submitted by: Cape George/Ballantynes Cove.

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1. North Shore Development Association
2. Cape George Heritage Hiking Trails
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We are a community of a small population but work hard together to recognize our history, tradition ,culture and heritage. Our citizens are very proud and co-operate to keep our community clean, attractive, beautiful and welcoming to visitors who come from all over the world.

North Shore Development Association, chaired by our Municipal counsellor, Mary MacLellan, with 20 years of experience as leader , has been the driver and organizer of many projects completed. Example are , a Heritage Museum, 37Kms of Wilderness Hiking Trails, 3 look-offs, benches and picnic tables throughout the area, we enjoy the beauty of the ocean and the stunning scenery, a day park, a local Marina, tuna centre museum, and lighthouse.

Our lighthouse has been deemed unnecessary by the Federal Government in the past year, local volunteers, and the community population as a whole are presently working on taking ownership. NSDA is made up off 12 executive members. Mary MacLellan, chair of NSDA have succeeded in leading us to make our community interesting and beautiful, attractive to tourists and enjoyed by locals.

We have fundraisers, such as a concert on the wharf in August raising enough funds to cover the cost of the tuna centre, which is cost shared with The Harbour Authority of Ballantynes Cove, the centre contains a tuna museum, public washer and dryers , washrooms with showers and an office. Our waters draw fishermen from all over the world as it is the capital for recreational tuna fishing , there are charters available to take fishermen out for a “catch and release” fishery, nothing more exciting than catching a tuna, having their photo taken and letting the tuna swim on its way. Meeting people from Australia, Africa, all over USA and Canada is so interesting! They utilize our assets in the community and a great boost to our economy. NSDA expenses are covered by fundraisers and we have succeeded in receiving grants from Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments.

The Heritage Museum was established by a group which named themselves Cape George Development; most locals became members of that group. The museum is in the first school house built within this community. This is still an active museum during the summer months. Household items and tools used by our heritage families are displayed, a nice insight of how the people survived and the tools they used, many made by themselves, very creative people. During the summer months, a fundraiser includes pancake and sausage breakfasts which people from the community and surrounding areas, as well as tourists all very much enjoy. At the Museum, we kick off the Christmas season with Christmas tree lighting, Christmas carols, hot chocolate and home made cookies. We enjoy the tree as during the Christmas season the tree lights up at dusk . The Cape George Development presently has a committee of 6 people, volunteers share the work of the functions, maintenance of the building and the grounds. A student keeps the museum open throughout the summer months.

The Cape George Heritage trails was designed by Peter Jackson and completed in the year 2000. Each year thousands of hikers, nature lovers, school groups, tourists from all over the world enjoy the spectacular scenery and experience. The trail is designed in loops, some more ambitious than others and vary in distances, this allows hikers to plan the time and challenge of the hike. Maps are provided at the three trail heads but are not necessary as each trail is lettered with a map at each intersection. Also placed at the trail heads are books for comments which are important to our trail committee as well as allowing us to see who visits and from where! It is a wilderness trail with panoramic views with elevations up to 600ft above sea level, has a natural bubbly spring, enjoy the waterfalls or walk along the beach. There are 13 geo-caches along the trail, 6 traditional caches which have history of the Cape George area. To begin our fundraising, 26 families have joined together, each family gathering funds to purchase benches with a plaque on each bench in memory of their loved ones, these benches were assembled and placed on the land of the heritage land owner. This year we have succeeded in getting signs on the Tran Canada Hwy 104 to direct people to our area. The hiking trail committee consists of 8 volunteers; we have one fundraiser per year, a hike-a-thon where families gather pledges and enjoy a day of hiking. The hike-a-thon is well established and very successful. We are becoming more involved with hiking groups across Nova Scotia and as a result drawing many out of town hikers. The organized guided hikes as well as the monitoring and maintenance of the trails is all done by local volunteers. We are presently working on a web page for the trails, but not completed as yet. Many community hours are required to keep the trails attractive, enjoyable and safe.

North Shore Fire Department was established in 1986 and has been successful in making Cape George, Ballantynes Cove and surrounding areas safe. The firemen/woman fight fires , attend to car accidents and home emergencies. The firemen also organize a roadside cleanup each May which has been very successful with a lot of co-operation from the entire community. Following the clean up, hot dogs and beverages are served at the fire hall while cleaners mingle and chat about their finds. The fire Department is funded by government grants, dances, family reunions, and steak or pork barbecues. The ladies Auxiliary raise funds and donate money towards fire equipment and a new truck. The ladies keep the kitchen part of the hall clean , upgraded and supplied, the firemen/women the equipment and training , we all work together as a group and have formed a partnership between the 2 committees. All totally managed by volunteers.

I hope I have demonstrated through evidence that our community has a high citizen participation, we are proud and work very hard as a community group. It would be most gratifying to receive and display in our community the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award.

Sincerely:



Velma MacEachern

CAPE GEORGE HERITAGE TRAILS

HWY 337 - ANTIGONISH, NS



LEGEND

- Bridge
- Look Off
- Bench
- Picnic Park
- Distance (km)
Time (min.)
- Trailhead

Produced By The Antigonish
North Shore Development
Association and

NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT



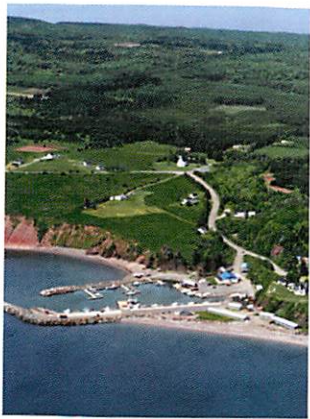
ST. GEORGE'S BAY



Caution: Hwy 337 is not part of the trail system;
it is narrow and hazardous for walking.

← ONE KILOMETRE →
← ONE MILE →

Contour lines on map represent a change in
elevation of 5 metres (16 ft).



Ballantyne's Cove Wharf - This 40-slip marina has many amenities including: washrooms, showers, laundry, water, launching facilities, gas, diesel, and night security. The marina is within walking distance of take-out food and walking trails.



Ballantyne's Cove Tuna Interpretive Centre

The Ballantyne's Cove Tuna Interpretive Centre is located at the busy Ballantyne's Cove Marina. The centre features interpretive panels which describe the life cycle of the bluefin tuna; a video detailing the history of tuna fishing in the local area and a life-



sized model of a bluefin tuna. Prominently displayed is an antique Fresnel lighthouse lens, which is an exact match to the one originally used at the nearby Cape George Point Lighthouse.

Cape George Heritage School Museum



Cape George Heritage School Museum

This quaint one-room schoolhouse opened in 1925. It was one of many in Antigonish County with one teacher and 30-50 pupils. The school was converted into a museum with artifacts and information available on the heritage and culture of the area. A trailhead exists on the Museum property with parking and a picnic area available. Open July – August, 10am – 4pm, every day except Friday, special requests can be accommodated. Admission is free, donations are appreciated.

Cape George Day Park

This convenient picnic area is located on the Cape George Point Lighthouse road, less than a 5 minute walk to the picturesque lighthouse. It is a beautiful place to enjoy a picnic under covered tables. Washroom facilities are available. The area serves as a trailhead for the Cape George Hiking Trails. Directional maps of the trails are placed at the park to assist with navigation.

The Mysterious Bubbling Spring

This well hidden forest spring is unique in that, in addition to water, it has long been producing bubbles of what may be air or something mysterious!!!!



Cape George Point Lighthouse

The first lighthouse, erected in 1861, was a square white wooden tower; it was destroyed by fire in 1907. In 1908 it was replaced by an octagonal wood tower painted white with a circular red metal lantern. The current light is an octagonal concrete tower built in 1968. It is 45 feet (14 m) high with a Group Flashing White (12s) electric light. The Cape George Lighthouse is still guiding ships safely ashore with its flashing lamp.

Scenic Look-offs

At selected locations, (at the intersection of the Marsh Road and Hwy 337, for example) pull your vehicle safely to the side of the road, enjoy the majestic land and seascapes, where the homes of this busy fishing community lie scattered along green meadows atop the high red bluffs of the cove. Photograph fishing boats, beaches, seabirds, and the spectacular sunrises and sunsets. Interpretive panels explain the rich history, culture and geologic origins of the area.

Cape George Hiking Trail – This series of connected loops, varying in length and difficulty, totals 43 kilometers or 27 miles, and meanders through meadows and old-growth forests, to coastal hills affording spectacular views of St. Georges Bay. The trailheads are located at the Cape George Heritage School Museum, the Cape George Day Park,

and the Ballantyne's Cove Tuna Interpretive Centre. Hiking Certificates are earned by collecting rubbings of metal letters located at trail intersection; collect all 14 to have your name placed on a Hiking Certificate and logged in the Cape George Trail Hikers Archives. Rest and relax on one of the 16 comfortable benches donated by the ancestors of original settlers. Open May 1 – November 30. Admission Free – donations accepted.

Wilkie's Brook

Wilkie's Brook was used for doing laundry during the 1900's to 1940's. Women of the community spent their days at the intervale washing clothes when the water supply was low. The clothes were scrubbed, dried and then carried home after the day of work/enjoyment and a chance to catch up on the local news. This area was also used for Sunday School and Cape George School picnics. The main brook in the Cape runs down a steep valley and is crossed by five bridges and patiently fished by "The Little Fisherman".



Family Hike-a-thon

Held in the late summer, this fun-filled day of hiking on many of the trails is a fundraiser for the upkeep and maintenance of the trail system.