

## **NRE Site Profile Update 2000**

Your Name Neil Smith

Community name Twillingate, NF

NRE cell number 02

### **FIELD LOG:**

Due to logistical problems, I was unable to initiate this research until the first week of August. This resulted in a series of limiting factors which were unavoidable. The first was that it was the height of the tourism season and many business people and individuals in the voluntary sector did not have time for an extended interview. Informal, ten to twenty minute chats were the order of the day, I found. Secondly, many other people were on holiday. It is undoubtedly better to do this research outside the Summer months.

Those who took the time out to be interviewed were very friendly and happy to discuss many issues. However, they did not like the structured interview format and could not be bothered with many of the quantitative style selection questions which they found hard to understand and complex in correct execution.

Unlike Winterton, a variety of people remembered the visit of Shirley Dawe in 1998 and still had some interest in what the project was doing. Those in the business sector, however, were sceptical of the worth of the survey. One individual summed up the attitude by saying that over the last eight years since the cod moratorium “everybody” had researched what’s wrong with communities in Newfoundland, but “nobody” had come up with any decent solutions yet.

My primary point of contact was the Town Hall, but nobody was available from there until the last day of my stay in Twillingate. Most people were very helpful and informative when they could be pinned down to a time and place.

I have to say, as a person new to Newfoundland, that in this community and Winterton, I have experienced a decided antipathy and scepticism toward this sort of research.

The only key formal contact that has changed since 1998 is the Mayor, whose name is now Earle Rideout.

#### **4. SITE HISTORY - MAJOR EVENTS & STORIES**

The two main developments since the codfishery collapse of 1992 are undoubtedly the growth of tourism markets on the island and the hiatus surrounding an attempt to reopen the local fish plant.

Tourism has grown enormously in the last five years or so, with seasonal B&Bs becoming a standard method of income enhancement for many. As well as the current museums and whale boat tours, there are advanced plans to develop a variety of new initiatives including a historical village of the nineteenth century with characters in costume and a new park that will offer various sporting activities like kayaking and have cabin residences (aimed at the international market). There are currently many infrastructure improvements underway (causeway upgrade, wharf and water system upgrades) that are certainly part and parcel of this attempt to become even more

appealing to the tourist. Twillingate is definitely now a leading light for successful tourism development in the province.

This positive picture is marred by a deep frustration at what happened with the local fish plant some years ago. Many of the town's people are convinced that the Provincial government called in the \$2 million loans of six local men who acquired the plant and processing license in order to sell it for \$400 thousand to the best friend of a cabinet minister. This allegation has deeply affected leading lights of the community as they see it as having been sold off so that it would not be used for processing in direct competition to the individual who bought it. As a result, the crab 'tycoons', as they call them, are not popular people in a town which still wants to be a fishing town more than anything else. They are passionate believers in a redistribution of existing licenses and quotas so that more people can make a reasonable living rather than a few becoming millionaires. This story undoubtedly has many sides and inaccuracies, but the fact is that it is generally believed and has had a real effect on the people of Twillingate's morale and opinion of government. Several people voiced the belief that Twillingate would be nothing more than a retirement home in twenty years time.

This Summer was 'Come Home Year' in Twillingate, coinciding with the annual 'Fish, Fun and Folk Festival' in the last week of July.

## 5. Communications and Infrastructure

**5.2** Are the following available within this site, yes or no? If appropriate, record the number (#) of these available (i.e. 10 radio stations, or 2 newspapers). Comment on any changes since 1998. Remember, in most cases this is an update from 1998, so not a lot of detail is required, except where noted.

Note: Please obtain a copy of the local paper and any newsletters, and mail them to David Bruce.

Item	Yes/No/#	Comments
<b>Communication Inventory</b>		
Cable TV (is local programming in the form of "text" messages only, or actual programs as well)	Yes	Text and some programmes (e.g. local Lion's Club bingo)
Cable TV Provider (who is the cable provider, name the company)		Cable Atlantic
Internet (which companies provide Internet (ISPs), list community website address)	Yes	No community web-site address discovered. Many businesses have own for tourism.
Speed of Internet Access (indicate which forms are available: Vibe, DSL modem, cable, other)		Cable
Public Internet Access Terminals	Yes	School
Local Newspaper (frequency)	No	Pilot return of Twillingate Sun this Summer, but is more of a newletter

Regional Newspaper	Yes	Lewisporte Pilot weekly
National Newspaper	Yes	Globe and Mail by subscription
Community Newsletters (how many, how frequent, only include church bulletins if they carry more than church news)	Yes	Local Downhomer and Twillingate Sun Summer newsletters. Aimed at tourist market.
Local Radio Station	Yes	
# of Radio Stations available in the site (use your radio dial)	2-6	Depends on where in Twillingate you happen to live (reception v. poor in places)
Community Bulletin Boards (how many can you find, usually in stores or post offices, comment on what they are used for - mostly local notices, personal notices, regional notices, government notices, etc)	Yes	Most local establishments carry community posters and notices.
<b>Community Identity Inventory</b>		
Community "Welcome" Sign (describe what it says and any symbols or pictures)	Yes	Banner strung up between two lamp-posts. "Welcome to Twillingate". Suspect it may have been put up for the annual festival.
Community Flag (please describe)	Yes	St. George's Cross with one green maple leaf in each of the two right-hand corners.
Community Symbols (crests, coat of arms, icons, etc, please describe)	unknown	

## 6. Social Services - Availability and Accessibility

For each item determine whether or not it is located within the site boundaries (Yes/No column). If it is not, please indicate:

- which community residents travel to for these services (Community column)
- and how far it is by personal car, both in time (minutes) and distance (Time and Kms columns).

Add any additional relevant comments. For example, perhaps the elementary school has closed since 1998, or there has been a change in who provides a particular service. The key is to ask "What has changed?" of the person(s) you are speaking to.

ITEM	Yes/No	If "no", how far?			Comments
		Which Community?	Time	Kms	
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Elementary School	Yes	In town			
High School	Yes	In town			
CÉGEP/comm. college	Yes	Lewisporte	60	85	College of NA

University	Yes	Corner Brook	420	400	MUN Campus (Grenfell)
Continuing Education and Extension Courses	Yes	In town			Adult education courses
Other Educational Institutions	No				
<b>HEALTH/SAFETY</b>					
Hospital	Yes	In town			
Blood/Urine Testing Facility	Yes	In town			
X-Ray Facility	Yes	In town			
Baby Delivery Facility	Yes	Gander	75	150km	Lost to town 5 years ago
CT Scan Facility	Yes	Grand Falls	75	150	
Nursing Home	Yes	In town			
Doctor(s)	Yes	In town			5
Nurse(s)	Yes	IT			
Dentist(s)	Yes	IT			
Dental Surgeon(s)	Yes	Gander/ Grand Falls	75	150	
Optometrist(s)	Yes	IT			
Home Care/Visits	Yes	IT			
VON	No				
Social Worker(s)	Yes	IT			
Pharmacy	Yes	IT			
Ambulance	Yes	IT			
Emergency Services	Yes	IT			
Public Health Nurse	Yes	IT			
Rehabilitation - Physiotherapy	Yes	IT			
Rehabilitation - Speech Therapy	Yes	Gander	75	150	
Rehabilitation - Occupational Therapy	Yes	IT			
Police (local or RCMP)	Yes	IT			
Fire Department (state if comprised of volunteers, paid staff, or both)	Yes	IT			Volunteers
911 Emergency Line	No				
<b>LEGAL</b>					
Lawyer	Yes	IT			
Notary	Yes	IT			
Citizenship Court	Yes	Gander	75	150	
<b>FINANCIAL</b>					
Bank	Yes	IT			ScotiaBank
Credit Union	Yes	IT			
ATM Machine	YES	IT			Scotiabank

Micro-Financing Group	No				
Insurance Office	Yes	IT			More than one
<b>SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY AND DAYCARE</b>					
Daycare	Yes	IT			
Senior Citizens' Retirement Home	Yes	IT			
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>					
Employment Insurance Office	Yes	Gander	75	150	Forms available from local post office and some services provided in Newville.
Revenue Canada Office	Yes	Gander	75	150	
Provincial Automobile Licence Office	Yes	Grand Falls	75	150	
Welfare Office	Yes	IT			
Town Hall	Yes	IT			
Band Council	No				No native community (some have bloodline, though)
Post Office	Yes	IT			
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>					
Food Bank	Yes	Gander	75	150	
Clothing Exchange or Depot	Yes	Grand Falls	75	150	
Second-Hand Stores (profit & charitable)	Yes	Gander	75	150	
Drop-In Centre	No				
Half-Way House	Yes	St. John's	450	460	
Personal Aid Services(counseling, family distress, etc)	Yes	IT			
<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b>					
Bus	Yes	IT			
Train - Passenger	N/A				
Train - Freight	N/A				
Air	Yes	Gander	75	150	
Helicopter	Yes	IT			Helipad at hospital
Boat	Yes	IT			Tour boats, private boats.
Taxi	Yes	IT			
<b>FACILITIES</b>					
Curling	Yes	Gander	75	150	
Municipal Swimming Pool (indoor & outdoor)	Yes	IT			Indoor No outdoor
Municipal Skating Rink (indoor & outdoor)	Yes	IT			Both
Community Playing Field	Yes	IT			
Community Gym	Yes	IT			
Community Centre	Yes	IT			
YMCA/YWCA	Yes	St. John's	450	460	
Athletic Club	No				
Theatre	Yes	Crow Head	5	6	Dinner Time Theatre (tourist season)

Cinema	Yes	Gander	75	150	
Museum	Yes	IT			3
Library	Yes	IT			Public and school libraries
Parks	Yes	Crow Head	5	6	

## 7. ECONOMIC FORTUNES

Review the original site profile to see which businesses existed at that time. We want to know a bit about how many and what type of businesses opened or closed since 1998. Check with the Chamber of Commerce first.

No Chamber of Commerce and some confusion exists locally over whether the Business Association exists or not. There has been considerable local acrimony concerning this organisation.

List the businesses, their type, and number of employees in brackets, as follows:

e.g. Brown's - retail store (8)

Madison Paper - paper mill (60)

No comprehensive list of any kind was forthcoming, even from those in economic development. No person interviewed believes that there have been any business closures since 1998, although many have changed hands in recent months, which backs up the claim by some business people that many are struggling.

New businesses referred to were the new B&Bs (estimated at 5-6) and the Lighthouse museum/ craft shop.

## 8. COMMERCIAL SHOPPING

We want to determine the level of retail / commercial shopping in the site, and the distance and time to travel to any higher levels of retail / commercial shopping. We are roughly following Hodge / Stabler's classification scheme.

For example, if the community is a full convenience centre, write "yes" in the Yes/No column beside that description. Then for each of the four descriptions of more extensive retail / commercial centres, identify the nearest community people in this site would travel to for that level of shopping, and how far that is in terms of time and distance by personal automobile.

Description	Yes/No	If "no", how far?			Comments
		Which Community?	Time	Kms	
minimum convenience centre (gas and basic groceries)	Yes	IT			
full convenience centre (minimum plus some general merchandise, full grocery store, implement dealers)	Yes	IT			
partial shopping centre (above plus selected merchandise - small malls)	Yes	Lewisporte	60	85	
complete shopping centre (above plus extensive retail merchandise - large malls)	Yes	Gander	75	150	
secondary wholesale-retail centre (above plus some wholesale)	Yes	Gander	75	150	
primary wholesale-retail centre (above plus central wholesale outlets)	Yes	Gander	75	150	