

Maitland - Hants Shore Area

Featuring:

- Maitland Heritage Conservation District
- Tidal Bore Observation & Rafting
- Lawrence House Museum
- Burncoat Head Park
- Walton Lighthouse

Upon approaching Maitland from Truro on Route 236, or from Shubenacadie on Route 215, it is hard to miss the unique design of the **Gosse Bridge** spanning the Shubenacadie River. Constructed of two pieces of concrete meeting in the middle and balanced by their own weight at each end, it is known as a **cantilever bridge**. This is just the first of many alluring things to see in the **Home of the Highest Recorded Tides in the World** and the great **Tidal Bore!**

Near the Gosse Bridge is the spectacular **South Maitland Tidal Interpretive Park and Visitor Information Centre**. The park offers unparalleled views of the Shubenacadie River and tidal bore, and provides interpretation on the area and its natural phenomenon. Within the park is a “Ducks Unlimited” **bird sanctuary** where three manmade ponds are now home to a variety of waterfowl. Visitors may also tour the **Caboose Museum** on-site, which celebrates the history of the area and its connection to the railway.

A visit to Nova Scotia is not complete without “fully” experiencing the power of the Fundy tides – and the only way to do that is to ride the wave!! **Tidal Bore Rafting** is offered at different locations along the river and is not only safe, but exhilarating as well. Visitors as young as 8 years and as old as 85 years have enjoyed this exciting adventure that is both fun and informative.

The Shubenacadie River is the backbone of an old “Lock System” shipping route from the Bay of Fundy to Dartmouth/Halifax called the **Shubenacadie Canal**. Home to a variety of wildlife, including numerous **bald eagles**, the River offers some of the most **amazing scenery** in the Province.

Route 215 of the Glooscap trail follows along the River through rolling farmlands before reaching the **Village of Maitland**. Maitland was once a thriving shipbuilding community, and was one of the busiest ports in the country. This now quiet village currently boasts over **four-dozen historic homes**, each providing excellent examples of divergent architectural styles. Maitland is the first

Heritage Conservation District in Nova Scotia and is home to Frieze & Roy (est. 1839), one of the oldest continuously operated general stores still in existence in Canada.

One of the great attractions in Maitland is the **Lawrence House Museum**, the former home of W.D. Lawrence – the builder of the **largest wooden ship ever built in Canada**. A tour of the house will propel visitors back to a time when wooden ships were the order of the day and electricity was not an option.

Explore the village and discover the unique **antique and artisan shops**. Fine hand crafted scrimshaw work and outstanding woodturnings are just a sample of treasures to be found. Enjoy a wonderful selection of Inns and B&B's, and inquire about local festivals and events. **Launch Days**, and a magical **Christmas Festival** are just two annual celebrations to consider.

Anthony Provincial Park is just down the road in Lower Selma and offers wonderful views of the bay and wharf-side interpretive displays describing history of the area.

Also in Lower Selma is the **Lower Selma Museum** located in a bay side church. Vaulted ceilings and hand painted decorations are what make this tiny church so unique. The museum also has an interesting artifact from the “**Titanic**” within its collection.

Lawrence House Museum



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Beyond the neighboring community of Noel is **Burncoat Head Park**, where a reconstructed lighthouse and picnic area commemorate the site of the **highest recorded tides on earth**. A boardwalk leads to the beach where visitors can explore the incredible shoreline at low tide featuring unique **“flower pot” landforms** carved by the tides. The park is an excellent spot for **rock-hounding, hiking, and birding**.

A popular stop for travelers and photographers is the historic **Walton Lighthouse**. The lighthouse offers tremendous views through an onsite, high power telescope.

The remainder of the Glooscap Trail and Route 215 leads to the beautiful coastal communities of Cheverie, Kempt Shore and Summerville. Pull off at the **Cheverie look-off** for a great photo opportunity, plan to attend the **Kempt Shore Acoustic Music Festival** in July or the **Annual Kempt Shore Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival** in August, or golf nine holes with a view of the Bay. The Avon River Heritage Museum in Newport Landing also brings the area's once thriving shipbuilding heritage to life and features exhibits on the New England Planters, local house histories, family histories and Avon River ecology.

Located inland, Kennetcook is a bustling rural area found at the crossing of the Kennetcook River. This small community hosts an annual Canada Day **Re-enactment** and offers a number of services to those exploring the **scenic country roads** of the area.



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Burncoat Head Park at Low Tide

