

Masstown - Debert Area

Featuring:

- Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail
- Debert Military Museum
- 9 Hole Golf Course
- McElmon's Pond Provincial Park
- Site of First Acadian Church

The community of Masstown is located 10 minutes west of Truro on Highway 2 or Exit 12 off Highway 104 at the "Glenholme Service Loop" (the last exit prior to the toll highway heading west). A local **Market** has made Masstown a popular stopping place for travelers over the years. This quiet community has a deceptively rich heritage. Once an old Acadian settlement, Masstown was the site of the **first Acadian church** to be built in Nova Scotia. A **cairn** is erected at the nearby United Church to commemorate the former landmark. It was the then Catholic Church that inspired the name of this community "Mass" town. Remains of **Acadian dykes** offer yet another subtle reminder of those who once inhabited this area.

In Debert (Exit 13 on Highway 104), signs of what was once a major Canadian Military Base still exist today. The **Debert Military Museum**, located in an "H" hut on the formerly active base, houses a variety of intriguing artifacts that demonstrate the area's significance during World War II and the Cold War. The Museum offers the opportunity to learn about a former nuclear fallout shelter called "Deifenbunker" and is a "must see" attraction for Canadian and military history buffs. – The former Debert base also has an airport where the Truro Flying Club offers Charters to visitors wishing to get a bird's eye view of this beautiful area.

Debert is the location of one of the most significant archaeological sites in North America! Artifacts found dating back over 11,000 years offer insight into an early Paleo Indian Settlement of the area. The 4.4 km **Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail** is the initial step in a development to share this amazing history. A sample of artifacts from the site may be viewed at the **Debert Air Industrial Park** administration building.

Also at the Debert Air Industrial Park are the **Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Institute Field Station** and the office of the **Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia**.

The institute is a site for plot research and demonstrations. Not far from Highway Exit 13 to Debert is **MacElmon's Pond Provincial Park**. This is a great little picnic park with walking trails offering wonderful opportunities for fishing, or birding (spot Canada Geese, Merganzers and other waterfowl).

Another reason to visit Debert is for the nine-hole **golf course** with fully equipped clubhouse. The course offers panoramic views of rolling hills, the Bay of Fundy and Cobequid Mountains and its rural location offers opportunity to spot local wildlife including bald eagles, hawks, deer and woodpeckers.

Continuing from Debert to Truro will lead visitors through the communities of Onslow and Belmont. Belmont (or "beautiful mountain") is a **pleasant drive** featuring stately homes and maple lined country roads. Onslow is a dairy farming community where a cairn was erected at the **Ishgonish Bridge** to commemorate the route that the native Mi'kmaq and Acadian people used to travel from the Cobequid Bay to the French River in Tatamagouche to access Louisburg and Prince Edward Island.

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