

THE NOVA SCOTIA NEGRO COMMUNITIES

Location - Population - Social Resources - Educational Facilities - Present Employment Status and Opportunities - Trends.

HALIFAX COUNTY

Halifax City

Population 1,300 concentrated on Maynard and Creighton Streets and in Mulgrave Park Public Housing Units. Ownership has taken a drastic dip since the implementation of Ordinance 50. Many of our families in Public Housing are having difficulty due to the change in rental pattern. Although it is subsidized housing, current rental rates appear to be making a great demand upon their limited resources.

Canadian National Railways has been the most favorable employer, -but this is on the decline. They are now mainly depended upon armed services, seasonal construction, Federal and Provincial Civil Service.

Many of the women work as charwomen in private homes and public institutions. There is a growing number of the younger women employed as clerks, teachers, nurses, nurses' aids, stenographers and laboratory technicians.

The Negro church, the Masonic and Oddfellows Lodges, are the main social organizations.

Educational facilities are integrated. Last year there were 13 in High School - 3 in Vocational High - 3 girls received their R.N., and 6 graduated as Nursing Assistants - 2 received University Degrees.

The most obvious trend is migration to the larger cities of Canada and the U.S.A. There are two main reasons for this: 1) greater number of jobs for the unskilled in the larger areas and 2) a desire to escape from the stigma and limitations of small segregated Negro communities and to find a new, broader life in the larger Metropolitan areas.

✓ Africville

Population 393. Situated on the extreme north end of Barrington Street, flanked by the railway, Bedford Basin and the city dump. Housing is poor. There are many "squatters". Women work as domestics and men as casual waterfront labourers. The segregated school was abandoned by the City about 8 years ago and the children now attend nearby City schools. Health and Welfare services are provided by the City. The Negro church is the main organization in the community. The community presents a picture of neglect, poor roads, primitive and unsanitary wells and outside privies.

Beechville

Population 300. This community is situated 3 miles from Halifax on the St. Margaret's Bay Road. Homes were originally built along a two mile stretch of the main highway. Some 30 years ago half of the area was expropriated by the City of Halifax for watershed purposes. The community was re-located on the remaining half, which has resulted in housing congestion and the occupation of lands which they do not own.

Beechville
continued

This community has a 2 room segregated school. Negro children attend the first 3 grades here and then go to the near-by Lakeside school. There is a Negro church ministering to most of the people. There are no self-employed residents. The men work at seasonal construction work while the women do daily domestic work in the city. The grade index has always been low but in recent years it has begun to rise, with at least 10 students now attending the junior and senior consolidated High Schools. There has been very little migration from this community. Rather, it appears to be a centre to which outsiders from the western end of the Province make their way before going into the City.

Dartmouth

Population 500. The Negro population in Dartmouth is mainly located on the extreme end of Crichton Avenue, between the city incinerator and the causeway. A few live in the area of Victoria Road. The Negro church and the YMCA have been the main social resources. The city employs many Negroes and for the size of the city, an encouraging number are getting into so-called "unusual" positions. The schools are integrated but again, the number of High School graduates is low. The men belong to the segregated fraternal organizations of Halifax.

Although some of the most modern homes in the city have been built on Crichton Avenue, one observes that public facilities, such as lights, roads, etc., are not provided for the section where the Negro people live.

Cherrybrook

Population 700. Situated 4 miles east of the city of Dartmouth, just off Highway 7. This is one of the more aggressive communities, evidenced by the recent erection of a number of soundly constructed and well maintained homes. Land titles, however, are questionable here as elsewhere. They have done some work on this and a few Crown grants have been completed.

There are a few self employed gardeners, hog-growers and wood vendors in this community. The employment pattern, on the whole, for the men is different. Many work for the city, National Defence and for private contractors. Women work as domestics.

This community has a 4 classroom school. Grades one to six are taught here.

Preston North

Population 1,800. Located 7 miles from Dartmouth, off Route 7. It is the largest Negro community in Canada. Two school buildings with 14 classrooms are used for approximately 400 children, grades 1 - 6. Grades 7 and on are now transported to the Graham Creighton School a few miles away. This has been happening since the opening of the Graham Creighton School and already results are being seen. Prior to this the problem was to supply sufficient classrooms for

Preston North
continued

all those of legal school age. Some had to wait a year or two before they could get into school. The obtaining of a sufficient number of teachers has been a continuing problem in this community.

The men work at unskilled seasonal labor. The women do some domestic work. There are very few self-employed people. The men do not appear to have adequate educational background for civil service maintenance and janitor work.

The Negro church and the education program now being carried on are the main cultural forming agencies.

Over the past few years there has been considerable migration to Toronto.

Preston East

Population 1,200. Situated 5 miles from Dartmouth, this community has more of the appearance of a small farming community. Most families have a home garden and some engage in commercial gardening and raising hogs. The soil appears to be adaptable to farming. They need incentive, capital and "know-how". They have probably the highest percentage of self-employed of any of the other Negro communities. Like the other communities there are very few skilled labourers. The women work as domestics. Housing is improving but much is still to be desired. They have a 12 room school with 300 students -- grades 1 to 6.

Cobequid Road
Lower Sackville

Population 110. Situated 3 miles west of Bedford. The children have for the past 7 years been attending the integrated school. Five are now in High School and one is studying at the Halifax County Vocational School. Men work at semi-skilled work. The women work as domestics. Housing is very modest with signs of blight.

Lucasville Road
Lower Sackville

Population 200. A community of industrious home builders. Men work in Bedford and Halifax and a few work in the nearby lumber mills. A number of residents do very well through self employment. They specialize in rock masonry, concrete walks and floors and many work as carpenters, plumbers and construction. The women work as domestics. This community has a segregated 3 room school teaching grades 1 to 6. Since the integration of the junior high grades a few years ago the educational outlook is much brighter. Due to the past low educational standards the grade index of both adults and youth is extremely low. The community is served by a Negro church. Sociologically this is a very "close" community. A former school teacher told me that at one time there were only three surnames for the 40 children on her register.

Middle Sackville

Population 90. Situated on the Windsor Highway 6 miles from Bedford. The men are employed with various construction firms in Halifax and area. The women work as domestics. This community was the centre of great National publicity some years ago. At that time Negro children were not permitted to go to the local public school (about 10 years ago). A local white woman, out of pity, began to gather the Negro children into her kitchen to teach them. The challenge to these little children was so great and the teaching of this housewife so dedicated that the majority of the pupils moved up to High School and to Vocational School and one student (Rev. Arthur Kelsie) entered Acadia University and graduated with the B.Th. degree. He left the Province and now lives in Ontario. A recent survey of Negro communities in Halifax County (by the Division of Adult Education) indicated that aspirations were healthy in this community. This survey showed a considerable number who wanted to further their academic standing and others who were interested in technical courses.

Guysborough Rd.

Population 40. This community is situated near the Halifax International Airport. Some of the residents are self-supporting, through farming and lumber. Others work on farms in the area. The young people migrate to the city. The school is integrated. There is no illiteracy in this community. One marvels at the fine examples of human relations evidenced here. A short time ago they complained about the lack of employment opportunities at the airport.

Hammonds Plains

Population 500. Situated 14 miles from Halifax, this community at one time was self supporting. They depended upon the lumbering industry and many were coopers. They worked in their own shops and moved about the Valley, selling barrels to the orchardists and potato growers. The demand for this type of container has declined and their source of livelihood has vanished. Today, most of the men work on construction jobs in the city and the women work as domestics. The children attend a segregated school from Grades 1 to 6. They attend a Negro church.

HANTS COUNTY

Five Mile Plains

Population 400. Situated on the Windsor Highway, 5 miles from the town of Windsor. Like most of the communities mentioned above, this community was also settled by Refugee Slaves, about 150 years ago. There is indication of decline in this community. I am told that one sees here conditions comparable to other sections of the area -- a decline in initiative, in morals and general esprit de corp. For a long time the entire male working population depended upon the gypsum quarry. Young boys left school to drive dump carts. Then automation came and now a crew of 25 produce what once

Five Mile Plains
continued

occupied the entire male working force. Until November 15/63 the local school existed under legal segregation. On this date the segregated school was abolished and the community school system is completely integrated. Social workers report a good deal of public assistance going into this area. Housing is fair. Their first student graduated from University in 1963. Two are now attending University.

Mount Denson

Population 30. Located near Windsor. Basically these are part time farmers and farm workers. Others find employment in Hantsport and Windsor. Completely integrated.

KINGS COUNTY

Aldershot

Population 20. Located on the fringe of Kentville. These people are, for the most part, associated with the National Defence establishments.

Gibson Woods

Population 70. This was a community of farmers and farm workers. Automation and the inability to cope with modern methods has forced them into decline. School is integrated. Women work in the canneries and factories and some of the men commute to Halifax where they are employed. They have a small Negro Baptist Church served by a white clergyman.

ANNAPOLIS COUNTY

Middleton

Population 90. This community is located in the town of Middleton on what is called the "bog". Housing is fair. School is integrated. The grade index compares favorably with other comparable areas. A good number have graduated from the local High School and a number have gone on to Vocational training, Nursing and to Universities. One young man recently received his certificate in engineering from Acadia and last year attended the N.S. Technical College.

Bridgetown

Population 140. The majority are located outside the town on the Inglewood Road. Others are living in areas known as the "Pasture" and the "Tracks". Men and women work in the processing plants and other local factories. About 10 years ago the segregated school was closed and since then, the progress in education has been very noticeable; they have a high percentage graduating from the High School and a good number going on to other schools of training and to Universities. I know of at least 3 R.N's in the past few years, and of others working as book-keepers, secretaries and lab-technicians.

Annapolis Royal

Population 15. These few residents live on the back streets. They have always been gainfully employed. They are integrated in both church and school. Their children are going through High School and University. Recently one young man finished Dentistry and a young girl graduated in Nursing.

Granville Ferry

Population 35. 100 years ago there were many Negro families in this area but over the years the majority have migrated to the United States. The school is integrated and a small Negro church is functioning.

Delaps Cove

Population 5. This community is another example of migration. The people moved into neighboring towns and villages. The few remaining are industrious and self-employed.

DIGBY COUNTY

Acaciaville

Population 265. Situated off Highway 1 at the entrance to the town of Digby. For the most part these residents have very little land and their community is flanked by a lowlands-- boggy and rocky. Those who try to raise stock must rent the little pasture land that is available in the community. Soil tests show the land to be sour. Many burn wood for fuel but have no wood lots. At a recent meeting with about 70 adults they stated that 70% were unemployed and that only 2 had permanent, all year around jobs. Recently the segregated school was abolished. The number of children going to High School is increasing. A young student from this community was recently elected president of the rural high school student council. A special effort must be made to train the youth for skilled or semi-skilled labour.

Weymouth Falls

Population 350. Situated 25 miles from Acaciaville and 3 miles from the town of Weymouth. The men work in various aspects of the lumbering industry. The segregated school has been abolished and the children go to the consolidated school. There are two Negro churches -- one Baptist and the other Anglican.

Tuskett

Population 75. Situated near Weymouth Falls and is a Roman Catholic community. They appear to be absorbed in the life and culture of the area.

YARMOUTH COUNTY

Yarmouth

Population 190. This is a fringe community, concentrated mainly on the back streets. Housing is poor. Job opportunities are limited. The children attend the town schools. Seven are in High School. The Vice-Principal of the junior High School is a Negro, who also serves as pastor of the local Negro church.

Greenville

Population 90. A rural community with a Negro church. The local Negro pastor and his wife, a teacher, have both made a good impression on every aspect of life in this community. There have been several teachers and one University graduate in recent years.

COLCHESTER COUNTY

Truro

Population 500. The residents are concentrated in what is known as the "Island" and the "Marsh". Generally speaking the housing conditions are continually improving. Employment opportunities are the same as in other small towns. The men work as truckers, gardeners, and with the Railway as Porters. The women are domestics. The school is integrated but the number going through High School is low. The community is consolidated socially by the Negro Baptist Church. There has been one University Graduate.

PICTOU COUNTY

New Glasgow

Population 650. The residents live in areas known as the "Hill", the "Mountain" and "Parkdale". Some of these areas have water but no sewers. As an industrial area the men have a history of good employment in the Mines and other plants. Along with others in this area they are feeling the results of production curtailments. A few are self-employed. The educational record has been good, with a large number of High School graduates and a number of outstanding University graduates. (Calbert Best, President of Civil Service Federation and Rev. Peter Paris, SCM Director for student activities of Nigeria are examples) There have been many school teachers, nurses, stenographers and skilled workers come from this community. Community solidarity is centered in the Negro Baptist Church.

ANTIGONISH COUNTY

Antigonish

Population 80. The residents are settled on the fringe of the town. Most of the male population find employment in the area. Housing is only fair and the education index is low. Efforts are being made to improve housing conditions. This project has been held up because of the inability to obtain land for Negro housing.

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

Upper Big
Tracadie

Population 192. Part of this community is actually in Antigonish County. The community is on the highway to Guysborough, 3 miles from Monastery. They have a Negro church and a Negro school. The people own considerable land and have wood lots. During the past few years they have been given guidance in the use of these resources. Grade index is low among adults and youth.

Lincolnville

Population 160. A mile stretch about four miles beyond Upper Big Tracadie. Very few have deeds to their property. The women do most of the work. The men obtain employment cutting pulpwood. I did a study of this community several years ago and found that 90% of the community depended upon some form of social assistance. There is a great deal of illiteracy among the adults. The school is segregated as is the Church.

Sunnyville

Population 244. Situated on the outskirts of Guysborough town. This is an economically weak community. The women are the main bread winners. The men work, part of the year, in the woods. The school is segregated.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Amherst

Population 600. This community is fairly well located in the town. Housing is fair. The men work with the C.N.R., and as unskilled labourers in the town. The women do domestic work. Schools are integrated and a good number have graduated from High School. They attend a Negro Methodist church.

<u>Additional Communities</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Family Units</u>
<u>Springhill</u>	124	27
<u>Joggins</u>	47	7
River Hebert	2	1
<u>Oxford</u>	7	2
<u>Oxford Junction</u>	3	1
<u>Parrsboro</u>	1	1

QUEENS COUNTY

Liverpool

Population 71. This community is integrated to a good degree. The Mersey Pulp and Paper Co. has recognized ability and some of the men have advanced to positions of responsibility. Housing is good.

SHELBURNE COUNTY

Birchtown

Population 100. A considerable number have been migrating from this community to Halifax. Both church and school are integrated.

CAPE BRETON

Sydney

Population 800. These residents are mostly of West Indian origin, coming to Cape Breton about 70 years ago. With an Anglican background they attend the local churches and schools and have a high academic standing. One family alone, has produced a medical doctor, a chemist, a psychologist, a household economic teacher and a stenographer. Another Negro has been very successful in Politics. A Negro doctor is a Commissioner on the Hospital Board.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

There are other towns and communities where only a few Negro families live. In such instances these families become completely integrated.

Cambridge in Kings County with three Negro families. One family has, at least, 9 High School graduates with several holding University degrees.

Wolfville has one family with 4 University graduates.

Annapolis Royal with a few families, producing a Dentist and a Nurse.

Mulgrave with a few families, producing 4 teachers, all Normal College graduates.

Trenton with one family, producing a teacher, a nurse, and several tradesmen.

Number of Communities listed 47

Approximate population 14,000