



Initiative on the New Economy

**Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places:
A Report for Springhill, Nova Scotia**

January 2006



A project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
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INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY - ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *Initiative on the New Economy* project of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation works closely with residents, service providers, voluntary organizations, business members, and decision makers to identify factors that contribute to building capacity in rural and small town places across Canada. Capacity is the ability of people residing in a place to mobilize their assets and resources to cope with stress and transition, or to capitalize on opportunities. Such capacity is built from trust and relationships grounded in institutions, organizations, businesses, and services alike. The Initiative on the New Economy is built on four key themes to explore capacity including *local governance*, *communications*, *services*, and the *environment*. This report explores the relationship between services and capacity.

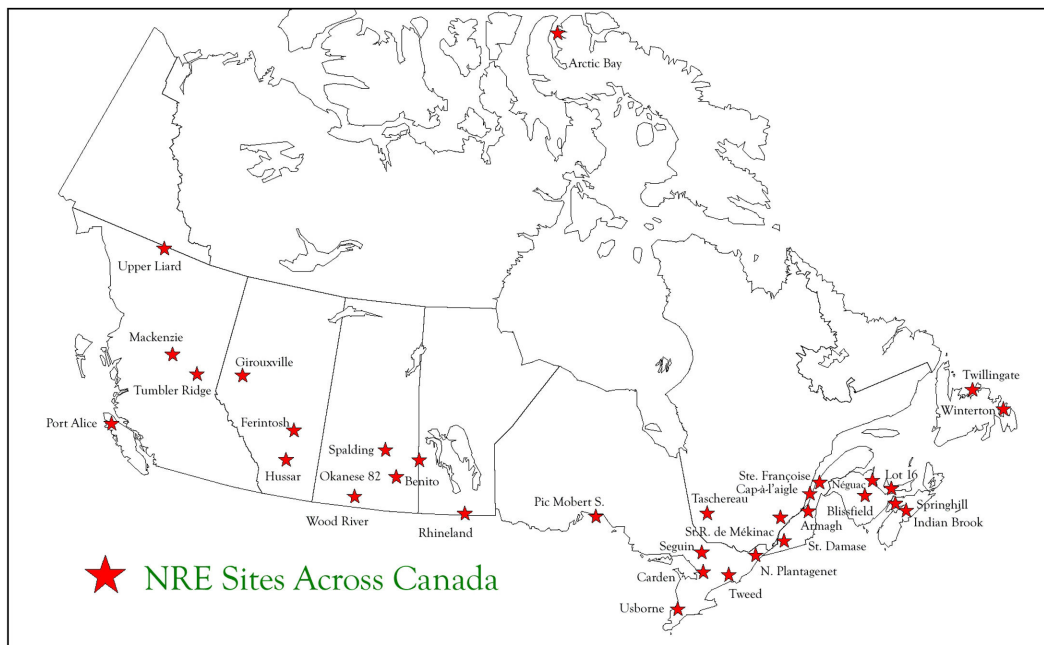
The Services Research theme conducted site profile surveys in the summer of 2005. This is the fourth survey conducted since 1998 with a goal to track services over time. Services play two key functions in building capacity. First, services help rural and small town places to cope with restructuring and transition as a result of economic downturns or plant closures. Job losses stemming from industrial restructuring or closure can place increased demands on local services for education and training, business development, counselling, health care, and other support services. Without such services, residents would have to cope with the additional burden of having to leave their town to access assistance. Job and service losses present a significant challenge to rural and small town places.

Second, services provide opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust. Together, these can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. For example, schools or seniors' centres can act as multi-functional facilities for the community where local volunteer groups, sporting clubs, local theatre, and others can do their work. Another example might be the way that post offices can act as a one stop shop for a range of government services. This report focuses on the current service provision levels in rural and small town Canada. In particular, this report will compare the availability of services in Springhill, Nova Scotia with services available in other research sites across Canada, as well as with services available in other study sites within Atlantic Canada. In each of these tables in this report, the availability of services in Springhill is compared to the 24 sites surveyed across Canada and to the 6 study sites in Atlantic Canada.

Information for this report was collected in Springhill by: David Bruce, Colene Chisolm, Carla Stevens, Lindsay Lyghtle.

ABOUT THE SERVICE INVENTORY

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation has been conducting research in 32 rural and small town sites from across Canada. These sites form a type of “rural observatory” in which aspects of the *Initiative on the New Economy* project may be examined. The sites participating in this project reflect the diversity of the Canadian landscape, and include forestry and mining towns, farming and fishing communities, and tourism towns. Furthermore, some of these places are located adjacent to metropolitan areas, while others are more isolated.



In the summer of 2005, researchers visited 24 sites across Canada to update a service provision inventory. This included 9 sites in Western Canada, 5 sites in Ontario, 4 sites in Québec, and 6 sites in Atlantic Canada. The population of these rural and small town places varies from 150 to 5,205 people.

Distribution and size of INE participating sites

SITES	POPULATION SIZE – 2001
Western Canada	
Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia	1,851
Mackenzie, British Columbia	5,205
Port Alice, British Columbia	1,126
Hussar, Alberta	181
Ferintosh, Alberta	150
Spalding, Saskatchewan	261
Wood River, Saskatchewan	370
Benito, Manitoba	415
Rhineland, Manitoba	4,183
Ontario	
Seguin, Ontario	3,698
Tweed, Ontario	1,540
North Plantagenet, Ontario	3,848
Carden, Ontario	888
Usborne, Ontario	1,490
Québec	
Taschereau, Québec	534
Cap-à-l'aigle, Québec	720
St. Damase, Québec	1,327
St. Françoise, Québec	453
Atlantic Canada	
Blissfield, New Brunswick	674
Neguac, New Brunswick	1,697
Lot 16, Prince Edward Island	688
Springhill, Nova Scotia	4,091
Twillingate, Newfoundland and Labrador	2,615
Winterton, Newfoundland and Labrador	560

Source: CRRF NRE 2005; Statistics Canada 2001.

Data were collected to examine the availability of a range of services including:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| education | community |
| health | transportation |
| protection services | recreational |
| legal | basic Shopping |
| business services | commercial shopping |
| communication | economic development organizations |
| elderly and childcare | housing |
| government | |

AVAILABILITY

Copies of all service availability reports were distributed within the participating sites. Additionally, copies have been posted on the INE website (nre.concordia.ca) and on Greg Halseth's website (<http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>).

Copies of the larger *Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Canada* report are available in a number of locations. At the University of Northern British Columbia, copies have been deposited at the Weller Library or can be accessed on Greg Halseth's website: <http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>. Copies are also available on the Initiative of the New Economy website at: nre.concordia.ca.

For further information about this report or other available reports on services, please contact Greg Halseth at:

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INITIATIVE ON THE NEW ECONOMY

SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES: A REPORT FOR SPRINGHILL, NOVA SCOTIA

Site Description – Springhill, Nova Scotia

Springhill is located in the northwestern portion of Nova Scotia, with a population of 4,091. It is 174 kilometres northwest of Halifax and 88 kilometres east of Moncton, New Brunswick.

Traditionally a mining community, Springhill has experienced its share of economic prosperity and tragedy. Since the coal mine disasters of the late 1950s which led to the eventual closure of the mines by the early 1970s, Springhill has concentrated its economic interests elsewhere including tourism, institutional services (community college, correctional facility), and manufacturing. The surrounding rural areas engage in dairy farming, producing blueberries, and exporting timber.

The main source of employment in the community is the penitentiary; however, few local people work there. Business development in Springhill is challenged by competition in Amherst, a much larger community only 20 kilometres away. However, one advantage offered by Springhill is its industrial park, which is served by geothermal energy. This form of energy costs significantly less and is more environmentally friendly.

Out-migration of youth, a rapidly aging population, high unemployment, and aging municipal infrastructure are problems in Springhill. The development of tourism is one key strategy for revitalization. Priding itself on a rich history filled with both tragedy and accomplishments, Springhill is the home of the Anne Murray Centre, the Miner's Museum, and several large cultural and music festivals.



POPULATION PROFILE - SPRINGHILL, NOVA SCOTIA

The population of Springhill, Nova Scotia declined from 4,193 residents in 1996 to 4,091 residents in 2001 (Statistics Canada 2001). While Springhill has a family oriented population, it has a large population of seniors as well. This will have important implications for planning the delivery of a variety of services, such as social services, health services, recreational services, and even housing.

Population	Site: Springhill, NS		
	Total	Male	Female
Population in 2001	4091	2045	2040
Population in 1996	4193	2095	2100
1996 to 2001 population change (%)	-2.4	-3	-3
Total - All persons	4095	2045	2040
Age 0-4	180	100	75
Age 5-14	485	245	240
Age 15-19	250	135	120
Age 20-24	240	140	100
Age 25-44	1120	620	505
Age 45-54	575	285	290
Age 55-64	430	215	210
Age 65-74	385	175	210
Age 75-84	320	110	210
Age 85 and over	115	30	85
Median age of the population	41.6	38.1	44.7

Source: Statistics Canada 2001.

Springhill's location in a relatively isolated and rural county makes it challenging in terms of population retention and attraction. The entire county has been experiencing a relatively long period of slow population decline, fuelled by concentration of services in larger centres, an aging population, and youth leaving to seek education and employment opportunities elsewhere.

SERVICE PROVISION IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN PLACES

Services play an important role in retaining and attracting residents and businesses. However, rural and small town places across Canada are experiencing tremendous change stemming from economic and social restructuring in an increasingly global economy. As a result, some small towns have been experiencing population declines. At the same time, federal and provincial government policies have been withdrawing some of the service infrastructure that can provide a foundation for revitalizing rural and small town places and assist residents to cope with stress. Some rural and small town places adjusted to transition through establishing innovative services or diversifying their local economies. These types of innovation suggest one way by which services help to build capacity within a place.

Services also help to build capacity by providing opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust, which subsequently can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. Together, services can help to enhance local quality of life and mitigate out-migration.

Educational Services

Educational institutions are playing a changing role in maintaining quality of life in rural and small town places. Schools have provided other amenities through their libraries, theatres, and art galleries in places that would otherwise not have access to such services. They have also played a larger economic development role. Community colleges can provide skilled and professional workers, act as a broker of services, and act as a repository of information. They can also design programs and services that are relevant and respond to the changing labour market conditions of small places.

Table 1: Availability of Education Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Pre-school/kindergarten	50.0	62.5	33.3	66.7	✓	
Elementary school	63.6	66.7	66.7	66.7	✓	
High school	27.3	37.5	50.0	50.0	✓	
CEGEP/college	18.2	16.7	33.3	33.3	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

With the exception of community colleges, educational services are available in more sites across Canada in 2005 compared to two years ago. A greater proportion of sites in Atlantic Canada offer a range of educational services when compared to the sites across Canada (Table 1). In particular, the Atlantic region has experienced a growth in the availability of pre-school / kindergartens since 2003. Springhill is well equipped to cope with the needs of a young

population, as well as demands for retraining that may be required as a result of economic change.

Health Services

Health services play an important role in attracting new labour and retaining residents. During times of economic and social restructuring, closures in hospitals and the centralization of physical and mental health services can be difficult on the elderly and the poor who do not have access to a vehicle or who live in a place with limited transportation services. However, it is not just the utility of health services that is of concern, but also the potential loss of health care jobs that can lead to a further decline in the local economy and population.

Table 2: Availability of Health Infrastructure - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada		Atlantic		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Hospital	18.2	12.5	33.3	33.3	✓	
Health centre/CLSC	27.3	37.5	33.3	50.0	✓	
Medical clinic	40.9	37.5	50.0	33.3	X	✓
Blood/urine testing facility	36.4	41.7	50.0	50.0	✓	
X-ray facility	22.7	20.8	33.3	33.3	✓	
Baby delivery facility	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	✓
CT scan facility	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Nursing home	13.6	16.7	33.3	33.3	✓	
Pharmacy	40.9	37.5	66.7	66.7	✓	
Ambulance	36.4	41.7	66.7	66.7	✓	
Emergency services	18.2	16.7	33.3	33.3	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Health facilities are limited in most of the rural and small town places examined (Table 2). This has changed very little over the last two years. Of particular interest is that fewer than 40% of sites across Canada in 2005 have a health centre, hospital, or pharmacy. This carries important implications for residents commuting for medical emergencies or health care reasons. Sites in Atlantic Canada are better equipped with health care services when compared with the national sample. At least half of the sites in Atlantic Canada have a health centre, a blood / urine testing facility, a pharmacy, and an ambulance. However, fewer sites in Atlantic Canada have a medical clinic compared to two years ago. In terms of health infrastructure, Springhill is better served than many Atlantic sites, offering access to most health facilities (at either a full time or part time level) within the site. However, a shortage of physicians appears to have resulted in the recent closure of the Elm Street Medical Clinic, as well as periodic closures of hospital emergency services. Facilities that are not available locally can be accessed within 30 minutes of the site in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

Table 3: Availability of Health Professionals - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Doctors	36.4	41.7	50.0	66.7	✓	
Nurses	36.4	41.7	50.0	50.0	✓	
Dentists	27.3	25.0	50.0	50.0	✓	
Dental surgeons	9.1	8.3	16.7	16.7	✓	
Optometrists	18.2	16.7	33.3	33.3	✓	
Home care visits	54.5	70.8	50.0	66.7	✓	
VON	13.6	20.8	50.0	50.0	✓	
Social workers	22.7	29.2	50.0	50.0	✓	
Public health nurse	31.8	37.5	50.0	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

The availability of health care professionals is also limited in small places. In fact, only home care visits are available in more than half of the sites across Canada in 2005 (Table 3). Even those services considered as essential, such as doctors, are only available in just over 41% of the sites across Canada. With the exception of home care visits, health care professionals are available in a higher proportion of Atlantic sites when compared to the national results. Of interest, there have been no reductions in health care professionals in Atlantic communities over the last two years. In fact, more Atlantic sites have a doctor or home care visits compared to two years ago. Springhill is fortunate to have access to a full range of health professionals within the community.

Table 4: Availability of Health Programs / Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Physiotherapy	22.7	25.0	33.3	33.3	✓	
Speech therapy	31.8	25.0	50.0	33.3	✓	
Occupational therapy	13.6	17.4	33.3	33.3	✓	
Respite care	22.7	21.7	66.7	50.0	✓	
Prenatal care programs	*	39.1	*	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

The availability of health care programs and services is also low in the sites examined across Canada. However, new services being tracked in 2005, including prenatal care programs, are more widely available (Table 4). Health care services and programs are more widely available in Atlantic sites compared to the national sample. Although, there has been a decline in the presence of speech therapy and respite care in Atlantic sites since 2003. Once again, Springhill

stands in contrast with other rural communities across Canada as residents have local access to a wide range of specialized health programs and services.

Protection Services

Protection services contribute to community capacity in a number of ways. For example, volunteer fire departments and various crime watch programs provide opportunities for community involvement and interaction, both of which can build trust and leadership.

Table 5: Availability of Protection Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada		Atlantic		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Police (local/RCMP)	22.7	33.3	50.0	50.0	✓	
Fire department	68.2	79.2	66.7	66.7	✓	
911 emergency line	86.4	83.3	66.7	66.7	✓	
Security services	4.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	X
Alarm services	22.7	37.5	0.0	50.0	X	✓
Neighbourhood watch	31.8	29.2	33.3	0.0	X	X
Rural crime watch	13.6	16.7	16.7	0.0	X	X
Victim's services – police based	*	16.7	*	0.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Protection services are more available than most other services (Table 5). Most notably, fire departments and the 911 emergency telephone number are available in more than half the sites across Canada. Since 2003, some sites across Canada appear to have recovered policing and fire department services. While policing and alarm services are more available in Atlantic sites than the national sample, fewer Atlantic sites have all of the other protection services. Essential protective services are all available within Springhill including a municipal police service, RCMP (based in Amherst), a 35 member volunteer fire department, and a police-based victim services program. However, the neighbourhood watch program is no longer active in Springhill.

Legal Services

Legal services are another example of specialized services that are often not found in rural areas. The absence of legal services has important implications as residents must commute to go to court, to access legal services such as preparation of wills or for purchasing real estate, or to have passports or affidavits signed.

Table 6: Availability of Legal Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Lawyer	18.2	16.7	33.3	33.3	✓	
Notary	40.9	45.8	50.0	66.7	✓	
Court	18.2	12.5	33.3	16.7	X	✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Overall, legal services are very limited in the study sites across Canada (Table 6). The availability of legal services in Atlantic sites is above the national sample. However, while more Atlantic sites have a notary public, fewer of these sites have a court when compared to 2003 results. This is the case in Springhill as well which has both lawyer and notary services within the site but must access court services in Amherst.

Financial Services

Businesses also play a role in providing a range of activities that enhance the quality of life of a place, as well as the viability and stability of the local economy. Business members also play an important role in community development as they can provide leadership in, and support for, local volunteer groups. Small local businesses are also an important source for fundraising and sponsorship of specific local organizations or events.

Table 7: Availability of Financial / Business Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Banks	36.4	33.3	50.0	50.0	✓	
Credit union/caisse populaire	50.0	50.0	33.3	33.3	X	✓
ATM	50.0	54.2	50.0	50.0	✓	
Micro-financing	9.1	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Insurance office	50.0	50.0	50.0	66.7	✓	
Industrial park	22.7	20.8	16.7	16.7	✓	
Real estate office	18.2	20.8	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Accounting	50.0	50.0	66.7	66.7	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In general, credit unions, ATMs, insurance offices, and accounting services are found in half the rural and small town sites across Canada (Table 7). The availability of these services has remained fairly stable over the last two years. In 2005, more Atlantic Canada sites offer banking, insurance, and accounting services compared to the national sample. Fewer Atlantic sites have an industrial park, micro-financing, and real estate. Springhill offers most financial services to its

residents on site, and those that are not on site can be accessed from the nearby community of Amherst. Similar to other national and Atlantic region sites, micro-financing and a real estate services are two of the financial services that are not accessible directly within Springhill.

Communications

Connectivity is crucial in the new economy. Communication services also allow residents to maintain contact with family and friends. With improved communication infrastructure, rural and small town places can improve local employment opportunities, and support business networks.

Table 8: Availability of Communication Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Cell phone – analog	86.4	91.7	100.0	100.0	✓	
Cell phone – digital	40.9	83.3	33.3	83.3	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Springhill residents and businesses benefit from the availability of both analog and digital cell phone service (Table 8). Overall, analog cell phone service is widely available across the study sites in Canada. Approximately 83% of the sites in the national sample also enjoy digital cell phone service. All of the sites in Atlantic Canada offer analog cell phone service. The availability of digital cell phone services reflects the national average.

Elderly and Childcare Services

Childcare services provide an important part of the educational and care services in rural and small town places. Childcare also provides men and women with children an opportunity to participate in the labour force. Other services of importance are seniors' services including nursing homes and retirement homes. These services are particularly important given the aging of the Canadian population.

An inventory of 24 sites across Canada indicates that while many are equipped to meet the needs of young families, others are not yet well equipped with seniors' care facilities (Table 9). In contrast to the national sample, sites in Atlantic Canada are less equipped to offer daycare services, although more of these sites have nursing homes for seniors than the national sample. When examining change in the availability of senior citizen's retirement homes, Atlantic sites have experienced a decline in availability. Springhill residents, however, are fortunate to have direct access to several choices for daycare services as well as a nursing home. In addition, three senior citizens' retirement homes are available in the nearby community of Amherst.

Table 9: Availability of Elderly and Daycare Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Daycare	45.5	54.2	33.3	33.3	✓	
Senior citizen's nursing home	18.2	20.8	50.0	50.0	✓	
Senior citizen's retirement home	31.8	37.5	50.0	16.7	X	✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Government Services

Town halls and post offices are the most frequently available government services in rural and small town places. Post offices not only provide a service and identity, but also opportunities for routine social interaction to build relationships. Other government services play an important role in community capacity by providing a local source of expertise and knowledge upon which the community can draw.

The rural and small town sites examined across Canada do not have access to many government services (Table 10). Of particular concern to sites experiencing social and economic restructuring is that few of the sites have Employment Insurance or social assistance offices. Consequently, during restructuring or plant closures, households experiencing stress will have to go outside the site for information and assistance.

Table 10: Availability of Government Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Employment Insurance	4.5	4.2	16.7	16.7	X	✓
Provincial auto license office	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Social assistance office	22.7	16.7	33.3	33.3	X	✓
Town hall	68.2	70.8	66.7	66.7	✓	
Post office	81.8	83.3	66.7	66.7	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In Atlantic Canada, more sites offer social assistance and employment insurance services to households experiencing economic and social restructuring compared to the national sample. However, fewer sites have other government service offices such as a post office, and none have a provincial auto license office. The community of Springhill is similar to other sites in Canada and the Atlantic region, offering only a post office and a town hall within the town site. Springhill has government services that are commonly found in other Atlantic sites, including a town hall and a post office. Other government services may be accessed within 30 minutes in Amherst.

Community Services

Community services can provide an important foundation from which to build relationships, and can be important sources to draw upon during times of economic and social stress. The availability of community services in rural and small town places varies considerably (Table 11). While fewer sites across Canada have a second hand stores compared to two years ago, more sites in the national sample offer clothing depots and senior drop-in centres.

Table 11: Availability of Community Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada		Atlantic		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Food bank	31.8	25.0	50.0	16.7	✓	
Clothing exchange/depot	18.2	29.2	16.7	33.3	✓	
Second hand stores	40.9	29.2	50.0	33.3	✓	
Youth drop-in centre	22.7	25.0	16.7	16.7	✓	
Women's drop-in centre	22.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Senior's drop-in centre	31.8	41.7	16.7	16.7	✓	
Half-way house	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Women's resource centre	9.1	8.3	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Women's safe house	*	8.3	*	0.0	X	✓
Personal aid services	31.8	37.5	50.0	50.0	✓	
Victim's services						
– comm. based	*	25.0	*	16.7	X	✓
Churches	*	95.8	*	100.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Overall, sites in Atlantic Canada did not have as many community services when compared to all the sites across Canada. In fact, the availability of food banks and second hand stores have declined in the Atlantic sites since 2003. At least half of these sites, though, have personal aid services and churches. The availability of personal aid services will be important during periods of social and economic change. Springhill residents are reasonably served by most of these community services locally. Other services, including a women's drop-in centre, women's resource centre, and safe house, can be accessed nearby in Amherst. The closest half-way house is located approximately 80 kilometres away Truro.

Transportation

Transportation infrastructure can have important implications not only for attracting economic activity to a place, but also for enhancing the quality of life of vulnerable groups in rural and small town places. Transportation services, especially freight services, can play an important role in attracting industry by providing additional options to export products. However, without adequate, affordable transportation options, mobility can be difficult for women, seniors, or those

with disabilities to move within the community and to access services in adjacent centres. Being mobile enables citizens to have access to services, to be involved in the community, to develop local friendship ties and support networks, and to experience social activities.

The higher availability of gas stations and automobile repair services in these places reflects Canada's general reliance on the automobile (Table 12). Other transportation services are less frequently available, most notably local transit service, passenger rail service, and airport service.

Table 12: Availability of Transport Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada		Atlantic		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Local bus transit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Inter-community bus station	31.8	29.2	33.3	16.7	✓	
Train – passenger	4.5	4.2	16.7	16.7	✓	
Train – freight	36.4	29.2	16.7	16.7	✓	
Airport	18.2	16.7	0.0	0.0	X	X
Helicopter port	22.7	25.0	16.7	33.3	X	✓
Boat/ferry terminal	18.2	25.0	50.0	50.0	X	X
Taxi	27.3	25.0	33.3	33.3	✓	
Gas station	86.4	87.5	66.7	66.7	✓	
Automobile repair	63.6	70.8	50.0	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

When compared to sites across Canada, more Atlantic sites offer passenger train services, helicopter ports, boat / ferry terminals, and taxi services. However, fewer Atlantic sites have inter-community bus service, freight train service, airports, gas stations, and automobile repair shops. While most of these transportation services have remained stable over the last two years, fewer sites in Atlantic Canada now have inter-community bus service. Again, Springhill has access to most transportation services within the community. The closest helicopter port to Springhill is located in Amherst. Springhill residents must travel beyond 30 minutes to access other transportation services, such as an airport in Moncton, New Brunswick, or a boat / ferry terminal in Pictou, Nova Scotia.

Recreation Services

When examining all of the sites, recreational services show the greatest range of availability compared to any other service category (Table 13). This bodes well for the retention and attraction of residents, as well as the overall quality of life of these places. More notable recreational services available include community playing fields, community centres, libraries, municipal parks, hiking trails, and campgrounds. Many of these services can be important places where events can foster a sense of community. Across Canada, most sites are also able to offer either an indoor skating rink or a community gym. Recreational services less frequently available across Canada include fitness facilities, such as athletic clubs and swimming pools, as well as entertainment features such as cinemas. Since 2003, live theatre and tennis courts are

found in more sites in the national sample. Declines in recreational services between 2003 and 2005 in the national sample include outdoor municipal swimming pools and skiing trails.

Table 13: Availability of Recreation Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Curling rink	31.8	37.5	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Bowling lanes	22.7	20.8	33.3	33.3	✓	
Indoor municipal swimming pool	13.6	12.5	16.7	16.7	X	✓
Outdoor municipal swimming pool	18.2	8.3	16.7	0.0	X	X
Indoor municipal skating rink	50.0	54.2	33.3	50.0	✓	
Outdoor municipal skating rink	31.8	33.3	33.3	16.7	X	X
Community playing field	81.8	79.2	66.7	66.7	✓	
Community gym	50.0	50.0	50.0	33.3	✓	
Community centre	81.8	75.0	83.3	66.7	✓	
Private athletic club	13.6	15.0	33.3	20.0	✓	
Municipal athletic club	18.2	16.7	0.0	16.7	X	✓
Theatre (live performance)	13.6	33.3	33.3	33.3	X	✓
Cinema (movie theatre)	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Museum	36.4	41.7	50.0	50.0	✓	
Library	77.3	79.2	66.7	66.7	✓	
Municipal parks	77.3	79.2	50.0	50.0	✓	
Provincial parks	22.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	X	X
Tennis courts	31.8	45.8	33.3	33.3	✓	
Skiing trails	50.0	37.5	66.7	50.0	✓	
Hiking trails	63.6	62.5	83.3	83.3	✓	
Golf courses	36.4	37.5	33.3	16.7	✓	
Campgrounds	68.2	66.7	66.7	50.0	X	✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

In 2005, a greater proportion of sites in Atlantic Canada offer recreational amenities such as bowling lanes, museums, and skiing and hiking trails when compared with sites across Canada in 2005. However, some recreational services, such as a curling rink, outdoor municipal swimming pool, and movie cinema, are not available in any of these sites. Springhill residents have access to a wider range of options for recreational amenities compared to other Atlantic sites. These include several museum and park choices, as well as the new Dr. Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre. Of those recreation services not located within the community, only municipal outdoor pools, municipal outdoor skating rinks, and provincial parks are not accessible within 30 minutes from Springhill.

Shopping

Shopping services contribute to the success of the local economy and are considered to be an important gauge of economic health of rural and small town places. Shopping is also an important recreational activity and provides opportunities for social interaction. Low levels of shopping services can lead to out-of-town shopping and perhaps even out-migration.

Table 14: Availability of Basic Shopping Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada		Atlantic		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	% Yes		% Yes			
2003	2005	2003	2005			
Grocery store	68.2	70.8	66.7	66.7	✓	
Farmer's market	13.6	25.0	16.7	33.3	X	✓
Liquor store	54.5	62.5	50.0	50.0	✓	
Bakery	27.3	37.5	50.0	50.0	✓	

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

The service inventory indicates that most sites across Canada are able to offer shopping services that residents would need to access on a more frequent basis, such as grocery stores (Table 14). In fact, basic shopping services have been increasing in the 24 sites examined in the national inventory. However, a lower proportion of sites in Atlantic Canada have a liquor store. Instead, a greater proportion of these sites have a bakery. In contrast, Springhill residents have access to a grocery store, liquor store, and bakery. Residents, however, must travel to Amherst to access a farmer's market. Springhill residents also benefit from other basic shopping services, such as a variety of drug stores, convenience stores, floral shop, photography store, and a hardware store. For more specialized shopping, residents must travel to Amherst, Truro, or Moncton.

Economic Development Organizations

Economic development organizations can play an important role in promoting the community to attract not only additional businesses, but also to attract a wider population base. While there is not a wide range of economic development organizations in these sites, it is particularly critical to note that only approximately 20% of the sites across Canada have a Chamber of Commerce (Table 15). As these organizations are comprised of local business individuals, they are important sources to draw upon during economic and social change. On the other hand, more sites in the national sample offer financial and business consulting services compared to two years ago.

While economic development organizations are not widely available in the Atlantic sites, more Atlantic sites have tourism associations, general retraining programs, and women's leadership groups compared to the national sample. Like other sites in the national and Atlantic region, Springhill does not have many economic development organizations available. Of those organizations not available in Springhill, only half are accessible within 30 minutes in the nearby

community of Amherst. Other organizations and programs are located more than 80 kilometres from Springhill in either Truro, Halifax, Moncton or New Glasgow.

Table 15: Availability of Economic / Development Organizations - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Business Dev. Bank of Canada	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Community Business Dev. Ctrs.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Federal / prov. dev. - ACOA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Chamber of Commerce	18.2	20.8	16.7	16.7	✓	
Local bus. dev. corp.	18.2	8.3	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Economic/community trust	4.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	X	X
Career training/placmt. program	13.6	12.5	0.0	0.0	X	✓
Financial/business consulting	27.3	37.5	33.3	33.3	✓	
Real estate boards	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	X	X
Tourism associations	27.3	12.5	50.0	33.3	X	✓
Rotary clubs	18.2	12.5	16.7	16.7	✓	
Retraining programs – general	*	8.3	*	33.3	✓	
Retraining programs – women	*	0.0	*	0.0	X	X
Women’s leadership groups	*	41.7	*	50.0	X	✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Housing

Housing has been used as an incentive to attract residents to rural and small town places. However, lack of housing options as a population changes, or ages, can be a problem and can lead to out-migration. Housing options can improve the quality of life of residents, especially the more vulnerable citizens, including senior citizens or those with disabilities.

Table 16: Availability of Social Housing Services - 2005

Services	NRE Sites:				Springhill: 2005	
	Canada % Yes		Atlantic % Yes		Within the Site	Within 30 Minutes
	2003	2005	2003	2005		
Co-op housing	13.6	8.3	0.0	16.7	X	✓
Rent supplement units	22.7	20.8	33.3	33.3	✓	
Asstd./sub. housing – seniors	31.8	50.0	33.3	33.3	✓	
Asstd./sub. housing – families	31.8	29.2	66.7	50.0	✓	
Asstd./sub. housing – singles	9.1	12.5	0.0	16.7	X	✓
Asstd./sub. housing - disabled/special needs	13.6	12.5	16.7	16.7	X	✓

Source: CRRF NRE 2003, 2005 Site Profiles.

Although, social housing does not appear to be widely available in sites across Canada, there have been some important changes (Table 16). Most notably, there has been an increase in the availability of assisted or subsidized housing for seniors from approximately 32% of the sites across Canada in 2003 to 50% in 2005. In Atlantic Canada, fewer sites have assisted / subsidized housing for seniors. Instead, a greater proportion of the Atlantic sites are able to offer all other types of social housing when compared with the national sample. Notably, half of the sites in Atlantic Canada have assisted or subsidized housing for families. This includes Springhill which has assisted or subsidized housing for families and seniors, as well as rent supplement units. Other types of social housing not available locally can be found in nearby Amherst.

Challenges and Opportunities for Springhill, Nova Scotia

Despite the closure of the community's coal mines in the 1970s, a number of opportunities exist that centre around expansion of the industrial park as geothermal energy can reduce costs for many businesses. In addition, the community is anchored by institutions which provide stability within the community including the Springhill Institution (a medium security prison), hospital, and educational facilities. Recent years have seen a number of positive developments including the establishment of a number of new businesses, the construction of a new community centre (already slated for expansion to include a community gym), and expansion of the Cumberland campus of the Nova Scotia Community College.

In addition, residents of Springhill can access most services to meet daily needs within the local community, and of those that are not found within the community, most are available within 30 minutes. These services range from health, education, protection, legal, financial, community, government, communication, transportation, recreation, and shopping. In addition, the services offered within the community are geared towards the young and the elderly, male and female. This diversity of accessible services should provide the backbone for bringing stability to the community and bodes well for the retention of residents.

Nevertheless, the community faces some challenges. There have been a number of key losses to the community over the past few years. The retention of doctors appears to be an ongoing challenge that has resulted in the closure of the Elm Street Clinic, as well as periodic closures of hospital emergency services. In addition, the All Saints Hospital has been downsized from a 63 bed facility to a 24 bed general service hospital. Other key losses have include the loss of Alick's Hardware Store and the Freshmart grocery store which has left residents with only one hardware and one grocery shopping option.

Springhill has been responding to these challenges. Two new private sector housing developments for mature adults were created in 2005, signaling an interest in community reinvestment and development. The business community has also been expanding with new enterprises, such as Laurentide Paint Recycling, Hamblin Graphics, Hill Reclamation, and R.C. Video Productions. Further, the Lamp Cabin building was designated as a National Historic Site in 2005, providing additional infrastructure for heritage and tourism, as well as economic development.

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