

# West Prince County growing in popularity

Rural beauty, historic sites, comfortable accommodations, salt water bathing and fishing are some of the attractions that await visitors to West Prince County in Canada-Garden Province.

Year after year the native born and their descendants who live in far away places are overcome with nostalgia for the rich red soil and the fertile green fields of Prince Edward Island. Family after family makes annual pilgrimages to the place that is forever "home."

Each summer they are joined by ever increasing numbers of tourists who appreciate the relaxing atmosphere of rural communities and the hospitality of warm-hearted people.

There is variety of accommodation for the motorist. In the vicinity of Alberton there are tourist homes, cabins in scenic spots, a modern motel, and a small, uncrowded area for tents. Delicious home cooked food is served at the motel, and some tourist homes and restaurants also serve home-cooked meals.

### CARTIER FIRST

It is believed that a Jacques Cartier visited the shores of West Prince County during his first voyage of discovery in 1534. The spot where it is thought he landed there is a beautiful little park named in his honor. Here one may pitch a tent, have a picnic, enjoy swimming in buoyant salt water or sunbathing on the sandy beach. On the other side of the province is Cape Wolfe which, tradition says, was visited by General James Wolfe on his way to Quebec in 1759.

There are at least two other points of historic interest in the vicinity of Alberton, only town west of Summerside. It was from this area that the first martyrs of the Presbyterian Church in Canada went to the South Seas. On the east wall of the Old Dock Church (now United Church of Canada) hangs a tablet to the memory of George Nicol Gordon who, with his wife Ellen Catherine Powell of London, England, was killed by the natives of Eromanga in the New Hebrides in 1861, and of James Douglas Gordon who took his brother's place and in 1872 also suffered a martyr's death. A cairn marks the site where their home once stood near the main highway between Alberton and Summerside.

Alberton is the home of the once thriving silver fish industry which brought fame and prosperity to Prince Edward Islanders. It was on a small island in Alberton Harbour that the first fox pups were born in captivity. At the approach to the town is a monument erected to commemorate the founders of this industry.

To harness racing fans Alberton is the home of Joe O'Brien. Behind the O'Brien home is the track where Joe did his first driving.

### HANDICRAFTS

One of the province's finest and most popular handicrafts is located in Alberton. The town is very proud of Herbert Leavitt and his Maple Tree Craft which has become known all across Canada. What began as a hobby has expanded and today the Leavitt family and Kenneth Quigley are turning out plates, bowls, plaques, bookends, etc., made of choice Maritime woods and finished with a hard lacquer which enhances the natural beauty of the maple and birch used in crafting them. The work is done in a small workshop beside the Leavitt home. During inclement weather Mr. Leavitt has occasionally extended to a congenitally interested tourist the courtesy of trying a hand at the lathe.

Less than a mile from the town of Alberton is the interesting little fishing community of Alberton South. A century ago it was a busy port out of which stiled vessels with cargoes of fish and farm produce, and to which they returned with lumber, coal, molasses and other marketable commodities. It was also a ship building centre and in recent years this industry has been revived. Alberton Industries

tries turns out an excellent type of fishing boat. Other boats made here have included long-liners, Government patrol boats, and luxury cabin cruisers.

McCasland's Woolies M111, located on the main highway between O'Leary Corner and Alberton, sends shipments of yarn and blankets all across Canada. The owners, Reginald and Edward MacCasland welcome visitors to their mill. Many tourists find it interesting to see yarn and blankets being manufactured and often make purchases of these scrviceable souvenirs for their own households or for friends.

Two major events of interest to resident and visitor alike are featured in Alberton each year. The annual Aquatic Sports Day, initiated by Earl Atkinson in 1955, is probably without equal in the Maritimes. Begun as a long distance swim without sponsor or prize, it has grown and developed beyond expectation. The main attraction continues to be a long swim but boat racing is a close second. The program also includes short swims, demonstrations of water safety and life saving, and special attractions which vary from year to year. They have included high diving, stung diving,

water - skiing, musical swims, skin diving, etc. Sponsored by the Alberton and West Prince Board of Trade, it is scheduled for the last Wednesday afternoon in July at Alberton South. Alberton's Prince County Exhibition, a two-day show held the third week in August, attracts thousands of visitors annually. There are excellent exhibits of livestock, field and garden produce, handicraft and domestic science. Appetizing meals of home-cooked food attractively served are available on the grounds. There are also booths and canteens where lunches, soft drinks, ice cream and fruit may be purchased. Various forms of entertainment are provided. On the final night there is round and square dancing. It is the place where old friends meet and where everyone has a good time.

In the Alberton area there are streams and ponds for trout fishing and arrangements may be made to go deep sea fishing. Last summer saw the opening of a drive-in theatre a few miles from Alberton. Located on the shore of Catequep Bay it has a few yards of lawn between the screen and a large expanse of shimmering water.



MYSTERIES OF LOBSTER EXPLAINED TO VISITOR

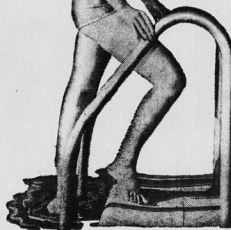


MOSS FISHING AROUSES CURIOSITY OF VISITORS

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THIS MESSAGE PUBLISHED IN WELCOME TO ALL TOURISTS BY THE TOWN OF SUMMERSIDE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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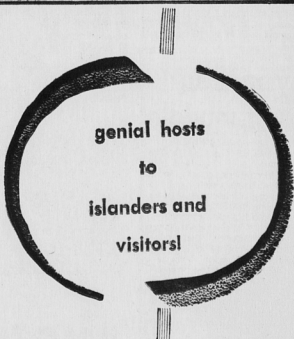
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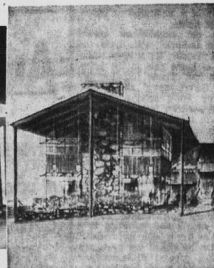
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Peter Pan Drive-In Restaurant Junction Trans-Canada Highway and Malpeque Road



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