

A vibrant, stylized painting of a coastal scene. In the foreground, a large, dark green tree stands on a rocky shore. The water is a deep blue with white-capped waves crashing against dark brown rocks. A large sailboat with two white sails and a black hull is sailing on the water. Several white seagulls with black wingtips are flying in the sky. The background features rolling green hills under a clear blue sky.

Your
Complete
Relocation
Guide

Let's
Move to
Nova
Scotia



Photo: Liz Cummings

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Chapter 4 The Annapolis Valley

"This is the forest primeval.

The murmuring pines and the hemlocks,
Bearded with moss, and in garments green."

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow *Evangeline*

This is the Forest Primeval. There are still stands of old-growth Acadian forest in this part of Mi'kma'ki, stewarded by the First Nations of this land, the Mi'kmaq. The sheltered valley curves between two mountain ranges and winds up and down the Bay of Fundy on its western edge. The resulting microclimate gives you long, warm summers and milder winters than the rest of Nova Scotia.

It is in this valley that the first Europeans founded one of the oldest North American settlements when the French claimed what is now Annapolis Royal, and it is home to Nova Scotia's very own wine country, with over a dozen award-winning vineyards. If you thought vineyards were romantic and beautiful, prepare to be surprised. Nova Scotia's vineyards are even more beautiful than imagined.

This lush, fertile land abounds with historic orchards and cideries, the architecture of the 18th and 19th centuries, and the up-to-date amenities of a university town, as well as more startlingly beautiful houses sitting on their own acreage along meadows and ocean shores.

If you love apple blossom festivals, outdoor living, and communities that urge you to put down deep roots, the Annapolis Valley might be the place for you. However, be prepared - you will likely miss easy access to public transportation, as driving is essential here. And you will need to connect with your local firewood provider and find a neighbour who does winter snow plowing. I think you'll find it's more than worth it if you love a life that moves slowly, and bustles with seasonal activities.



Apple Lane Farm: Morristown, NS



Did You Know?

One of the first recorded plantings of vines (Bordeaux) in North America was in the Annapolis Valley in 1634.