

Port Mouton Pastoral Charge



Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report



September 2007



Profile #1 – Community

Nova Scotia's beautiful South Shore is home to the Port Mouton Pastoral Charge. Picturesque seaside fishing communities, long white-sand beaches and warm hospitality await you here. The charge encompasses the communities of Port L'Herbert, Port Joli, Port Mouton, Summerville, Hunts Point, and White Point.

The neighboring communities of Port Joli and Port L'Herbert have a population of approximately 300 people and share a Post Office. The mainstay of the village is lobster fishing. Port Joli is also a busy vacation area, home to many summer homes and cottages. Recreation in the area includes the Thomas Raddall Provincial Park (campground) located by the ocean with many sand beaches. Port Joli also has a walking trail that leads to more white sand beaches and it is common to see seals playing in the surf. This trail is known as the "Keji Adjunct". It is part of the Kejimikujik National Park. There are other beaches to walk, and the lakes and rivers to swim in. Port Joli offers kayak rentals and lessons through a business located in the community. It is also common to see or hear of someone who is rug hooking or quilting.

Port Mouton is a village that is further divided as Central and Southwest Port Mouton. Mi'kmaq originally named the area Walogump which means deep gully or hole in the river. The loyalists renamed it Port Mouton after a sheep fell overboard during the visit of Du Guast de Monts in 1604. De Monts and his crew settled in Port Mouton and made it their base during their exploration of the coast.

It is also noted that the first organized Christian worship service in what is now North America was held on the beaches of Southwest Port Mouton.

In 1623, settlers from Scotland sent out Sir William Alexander and he renamed the area Saint Luke's Bay. In 1784, land was granted to Donald McPherson and 102 others, mostly disbanded soldiers who served under Sir Guy Carleton during the Revolutionary War. They formed a new township and named it Guysborough in Carleton's honour. Fire swept through the settlement in the second year and burned down all but two houses.

Port Mouton also boasts Carter's beach, one of Nova Scotia's hidden gems. It is a beautiful white sand beach where those strolling along can often find sand dollars. Summerville Center has a mile long white sand beach. Hunts Point also has a lovely beach with a well photographed wharf.

After the Port Mouton Elementary school was closed, a group was formed to attempt to convert it into a community center. Currently it houses a craft center, art gallery, art studio, the local CAP site (computer access program), and what not shop. The crafts, including quilts, are on display and are for sale. A hostel has now been established on the lower floor with accommodations available for 28 people and is open year round.

The Seascope Restaurant in Port Mouton also houses a community store. The building is the oldest standing house in the community. Stone Haven Lodge for Active Seniors houses 9 individual rooms and is located in the former Stone Haven Motel. Port Mouton also has a Post Office.

West Queens Recreation Center, built in 1991 is comprised of a large main room, where wedding receptions often occur, and a smaller meeting room. Each room had its own washrooms and kitchen facilities. Adjacent to the Center is the Bud MacLeod Recreation Park. It consists of a ball field and playground.

Our area is blessed by many breathtaking beaches of white sand. There are many quaint swimming areas among these beaches although they are unsupervised by lifeguard. A boat was sunk off Port Mouton Harbour for diver recreation. It is referred to as the Spectacle Marine Dive Park. The area also gives one access to boat tours that unlock spectacular scenery and wildlife.

A mobile library visits the area every two weeks.

Summerville is a quaint Seaside community located between Port Mouton and Hunts Point. The beautiful Summerville beach is a Nova Scotia Provincial Park. The Quarterdeck Beach Villas and Grill is a thriving business located on the beach.

The community of Hunts Point has a restaurant, 'Seaside Seafoods', a Kwikway convenience store and a Post Office. There are several businesses that rent summer cabins to the many visitors who come every summer to relax on our beaches and experience our warm hospitality.

The nearby community of White Point is home to the White Point Beach Lodge and Resort. It offers elegant dining, accommodations and a challenging 9-hole golf course (the Liverpool Golf and Country Club). Social Memberships are available to members of the community to have access to the indoor swimming pool.

The estimated population of Summerville, Hunts Point, and White Point is 400 people with an average age of 43.

Liverpool is the neighboring town to the PMPC. Liverpool has the following services and amenities:

- Queens General Hospital
- R.C.M.P.
- Liverpool Volunteer Fire Department
- Elementary, Junior, and Senior High schools
- Chandler's Funeral Services
- Ambulances (EHS)
- Department of Transportation
- Curling arena
- Massage therapy
- Chiropractics
- Tourist bureau
- Museums (5)
- Doctors offices
- Optometrist

- Dentists
- Royal Bank, Scotia Bank, Bank of Montreal
- Queens Memorial Arena (figure skating and hockey)
- Baseball fields
- Fitness gym located at the Junior High School

Festivals Include:

- Liverpool International Theatre Festival
- Privateer Days
- International Ukulele Festival
- Hank Snow
- Sea Fest

Some of the businesses include:

- Grocery stores (Sobeys, Atlantic Superstore)
- Pharmasave
- Home Hardware
- Veinot's Shoe Store
- NAPA auto parts
- The Liverpool Bowling Alley
- Cosby's Garden Center
- The Astor Theatre (plays, movies, and concerts)
- ADJA Art Studio
- Department Stores
- GM, Ford and Chrysler new car dealers
- Used car dealers
- Drag racing
- Gas Stations (Irving Mainway, Ultramar, XTR, Numerous variety stores and gift shops)
- NSLC (In Liverpool and Port Mouton)
- Hairdressers and barbers

Some of the restaurants include:

- Subway
- McDonald's
- Tim Horton's
- KFC
- A1 Pizza
- Liverpool Pizzeria
- Lane's
- Mersey House
- Woodpile Cafe
- Golden Pond (Chinese)

The larger industries in the Liverpool area are

- Bowater Mersey Pulp and Paper Company
- Nova Scotia Power

Other Denominations/Churches include:

- The United Church of Canada
- United Baptist
- Salvation Army
- Pentecostal

- Anglican
- Catholic
- Mormon
- Jehovah's Witness Hall

These are only a few of the highlights that Liverpool and the surrounding areas have to offer. Liverpool is about 10-20 minute drive for most people in the PMPC.

To situate PMPC in relation to other areas of Nova Scotia, a list of common destinations and approximate travel times are listed below:

Bridgewater	45 minutes
Shelburne	40 minutes
Halifax	1 hour 45 minutes
Yarmouth (CAT)	1 hour 45 minutes
Kejimikujik	1 hour +
Digby Ferry	2 hours 20 minutes

Profile # 2 – Pastoral Charges

The Port Mouton Pastoral Charge (PMPC), a member of Nova Scotia's South Shore Presbytery, consists of two points: Port Mouton United, and Wesley United (Hunt's Point). These churches primarily serve the communities of White Point through Port L'Herbert. Sunday services rotate between the two locations and are held at 11 am. The minister is the only paid staff for this pastoral charge. Volunteers from within the congregation undertake all other responsibilities.

It is important to understand that although there are two separate congregations for business matters since these congregations have been meeting together for Sunday services, at heart we operate as one congregation. We celebrate all holidays and special events together including the church picnic. Our congregation offers a warm and intimate experience sure to be filled with fun.

We also reach out to get to know the other churches in our community, taking part in the annual Fishers' Service and Privateer Days Service in Pine Grove Park and accepting invitations to attend other churches when our minister was on vacation.

In September 2007, the congregation from the third point of the charge, Port Joli United, decided to close their building. A close and dedicated group, they concluded that the time had come for them to begin a new journey by joining with the Port Mouton United Church.



The former Port Joli Church

Port Mouton United Church is located in the center of the pastoral charge area on Highway 103. An attached hall is used to host meetings and suppers. The hall kitchen is fully supplied with a refrigerator, electric stove, dishes, linen and silverware. The Church office and a washroom are in the manse which is situated next to Port Mouton United.



Port Mouton Church

Wesley United Church is located in Hunts Point. Hunts Point is primarily a fishing, tourism, and retirement community. The church is centrally located in the community, across from the ball field, tennis court and community hall. There is an Anglican Church located just down the road a little further.

The original church building in Hunts Point was erected as a Methodist Church in 1854. A larger building was constructed in 1866, and with various renovations over the years, is

the building we use today. It was in 1925 that the church became part of the PMPC of the United Church of Canada.

Wesley United hosts a Youth Group meeting twice a month from October until June. The youth participate in a number of special services throughout the year.



Hunts Point Church

Profile #3 – Resources

Income

Port Mouton Pastoral Charge had a total revenue of \$29 987.80 in 2006. This money was used for local purposes and the Mission and Service Fund.

Personal givings can be identified from 72 resident and 34 non-resident members. From this amount, there are 38 givers using envelopes. The allocations are: Hunts Point - \$11 000, Port Mouton - \$6000, and Port Joli - \$5280. The total number households are 128 (Note that these figures will change with the recent closure of the Port Joli church)

The population of the Port Mouton Charge is aging and the number of younger adherents is not increasing.

Expenses

In 2006 expenditures for the Port Mouton Pastoral Charge were \$28 400.00. It is broken down as follows:

- \$14 607.00 – Ministerial Salary
- \$7736.00 – Manse Repairs, insurance, and taxes (note: many repairs completed on the Manse this past year)
- \$1011.00 – Maritime Conference/ South Shore Presbytery
- \$140.00 - Fund Raising Expenses
- \$674.00 – Miscellaneous Expenses
- The remainder was used for other items related to the Charge.

Assets

- Property
 - The Port Mouton Pastoral Charge currently has four locations with assessed value totaling \$450 000 and replacement value of over \$600 000.
 - Manse and Land – Port Mouton \$ 95 000
 - Church and Land – Hunts Point \$150 000
 - Church and Land – Port Mouton \$120 000
 - Church and Land – Port Joli \$ 35 000
 (the Port Joli property is now for sale)
- Investments
 - The Charge currently has \$23 328.00 invested.
 - Cash on hand year ending 2006 - \$19 307.00
 - Our investments and cash on hand have increased considerably over the last five years while we had Retired Supply.
- Personnel
 - The only remunerated employee of the Charge is the Minister. The majority of maintenance work to buildings and lands is done by volunteers supplemented occasionally by paid trades' people. All financial and accounting work for the Charge is performed by volunteers. All fundraising is done by volunteers and the UCW of the whole Charge. Some of those fundraisers include a pancake supper, a walk-a-thon, a pot-luck supper, and Christmas Tea and Bake Sale. Volunteers offer assistance with administrative tasks and other activities to reduce the time the minister needs to attend to these duties. This permits the minister to focus on pastoral care or Sunday service.

Profile #4 – Position

Port Mouton Pastoral Charge is seeking a half time ordained minister or designated lay minister to continue to guide the congregation in worship and pastoral care.

The minister is accountable to South Shore Presbytery and the Official Board of the Port Mouton Pastoral Charge. They will also need to work with the Ministry and Personnel Committee of the Pastoral Charge.

Responsibilities

Worship

- Provide worship that deepens the congregation's understanding of the sources and the meaning of the Bible, the United Church of Canada doctrines, and Christian traditions.
- There is one service on the Charge per Sunday. It rotates between the two churches
- Administer the sacraments at a schedule agreed to by the Session
- Provide worship at Queens Manor and Hills View Acres three to four times a year
- Participate in special services on the Charge and with the other churches in the area (ex: Fishers service, Remembrance Day service, rotating services with the other denominations in the Charge area)

Pastoral Care

- Provide caring spiritual guidance to persons in crisis, ensuring all information is kept completely confidential.
- Conduct home and hospital visitations
- Perform baptisms, weddings, funerals
- Encourage fellowship activities

Christian Education

- Support the Youth Group and leaders
- Conduct confirmation classes

Meetings

- Attend Official Board, Session, and Congregational meetings
- Attend meetings of the South Shore Presbytery
- Maintain baptism, marriage, and funeral records

The following is a suggested breakdown of hours (20 total):

- Worship and Preparation 50% or 10 hours
- Pastoral Care and Visitation 40% or 8 hours
- Administration 5% or 1 hour
- Presbytery, Conference, Meetings 5% or 1 hour

The Charge is flexible when it comes to working hours. It is understood that if the minister was called to do more than 20 hours in one week, then that extra time could be taken during a following week. The Charge also tries to organize its meetings with the minister to have them on the same day as they are in the office (especially if the minister is not living in the community).

The Charge may also be willing to consider time off without pay if the minister needed or wanted some additional time off.

Profile #5 – Skills

The Port Mouton Pastoral Charge is searching for a half time ordained minister, or designated lay minister, who enjoys preaching, is a good communicator, a good listener, and is compassionate, and approachable. The Charge is looking for a minister who is able to convey the Christian message. The candidate needs to be down-to-earth, friendly, willing to lend a hand, and needs to be open minded and accepting of all people, ages, and points of view. This individual needs to guide the congregation in its spiritual life, and assist with day to day management of the Charge. They need to be willing to follow the Common Lectionary, and also be comfortable in an ecumenical situation as the Charge participates in some inter-denominational services each year.

It is important that the candidate has good time-management skills. Since the Charge is only capable of offering a half time position, the individual needs to make efficient use of their time on the given priorities. This is where the volunteers in the congregation can help by assisting with clerical duties and other tasks that will help free up the minister so they can attend to worship or pastoral care.

Profile #6 – Terms

Salary

Port Mouton Pastoral Charge is capable of sustaining a Category D salary, at 20 hours per week. The Charge is open to other options, including Retired Supply. Salary and benefits would be followed as in accordance to the United Church of Canada Manual. The Charge would be responsible for its share of the United Church Pension, Employment Insurance, Group Insurance, and Canada Pension Plan.

Leave

Leave would also be in accordance to the Manual. It would include one month of vacation per year as well as twenty-one days for study leave per year. The schedule would have to be agreed upon with the Ministry and Personnel Committee.

Office

The Charge office is located in the manse. It has a separate entrance and its own washroom. It has a telephone and photocopier. It does not have a computer or internet access.

Housing

The Charge has a manse. However, at this time it is being rented. Therefore a housing allowance would be paid for the minister to find their own accommodations.