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@BridgewaterNS on Facebook
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Almost 20 years ago, my family moved from Toronto to Bridgewater because of what we saw in this amazing town.

Warm and welcoming, it was the perfect place to establish our young family.

In the early 21st Century, Bridgewater has become one of the fastest-growing, sustainable, forward-thinking, and inclusive towns in Canada – and that’s not an exaggeration.

Our population has grown each of the past four census periods; small and medium-sized business is flourishing in our community, with new investment coming each and every year; in 2017, our community added a public transit system; and investment in residential housing in our community continues to grow.

Bridgewater is now poised for its next great boom.

We’re currently working to reconfigure the Bridgewater Business Park to allow our existing commercial and industrial businesses to flourish, while at the same time ensuring we are future-proofed and ready to offer opportunity to those who are excited to grow with us.

David Mitchell

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
ABOUT BRIDGEWATER

Bridgewater at a Glance

**HISTORY**
Founded around 1812, incorporated as a town in 1899

**POPULATION / GROWTH RATE**
8,532 / +4% per census period since 2006*

**TRAFFIC**
Vehicle counts of an average of 23,000+ plus cars daily travelling in Bridgewater

**POPULATION DENSITY / AREA**
639 per square KM / 13.3 square KM area

**SERVICE AREA**
There are approximately 62,000 people within a 50 KM radius of Bridgewater

The Town of Bridgewater is located on the LaHave River in the heart of Nova Scotia’s South Shore, about 25 kilometers inland from the Atlantic Ocean.

Situated within Lunenburg County, Bridgewater is the largest population centre southwestern third of the province and is known as “The Main Street of the South Shore.”

The community is strategically located within about an hour’s commute of Halifax, the provincial capital, and Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

**POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS**
Male 3,950 (46%)
Female 4,650 (54%)

**AGE GROUPS BY POPULATION**
Under 15 - 1,120  
15 to 24 - 875  
25 to 44 - 1,835  
45 to 64 - 2,410  
65 and Over - 2,300

**FROM 1996 TO 2016, BRIDGEWATER’S POPULATION HAS INCREASED OVERALL BY ABOUT 18%, SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL AVERAGE**

*Demographic figures from 2016 Canadian Census.
Town of Bridgewater location

Global context

Bridgewater
Our community

For more than a century, Bridgewater has been built on business.

Since the early days of area settlement, our community has evolved as a regional service hub and centre for commerce.

Today, Bridgewater remains the beating heart of the South Shore, with new businesses and residents drawn each year by its strategic advantages.

Our community is one of very just a handful of locations in Nova Scotia that has enjoyed consistent population growth over the past two decades.

Here, business opportunities and lifestyle options coalesce to present a compelling story. A story which continues to attract and support new investments and partnerships.

All this growth didn’t just happen by accident.

Bridgewater Town Council has consistently shown strong leadership, adopting and implementing guiding documents, including the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan, the Community Energy Investment Plan, and, most recently, our Smart Cities Challenge Proposal.

The Town has also made significant investments in upgrading its infrastructure to meet the demands of development in the 21st Century and to ensure our community remains vibrant and economically attractive.

The Town makes no apologies for its pro-business heritage and has endeavoured to nurture a culture that supports and fosters success.
In today's world, you can do business pretty much anywhere. Our interconnected, digital age has broken down walls, perceived and real, that have stymied creative thinking and outside-of-the-box solutions in the past.

So, why Bridgewater? The reasons are both fundamental and philosophical.

Every business needs dependable and affordable infrastructure, the ability to access markets and to draw upon resources, professional services, and a skilled labour force.

Bridgewater has a proven track record of providing these fundamentals.

The Bridgewater Business Park currently has over 50 industrial, light industrial, and retail businesses with approximately 1,350 full-time employees. In addition, the Bridgewater Business Park also has extensive public service sites and administrative office space.

Maybe the business park isn't the right space to fit your needs. Perhaps you're looking for that historic charm or the commercial bustle of a downtown location teeming with walk-up traffic.

No matter your needs, we have a location opportunity that's suited for you — and we're keen to help guide you through the process of identifying all your options.

Beyond the basics, the Town of Bridgewater's Council and staff have a "can do" attitude toward business development and economic growth.

It's a community that's known for turning challenges into opportunities and working with developers and investors to find creative solutions to allow businesses to thrive.
Bridgewater is well-positioned geographically to offer advantages for businesses looking to export nationally within Canada and internationally.

Locally, Bridgewater has a primary trading market with a population of about 50,000 residents within a 30 minute drive within Lunenburg and Queens Counties. If you expand that radius even slightly to within about 100 kilometers, you draw in much of Halifax and the Annapolis Valley and can tap into a market of more than 150,000 people.

For those with broader aspirations, our community is connected over land to Halifax and the rest of the continent by Highway 103, a provincial arterial highway. Via Highway 103, you can send or receive goods directly to your market through the Port of Halifax and Halifax Stanfield International Airport, each located just over 100 kilometers away.

Those who are thinking about doing business internationally will appreciate the benefits of the Atlantic Time Zone (EST + 1 hour). Situated halfway between the western United States and Europe, allowing you to conduct business on two continents in the same day. From Nova Scotia, you can fly to Boston in 90 minutes, New York in two hours, and London in five hours.
Resources

Services
As a regional hub in Nova Scotia, the Town of Bridgewater is the main office location for the Member of Parliament for South Shore-St.Margarets, as well as the MLA for the provincial riding of Lunenburg West. We have direct and regular interactions with representatives from the Federal and Provincial governments, and often work hand-in-hand on projects, including business development and investment opportunities.

Equally important to your success is the access to a vast array of professional services we're able to offer here in Bridgewater.

From finance and accounting to legal, marketing, insurance, human resources, land surveying, and environmental assessment services, our community boasts a broad network of professionals who will help ensure your business is set up for success.

Agency support
We're also pleased to be able to connect you with a number of pro-business agencies in our community who can offer everything from advice to grant opportunities, including:

- The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)
- Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI)
- Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC)
- Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre
- Bridgewater Area Chamber of Commerce

Connectivity
We have fibre-optic highspeed internet, with gigabit service, available throughout Bridgewater.
Our workforce

Successful business leaders often state that their employees are their most valuable asset.

Bridgewater is home to a dedicated and skilled labour force of over 4,280 persons strong – and that’s only part of the story. Our labour force is drawn from a pool of nearly 50,000 individuals who live within 30 minutes of Bridgewater in Lunenburg and Queens counties.

The companies that call our community home are fortunate to draw upon a labour force that has historically hard-working and well-educated, with a sense of workmanship, dependability, and pride that can’t be duplicated.

Just as importantly, our local labour force has also shown over generations that we have a culture of adaptability and place a premium on learning new skills, technologies, and trades to meet the needs of changing markets.

According to 2015 statistics, 83% of Bridgewater’s residents between the ages of 25 and 64 have a certificate, diploma or degree. Bridgewater is home to the Nova Scotia Community College’s Lunenburg Campus, helping to ensure that continuous upgrading and new learning opportunities are available for our local labour force.

The most common occupations in Bridgewater by sector are:

- Sales and service (29%)
- Education, law, government, and social work (14%)
- Trades (14%)
- Business, finance, and administration (12%)
- Manufacturing (6%)
On May 14, 2019, Bridgewater was declared the winner of the Smart Cities Challenge, a Canada-wide competition to promote innovation and technology as a means of sustainably enhancing quality of life.

Bridgewater competed in the $5 million prize category, beating out 49 other communities.

Our winning idea, simply put, aims to reduce energy poverty in our community.

The Challenge Statement that guided the planning for Bridgewater’s proposal is that our community will lift its residents out of energy poverty, starting by reducing the energy poverty rate by 20% by 2025.

Living in energy poverty means not being able to afford enough energy to heat and power one’s home, or fuel for transportation. It is a serious problem that affects about 2 out of every 5 residents in Bridgewater, and is similarly felt in other communities across Canada and, indeed, the world.

The jury felt that Bridgewater’s idea would make a big difference in the lives of its residents and reduce poverty in the community. Even more importantly, it’s a proposal that can be emulated by other communities that choose to follow in Bridgewater’s footsteps.

You can learn more about the Smart Cities Challenge and how Bridgewater will utilize innovation to begin reducing energy poverty by visiting bridgewater.ca/smartcities.
Quality of life

Around town
Bridgewater’s reputation as the “Main Street of the South Shore” is well-deserved.

On the west side of the LaHave River, the traditional King Street historic downtown district is home to locally owned shops, restaurants, craft breweries, and services that are dedicated to quality and charm.

Live music and public performances make this area the heart of Bridgewater’s night life throughout the year.

On the east side of the LaHave River, you’ll find the South Shore Centre, Eastside Plaza, and a number of modern retailers, all ready to meet your everyday needs.

Annual events, including the South Shore Exhibition, Afterglow Art Festival, South Shore in Motion, Canada Day on the LaHave, and Christmas on the LaHave provide spectacle, entertainment, and a taste of Lunenburg County for all to enjoy.

Beyond the downtown, Bridgewater boasts sprawling parks and green spaces, offering a true connection to nature within a bustling and vibrant community.

The 8-kilometre Centennial Trail, Shipyards Landing, King Street Court, Mariners Landing, and Pijinuiskaq Park are five of our parks that stand out as true gems, providing breathtaking views of the LaHave River and a respite from the pace of modern life.
Quality of life

Education

Young families are understandably interested in the education system available in the area in which they choose to invest or work and live.

Bridgewater has an excellent public education system that includes Bridgewater Elementary School, Bridgewater Junior High School, and Park View Education Centre, a high school that offers International Baccalaureate curriculum as an option for advanced students. In addition, there are French Immersion programs in these schools and a French first-language school located within five minutes of Bridgewater (Centre Scolaire de la Rive-Sud).

Beyond the public school system, Nova Scotia has a greater number of post-secondary educational institutions per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

Bridgewater is within about one hour's commuting distance to the following universities: Dalhousie University, University of King's College, Saint Mary's University, Mount Saint Vincent University, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, the Atlantic School of Theology (all located in Halifax), and Acadia University in Wolfville.

The Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Lunenburg Campus is located in Bridgewater and awards certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs in applied arts and new media, trades and technologies, business, and health and human services.
Quality of life

Healthcare
Bridgewater is the regional healthcare centre for the South Shore, the hub for which is the South Shore Regional Hospital (SSRH). Significant efforts are always ongoing to attract doctors and nurse practitioners to the area so that all residents have access to a family healthcare professional. The Bridgewater & Area Family Health Centre offers a collaborative model supporting this initiative.

The capital city of Halifax, one hour away, is the provincial centre for healthcare with specialty and tertiary care services for the province and other areas within Atlantic Canada.

A wide range of complementary medical services and supporting institutions contribute to Bridgewater’s healthcare offerings.

Leisure
The Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC) is home to Clearwater Seafoods Arena, the Margaret Hennigar Public Library, and the BMO Financial Group Aquatic Centre. The LCLC is a modern, efficient facility that provides exceptional recreation services.

DesBrisay Museum and Wile Carding Mill Museum provide glimpses into our past, while honouring art, heritage, and culture that connect our community. At DesBrisay Museum, you’ll also find Woodland Gardens, a 24-acre park setting ideal for family strolls around the Town Pond or an afternoon picnic.

For those with canine companions, don’t miss the South Shore Vet Dog Zone, our dog park on Glen Allan Drive. And, if you have a love of boats, you’ll want to visit the waterfront Bridgewater Marina on LaHave Street.