

The Scenic Route to Peggy's Cove

A Visit to Peggy's Cove and Nearby Coastal Villages and Vistas

Village of Prospect

The peninsular fishing village of Prospect lies at the southern tip of the Prospect Peninsula. The Mi'kmaq knew the Prospect area as *Nospadakun*, meaning "a herb mixed with tobacco". Between 1752 and 1754 Planters settled in the area and, as the Mi'kmaq were allied with French settlers, there was hostility and occasional raids..

The village was renamed Prospect by British settlers in 1754. Some families arriving in the Prospect area were descended from the Foreign Protestants of Lunenburg, though most were of Irish origin. Early arrivals included Samuel and Joanne White, who settled on Betty's Island off the coast: the island was named for their daughter. The island's lighthouse has been in operation since 1875.

In the 1820s the residents petitioned the government to build a school but the request was denied, so the residents built a school themselves. In 1863 business received a great impetus when the American fishing fleet began to call for supplies. The number of these vessels soon increased, as many as forty-five being anchored at any one time. These trips brought much needed money, and by 1883, the village population had risen to 1,140 residents. The small fishing village blossomed into a community with a cannery, bowling alley, taverns, and a bowery for special functions, church suppers and dances. However, with the collapse of the fishery in the late 1800s and the subsequent period of decline, people started moving away from Prospect into Halifax, or to New England.



Prospect was the center of a large Catholic Parish and featured the *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church*, a rectory, church hall, and nunnery for the Sisters of Charity, who were very influential in the community from 1876 until the 1960s. In the 1960s, the parish moved its center of activity from Upper Prospect to Shad Bay, and the church closed in 2008.

