

The Scenic Route to Peggy's Cove

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

Village of Shad Bay

Shad Bay lies off Route 333 between White's Lake and Bayside. The bay was so named in 1764 because the American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), a fish that leaves the ocean to spawn in fresh water, is abundant.



Two large rocky islands, Inner & Outer Gull Island, mark the entrance to Shad Bay, with the larger Inner Gull Island supporting several seabird colonies (and in earlier times cattle and sheep were grazed there for the summer). Birds that nest there include Double-crested Cormorant, Great Black-backed Gull, Black Guillemot, and Common Eider.

The first land grant was issued in 1763, and thereafter more families moved to the area to pursue the fishery. Most residents were involved in the fishery until the 1950s, when people from Halifax built summer cottages along the bay's shores. Today most houses are lived in by people who commute to Halifax.



There are rumours of pirate treasure on Cochrane's Island, the largest island in the bay. Despite many searches nothing has been found, and the only treasure is an abundance of blueberries (on the island's barren areas) and mussels (along the island's shores).

