

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Our roadside cleanup was a big success last weekend, with lots of garbage picked up around the community. Thank you to all the volunteers for lending a helping hand!



HWY 245 ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 14th - Rain or Shine

Pictou County line to Civic #3561 (Hunters to Smith's)
Coffee, safety vests and clear garbage bags available at the hall from 9 am
Cleanup can be done at any time, simply leave your filled bags of garbage on the roadside before 1pm on Saturday
Lunch provided at the Arisaig hall from 12 to 1pm or while supplies last

TO VOLUNTEER, OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL:
EMILY ROSS (902)870-1155 / (902)863-1024
ASHLEY MACINNIS (902)870-5889

Annual Roadside Cleanup

The roadside cleanup is done on the part of Hwy 245 that transitions through our communities. Volunteers collect bottles, cardboard products and various items that can damage our environment and any items that can't be recycled, are deposited in a dumpster provided by our municipality.

The cleanups are multi-generational activities that end with a free barbecue at our Community Centre.

Annual Beach Cleanup

Volunteers gather annually to conduct a cleanup of our beach area, and the nature of the task differs from year to year. Kelp and various forms of seaweed can be anywhere from several inches to several feet in thickness. Equipment to do the cleanup varies from rakes, shovels, and wheelbarrows to whatever is needed to get the task done. Occasionally, tractors and heavy equipment are required to haul it away and permits are required from the Department of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, with support from the local Harbour Authority.

Santa's Visit

For several years now the community has come together in early December to welcome Santa and one of his most well-known and most enthusiastic helpers, Jamie Ross. This is a collaborative effort between Arisaig Community Development Association, Arisaig Parish Community Centre, and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish. Participation continues to grow each year and in 2023, approximately 70 people of all ages, from infants to great-grandparents, were on hand to celebrate. Volunteers decorate the Centre, provide hot chocolate, cookies, music, and videos, and organize crafts and games for children. It's an opportunity to visit with neighbours, friends, and relatives in a welcoming, often noisy, and sometimes overly excited atmosphere. Admission is free and everyone enjoys the candy cane treats that Santa's helper, Jamie, hands out and his infectious ho-ho-ho that brings a smile to every face. As 7 o'clock draws closer everyone is invited to step outside to welcome Santa as he rides in on a large firetruck with sirens blaring, horns blowing, and lights flashing.



Santa's helper poses with two of his many fans, Daniel Ross, Community Contact for CBC Radio One, and Marcie Macquarrie, long-time resident, and volunteer in Arisaig.



Newsletters

Since 2007 when the Arisaig Community Development Association (ACDA) was formed, informative newsletters inviting ongoing community participation have been distributed on a regular basis. ACDA volunteers have a shared interest of improving the community for residents of all ages and visitors, while celebrating our heritage.

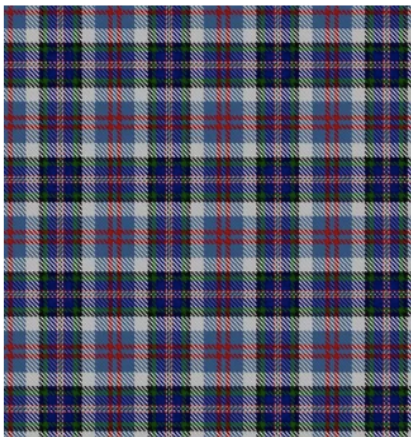
Cookbooks

One of our most popular fund-raisers has been several editions of the Arisaig Cookbook. A popular feature is to invite community members to share a recipe in memory of a loved one or a favorite family recipe. Grandchildren often cull their grandparents' favourite family recipes and are delighted to see their names included in the cookbook. One edition was in memory of Wilfred Gillis, an award-winning fiddler from Arisaig. A well-attended concert was held in memory of Wilfred that same year with many special guests and talented musicians taking part.

A Tartan to Call our Own

As part of the Come Home celebrations (2010), a local artist designed a tartan that represents the community. The original design is officially recognized by the Scottish Register of Tartans. A picture and the story about the significance of the colours used in the tartan is included on the community's website <https://arisaignovascotia.com/history-and-culture>.

THE ARISAIG, NOVA SCOTIA TARTAN



A TARTAN TO CALL OUR OWN

The vibrant colors displayed in this tartan reflect the communities of Maryvale West, Malignant Cove, Doctors Brook, Arisaig, McArras Brook and Knoydart. From the breathtaking landscape to the panoramic view of the Northumberland Strait, these chosen colors are the sky, the ocean, the land and its people....

Two colours of blue -- one light, one dark -- represent the ocean, which is calm and peaceful some days, rough and churning on others. At all times it is one of the most important elements of these communities -- a way of life, a means of travel and a source of enjoyment for the generations of people who live here.

White represents the transformation the shoreline and ocean take in the winter. Snow covers the land and the big ice of the Northumberland Strait reaches as far as the eye can see.

Red represents the sun and its spectacular display of colour. One band is for sunrise and the other for sunset.

The **green** represents the land used for farming and the trees in the hills and valleys. **Yellow** is the bright sun and sunny beaches which draw people to the area.

In tribute to the first Scottish settlers over 200 years ago are the traditional **dark colors** of that time period. The Scottish immigrants named one community after the Arisaig they left behind. This gave inspiration to the dark block, which takes its pattern from the 'Gayre of Arisaidh Tartan', from Arisaig, Scotland.

The band -- comprised of **narrow strips of red, white, black and yellow** -- has local significance. Red represents the lobster, one of the main sources of income for our area, white for the church -- a beacon for travelers on land and sea. The yellow and black represents the Sunrise Trail and the road that leads away from, and home to, our community.

Together these colours and pattern weave a community life that reflects the uniqueness of the area and reasons why people continue to thrive on these shores.

