



Gateway to Arts and Culture



Cultural Policy 2018-2023

Town of Dalhousie - March 2018



GATEWAY TO THE ARTS AND CULTURE

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Mayor's message

With this first cultural policy, the town of Dalhousie will have the means of overseeing arts and cultural activities. This policy will facilitate access to the arts, culture and our heritage to as many as possible.

The town wants to maintain its role of supporting artists and cultural stakeholders throughout the region. It wants to act as a convener, and thereby strengthen the links between the various cultures of our region. This is the first wealth of a community, the first condition for sustainable development.

The town of Dalhousie has always supported artists, cultural groups and organizations that play an important role in the development of the town and the region.

I would like to thank "l'Association acadiennes des artistes professionnels du Nouveau-Brunswick" (AAAPNB) and "l'Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick" (AFMNB) for accepting our application to be part of the mentorship project for the creation and implementation of our cultural policy.

I also want to thank the cultural committee for developing our policy. We now have a guide to maintain and promote arts and culture in our beautiful region.

On behalf of council, I can assure you that every effort will be made to implement this policy.

Normand Pelletier
Mayor

Demographics

The town's population is an ethnic mix of First Nations, English, Acadian, Irish and Scottish descendants. At the last census in 2016, the town had just over 3126 inhabitants.

The mother tongue is French for more than 46% of the population and 53% of its citizens are English speaking. There are four schools including two French and two English. École Aux-quatre-vents High School and Académie-Notre-Dame Elementary School serve francophone students. On the English side, we have the Dalhousie Regional High School and the L.E. Reinsborough Elementary School.

The number of religious denominations reflect the diversity of the town's population. Worshipers and parishioners have access to the St. Mary's Anglican Church, St.-John Bosco and St.-Jean Baptiste Catholic Churches, St.-John's United Church, St.-John Presbyterian Church, and a few other denominations.

Dalhousie Portrait

Dalhousie is situated at the most northern part of New Brunswick, at the mouth of the Restigouche River as it flows into the Bay of Chaleur at the Inch Arran Point.

The town setting is one of the most beautiful in Eastern Canada

As part of the Appalachian mountain range, Dalhousie is known for its beautiful scenery.

The site of Inch Arran Point, among others, is a paradise for photographers with its sunrises and sunsets, the lighthouse, the Bon Ami rocks and the small Arched Rock.

Along with many recreation and sports facilities, the town has many cultural infrastructures such as a public library, a regional museum, exterior stages, theaters and many community gathering facilities.





History

The first important settlement dates back to 1826 with the arrival of Scottish and Acadian settlers. The town takes its name from George Ramsay, 9th Earl of Dalhousie who was Governor General of North America from 1820 to 1828.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the town was a renowned resort with its Inch Arran House where several personalities stayed, including Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald. The town was officially incorporated in 1905.

Its seaport, lumber industry and

fishing, were part of the town's main activities. The arrival of a paper mill, the International Paper Company, in the late 1920s would change the fate of the town for almost 80 years.

The town had three main industries: a paper mill, a chemical production plant and a thermal power generating station. At the height of its economic activity, there were over 1,200 well-paying jobs in Dalhousie. At the time of the closure of these industries, there were nearly 600 jobs that were the main economic driver of Restigouche.

In 2008, the closure of the paper mill, followed by the closure of the chemical production plant and the thermal generating station, greatly affected the economic condition of the town and Restigouche County.

The economic state of the town has suffered, but there is still an energetic and a vibrant atmosphere of well-being that motivates us to fall back on our cultural wealth. We have turned the page on our industrial past to make room for transformation. We have a cultural and heritage background that will lead us to a rich and prosperous future.



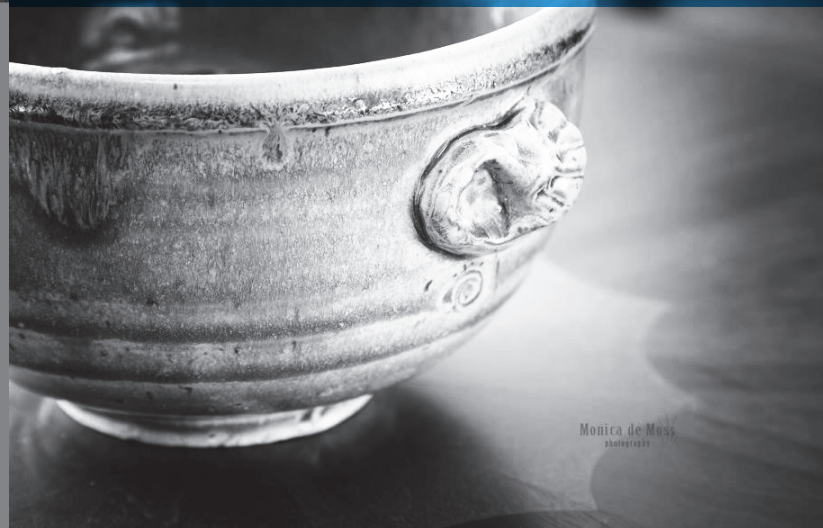
Definitions

New-Bunswick défines culture as :

« ...culture pertains to the lifestyle of a people, group or civilisation. It could include the language, beliefs, heritage, customs, traditions and artistic expressions. Culture refers to the human and natural heritage, arts, industries and cultural enterprises. »

UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) defines culture as:

« ...culture is the complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by a human as a member of society »



Following UNESCO's and New Brunswick definitions, the town of Dalhousie retains its version of culture:

« ...the sum of knowledge and behavior that characterises our community. It includes elements from our heritage, architecture, arts such as sculpture, painting, music, literature, folklore...within our two main languages and the presence of a First Nations community. »

Vision

Dalhousie and surrounding areas have a rich cultural heritage due to the presence of both New Brunswick's official language communities and a First Nations community. Culture is inherent to these two communities and to the First Nations.

The contribution of Francophones, Anglophones and other ethnic groups tend to improve the quality of life in our region. We want to recognize and value everyone in the cultural field.

The town of Dalhousie wants to ensure that people can enjoy their cultural environment by showcasing the region's rich heritage and artistic diversity.

Mission

The town of Dalhousie will support the promotion of culture in respect of its different languages and cultures. The town intends to invest resources to enhance its cultural and artistic heritage.



Guiding principles



Accessibility

Ensure that culture as a whole is accessible to all, regardless of age, social status, language or ethnicity. The citizens of Dalhousie and surrounding areas must have access to cultural activities in order to profit from its benefits.

1



Improvement

Encourage and support artists in their creative process and recognize their participation in the enthusiasm and vitality of their community. The artists of origin or from elsewhere are our ambassadors on the cultural scene.

The power of culture remains an incredible gathering force and mobilization. We believe in this power of willingness. Culture promotes the growth of the individual in his community and affects the social fabric of a society.

2



Development and role of the municipality

Culture must be an integral part of the economic and tourism development strategy of the town and the surrounding area. Cultural, economic and social decision-makers must work together to achieve and maintain a vibrant cultural life.

3



Sense of belonging

Cultural life, heritage and history are factors of identity and collective enrichment, which fosters a sense of belonging and pride in people within their community and the region.

4



Partnership

Integrate culture with all of our municipal concerns. Express and affirm our local and regional cultural identity. Harmonize our actions at the regional and the provincial levels.

5

Cultural functions

As a result of our guiding principles, our cultural policy will operate according to these four functions:

1

Propagation and promotion

Publicize and propagate works or achievements through promotion and commercialization

2

Conservation/production

Preserve the memory of works produced in the past; maintain them in good condition for future generations. Preserve the cultural heritage and make it known to the public.

3

Creation and research

Support design, research, innovation and interpretation of works.

4

Operational organization

Support cultural organizations by facilitating access to cultural infrastructures and facilities.

A list of means to attain the cultural functions will be identified based on ideas and suggestions from public meetings. As a result, an action plan will be defined for each cultural function.



Municipality's role

Propagation and promotion

- Promote artistic and heritage activities
 - Website
 - Advertising billboards
 - Networking
-

Conservation / production

- Support artisans, artists, designers and broadcasters in their creative productions and projects to increase accessibility to arts, culture and heritage in Dalhousie and the region.
-

Creation and research:

- Encourage the participation of citizens and community organizations in artistic and cultural activities.
 - Have a specific budget for all that is artistic, cultural and heritage.
-

Operational organization

- Promote new fields of creation, and thus encourage the succession and development of the artistic, cultural and heritage experience.

We all have concise and sometimes broader interpretations that define culture. Notwithstanding my version, I would like to define the context of our cultural policy.

For over 80 years, the industrial factor has greatly influenced our culture. We had many material resources, and the town and the region benefited from this favorable economic affluence. Cultural activities flourished and several infrastructures were developed.

Following the closure of our industries, many of Dalhousie and surrounding areas working population had to seek work elsewhere.

We are a community that is seeking to redefine itself and the launch of a cultural policy will contribute to the rebirth of our town and the region.

Our habits, our customs, and the exploitation of our territory have shaped us and continue to define us as a community.

The policy is there to encourage, motivate and support all artistic and cultural activities of our region

I wish to thank the people who participated in implementing our first cultural policy. Their help was greatly appreciated.

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