



When your parents were little boys and girls, they lived in these beautiful communities surrounding our school, Riverside. These Communities had many people living there each having a store, a church and a one room school. If you were to travel down any of these roads you would see children outside playing after their household chores were completed.

Let's start by visiting the community of Baleine.

## BALEINE

Leaving Main-A-Dieu, travelling along the road to Little Lorraine, on the left you will find Baleine Road.(1) This is a dirt road and as you drive along, just before entering Baleine you will come to what locals call the White Hills.(2) From there it opens to a beautiful protected harbour. Baleine was founded in 1629 by 60 Scottish settlers led by Lord Ochiltree. Baleine was mainly a fishing village and is famous for its bakeapple barrens.

*\*\*\*Please place #1 and 2 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

Coming around the harbour you pass several new homes who are the descendents of the Burke families. (3) On the right you pass a lane that leads to a wharf that belongs to Billy Burke, who still lives on the family land. (4) You then come to a small bridge over, which locals call, the Trout Brook. (5) You will find a monument to recognize the first settlers to Baleine and Beryl Markham whose plane crashed there in 1936. (6)

Just pass the brook on the left you will find the sight of the Baleine School closed many years ago. (7)

*\*\*\*Please place #3,4,5,6, and 7 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

Above this site on the left side on the hill, you would have found the home of the

Burke family. The late Charlie Burke was a WW2 veteran who was seriously injured by stepping on a mine. His life was saved by a comrade, Jim Price of nearby Little Lorraine. We are reminded to be thankful for those who fought so bravely for our freedom.

As you come along the road to the beach, you will pass the Big Pond (8) and you will come to Bennett's field (9) and then on to the bakeapple barrens. (10)

*\*\*\*please place #8, 9 and 10 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

If you follow out to Winging Point (11) you will find many small game hunters, hunting for ducks and geese. There was a ship communication tower on this point, operated by Shell Oil during oil exploration, but it was taken down in late years.

If you walk across the barrens you will come upon two walled ponds. (12) These are known as "The Waving Ponds" as lily pads wave back and forth in the ponds during summer months. They are found close to what locals call the Hummick. (13) Many people have wondered how these rock walled ponds came to be.

*\*\*\*Please place #11, 12 and 13 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1936, Beryl Markham, who made the first non-stop east-west solo flight across the Atlantic, made a forced landing near this site. (14) She became the center of International attention. Lucky for her it was in the day and people were out and about, some picking berries. They saw the plane circle the harbour twice before it crashed into the barrens. People hurried to the site and Bill Burke brought Ms Markham up to Baleine. The plane wreckage was later taken to Louisbourg and shipped to New York.

*\*\*\* Please place #14 on its proper place now.\*\*\**

Over the years, Baleine's population has been up and down while family names included - Burke, Campbell, Perry, Bennett, and Zablaska. It still remains a beautiful ocean front area for families who live there and relatives and friends who visit.

*Song: The Baleine Story*

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## LITTLE LORRAINE

Coming over the road from Main-A-Dieu you pass marshes and barrens before coming to the sign Little Lorraine, "Proud in Spirit and Strong in Heart".(15)

The first settlers here in Little Lorraine were from Brittan and Normandy, in France as early as 1714 when Louisbourg was a french fortress. They were here for the cod fishery. Many of the fishermen didn't bring their families with them, as the fishery was seasonal and they would go back to France in the late fall.

After the final conquest of Louisbourg many changes followed, new cultures and new people came including the Irish pioneers. The first land grants were recorded in 1824. Little Lorraine has 3 sections- Down the Road, Up On the Hill, and Down the Lane.

Family names would have included Burke, Ley, Kennedy, MacDonald, Troke, Perry, Price, and Webber to name a few.

## LET'S START DOWN THE ROAD(16)

*\*\*\*Please place #15 and 16 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

The first post office opened on August 8th 1870, and it was one hundred years later almost to the day that the Post Office closed out and mail went to a rural delivery with the main Post Office out of Main-A-Dieu and later in Louisbourg. The first Post Master in Little Lorraine was a man by the name of Joseph MacDonald. He was also the mail courier, a very interesting and busy man. He must have been a man of many talents as he was the local Justice of the Peace, Undertaker, Barber, Dentist, Veterinarian, Teacher, and he also took in orphans and kept boarders.

Mail came in from Main-A-Dieu by horse and cart or sleigh. On the left entering Lorraine, you come to the home of the last Post Master, Loretta Kennedy whose office closed in August 1970. (17)The mail was very important in the early days because it was the strongest means of communication with loved ones away. Also during WWII men would get their call to serve by mail, not welcome by all.

Just down the road on the right you would find the sight of the school.(18) A previous school burned in the late 1800s but a new school opened and remained until 1955 after which the children were bussed to.

Beside the school you will find a monument erected in memory of the sinking of the Asterisk in 1818 with 500 Irish immigrants on board; only 2 people survived. (19) At Little Lorraine Lighthouse, women and men dug graves and buried bodies that washed up on the shore. Shipwrecks such as this, resulted in 1839 establishing lighthouses along the coast in Cape Breton, saving many lives.

*\*\*\*please place #17,18, and 19 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

Just down the road on the left you come to Oceanside Crescent where there are several homes and wharves. You will also find The Fog Horn Bed and Breakfast operated by Kathleen Burke. (20)

Close to the school on the right side of the road you would have found the Lorraine Community Center.(21) It operated as a center for the community for a number of years but later as population dwindled and people travelled by car to larger centers, the facility closed.

Across from this site on the left is the site of The Little Lorraine Reunions. (22) The first reunion was held to celebrate the 300 anniversary of the community and several have been held since then. These are enjoyed by all families who get to reunite with friends and relatives from near and far.

In the same area was The Chameau Rock Canteen(23), owned and operated by Mary Price in the 70's.

*\*\*\*Please place #20, 21, 22, and 23 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

## UP ON THE HILL

Past this center on the right you find the lane that led "Up On The Hill", (24) today named Kennedy's Lane. Over the years, Up On the Hill there were several homes and several stores operated by Robert Kennedy, Laura Kennedy, Doug Stevens and Thomas MacDonald. (25) Up on the hill we find the home of the late Jim Price. (26)Mr.

Price was a Decorated Veteran of WW2 and a local hero as he risked his own life to stop and carry a wounded comrade off the battlefield. He saved the life of Charlie Burke from nearby Baleine.

Across from this lane is the harbour (27) and the "Long Bridge" (28). In the 30's and 40's it was a meeting place for young people who would sit on the rails by Robin Nest Brook.

*\*\*\*please place #24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

In the harbour you would have found many fishing boats. It was a busy area from spring till fall. Today 7 boats still fish lobster and ground fish from this harbour. In winter many of the young men would play hockey on the harbour as it froze from early December till spring. They often used homemade sticks. In 1945-6 they had a hockey team that played in Main-A-Dieu, Louisbourg, and the surrounding area.

## DOWN THE LANE (29)

Past the Long Bridge on the left you will find Rufus Perry Way, named for Private Rufus Perry who is remembered with honour for Supreme sacrifice, giving his life in WW2. (30)

*\*\*\*Please place #29 and 30 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

This area is known to locals as "Down the Lane". In years gone by there were three stores on this lane owned by Patty Burke, Jim Gallant and Roy McGillivray.(31) These stores were meeting places for men to gather and discuss the news; you could even buy a slice of bologna for ten cents.

In the 1700s there was a church (32) down the lane in William D. Burke's field. It was St. Claire's Catholic Church, which was used by the French from the Fortress at Louisbourg who fished off Little Lorraine.

Along the lane you find several homes and at the end you come to the mouth of the harbour where you will find the Little Lorraine Lighthouse on the Western side. (33)

Coming back to the main road and up the hill you will find the sight of Billy Gallant's store.(34) In later years Louis and Catherine McGillivray operated a store near the same sight.

*\*\*\*Please place #31, 32, 33 and 34 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

If you continue along this road you will come to Gooseberry Cove and Wild Cove where many people go to hike and have family gatherings by the ocean. The scenery is superb.

This road continues on to the community of Big Lorraine.

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## BIG LORRAINE

Leaving Little Lorraine and traveling along the road you will come to Big Lorraine. (35) These two communities who share their name, are located about four miles apart between Louisbourg and Main-A-Dieu on the east coast of Cape Beton Island.

*\*\*\* Please place #35 on its Proper place now.\*\*\**

The settlement had begun here as early as 1719 by French fishermen from Brittany and Normandy. Big Lorraine was formerly home to approximately 85 families in the early 1900's, with the population dropping to 60 in 1956. It continued to drop until today there are only five full time and two seasonal families. Through later years Little Lorraine became bigger than Big Lorraine.

St. Peter's Anglican Church (36) was built in August 1893 in Big Lorraine but was later destroyed by fire. There was a penny store located on the middle neck, run by the Bussey family and the young kids would row out to the shop to buy candy. (37)

There was a one room schoolhouse, with a wood and coal stove for heat, and a local school boy, Henry Paige, would make the fire one half hour early before the other children arrived for school. He received 10 cents a day for doing this chore.(38)

A Marconi receiving station was located on the western side of the harbor, but was considered a naval secret during war. (39)

*\*\*\* Please place #36, 37, 38 and 39 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

Fishing was the main industry in the community but eventually most found work at the coal pier and fish plants in Louisbourg, where they walked to work every day.

Early family names included Bussey, MacKay, Eison, Fiander, Tutty, Paige, Wilcox, Jewels and Croak.

1994 Walt Disney productions filmed part of the movie "Squanto A Warrior S Tale" around the harbour of Big Lorraine. They built a Pilgrim village surrounded by a wall and filmed on site here.(40)

There have been many changes in Big Lorraine over the last 50 years...from no electricity to electricity: gravel roads to paved roads; no TV's to TV's and Computers; a fairly populated harbor. People have continued to move away for work.

The latest addition to Big Lorraine will be the building of a "grounding station", (41) part of The Maritime Link project, a power transmission project being developed by the Emera Group. This brings power from Newfoundland to Nova Scotia.

*\*\*\* Please place #40 and 41 on their proper places now.\*\*\**

*Crossing over the lane bridge (42) will take you around the turn to Highway 22 and to the entrance to the town of Louisbourg.*

*\*\*\* Please place #42 on its proper place now.\*\*\**