

Port Blandford Service Center

With the building of the railway and coastal steamer wharf in 1892, Port Blandford became a service center as the S.S. Dundee shipped supplies, mail and passengers from the trains to the communities all around Bonavista Bay. In the first decade of the 1900's, the community was home to a customs, postal and telegraph office, two hotels, four stores and a newspaper (*The Telegrapher* published by William Ford Coaker - telegraph officer from 1904-1908). In 1909 and 1910, a small factory built in the community became one of the first efforts to commercially can mussels.

With the building of the Bonavista Branch line in 1913, the reliance of the coastal boat out of Port Blandford on the Bonavista Peninsula diminished, but the community remained a commercial center for Clode Sound. As the only connection to the rest of the province via the railway, residents of communities like Charlottetown and Bunyan's Cove travelled by cart paths and boats to Port Blandford to purchase their supplies in the community's large general stores.

With the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway in 1965, a short linkage to the larger service center of Clarenville was created. As a result, the majority of the retail businesses closed over the next several decades, leaving just a couple convenience stores in the community.

