

N R E

THE NEW RURAL ECONOMY

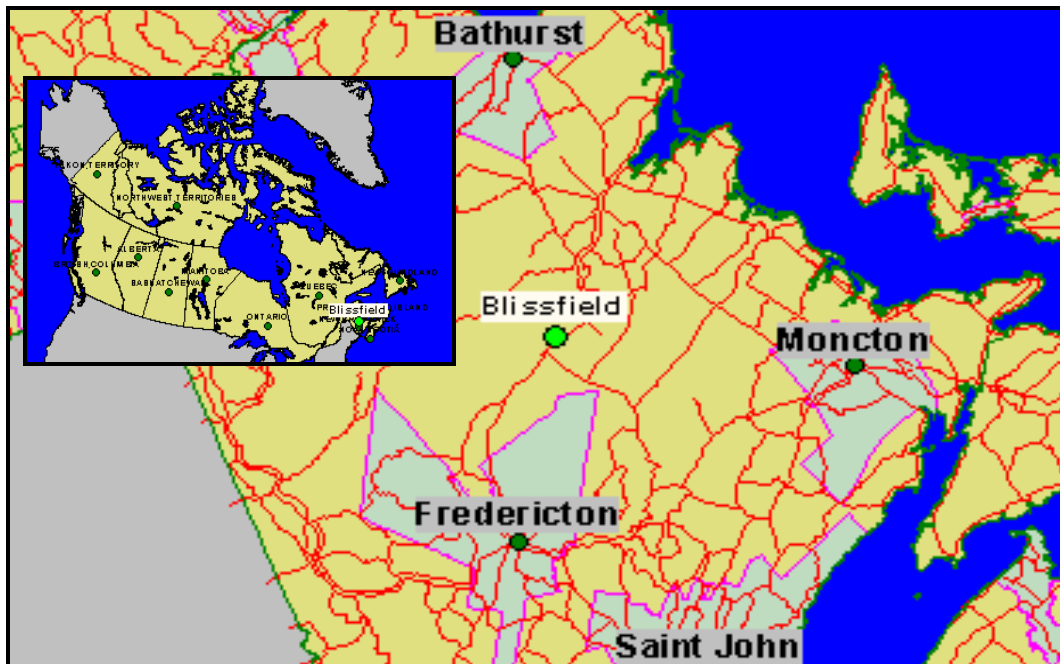


Site 6: Blissfield, New Brunswick

Blissfield is located along the Miramichi River, approximately 5 kilometers north-east of Doaktown, upon which it is dependent for most goods and services. It is an unincorporated parish with fewer than 700 people, built along one of the province's busiest highways, Route 8. The forestry industry is very important. There are four lumber yard sites within a 30 kilometer distance of the Blissfield centroid. The two most dominant have been the Blissfield Lumber Yard, owned and operated by Glen Gilks, a resident of Blissfield; and the Russell and Slim Mill that has undergone numerous rebuilding efforts and that was recently purchased by the Irving Company of New Brunswick. The arrival of Irving to Blissfield was not one that was accepted by all of the residents in the beginning. The purchase was

fought by many people but in the end the mill became the dominant employer for the people of Blissfield.

The region has numerous outfitting groups, inns, and lodges that provide visitors with access to the resources and beauty of the river. The Miramichi River has in recent years seen decreasing salmon stocks which is leading to a decrease in the numbers coming to fish along the river. The region has executed different strategies to help in the regeneration of the river. A catch and release program has been implemented, the Miramichi Salmon Association has formed, and a Watershed Management Committee established, all in an effort to help save the river's ecosystem.



Maps courtesy of Statistics Canada, Geography Division, 1998

| Characteristics in 1996 | Blissfield | New Brunswick | Canada |
|---|------------|---------------|------------|
| Population | 674 | 738 133 | 28 846 760 |
| 1991 to 1996 population change (%) | 4.2 | 2.0 | 5.7 |
| % of population ages 15 and over | 84.3 | 80.4 | 79.5 |
| Unemployment rate | 46.9 | 15.5 | 10.1 |
| Participation rate | 59.4 | 62.2 | 65.5 |
| % Primary industry | 31.0 | 7.4 | 5.6 |
| % Secondary industry | 20.7 | 19.8 | 20 |
| % Tertiary industry | 46.5 | 72.9 | 74.4 |
| Average number of persons in married or common-law families | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| Average number of persons in lone-parent families | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.6 |

Source: Statistics Canada

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