



KESPU'KWITK TE'WAPSKIK

Where the River and the Marshes Meet

The Mi'kmaq

Your view plane from this point overlooks the wide salt marsh of the Annapolis River, nestled in the valley between the North and South mountains. The Mi'kmaq people encamped along the banks in the summer to hunt and fish. They fished the bounteous stocks of sea-run brown trout, sea bass, salmon and sturgeon that inhabited this river.

They harvested wild potato plants found in the area, called sipekne 'katik (*where the wild potatoes grow*) which they ate with their fish. *Apios americano* is a vining legume that grows in tidal and non-tidal marshland. While the fruit and seeds are edible, this plant was sought out for the tubers which are highly nutritious.

Basket making, another encampment past time, tended to be ash split basketry. Smaller containers were made of sweetgrass. Extant containers were made of birchbark. There is still a strong tradition of basket making in the province, though the number of makers is dwindling. Many of the baskets are still found in the homes of local citizens.

The Acadians

In the 17th century, the Acadian people developed farmland along the Annapolis River, utilizing the salt marsh hay to first overwinter cattle successfully in the 1630's. They also built dykes and aboiteaux to reclaim the salt marshes for farming. Examples of the construction can still be found in some locations along the river.

*Use the QR code for more information
about the Mi'kmaq and Acadians in the area,
or go to www.BridgetownNovaScotia.com*



Notes:

Painting - A Mi'kmaq Family; Canadian School, after Hibbert Newton Binney; oil on canvas. Nova Scotia Museum

Photo - <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/apios-americana/>

Other resources - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mi'kmaq>

<https://www.mapannapolis.ca/blog/OatlaOqd1m99dm6vslsxdxjuhrcqrs>

MacLachlan, Ian (2006). *The Historical Development of Cattle Production in Canada*.

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