

ATLANTIC CHARACTER

The greatest gift of this place is its people

Text and photography by Dave Brosha

Life born of red dirt and valleys and forests and rock and wind. Some with roots grown deep; others just recently blown in.

Scrappers and talkers and heroes and farmers who toil. Music through the blood and the sea, ever-present, through the soul.

Character.

The girl next door and the wrinkled face you've seen, and then see again. The helping hand, in a time of need, the laughs and the cries and the wins.

People down the street, and voices heard aloud. Guitars and stories and gifts of the land, the greatest gift of this place is its people. Proud.

Character: seven people across four East Coast provinces with countless stories, all. As a photographer, I wanted to take the time to stop and look at the people around me in my travels. The person who lives down the road, the face at the market, the guy singing that song, the elderly gentleman who looks like he's lived a thousand lives.

The word character has long been associated with the East Coast; we come from a land where it all comes down to people. Many of our towns and villages are too small for a person get lost in the crowd. We have too strong a sense of community and too much friendliness to want to avoid people. Even if you try, they'll draw into their world. Those "from away" always talk of their time here, saying "oh, it was beautiful....but the people!"

Here is but a glimpse of some of those people. It's impossible to do justice to four provinces and a world of character in the images of just seven people. But it's a start. And, all things willing, I'll be telling their stories and capturing their faces for years to come.

The Characters:

THE LIGHTHOUSE: *Frederick Ells, whaleboat captain. Lived in Lunenburg, NS, on and off, for 30 years. Lives near the sea, works on the sea, some would say he looks like the sea. Eyes bright blue and soul that shines. A light in the dark.*



THE CHAMP

Brandon Brewer, two-time Canadian light-middleweight champion. This Pride of Fredericton, NB, has deep kindness under his chiseled muscle and intensity. Leader of the Plaid Army, his loyal fan base, he's a guy you'd want to have your back rather than staring you down with gloves on.



THE LIVE OFF THE LANDERS

Julie Baglole Keenan and Sean Keenan, a couple with dreams they've turned into a reality of a simpler life, a life more connected with the planet through small scale sustainable farming. Recent proprietors of a true community market, The Apple Tree Market, in the Village of Gagetown, NB.





THE TALKER:

Eric MacEwan, radio/broadcast legend from Canoe Cove, Prince Edward Island. Former confidant of John Lennon, friend of Neil Diamond, interviewer of Muhammad Ali, often-host of the Stan Rogers Folk Festival and man of millions of poetic words. A chain-smoking storyteller, always.



THE HERO:

Frank Carragher remembers that moment when he leaned in towards Prince Charles during a parade and told him, with a sparkle in his eye, "...I used to fool around with your mother during my time in England." Second World War veteran, Island spirit, 94 years old.

THE SPARK:

Many want to change the world; Emily Bland, of Grand Falls-Windsor, NL, might do it. Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador (2012), HSBC Women Leader of Tomorrow for Atlantic Canada, and 21 Inc's Top 50 Under 40 Leaders. Oh, and she plays basketball, wakeboards, and is the current president of Enactus Memorial, a student-led entrepreneurial organization. 🐾

