CRANBERRY ISLES

Community Profile
Cranberry Isles is made up of five islands: Great Cranberry Island, Little Cranberry Island (Islesford), Sutton Island, Baker Island and Bear Island. There are year-round communities on Great Cranberry and Islesford. The five islands have a combined total of 2,045 acres or about 3.2 square miles. Wild low bush cranberries grow on the islands, giving the archipelago its name.

**ECONOMY**

Over one-quarter of Cranberry Isles residents are employed in the resource extraction industry, which includes lobster fishing. Another third of the population is involved in industries that either support individuals and businesses (professional services) or the community (public administration). The rest of the population works in the retail, education, and health industries.

**SCHOOL SYSTEM**

The Cranberry Isles are part of the Mount Desert Island School district. There are two K-8 schools on the islands. The Ashley Bryan School is on Little Cranberry Island and the Longfellow School, is on Great Cranberry Island. The students from both islands attend one school for two years and then switch and attend the other school for two years. After 8th grade, the students commute daily to Mount Desert Island High School.

**COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS**

Great Cranberry Island:
- Cranberry General Store
- Cranberry House
- Great Cranberry Community Center
- Great Cranberry Congregational Church
- Great Cranberry Historical Society
- Great Cranberry Island Library
- Longfellow School
- Preble Cove Hiking Trails

Little Cranberry Island:
- Acadia National Park Museum
- Ashley Bryan Pavilion
- Ashley Bryan School
- Gilley Beach
- Islesford Boatworks
- Islesford Congregational Church
- Islesford Historical Society
- Islesford Library
- Islesford Neighborhood House
- Sand Beach

**LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Cranberry Isles Community Broadband Project:
Starting in 2015 the Town's broadband working group has been focused on bringing internet infrastructure to the islands that meet or exceed connectivity standards at the federal broadband level.

**Project Timeline:**

- **2017 Town Meeting:** The voters authorized town funding up to $1.2 million dollars, the cost of the buildout.
- **2017:** The working group applied for federal and state grants $70,000 was granted by The State of Maine for the buildout.
- **March 2018:** After initially hearing they'd been unsuccessful on the Community Connect grant, the USDA awarded over $1.3 million, which covered 85% of the total cost of the project.
- **2018 Town Meeting:** Voters approved additional funding in order to revise the network into a fiber-to-the-premise solution for all three islands.
- **July 2018:** The community and its partners hosted a ribbon cutting with USDA and state officials.
- **Ongoing:** Town leaders continue to work through regulations and financing huddles around utility pole attachments and are confident in completing this project soon.

**2018-2019 School Year**

2 Teachers + 15 Students
How to get there

The Cranberry Isles are serviced by ferries out of Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor, and Manset, all on Mount Desert Island. The ferry from Northeast Harbor is year-round, with additional seasonal ferry service from Southwest Harbor and Manset.

The crossing takes about 20 minutes to Great Cranberry Island and then 15 more minutes to Islesford. Once on island, the communities are walkable.

For more data on Maine's islands and coastline visit: Islandinstitute.org/waypoints.

For questions, contact: Meghan Grabill: mgrabill@islandinstitute.org.

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