



The Nova Scotia Back to the Land Project

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

SPEAKER SERIES

Far Out!: The story of the 60s inspired “back to the land” migration that changed Nova Scotia

Dr. Chris Murphy

In the early 1970s rural Nova Scotia became the preferred destination for thousands of young urban Americans and Canadian “hippies and draft dodgers” looking to go “back to the land” to build a new alternative “good life” in the country. Many failed to overcome the challenges of conventional rural living and left, but a significant number remained, surviving, and thriving, adding valuable social, economic, and cultural diversity to traditional rural communities while creating a lasting legacy for today’s new homesteading rural migrants.

Based on personal experience, a literature review and research collaboration with his filmmaking brother, the author discusses this unique migration story, told through book and film, 50 years later, and the challenge of combining film, sociological perspectives, and creative nonfiction narrative to tell and sell that story to a diverse audience.

Chris Murphy is a retired faculty member of the Dalhousie Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology (1982 – 2017) and was also cross appointed to the University of King’s College. Both he and his brother Peter have been documenting the lives and memories of over 50 remaining CFA “back to landers” who migrated to rural Nova Scotia in the 1970s.

Friday, September 29th, 2023
2:30 p.m., 1116 McCain Building
All Welcome!