

Issues Facing Rural Areas:

Small Towns and Big Dreams- Paul Brandt

I grew up in small town
Wheatfields for a downtown kinda place
There really wasn't much around
You blink and you miss it

I never knew what life could bring
But I always had big dreams
I loved to play my guitar and sing
And every night I'd wish that I'd get a shot
on the Opry stage and have people come and see me play
Blastin on the radio waves, enough to make my mama cry

Cause that's where I come from
That's who I am
Hard Workin and God Blessed
Yes Sir and Thank you ma'am
The best things around that I have ever seen
came from small towns and big dreams

Small town went and grew up
but I never changed much by God's grace
Friends and family kept in touch when I moved to Tennessee
Sing my songs and travel round
I met a girl and we're settlin' down
Wanna find a small town where we can raise a family

Cause that's where I come from
That's who I am
Hard workin and God blessed
Yes sir and thank you ma'am
The best things around that I have ever seen
Came from small towns and big dreams

Been around the world
Don't matter any where I go
Even here in Fort McMurray, Flin Flon...Medicine Hat,
I find my kind of folks
It's about you and who you are
It's all a state of mind
And as I'm giving you my heart and hope you find

That's where I come from
That's who I am
Hard workin and God blessed
Yes sir and thank you ma'am
The best things around that I have ever seen
Just look around you'll see just what I mean
The best things around that I have ever seen
came from small towns and big dreams
That's where I come from

Saltwater Joys- Wayne Chaulk

Just to wake up in the morning, to the quiet of the cove
And to hear Aunt Bessie talking to herself.
And to hear poor Uncle John, mumbling wishes to old
Nell
It made me feel that everything was fine.

I was born down by the water, it's here I'm gonna stay
I've searched for all the reasons why I should go away
But I haven't got the thirst for all those modern day toys
So I'll just take my chances with those saltwater joys.

Following the little brook as it trickles to the shore
In the autumn when the trees are flaming red
Kicking leaves that fall around me
Watching sunsets paint the hills
That's all I'll ever need to feel at home.

This island that we cling to has been handed down with
pride
By folks that fought to live here, taking hardships all in
stride
So I'll compliment her beauty, hold on to my goodbyes
And I'll stay and take my chances with those saltwater
joys.

How can I leave those mornings with the sunrise on the
cove
And the gulls like flies surrounding Clayton's wharf
Platter's Island wrapped in rainbow in the evening
after fog
The ocean smells are perfume to my soul.

Some go to where the buildings reach to meet the
clouds
Where warm and gentle people tum to swarmin',
faceless crowds
So I'll do without their riches, glamour and the noise
And I'll stay and take my chances with those saltwater
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1. Listen to, and read these songs about life in small towns. What aspects of rural life does each song writer value?

2. Do you agree with what the song writers are saying about life in rural areas? Why? Why not?

3. There has been a lot of migration out of rural areas to more urban areas in Canada. Explain two reasons for this demographic trend.

4. Below is a chart of issues facing rural areas in Canada. Explain some of the characteristics of these issues.

Issues/Challenges/Positives	Explanation
Availability of Services	
Declining Population	
Employment	
Quality of Life	

5. Imagine you are in charge of rural development in Newfoundland and Labrador. Explain two solutions that you would implement to tackle some of the issues facing rural areas of the province?
