



# SAINT JOHN

ON THE BAY *of* FUNDY



Three Historic Walking Tours



Loyalist Trail

Victorian Stroll

Prince William Walk

# A Saint John history

On June 24, 1604 – St. John the Baptist Day – French Explorer Samuel de Champlain landed at the mouth of a mighty river. In honour of the day, he proclaimed that the river and the harbour at its mouth be named “St. John.”

Almost thirty years later, in 1631, Charles de La Tour, the newly commissioned Governor of Acadia, built a fortified trading post as his headquarters at the mouth of the river. In 1645, the fort was captured by La Tour’s rival for Governor, Charles d’Aulnay, after a valiant defence led by La Tour’s wife – Françoise Marie Jacquelin – while her husband was in Boston seeking aid from the English. In the years that followed several other French forts were built in the area, among them one on the west side which, under British rule, was to become Fort Frederick.

In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht ceded French Acadia, including the St. John River Valley, to England. The French settlers were gradually displaced by colonists and traders from New England. The Massachusetts firm of Simonds, Hazen and White established a trading post at Saint John in 1762, and the first permanent settlement in the area was born.

In 1774 the American Revolution broke out and bands of American rebels and privateers raided the eastern seacoast, destroying Fort Frederick and threatening to topple the Simonds, Hazen and White enterprise.

Fort Howe was established in 1777, safeguarding the mouth of the river from further attacks, and the struggling settlement resumed its growth.

At the end of the Revolution, in 1783, 14,000 American supporters of the British arrived in Saint John en route to settle along the St. John River using land grants allotted to them by the crown. Some of these “Loyalists” – as they were called – established two settlements, one on either side of the river mouth, “Parrrtown” on the east and “Carleton” on the west. In 1785, the two settlements were incorporated by Royal Charter into the City of Saint John – Canada’s first city.

The years that followed brought economic growth and social development. Saint John developed a prosperous timber trade and a wood shipbuilding industry, which by the mid-1800s was the third largest in the world.

Saint John also attracted an influx of immigrants. In the 1840s, more than 30,000 Irish – fleeing the potato famine in their own country – arrived in Saint John. Many suffered from smallpox, typhoid fever and cholera and were quarantined on Partridge Island. More than 600 are buried there.

The 1860s saw the city’s shipbuilding industry decline as steel steam-powered vessels replaced wooden sailing ships.

Canada’s Confederation in 1867 dealt another blow to Saint John and to the Maritimes. In order to encourage Maritime trade with central Canada, the government of the new dominion imposed high tariffs on foreign goods forcing Maritime businessmen to import costly materials from Ontario and Quebec.

Then, in 1877, a disastrous fire destroyed the city’s central business district and much of the residential South End. The task of rebuilding the city was an enormous one for Saint John’s citizens – but rebuild it they did, this time out of brick and stone in an even grander fashion than before!

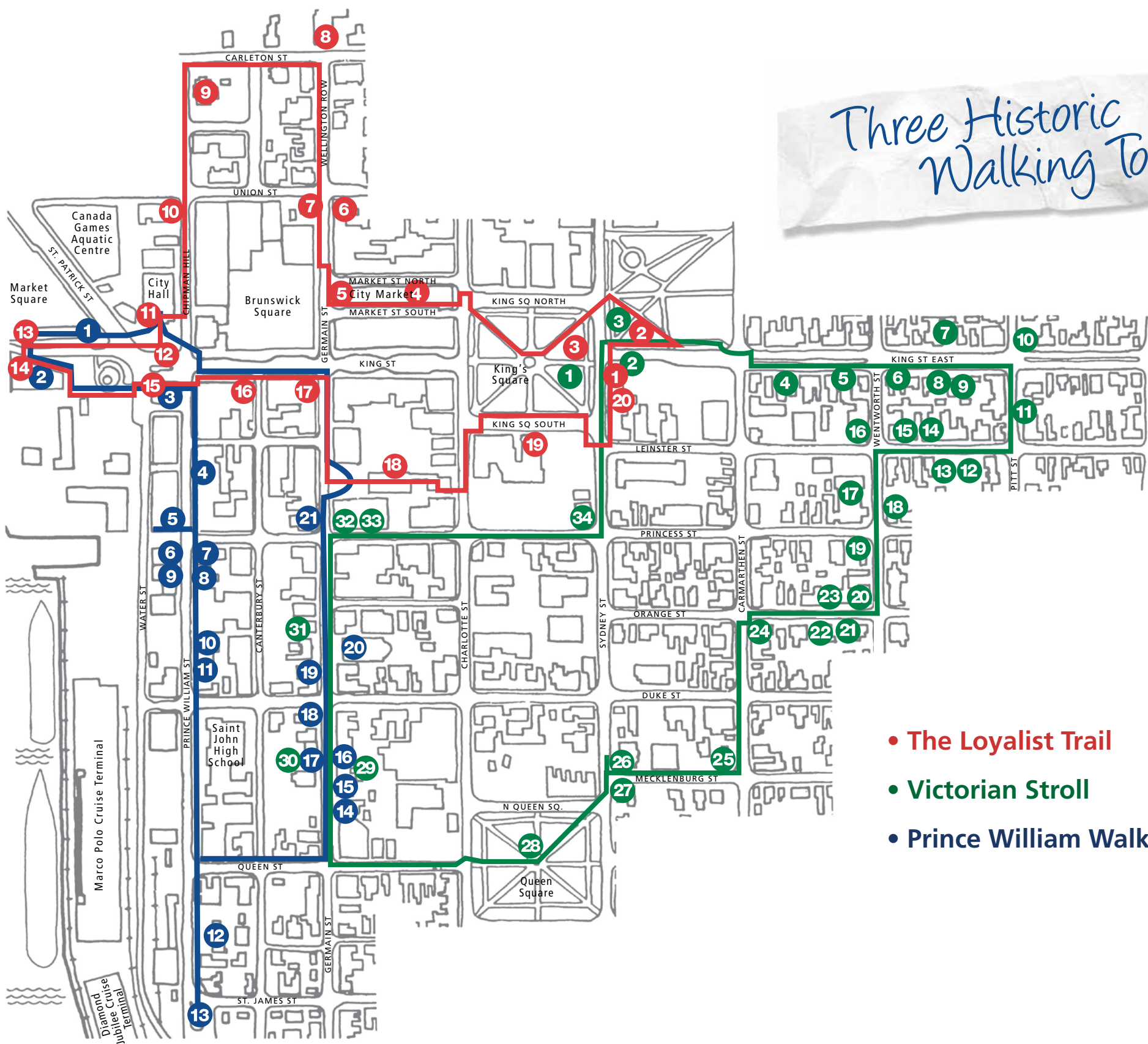
Better times were underway. Beginning in 1880 the railway expansion provided direct links with the rest of Canada, stimulating the flow of goods and commerce. Consequently, the port began to flourish and manufacturing boomed. Even the shipbuilding industry was revived with the establishment of the Saint John Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company in 1923. Gradually, Saint John regained its prominence as an important manufacturing and shipbuilding centre.

But the story does not stop here. Today our city – the only city on the Bay of Fundy – mixes our centuries-old charm with a vibrant waterfront, a flourishing arts and culture scene and a host of friendly people, ready to share their own Saint John stories.

Expect only to be delighted on our three self-guided walking tours. You’ll take in our historic architecture, step back to the time of our earliest settlers and immerse yourself in our tree-lined neighbourhoods.

Let’s get going!

# Three Historic Walking Tours



- The Loyalist Trail
- Victorian Stroll
- Prince William Walk



## May 1783

*Seven ships lie anchored in the Bay of Fundy, off the mouth of the St. John River. The passengers aboard are a curious collection of refugees – they are farmers and doctors, carpenters and lawyers, craftsmen and soldiers – people of every age, from all walks of life. As they gaze grimly upon the rocky peninsula and the Fundy mud flats sprawling before them, they share a common longing for the homes they left behind.*

From the beginnings of the American Revolution in 1774, to shortly after its conclusion in 1783, some 40,000 British subjects fled north to escape persecution. The 3,000 “Loyalists” – as they were called – who arrived in Saint John that May were followed by 11,000 more before the year ended.

The Loyalists established two settlements at the mouth of the St. John River – Parr Town, named after the Governor of Nova Scotia; and Carleton, after their Commander-in-Chief in New York. Many moved and settled upriver. In 1785, the two settlements were incorporated by Royal Charter into the City of Saint John. In time, the Loyalists would come to regard their infant city with an affection similar to that which they had felt for their American homes. This deep sentiment, combined with patience, toil and a strong will to survive, enabled them to build a brand new life upon this once seemingly inhospitable shore.

The LOYALIST TRAIL walking tour retraces the footsteps of our founders – exploring the spots where they landed on May 18, 1783. You’ll visit the Old Burial Ground; the County Courthouse with its magnificent Spiral Staircase; Loyalist House – now a museum of period furnishings; historic Trinity Church; Saint John’s delightful City Market; and an authentic old-time general store.

Expect only to be delighted on the LOYALIST TRAIL as you explore the very heart of old Saint John, and step back through two fascinating centuries of our city’s history.

# Loyalist Trail

Length: Approximately 1.5 hours

## 1. County Courthouse, King's Square

The courthouse was built in 1825 to plans by Saint John architect John Cunningham, who designed many prominent Saint John buildings of the period. Fluted pilasters and a pediment on the upper floors evoke imagery of a Greek Temple, considered an appropriate characteristic for public buildings of the time. Of special interest is the stone staircase, which spirals up three storeys without a central support.



## KING STREET EAST

Known originally as "Great Georges Street" after King George III, King Street East was considered a suburb until the early 1800s. The Great Fire of 1877 destroyed all the buildings on the south side of King Street East, except for the Courthouse complex.

## 2. Old Burial Ground, King's Square

This area was set aside as a public ground in the original Town plan drawn up by Paul Bedell in 1783. The oldest surviving stone dates to 1784 (Conradt Hendricks) and is located on the southern side of the graveyard near the southwest corner. In April 1848, the graveyard was closed to further burials by an Act of the Provincial Legislature.

## 3. King's Square

This is one of four squares included in the original town plan. The site was cleared in 1844 and laid in an 'X' pattern. The unique two-storey bandstand was donated by the City Cornet Band as a "Memorial to Edward VII, King Emperor 1901-1910." Of particular interest is the Young monument, erected by public subscription to commemorate the valiant efforts of Frederick Young to save a drowning boy.

## 4. City Market, 47 Charlotte Street

The City Market has been in continuous use since 1876 and is believed to be the oldest common-law market in Canada. Designed by local architects, McKean & Fairweather, the interior roof supports are reminiscent of a ship's hull. The Market is open six days a week, year-round.



## 5. "Figurehead", City Market (Germain St. Entrance)

On the outside wall of the City Market is a sculpture work entitled "Figurehead." Commissioned by Uptown Saint John Inc., this piece was installed in July 1995. Local artist Carol Taylor had taken her cues from the interior roof supports, which are reminiscent of a ship's hull. The figurehead is a stylized interpretation of those which guided wooden sailing ships. It is comprised of individually sculptured clay tiles affixed to a fibreglass background. Each tile has been fired and glazed to form the whole figure and withstand the test of time.

## 6. Nutting House, 2 Germain Street

This Georgian Style structure, three storeys high, is the oldest surviving brick building in Saint John. It was built in 1819 for Joseph Nutting, Collector of Customs.

## 7. Loyalist House, 120 Union Street

The house was built in the Georgian style by Loyalist David Merritt between 1810 and 1817. It was acquired by the New Brunswick Historical Society in 1959 and restored as a museum of period furnishings. It has been honoured by the American



Association for State and Local History for excellence in restoration. Loyalist House is open daily in the summer. Admission charged

## UNION STREET

This is the dividing line between regularly and irregularly laid-out streets. Note the change of street names north of Union Street.

## 8. St. John's Stone Church, 87 Carleton Street

This church, completed in 1825, was the first stone church built in the city. Though officially named St. John's Church, a national historic site (1987), its contrast to the many frame churches of the day resulted in its being dubbed Stone Church. Stone Church welcomes visitors during the week. An informative pamphlet is available in the church. During the summer months, guided tours are available.



## 9. Saint John Arts Centre, 20 Hazen Avenue

The building opened in 1904 as one of 2,509 public library buildings Andrew Carnegie gave to communities of North America. It is an outstanding example of the period architecture with a stained glass ceiling in the almost 3-storey-high rotunda. The building was refurbished as part of the Saint John Bicentennial celebrations (1983-85) through the generosity of the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation and the Royal Bank of Canada. The Saint John Arts Centre serves as a centre for the Arts & Sciences in Saint John.

## 10. Chipman Hill Suites, 1- 5 Chipman Hill

These buildings were built between 1854 and 1857 by brothers-in-law Hastings and Armstrong. The plain, classical lines are typical of many fine homes of the period, when any extravagance was confined to the interiors. The entrance of Number 1 is still decorated with exquisite wall and ceiling paintings. The front door of Number 1 is believed to be carved by John Rogerson, Saint John's best known wood craftsman of the period.

## 11. City Hall, 15 Market Square

While in the lobby of City Hall, note the record of past Mayors and the City's Corporate Seal carved by John Graham in 1830. At the second meeting of the newly incorporated City of Saint John on May 23, 1785, Mayor Gabriel Ludlow was directed to have an official seal designed. The design was presented to Council and approved at the May 26, 1785 meeting. This corporate seal is also used as the city's crest.

## 12. Site Of Barlow's Corner, Foot of Chipman Hill

This corner was originally granted to James Putnam, who studied law with John Adams in Boston and was appointed Assistant Supreme Court Judge in 1784. Putnam erected a splendid threestorey building with a store on the lower floor. Putnam died and the lot was sold to Ezekiel Barlow, who had to comply with some unusual terms of sale. The price was \$2,000 in Mexican silver dollars, to be counted in coin before lawyer Ward Chipman. To the great merriment of the public, Barlow procured a wheelbarrow and pushed his considerable load up Chipman Hill to the lawyer's office.

## 13. Market Square & New Brunswick Museum

The area derived its name from its early function as a market place for the City. By the 1860s, Market Square, along with King and Prince William Streets, was the centre of the City's dry goods trade. From their construction immediately following the Great Fire of 1877, to well into this century, the numerous warehouses, which lined both sides of Market Slip, held cargo from around the world. Today seven of these warehouse facades have survived and are incorporated into the Market Square Complex. In 1996, the New Brunswick Museum opened its new 3-storey exhibition space inside Market Square.

## 14. Market Slip at Market Square



Adjacent to Market Square is Market Slip, celebrated as the site of the first Loyalist landing on May 18, 1783. At one time there was a slip of water that extended almost to the foot of King Street. Along each side were several warehouses. Ships arrived at the Slip and were able to unload their goods on either side.

## 15. Barbour's General Store, St. Andrew's Bicentennial Green

Once located at a rural crossroads 80 miles north of the city, the store was restored in 1967 by the G.E. Barbour Company Limited to commemorate the Centennial of Canadian Confederation and the company's 100th anniversary in business. It now stands near the site where the company first went into business.

## 16. Vassie's Corner, 20 King Street

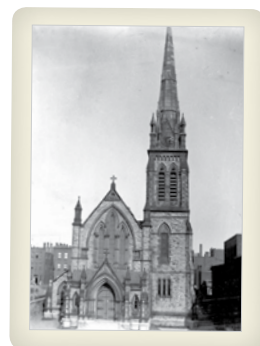
In 1787, Benedict Arnold took up residence in a large frame house on this corner. His arrogant manner and sharp business dealings made him heartily disliked by his fellow citizens, who at one point burned him in effigy. The present structure was constructed in 1878 for James Vassie and Co., wholesale dry goods and woolen merchants. Note the painted crosses on and below windows on the upper floors of the building and its neighbour. City building codes of the past required this as an indication of where occupants would gather to be evacuated in case of fire.

## 17. Commercial Block, 22 – 40 King Street

On this block, there were four similar structures, four storeys high, built in 1878 and known collectively as the "Commercial Block." The western end of the block was demolished in 1900 to make way for the Royal Bank Building. Shortly thereafter additional storeys were added to the remaining three buildings.

## 18. Trinity Church, 115 Charlotte Street (main entrance faces Germain Street)

Built in 1880 to plans by architect W.T. Thomas of Montreal, the present Trinity Church replaced Old Trinity, a wooden structure, which was built in 1791 and destroyed in the Great Fire of 1877. On prominent display inside the church is the Royal Coat of Arms of the House of Hanover, dating to the reign of George I, who became King of England in 1714. The Coat of Arms arrived in Saint John after being rescued from the old Boston Council Chamber by Colonel Edward Winslow during the American Revolution. It was once again rescued from Old Trinity Church during the Great Fire of 1877. Trinity Church welcomes visitors during the week.



## 19. Imperial Theatre, King Square South

In 1911, Albert E. Westover, a leading architect from Philadelphia was retained to design a performing centre for Saint John. It opened in 1913 as the Imperial Theatre, a 1500-seat structure. Over the years, it has featured such greats as John Philip Sousa, Ethel Barrymore and Gracie Fields. The theatre was renamed the Capitol in 1929 and began showing movies in addition to the live performances it already offered. In 1957, it was sold to the Full Gospel Assembly. A public campaign initiated in 1982 raised in excess of \$1 million to purchase the building. The renovated theatre opened May 1994. Tours are available for a small fee in the summer months.

## 20. Firefighters' Museum, 24 Sydney Street

Engine House 2, built in 1840 - 1841 in the Georgian style, served for many years as a fire engine house and later as a tourist bureau. Open July and August.

# High Style in Old Saint John

*The Great Fire of 1877 dealt a devastating blow to Saint John, destroying some 1600 buildings and leaving 13,000 homeless.*

But the City was quick to spring back on its feet. One local observer wrote after the Fire: "Everywhere buildings are going up, most of them of a thoroughly substantial character. To walk through the principal streets seems like inspecting a beehive."

Many of the fine homes that lined the main residential streets of Saint John had been reduced to ashes. Their owners – wealthy ship owners, commission agents and merchants – were determined that their new homes would equal, if not surpass those they replaced.

They commissioned architects from Saint John, Boston, Halifax, New York, Toronto and Montreal. They imported fine materials – mahogany from Honduras and marble from Italy – and they engaged noted Saint John builders and craftsmen.

The resulting homes were grand indeed. Today most of them remain standing, and most are much as they were when they were built – fine examples of period architecture, combined with outstanding workmanship.

Expect only to be delighted on the VICTORIAN STROLL, as you take in the elegant homes nestled along the tree-lined, 19th century residential streets of central Saint John.

## 3. Old Burial Ground, King's Square

This area was set aside as a public ground in the original Town plan drawn up by Paul Bedell in 1783. The oldest surviving stone dates to 1784 (Conradt Hendricks) and is located on the southern side of the graveyard near the southwest corner. In April 1848, the graveyard was closed to further burials by an Act of the Provincial Legislature.

## 4. Carson Flood House, 166 – 168 King Street East

Not many local buildings had the distinction of being featured in an architectural journal. In 1878, the year this house was built, its plans



were featured in an issue of the "American Architect and Building News". The house was designed by architects Henry Clark and John Briggs. The first occupants, the Taylors and Dearborns, had the first letters of their respective family names carved above the doorways for posterity.

## 5. Peters House, 190 King Street East

William Peters built this home in 1877-78. He and his family owned the Peters Tannery which was located a few blocks northeast. His father, C.H. Peters, built a large stone home right behind this building which is now the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. Much of the interior of this home is still intact.

## 6. McAvity House, 192 - 196 King Street East

Looking at these two houses today, one would hardly believe they were built as a matched pair in 1878. The homes were built for Thomas and his son Thomas Jr., of Thomas McAvity and Sons, brass founders and hardware merchants. The firm was established in 1834 as a hardware and general merchandise company. In 1863, at the height of the wood ship-building industry in the city, the firm expanded and established a brass foundry to supply ship fixtures. The firm grew to international renown for its fire hydrants.



## 7. Brass House, 167 King Street East

The elaborate masonry work at the front entrance of this home is a good example of decorative detailing creating a grand entrance to a home of otherwise clean, classic lines. The house was constructed in the Second Empire style in 1860 by contractor Edward Brass as his own home.

## Victorian Stroll

Length: Approximately 1.5 hours



### 1. King's Square

This is one of four squares included in the original town plan, drawn up by Paul Bedell in 1783. The site was cleared in 1844 and laid out in an 'X' pattern. The unique two-storey bandstand was donated by the City Cornet Band as a "Memorial to Edward VII, King Emperor 1901-1910."

### 2. County Courthouse, King's Square

The courthouse was built in 1825 to plans by Saint John architect John Cunningham, who designed many prominent Saint John buildings of the period. Of special interest is the stone staircase, which spirals up three storeys without a central support. It is reputed that the government of the day would not pay for the work related to the staircase because it was unsafe. Cunningham gathered 49 men off the street and stood them on the stairs all at once. The stairs did not collapse and the bill was paid.

## 8. Erb House, 208 – 210 King Street East

This home was constructed in 1898 for Isaac Erb, a pre-eminent photographer who captured the very essence of Saint John between 1877 and 1924. While modest in external appearance, this house was, in its day, reputed to contain some very “classy pieces of furniture.” It was converted to a two-family structure sometime after 1924.

## 9. Peters House, 218 King Street East

William Peters lived in two other homes on King Street East before building this home in 1885. Peters was an employee of his father's firm, C. H. Peters and Sons, commission merchants and leather manufactures. Note the faces carved above the front door and below the cornices.

## 10. Osgood House, 191 King Street East

The five-sided, bay window dormers on the roofline of this house are known as Scottish dormers and are very common on many of the 19th century houses in Saint John. This structure was constructed in the 1840's for Samuel P. Osgood, a stone cutter whose business on King Square South featured “all descriptions of head stones, monuments and marble mantel pieces.”

## 11. 60 Pitt Street

This richly detailed, gaily decorated house predates the Great Fire of 1877. The ornate wood carving is typical of the high quality craftsmanship which was available from wood carvers who applied their talents with equal skill to both ships and buildings.



## LEINSTER STREET

When one reaches the corner of Pitt and Leinster Streets, Courtney Bay is easily visible to the left. This street was named in honour of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Duke of Leinster, an Irish aristocrat who served in the military at Fort Howe in 1784.

## 12. Wright House, 114 Leinster Street

This home was constructed in 1902 in the Queen Anne style for Hugh Wright, the manager of North American Life Insurance Company. While it has not lost its basic charm, modern siding was added in recent years and some of the finer details were removed.

## 13. Frink House, 112 Leinster Street

A rather delightful structure, this house is also of the Queen Anne style, built in 1904 for Walter Frink, the manager of the Western Assurance Company.

## 14. Barbour House, 105 Leinster Street

Two prominent Saint John businessmen have called this rather plain residence home. It was built in 1879 for William V. Barbour of Barbour Brothers Merchants, a firm which has continued to thrive to the present day (Barbour's General Store). The home was later

occupied by George McAvity, one of Thomas McAvity's six sons, who went on to become president of T. McAvity & Sons between 1910 and 1933.

## 15. Hayward House, 103 Leinster Street

The Great Fire of 1877 destroyed William H. Hayward's home and business premises. In 1878 Hayward had this home constructed, and he was quick to rebuild his store, W. H. Hayward. The company continues today as Hayward & Warwick Limited at 85 Princess Street.

## 16. Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, 91 Leinster Street

Charles H. Peters, the father of William Peters, a former resident of 218 King Street East, had this impressive stone dwelling built over a three year period beginning in 1897. When finished, it was reputed to be the best finished home in the city. In 1965 it was converted to a funeral home. In 2008 the building was purchased as the new home for the Congregation Shaarei Zekef and the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. A collection of religious and secular artifacts is housed and displayed here, including the building's rare Tiffany lamp. Admission is free.



## WENTWORTH STREET

This street is named for Sir John Wentworth. He was the second Governor of Nova Scotia after having served, before the American Revolution, as the last Royal Governor of New Hampshire.

## 17. Gothic Arches, 95 Wentworth Street

The original Centenary Methodist Church was built on this site in 1839, the centennial of British Methodism. That early church was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1877 which also destroyed the homes of 120 of the 145 families in the congregation. This Gothic style church and hall were completed in 1882 at a cost of \$79,500. The building was designed by John Welsh, a New York architect, who also donated a stained glass window in the hall in memory of his son who died at age four. The auditorium seated over 1,000 people. The congregations of Centenary and Queen's Square United amalgamated in the 1950's. They sold the building in 1999.

## 18. Troop House, 96 Wentworth Street

In a city noted for its many ship owners and merchants, Jacob Valentine Troop was most renowned. He parlayed his fortunes from a 60-ton wooden schooner to a shipping fleet whose flag was recognized around the world. It was in a home on this site that Troop and his family lived until it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1877. The present house was completed the following year. Jacob died in 1881 and his widow lived in the house until her death in 1906. Henry A. Doherty bought the home in 1908, thus the name “Doherty” on the frosted glass front doors.

## 19. Smith House, 99 Wentworth Street

This solid Second Empire style was designed by New York architects, C.B. Croft and F.T. Camp. It was constructed in 1878 for A. Chipman Smith, a druggist whose shop was located in the City Market. The newspaper of the day praised this "handsome French cottage" for its beauty and convenience.

## ORANGE STREET

Looking down Wentworth Street from Orange, one can see by the commanding view of the harbour why ship owners built homes along Orange Street. In the past, this vantage point provided them with an opportunity to keep a watchful eye on their vessels.

Today, this view is obscured by the large potash shed, a vital part of Saint

John's current commercial port activity.

## 20. 75, 77, 79 Orange Street

These massive Italianate row houses were built in 1880 for three prominent Saint John men. George MacLeod, a ship owner and lumber merchant, occupied 79 Orange; Frederick Barker, a barrister, number 77; and Drury Ward Chipman, the Registrar of Deeds, number 75. Of note are the dormer windows, perched above the main body of the house giving the occupants an unobstructed view of the harbour and the Bay of Fundy. The similar but unique stone carvings surrounding each doorway are amongst the best in the city.

## 21. Bent House, 78 Orange Street

Like others in Orange Street, Gilbert Bent had an interest in oceangoing commerce. He was the owner of G. Bent and Sons, a food wholesale firm with offices at Market Slip. He too wished to keep an eye on shipping movements and had this Second Empire sandstone home built in 1879. Note the initial of the family name carved in stone above the doorway.

## 22. Howard D. Troop House, 70 Orange Street

Although Jacob Troop had two sons, only Howard D. became involved in the family business. He assumed control of Troop and Son upon his father's death and successfully lead the company through difficult years in the 1880's and 1890's. In 1881 alone, the company lost 41 vessels at sea. Despite these hard times the firm remained the largest Canadian fleet of its day and Howard was the first Canadian ship owner to acquire an iron vessel. He died in 1912 and with him, his firm. This house was constructed for Howard in 1878 after the Great Fire of 1877 had destroyed the Troop family home on Wentworth Street. The Troop initials can still be seen in the etched glass on the inner front doors.

## 23. MacLeod House, 71 Orange Street

One can see even today that George MacLeod had some particularly prosperous years in the late 1870's. No sooner had the shipping and lumber tycoon moved into 79 Orange, that he purchased a lot from the Troop family and commissioned architects, D.E. Dunham and W. P. Clarke, to design this imposing sandstone structure at 71 Orange. Note the fascinating stone carvings above the windows.

## 24. Haley House, 50 Orange Street

This home was built around 1913 for Robert G. Haley of Haley Brothers & Co., Builders and Contractors. The house was the rectory of Trinity Church on Germain Street described in the "Loyalist Trail." It is now privately owned and being carefully rehabilitated. Note the curved glass windows in the turret of the house.

## MECKLENBURG STREET

This Street is named for Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (a tiny German State), consort of King George III at the time the Loyalists arrived in Saint John.

## 25. 37 Mecklenburg Street

Built immediately following the Great Fire of 1877, this second Empire structure has been owned throughout its life by only three families. Like most Second Empire roofs, this one still retains its slate shingles.

## 26. Caverhill Hall, 134 Sydney Street



Caverhill Hall was built by brewer Simeon Jones and took its name from his grandmother, Jane Elizabeth Caverhill. Simeon hired Montreal architect John J. Brown to build his new home, which took from 1881 to 1884 to build as the lumber dried for a year before being used. Jones was mayor of Saint

John throughout the construction period. In 1901, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall & York, later King George V and Queen Mary, used this home as their vice regal residence. Their son, Captain Rae Jones, was the first Canadian killed in WWI.

## 27. Thomson House, 2 Mecklenburg Street

This imposing home was built in the 1890's by another Saint John ship owner, Robert Thomson, of William Thomson and Company. Thomson was also the Imperial German Consul at the time. Note the ornately carved door and entranceway and the terra cotta family crest on the side of the building with the Latin motto, loosely translated, "Patience Conquers." Beautiful stained glass windows can also be seen, particularly at night.



## 28. Queen Square

Queen Square was once one of the most fashionable districts in the city. The homes were built by wealthy citizens following the Great Fire of 1877. The Square itself was laid out in 1783 by Paul Bedell and like King's Square, is in the shape of an 'X'. The monument of Samuel de Champlain was erected to mark the 300th anniversary of his naming the St. John River. On June 24th, 1604, he sailed into the harbour and named the river for the feast of St. John the Baptist.

## 29. Rankin House, 210 – 212 Germain Street

In 19th century Saint John, it was not uncommon for families to build businesses or homes together. This semi-detached structure was built in the early 1880s for the Rankin Brothers of the Rankin Biscuit Co. Note the intricate doors and railing work, as well as the stone gargoyles at the left and right ends of the cornice. In addition to being decorative, these gargoyles drain water from the building's roof through their open mouths.

## 30. Carleton House, 223 Germain Street

This Second Empire style home was built in 1888 for Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley during his tenure as Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. The building was fondly named "Carleton House," because Tilley's strongest source of electoral support came from Carleton or Saint John West. It was designed by prominent Saint John architect H.H. Mott. Folklore says an attractive dining room was added to the rear of the house for the Tilleys to entertain Canada's Prime Minister, Sir John A. and Lady MacDonald. Tilley was a Father of Confederation (see his statue in King's Square).

## 31. Bullock House, 179, 183, 185 & 187 Germain Street

179 Germain Street was built as a family home in 1879 for Joseph Bullock, founder of the Eastern Oil Company and New Brunswick's first oil magnate. Starting as a kerosene supplier, Bullock parlayed his fortunes to a point where in 1898 Eastern Oil amalgamated with Imperial Oil. With business prospering, Bullock built 183-187 Germain for himself and his two sons. Number 183 was occupied by his son Thomas, who was Mayor of Saint John from 1908 to 1910; 185 was occupied by Bullock; and 187 was occupied by his son John. Note the elaborate door knobs and plates at 179 Germain.

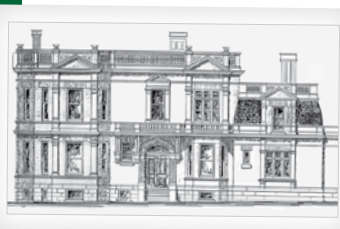
## 32. Power's Funeral Home, 79 Princess Street

New Brunswick's first professional, full-time undertaker built this building in 1878 and used it as both his residence and "warerooms." Mark Needham Powers operated his undertaking business in the city from 1846 until his death in 1892. The company had the first glass hearse in Saint John and it could regularly be seen going through the carriageway to and from the stables which were behind the shop.

## 33. Hayward & Warwick, 85 Princess Street

Hayward & Warwick began in 1855 as retailers of china and earthenware. They relocated to this location in December 1877 and today are a nationally recognized retailer of fine china, housewares and giftware.

## 34. White House, 71 Sydney Street



Lt. Colonel Dr. Walter W. White, who commanded the N.B. Regiment of Artillery, was a successful surgeon, soldier and politician. This was his home from the time of its construction in 1891 until his death at age 89 in 1952. White was mayor of the city from 1902 to 1906 and again from 1930 to 1935. He

married Helen Troop, the daughter of Howard D. Troop whose home is mentioned in this Stroll. Note the glass conservatory, etched glass in the front door and the terracotta brick insets in the chimney on Princess Street.

# Merchant Heritage of Saint John

*At 2 p.m. on June 20, 1877, a flash fire broke out in Fairweather's Hay Store in Portland, at the west end of Union Street. Outside, a brisk nor'wester howled, and as the flames broke through the outside walls of the store, a burning branch was carried by the wind, igniting the nearby MacLaughlan Boiler Works. The fire spread rapidly, engulfing one wooden building after another, until most of the South End was caught up in a roaring inferno. For nine long hours the fire raged. When it was over, two-thirds of Uptown Saint John, including most of the commercial district, was a smoldering mass of charred rubble.*

With 1,612 buildings destroyed and 13,000 people homeless, Saint John turned its efforts to building anew – as quickly as possible. The next decade saw much of the Uptown and South End rebuilt. Many of these buildings remain intact today, and because they do, Saint John can truthfully claim to have some of the finest surviving examples of 19th century commercial facades in all of Canada.

Prince William Street was the first streetscape in Canada to be designated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as being of national historic and architectural significance. To protect the character of the buildings in the central core of the city, Saint John created the twenty-block Trinity Royal Preservation Area. PRINCE WILLIAM WALK tours some of the charming streets within this area.

So elaborate are some of the buildings and their detailing that it is easy to imagine the fierce competition among property owners, contractors and craftsmen to out-do one another in the grandness of their proud, new structures.

Expect only to be delighted on PRINCE WILLIAM WALK, as you take in the imposing splendor of Corinthian columns, the whimsy of Queen Anne Revival, elaborate Italianate facades and curious gargoyles grinning atop their cornice perches.



# Prince William's Walk

Approximately 1.5 hours

## 1. Market Square & New Brunswick Museum

Market Square derives its name from its early function as a market place for the city. The Great Fire of 1877 destroyed all the buildings of Market Square, but soon afterwards, numerous warehouses were constructed along both sides of Market Slip. Today, seven of these warehouse facades have been incorporated into the Market Square complex, an ambitious and exciting development which includes shops, restaurants, offices, a hotel, apartments, a trade and convention centre, Canada's first public library and the New Brunswick Museum.

## 2. Market Slip at Market Square

Adjacent to Market Square is Market Slip, celebrated as the site of the first Loyalist landing on May 18, 1783. At one time there was a slip of water that extended almost to the foot of King Street. Along each side were several warehouses. Ships arrived at the Slip and were able to unload their goods on either side. The Labour Day Bell, marking a ten-hour work day, was here from 1849 to 1923.

## 3. Barbour's General Store, St. Andrew's Bicentennial Green

Once located at a rural crossroads in Sheffield, 80 miles upriver from the city, the store was completely restored in 1967 by the G.E. Barbour Company Limited. Brought downriver on a barge, it now stands near the site where the company first went into business.

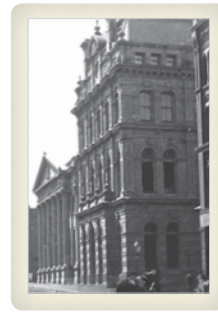
## 4. McMillan Press, 98 Prince William Street

Until its sale in the late 1990's McMillan Press was the oldest printing firm in Saint John. The print house was established in 1822, the original building was next to Jardine's Alley, across the street from its present location. Despite numerous fires which threatened or destroyed the firm's premises, McMillan's thrived.

The present building was erected after the Great Fire of 1877 to a design by prominent New York architects G.B. Croft and F.T. Camp.

## 5. Chubb's Corner, 111 Prince William Street

This building was designed by noted Saint John architects McKean and Fairweather. The carved stone heads above the third floor windows evoked the following comment from the press at that time: "We trust no more of our buildings will be adorned by such buffoonery from his hands." For many years stocks, bonds and other securities were sold here at public auction. The Prince William Street National Historic Streetscapes Marker is also located at this address. While at this corner, walk down to the foot of Princess Street to look at the intricate carvings on the Furlong Building.

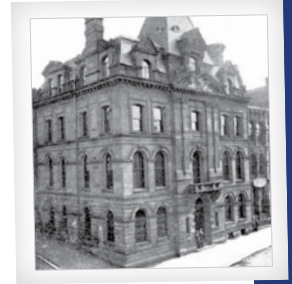


## 6. Old Post Office, 113 Prince William Street

This Second Empire style building was designed by government architect Matthew Stead to replace a post office just completed before the Great Fire of 1877. The original cost was \$120,000. Note the three figures carved in the keystones above the entrance and the ground floor windows.

## 7. Old City Hall, 116 Prince William Street

For over 100 years, between 1785 and 1877, Saint John Common Council met in buildings which were built for other uses: a church meeting hall, a market, a court house, and a banking house. This building was the first structure designed, built and used as City Hall. It was designed by McKean and Fairweather and built immediately after the Great Fire of 1877 at a cost of \$35,500. When its foundations were being prepared, workmen uncovered the 1839 cornerstone of the building which formerly housed city offices and which was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1877. The contents, which represented artifacts of 1839, were deposited along with artefacts of 1877 in the new building's cornerstone.



## 8. Palatine Building, 124 Prince William Street

This classic Second Empire structure was designed by Halifax architects Dumaresq and Dewar for the Bank of Nova Scotia. Following its takeover of the Bank of New Brunswick in 1913, the Bank of Nova Scotia moved across the street, and the building was acquired by the Palatine Insurance Company. The building is richly adorned with floral and fruit motifs, as well as gargoyles. Note the carved stone face of the man spitting coins, located at the top right of the entranceway.

## 9. Bank Of New Brunswick, 119 - 125 Prince William Street

The Bank of New Brunswick came into being in Saint John in 1820 as Canada's first chartered bank. It dominated the provincial business scene for 93 years, during which time this fine edifice was built. In 1913, the bank was forced to decide between greatly enlarging its capital to compete against other expanding banks or to amalgamate with another Maritime bank. It chose the latter, and was absorbed by the Bank of Nova Scotia, which took over this property and occupied it until 1977.

## 10. Seamen's Mission, 152 Prince William Street

The Seamen's Mission was founded in 1897 by Lady Alice Tilley, wife of Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, former Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick and a Father of Confederation. Its purpose was to provide lodging, meals and recreation to sailors from around the world. Originally located on Water Street, the Mission moved into the present building after its completion in 1908. It was designed by architect G. Ernest Fairweather.



## 11. The Troop Building, 162 Prince William Street

Erected in 1883, this building housed the offices of the renowned Troop Shipping Line of Saint John which was established in the 1840s. A plaque on the building offers a short history of the company.

## 12. Stoneleigh Terrace, 262 - 268 Prince William Street

This row of Queen Anne Revival frame houses was built in 1895. They had a view of the harbour until World War I, when a massive grain elevator was built across the street. The Canadian National Railway elevator was demolished in 1989.

## 13. The Three Lamps at St Patrick's Square

At the foot of Prince William Street stands an iron lamp known as "The Three Sisters." It has guided mariners into the harbour since



1848. In 1967, the lamps were restored as a Canadian Centennial project through the joint efforts of the stevedoring firm of H.S. Gregory and Sons Ltd. and Saint John Iron Works Ltd. They were replaced in 1997. The Celtic Cross standing near the lamps is a copy of a larger one on Partridge Island which you can see at the harbour's mouth. The large cross was erected in 1927 to

commemorate the 2,000 Irish Immigrants who perished of typhus and to Dr. James P. Collins, the Saint John doctor who died on the island treating the immigrants.

## GERMAIN STREET

Following the Great Fire of 1877, Saint John saw the erection of many fine brick houses to replace those which had been destroyed. The wealthiest of these boasted many fine features: mahogany from Honduras, marble mantelpieces from Italy, and intricately carved wood mantels, newel posts and doors. Some of the best examples of post-1877 residential architecture are found on Germain, considered one of the city's most elegant older residential streets.

## 14. Mahogany Manor, 220 Germain Street

This wood two-storey Queen Anne Revival residence, one of the few wooden residences on this street, was constructed in 1905 by contractor Michael Mooney for William Cross, who became manager of the wholesale grocery firm Hall and Fairweather in 1902 upon the death of the founders. Later the business was converted into an insurance and real estate company.

## 15. 210 -212 Germain Street

Built in the 1880's, this double brick building illustrates a departure from pre-fire practice, in the erection of double or multiple dwellings. Note the intricate doors and railing work, as well as the stone gargoyles at the left and right ends of the cornice. In addition to being decorative, these gargoyles drain water from the buildings' roof through the open mouths of the figures.

# Architectural Styles in Saint John 1785-1915

## **Georgian Style, 1785-1840**

This style is a simple, confidently dignified rectangular block with a carefully balanced facade. Named for the reign of the English Kings George I to George IV.

## **Greek Revival, 1800-1880**

This style promoted the classical proportions of Greek temples as symbols of the stability and optimism of this Colonial expansion period.

## **Gothic Revival 1825-1880**

This style emerged as a rebellion against the stricter formality of earlier classical styles. It embraced many of the features of medieval cathedrals.

## **Italianate, 1850-1890**

This style also emerged as a rebellion against the stricter formality of earlier classical styles. It embraced many of the characteristics of Italian farmhouses.

## **Second Empire, 1860-1900**

This style which is also called Mansard, imitated the latest cosmopolitan building fashions in France during the reign of Emperor Napoleon III.

The distinctive roof shape is named for the French architect Francois Mansart.

## **Queen Anne Revival, 1880-1915**

This style is vivacious and uninhibited, with each home having its own unique features, but all using asymmetrical massing. Towers or turrets are common features.

Source: Practical Preservation Guidelines, Architectural Styles, Heritage Planning, City of Saint John.



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