



# 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 named the river “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. A new tourism development interpreting the heritage of the Fort La Tour site is being developed at this site.

In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht ceded French Acadia, including the Saint 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 the river mouth 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 Saint 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, “Paratown” on the east and “Carleton” on the west. In 1785, the two settlements were incorporated by 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.

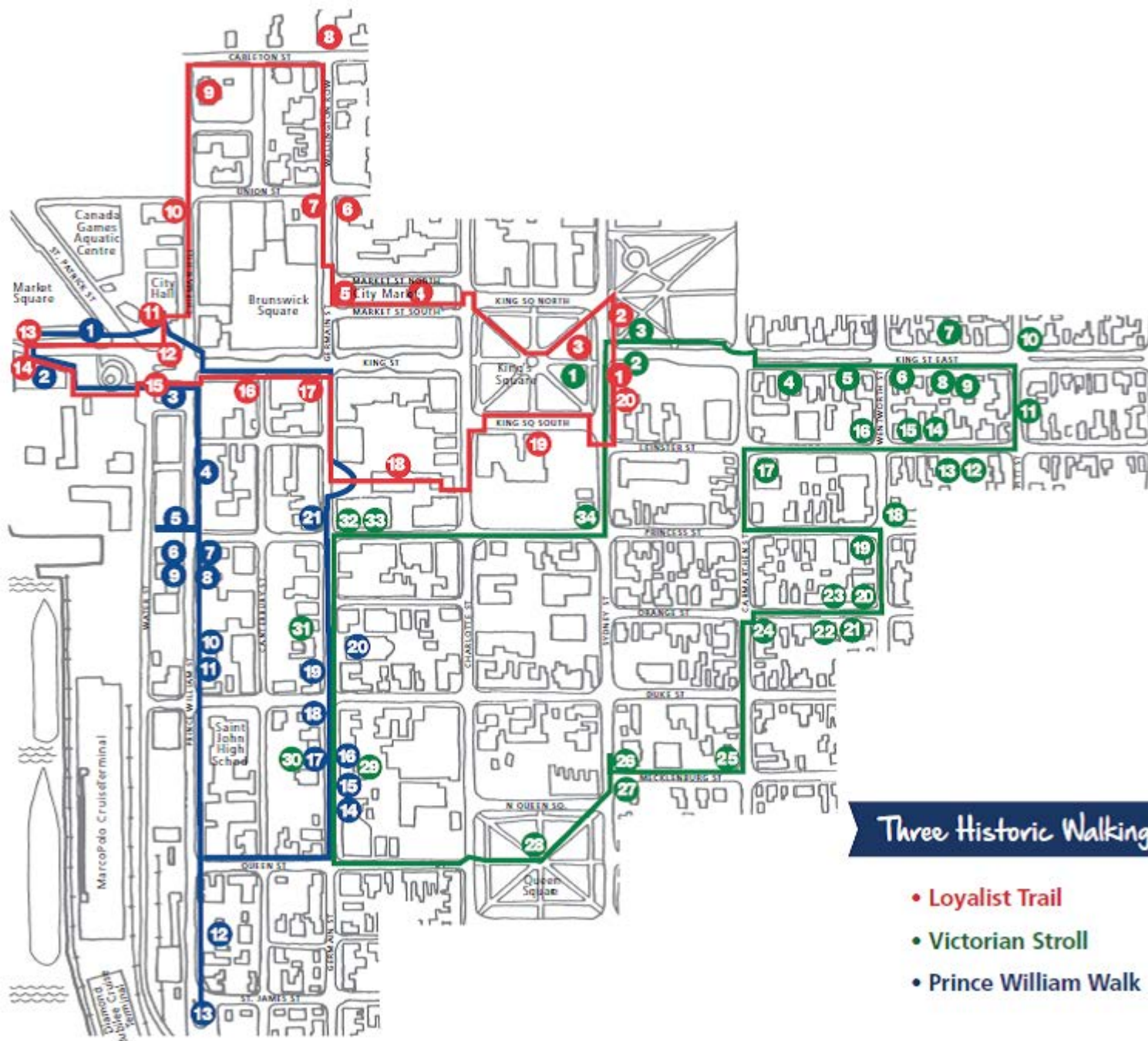
Then, in 1877, a disastrous fire destroyed the city's central business district and much of the residential South End. The task of rebuilding the city was an enormous one for Saint John's citizens – but rebuild it they did, this time out of brick and stone in the commercial district, in an even grander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

Take in our historic architecture, step back to the time of our earliest settlers and immerse yourself in our tree-lined neighbourhoods. Packed with interesting facts and charming stories, the Three Historic Walking Tours brochure will be your valued companion along the way.

Let's get going!



## Three Historic Walking Tours

- Loyalist Trail
- Victorian Stroll
- Prince William Walk



## May 1783

*Seven ships lie anchored in the Bay of Fundy, off the mouth of the Saint 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 Saint 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 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 Court; Loyalist House – now a museum of period furnishings; historic Trinity Church; Saint John’s delightful City Market; and so much more.

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 Court, 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. The Court was still in use until late 2012. The Saint John Law Courts opened in early 2013, located at Peel Plaza.



## 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 Court complex.

## 2. Old Burial Ground, Sydney Street

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 suggestive 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. 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 with period furnishings. It has been recognized 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. Although 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 three-storey 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 3-storey exhibition space.

## 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 approximately to the bronze moose located on the Market Square Boardwalk. 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. The store opens annually between June and October and visitors can see a number of 19th and 20th century artefacts and goods.

## 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 building at the western end of the block was destroyed by fire in 1906. 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 (constructed in 1744), 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 after 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 in 1982 raised \$1 million to purchase the building. The renovated theatre opened May 1994. Tours are available for a fee; between September and April please call ahead.

## 20. Firefighters' Museum, 24 Sydney Street

Engine House 2, built in 1840 - 1841 in the Georgian style, served for many years as a fire station 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 1612 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.

Take in the elegant homes nestled along the tree-lined, 19th century residential streets of central Saint John.

## 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 Court, 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. The Court was still in use until late 2012. The Saint John Law Courts opened in early 2013, located at Peel Plaza.



### 3. Old Burial Ground, King Street East

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 (Conrad 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

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 shipbuilding 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.

### 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 homes 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Leinster, an Irish aristocrat who apparently served at Fort Howe in 1784.

## 12. Wright House, 114 Leinster Street

This home was constructed in 1902 in the Queen Anne Revival 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 Revival, 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, a merchant 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 continued until 2017 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 became the new home for the Congregation Shaarei Zekek and the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. A collection of religious and secular artefacts is housed and displayed here, including the building's rare Tiffany lamp. Admission charged.



## 17. Leinster Street Baptist Church, 42 Leinster Street

The former Leinster Street Baptist Church was built in 1878 on a design by Boston architect John Stevens and Son. It had seating for 700 people and cost \$30,000 to build. It amalgamated with other Baptist Churches to become the Cornerstone Baptist Church. In 2018 the former Church was converted into a wedding banquet hall.

## WENTWORTH STREET

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

## 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. The first home on this site was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1877. This house was completed in 1878. 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

Orange Street is named for Frederick, Duke of Orange, who was a Commander of the Hanoverian troops during the Napoleonic War. He was killed at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815. 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. Drury Ward Chipman, the Registrar of Deeds, occupied 75 Orange; Frederick Barker, a barrister, number 77; and George MacLeod, a ship owner and lumber merchant, number 79. 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 on 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. 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 for the Eaton family about 1880, this home was fairly typical of Second Empire buildings in the post-fire period. This one-and-a-half storey building has double bay windows, capped by triple-paned bay dormers, and still retains its slate roof shingles.

## 26. Caverhill Hall, 134 Sydney Street

Caverhill Hall was built for ex-Mayor Simeon Jones, a brewer and banker. The name came from his mother Jane Elizabeth Caverhill. Simeon bought the plans from Montreal architect John J. Brown and awarded the contract to E.J. Brass, contractor, and Michal Flood, mason, in 1879. The house was finished in early 1884. In 1901 the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, later King George V and Queen Mary, used Cavehill Hall as their residence during a Vice-Regal visit. Simeon's son, Captain Rae Jones, was the first Saint John man killed in the First World War.



## 27. Thomson House, 2 Mecklenburg Street

This imposing home was built in the 1890's for 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 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his naming the Saint John River. On Sundays between May and October an open air farmers market can be found at Queen Square, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm.

## 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).



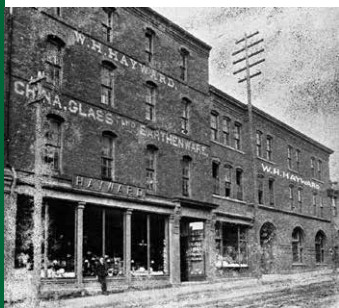
### 31. Bullock House, 179, 183, 185 & 187 Germain Street

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 were a nationally recognized retailer of fine china, housewares and giftware. In 2013 the fifth-generation Hayward family sold the business to a long-time employee. In 2017 Hayward & Warwick closed its doors for good.

### 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 terra cotta 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.

Take in the imposing splendor of Corinthian columns, the whimsy of Queen Anne Revival, elaborate Italianate facades and curious stone carvings grimacing atop their cornice perches.



# Prince William 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 Exhibition Centre.

## 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 approximately to the bronze moose located on the Market Square Boardwalk. The Labour Day Bell, marking a ten-hour work day, was located at the head of the slip from 1849 to 1923.

## 3. Barbour's General Store, Saint Andrews 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. Saint Andrews Society Bicentennial Green was established by the Society to recognize its bicentennial in 1998 and is named in honour of distinguished member Wallace P. MacMurray.



## 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. This building opened for business in June 1878 on 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 One Princess Street to look at the intricate carvings on the Furlong Building.





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

This Second Empire 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 specifically 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 artefacts 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 Dumaesq 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. 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 in part by Herbert C. Tilley, son 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 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 the First World War, when a massive grain elevator was built across the street. The Canadian National Railway elevator was demolished in 1989.

## 13. The Trinity 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 cross was erected in 1927 to commemorate the 1,200 Irish Immigrants and local citizens, who died in 1847 of typhus on Partridge Island and in the City, and to Dr. James P. Collins, who died on the island treating those sick.

## GERMAIN STREET

This street was named for George Sackville, Lord George Germain from 1770-1782, who died in 1785 just as the streets of the City were being named. He was a soldier and statesman in England and served a term as Secretary of State in England. 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. Mahogany Manor is now a Bed & Breakfast.

## 15. Rankin House, 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. For a few decades long-time resident, retired school teacher Emma McCready, played Lady La Tour on special occasions. She singularly kept alive the story of Lady La Tour and her gallant defence of her husbands' fur-trading post.

## 16. McMillan House, 206 Germain Street

This restrained Second Empire style stone dwelling was built in 1864 for J. McMillan, stationer, printer and book-seller. The plaque on the building marks the site of Saint John's first frame building, which was used as Trinity Church and for the city's first council meetings.

## 17. 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. Tilley was a Father of Confederation (see his statue in King's Square). Fernhill Cemetery on Westmorland Road in East Saint John has the graves of two Canadian Fathers of Confederation - the only burial place in Canada to have two fathers resting - Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, who lived in this house, and the Honourable William Henry Steeves, a lumberman with a business in Saint John. Since 1927 the graves of these two men have been recognized on Dominion Day, now called Canada Day, July 1st.

## 18. Robertson House, 211 Germain Street

One of six similar houses built in the 1880's, this unit is distinguished from its neighbours by its intricate door-handle and plate. The original owner was James Robertson, partner in Saint John's original department store, Manchester, Robertson, Allison - M.R.A. - which stood on the site of today's Brunswick Square.

## 19. McArthur Apartments, 197 Germain Street

The McArthur Apartments were constructed in 1920 for George McArthur, contractor and local champion of the nine-hour work day. The seven-storey brick structure is the city's first high-rise apartment building. Its entrance is all that remains of Dr. William Bayard's residence, a grand house and office which was destroyed by fire in 1918.

## 20. Church of St. Andrew and St. David, 164 Germain Street St.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was built in 1878-79 to replace the Kirk destroyed in the 1877 fire. It was designed by Toronto architects Langley and Burke and is one of the city's largest post-fire churches. In 1961, the congregation of St. David's united with St. Andrew's to become the Church of St. Andrew and St. David. Open for visitors in July and August.

## 21. The Union Club, 123 Germain Street

The Union Club dates to May 1884, when it was the brainchild of a group of businessmen looking for a place to gather for companionship and the exchange of ideas. The building was constructed to plans by architect J.T.C. McKean. Until 1936, only men were permitted as members. From its opening, the Union Club has welcomed the most prominent visitors to Saint John.



# Architectural Styles in Saint John 1785-1915

## **Georgian, 1785-1840**

This style is a simple, confidently dignified rectangular block with a carefully balanced facade. Named for the reign of the British 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 Conservation, Growth & Community Development Services, City of Saint John.

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