

DISCOVER SAINT JOHN
and the Towns by the Bay



YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY-CURATED HANDBOOK ON:

History and Culture



Fort La Tour National Historic Site 📷 @katebraydon

SJTOWNSBYTHEBAY.COM

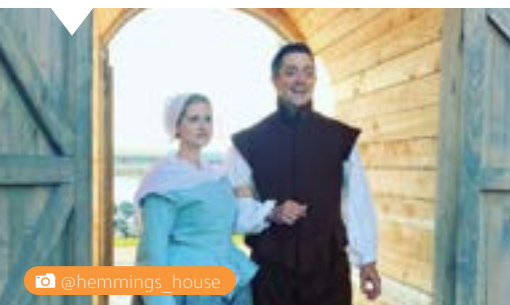
THE BIG FIVE



Looking for directions? **Scan here**
with the camera on your phone
so we can show you the way!

**Place Fort La Tour
National Historic Site**

📍 Saint John 📷 @coreyhartlen



**Carleton Martello Tower
National Historic Site**

📍 Saint John 📷 @arijghufran



**Stonehammer
UNESCO Global Geopark**

📍 Saint John 📷 duckcovephotography



First Nations Storytellers

📍 The Saint John Region
📷 first_nations_storytellers



**Saint John City Market
National Historic Site**

📍 Saint John 📷 @nicolereidphotography

six

mini museums
you'll love

1

**Loyalist House
National Historic Site**

📍 120 Union St., Saint John

2

Quaco Museum

📍 236 Main St., St. Martins



📷 @missarahjoan



📷 @jazmurph

3

**Saint John Jewish
Historical Museum**

📍 91 Leinster St., Saint John

4

**Saint John
Police Museum**

📍 56 Prince William St.,
Saint John



📷 @martinmc065

5

Kings County Museum

📍 27 Centennial Rd., Hampton

6

**New Brunswick Black
History Heritage Centre**

📍 39 King Street, Saint John



WALK

through history



Hampton Historic Homes Walking Tour

This walking tour's 11 stops will take you past Hampton's heritage homes and the old schoolhouse, and help you imagine a time when steamships plied the Kennebecasis River from Saint John to Sussex.



Fernhill Cemetery Walking Tour

A walking tour of Fernhill Cemetery – the final resting place of two Fathers of Confederation – in east Saint John.



St. Martins Self-Guided Walking Tour

This detailed guide introduces you to the Village's history as a shipbuilding centre, and its collection of 150 year-old heritage homes (and the characters who called them home).



Saint John Heritage Walking Tours

In 2004 the New Brunswick Register of Historic Places was established as an online listing of provincial historic sites and local historic places. Places on the New Brunswick Register are also listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places, which lists formally recognized historic places throughout Canada.



Saint John Historic Walking Tours

Three historic walking tours, the Loyalist Trail, the Victorian Stroll, and the Prince William Walk will take you through the history, landmarks, and personalities associated with uptown Saint John.



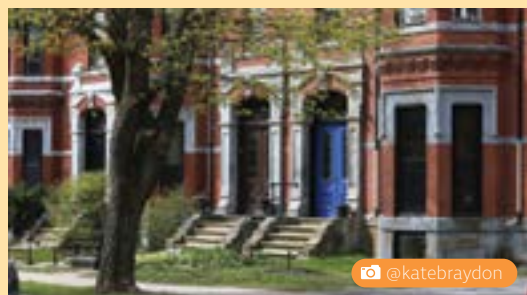
Grand Bay-Westfield Municipal Heritage Trail

The Grand Bay-Westfield Municipal Heritage Trail stretches 14.5 km along the shores of the Saint John and Nerepis Rivers. It winds its way past heritage sites providing storytelling and photos of places along the way.



Walk n' Talks with David Goss

Local author, folklorist and storyteller David Goss leads a variety of historic community walks throughout the region during the summer months. Private tours can also be arranged.



@katebraydon



STONEHAMMER'S greatest hits

A billion years of stories. Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark in southern New Brunswick is the first North American member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Irving Nature Park geosite

@iamjustkidding

Learn more!



St. Martins geosite

@singkitpindot

Learn more!



Reversing Falls Rapids geosite

@katebraydon

Learn more!





FOUNDING CULTURES AND EARLY HISTORY



wolastoqiyik landmarks

french landmarks



Paleoindian artifacts have been found in New Brunswick dating back more than 12,000 years. Pre-contact, the lands encompassing present-day New Brunswick were inhabited primarily by the Wabanaki people, including the Maliseet (or Wolastoqiyik), the Mi'kmaq, and the Passamaquoddy nations. The Wolastoqiyik, meaning “people of the beautiful river,” lived along the Saint John (Wolastoq) River.

Wolastoq National Historic Site

📍 211 Lancaster Ave., Saint John

The Wolastoq watershed represents the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik First Nation. Wolastoq Park, overlooking the Reversing Falls Rapids is an excellent vantage point on this important landscape.

Westfield Beach

📍 Nerepis Rd., Hwy 177, Grand Bay-Westfield

Westfield Beach was an important summer encampment used to trap muskrat, gather fiddleheads and collect wood and reeds for basketry and furniture making.

The Reversing Falls portage

📍 Bentley St., Douglas Ave., Marble Cove, Saint John

The ancient Reversing Falls portage appeared on Samuel de Champlain’s 1604 map of Saint John Harbour. It avoids the treacherous rapids by tracing a path up from the harbour, over the Douglas Avenue ridge, and then down into the shelter of Marble Cove. Archaeological finds at the Bentley Street Archaeological Site (a designated Provincial Historic Site) have confirmed the long-time use of this trail.

Fort Nerepis National Historic Site

📍 Woodmans Point Rd., Grand Bay-Westfield

This fortified Aboriginal village was strategically positioned to control entry into the interior of New Brunswick along both the Saint John and Nerepis rivers.



@markybisanogeezer

@cainsenvi

@jillwhitfield

@katebraydon

@katebraydon

@hollycrazypants

@beautifullyglued

Fort La Tour National Historic Site

📍 124 Chesley Dr., Saint John

Charles de la Tour first constructed Fort La Tour (also known as Fort Sainte Marie) on the east side of the Saint John Harbour in 1631. In 2019/2020, a replica, Place Fort La Tour, was constructed on the original site.

Fort Charnisay National Historic Site

📍 Under Route 1 near the end of King St. W, Saint John

Charles Menou d’Aulnay de Charnisay first built the original Fort Charnisay, a fortified trading post, on the west side of the harbour in 1632. The site is marked by an Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque and cairn.

Fort Boishébert National Historic Site

📍 Woodmans Point Rd., Grand Bay-Westfield

Charles Deschamps de Boishébert built Fort Boishébert (or Fort Nerepis), a small fort at Woodmans Point in 1749. This fort remained a French foothold until 1755 when British forces under Colonel Robert Monckton began the expulsion of Acadian French settlers throughout the region. Woodman’s Point is marked by a cairn and plaque erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.



FOUNDING CULTURES AND EARLY HISTORY

british landmarks



In 1713 the French ceded Acadie to Great Britain as part of the Treaty of Utrecht, and a period of simmering conflict between the English Crown and the French colony began. In 1755 that came to an end, and Governor Charles Lawrence expelled the Acadians from Nova Scotia, causing a wave of French migration into New Brunswick. The Acadians were also expelled from the Saint John River area by 1758, and permanent British settlement began in the 1760s.

Fort Charnisay National Historic Site

📍 Under Route 1 near the end of King St. W, Saint John

This longtime French fort was burned as part of the retreat from Colonel Robert Monckton at the beginning of the Seven Years War (1756-1763). Monckton rebuilt the fort in 1758, naming it Fort Frederick.



Fort Howe National Historic Site

📍 Magazine St., Saint John

The British constructed Fort Howe in 1777 to protect the mouth of the Saint John River from attacks by American privateers. With its location on a towering rock offering unmatched views of the harbour and up the river, Fort Howe and its garrison provided protection to the surrounding settlements through the end of the War of 1812.



Carleton Martello Tower National Historic Site

📍 454 Whipple St., Saint John

Carleton Martello Tower was built by the British between 1812 and 1815 to protect Saint John from American attack during the War of 1812. The tower was briefly used during the First World War, and it boasts a terrific 360-degree view.



american landmarks

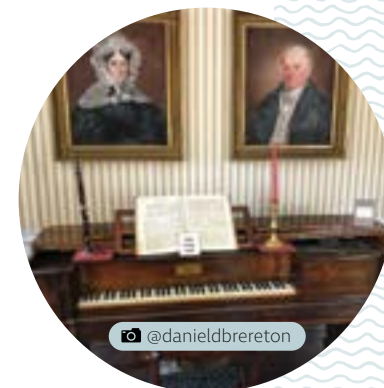


Between 1759 and 1768, approximately 8,000 New England Planters arrived in a wave of immigration to Atlantic Canada, settling on the cultivated land left behind by the Acadians. After the American Revolution, between 1783 and 1785, nearly 15,000 United Empire Loyalists arrived in New Brunswick – quadrupling the population at the time – as the British evacuated its supporters from American colonies. Many settled at the mouth of the Saint John River, quickly outnumbering the population already living in the area.

Loyalist House National Historic Site

📍 120 Union St., Saint John

Loyalist House National Historic Site, constructed between 1810 and 1817 by merchant David Merritt, is a fine example of 19th century Federal style. One of the oldest residences in the city, Loyalist House is an important survivor of the Great Fire. In 1961 it became a museum.



Old Burial Ground

📍 King St. E and Sydney St., Saint John

The city's first cemetery, also called the Old Loyalist Burial Ground, was established in 1783. After it closed in 1848, it became a memorial garden. It was extensively refurbished in 1994 and is a wonderful resource for genealogical visitors.



Mount Hope Farm

📍 690 Nerepis Rd., Grand Bay-Westfield

This Loyalist house, believed to have been built in 1786, was the original home of Colonel Henry Nase, who served with the Royal Army's King's American Regiment at King's Bridge, New York, during the American Revolution. Nase's descendants have occupied this site for more than 200 years.

Black Settlement Burial Ground

📍 NB-111, Willow Grove, Saint John

Located in Willow Grove, between Saint John and St. Martins, this is the site of an actual burial ground. The sculpture and church replica placed there in the 1980s commemorate the community of Black Loyalist refugees who lived in the area beginning in the late 18th Century.



FOUNDING CULTURES AND EARLY HISTORY

american landmarks



Black Loyalist Land Grants / Watson Family Commemoration

📍 Grand Bay-Westfield

The British promised Loyalists who immigrated to Saint John land grants and provisions for three years. However most of the free Black Loyalists arriving in the area did not see this promise fulfilled, and settled into what is now the north end of Saint John, taking menial jobs to survive. In 1787, a small group of 31 petitioners did receive a total of 1,550 nearly unfarmable acres in Grand Bay-Westfield, and they created a small community. William Watson arrived in Saint John in 1815, and was granted a 50-acre parcel in the same area. A small family burial site can be found on the farm property, and a tribute to the Watson family, respected members of the community, can be found on an interpretive panel at the Kiwanis gazebo on the Nerepis causeway.

Carnegie Building

📍 20 Peel Plaza, Saint John

Since its dedication on June 24, 1904, the Carnegie Building has remained an architectural jewel in Saint John. This lovely Beaux-Arts style building was formerly the home of one of the oldest public libraries in Canada, built with a donation of \$50,000, given to the City of Saint John by the famous American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. Today the building houses the Saint John Arts Centre.

Site of Benedict Arnold's Former Home

📍 20 King St., Saint John

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.

Trinity Church

📍 115 Charlotte St., Saint John

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.



@katie_bee123



irish landmarks

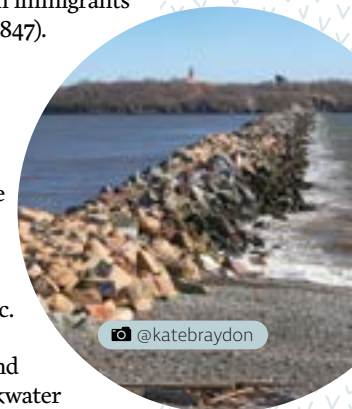


Irish Loyalists began to arrive in the Saint John region around 1783. In 1815, after the Napoleonic Wars, thousands of unemployed Irish workers and ex-servicemen immigrated to Saint John aboard wooden sailing vessels conducting trans-Atlantic trade. Nearly 30,000 Irish immigrants came to Saint John during the Great Potato Famine (1845-1847).

Partridge Island Lookoff

📍 Fort Dufferin Rd., Saint John

Partridge Island Quarantine Station National Historic Site of Canada, North America's first quarantine station, became a military outpost and navigational aid as early as 1785. The island contains six separate graveyards where nearly 1,000 mariners, immigrants and Canadian residents are interred – most were Irish who died during the 1847 typhus epidemic. During the 1890s over 78,000 immigrants a year were examined or treated on the island. The best view of the island can be had at Tin Can Beach. Please note: crossing the breakwater to Partridge Island is both unsafe and against the law.



@katebraydon

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

📍 91 Waterloo St., Saint John

This imposing building had its foundation stone laid in 1853, under the direction of Irish-born Bishop Thomas L. Connolly. Work on the building, with mostly Irish labour, was so rapid that the first Mass celebrated was at midnight on Christmas Eve 1855. Finishing details took many more years and the spire was not erected until 1871.

St. Patrick's Square

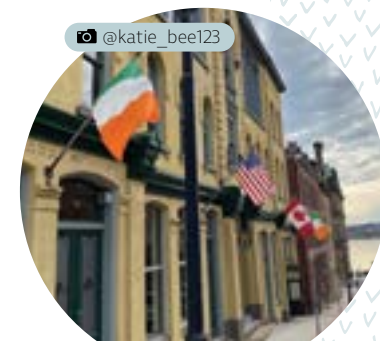
📍 Prince William St., Saint John

Reed's Point at the foot of Prince William Street, was re-named in 1967 to honour citizens of Irish heritage. It overlooks Partridge Island, and a replica of the island's Celtic Cross stands in the square. In 1997, a Memorial Marker erected by the St. Patrick's Society and Famine 150 was unveiled by Hon. Mary Robinson, president of Ireland.

O'Leary's Pub

📍 46 Princess St., Saint John

Established in 1987, O'Leary's claims to be the best Irish pub in New Brunswick. It regularly hosts live traditional and East Coast music, and acts as home base for the Saint John branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, an international organization devoted to the preservation and promotion of traditional Irish dance and music.



@katie_bee123



OUR EARLY economy

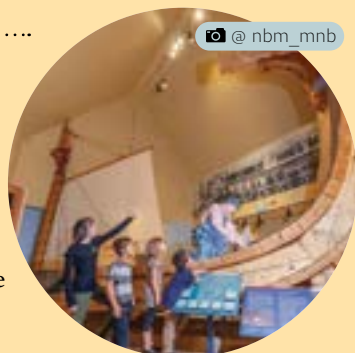
New Brunswick's ample forests and powerful network of rivers have supported a robust logging and timber industry for centuries. Between 1760 and 1900, the Saint John region supplied lumber and ships to customers around the world.

The Shipbuilding Industry

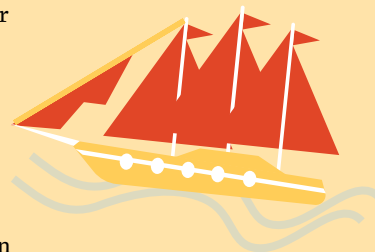
In the 1800s, New Brunswick craftspeople built more than 6,000 vessels, accounting for 30% (by tonnage) of the sailing ships in the British Empire. Saint John became a boom town.

The shipbuilding industry in New Brunswick is marked as an event of national historic significance with a plaque in St. Martins - located across the inlet from Vaughan Creek Covered Bridge.

The Marco Polo, a celebrated three-masted wooden clipper ship constructed in Marsh Creek in east Saint John, was arguably the pinnacle of craftsmanship for the local shipbuilding industry. Completed in 1851, the vessel had three decks, weighed 1,625 tons, and was probably the longest ever built in the province. It was the first ship to make the round trip from Liverpool, England to Australia in under six months, and it was declared the fastest ship in the world. A large painting of the Marco Polo can be seen in the Marco Polo Cruise terminal located at 111 Water St.



@nbm_mnb



The Lumber Industry

Reversing Falls Rapids has been home to sawmills and paper mills for more than a century - taking advantage of the river's ability to cheaply and quickly deliver timber from the north of the province. An informative panel about the history of this location can be found near 14 ½ Café + Bar.



@katie_bee123



The Lumber Industry Plaque

In Riverview Memorial Park, beside the Douglas Avenue location of the New Brunswick Museum, there is a plaque dedicated to the lumber industry in the area.

arts & recreation HISTORY

Imperial Theatre

National Historic Site of Canada

Imperial Theatre National Historic Site is an early 20th century theatre facing onto King's Square, Saint John. The heritage value of the Imperial Theatre lies in its physical characteristics that speak to its role as a theatre designed for live performance. Built in 1912-1923 by the Keith-Albee vaudeville chain of New York and its subsidiary, the Saint John Amusements Company (A.E. Westover, architect), the Imperial Theatre opened as a combination live and movie theatre in 1913. It was renamed the Capitol Theatre and operated primarily as a cinema with occasional live entertainment, 1929-1957. During the mid 1980s it was restored as a live theatre and re-named the Imperial Theatre.



@silversailors

King Edward VII Memorial Bandstand

This ornate bandstand in King's Square was donated to the citizens of Saint John by the City Cornet Band. The band, formed in 1847, was one of the city's foremost marching bands. Considered an Irish band, it was comprised primarily of Roman Catholic members and remained in existence until 1986.



@avantgardecn

Lily Lake/Rockwood Park

Rockwood Park, at 2,200 acres, is one of the largest urban parks in Canada. Planning for the park began in 1783, and it was designed by Calvert Vaux - a partner in the design of New York's Central Park. Lily Lake was one of the City's first sources of fresh water, and ice for refrigeration. Between 1903 and 1912 the park hosted a permanent amusement park, and skating on the lake has been a cherished pastime for more than a century. In fact, the International Amateur Speed Skating Championships were held in the park in 1923, followed by the World's Amateur Speed Skating Championships in 1926. Competitors from as far away as Finland came to compete against local men and women, including local skating legend Charles Gorman.



@canada_blizz

Paris Crew Rowing Sculpture

The Kennebecasis Rowing Sculpture is located on the Rothesay Road, across from Riverside Country Club, on the edge of East Riverside-Kinghurst Park. It commemorates the so-called Paris Crew, four local men (lighthouse keeper Elijah Ross and three fishermen, Robert Fulton, George Price, and Samuel Hutton) who won an International Rowing Regatta in Paris in 1867 – just days after Canadian confederation, making them the country's first world champions – besting famous crews from Germany, France and England. The crew lost to the English Champions in 1870, and then called for a rematch on the Kennebecasis River in 1871. The Paris Crew won that Great Race, much to the delight of thousands of onlookers.

Moosepath Driving Park / Saint John Exhibition Park

Moosepath Driving Park, a half-mile track used for world-class horse-racing and harness racing, opened in 1871. It was one of the most developed harness racing tracks in the province and drew competitors from around the region. It was also the site of local sprinter Eldridge Eatman's triumphant 120-yard sprint in 1903 against world champion Tom Keen.

Saint John City Market

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 architect, McKean & Fairweather, the interior roof supports are suggestive of a ship's hull.

big ticket ARCHITECTURE

The Saint John region is chock-full of wonderful and historic architectural examples of commercial, residential and religious structures of both national and provincial significance. The City of Saint John is a special case – after the near complete destruction of 75% of the City's buildings in the Great Fire of 1877, the rebuilt area presents a cohesive picture of the most popular styles of mid-Victorian architecture.

great fire INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Three panels interpreting the Great Fire of 1877 are located on Harbour Passage near the southwest corner of the Hilton Saint John Hotel. The third panel discusses the architectural styles used in the rebuilding phase.

NATIONAL

historic sites OF CANADA



@katie_bee123

1 Chipman Hill

Saint John @guynamednawig



Loyalist House

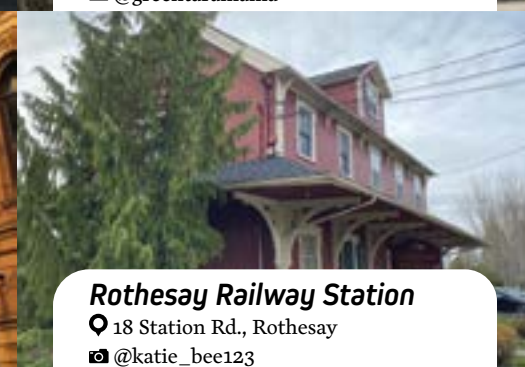
120 Union St., Saint John
@greentaramama



@alex_the_tank

Prince William Streetscape

Saint John @hollycrazyants



Rothesay Railway Station

18 Station Rd., Rothesay
@katie_bee123



@stephshoes

Saint John City Market

47 Charlotte St., Saint John
@tristan_vende



Saint John County Court House

King's Square, Saint John



St. John's Anglican Church / Stone Church

87 Carleton St., Saint John @rika_mck



St. Luke's Anglican Church

12 Quispamsis Rd., Quispamsis

JUMPING OFF POINTS

@kingslandingnb



Grand Bay-Westfield ► King's Landing

From Grand Bay-Westfield it's just a hop, skip and a jump to historic Fredericton and the wonderful King's Landing living history museum featuring original homes and buildings from the period between 1820 and 1920.

Saint John ► St. Andrews

From Saint John, drive west along the shore and you'll find the lovely and historic resort town of St. Andrews, a National Historic Site that still feels like an 18th century British colonial settlement by the ocean.



@shaneleighton



@ray.strowbridge

Saint John ► Beaver Harbour

From Saint John, it's just a short drive west to Beaver Harbour, where you will find a small museum and archives dedicated to an early Quaker settlement that was the first community in British North America to forbid slavery.

Saint John ► McAdam

From Saint John, it's a morning drive along the coast and then north to McAdam, home of the McAdam Railway Station, a National and Provincial Historic site and a designated Heritage Railway Station. The fabulous structure dominates the town, and offers a museum, a terrific diner, and tours of the old hotel.



@nicolereid02