



Our Historic Past

Fredericton's history dates back thousands of years. Originally home to the Wolastoqiyik, "People of the beautiful and bountiful river", the French and British followed. Today, newcomers from around the world are arriving to call this scenic bend on the river home.

Long before the founding of Fredericton in the 1780's, the Wolastoqey peoples hunted, fished and farmed here. The land continues to be part of the traditional Wolastoqey territory.

French fur traders arrived in 1692, establishing Fort Nashwaak. In 1732, French Acadians fleeing from the British expulsion, formed another settlement called Pointe-Sainte-Anne (located near the current Government House).

In 1783, United Empire Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution arrived at St. Anne's Point. In 1784, the Province of New Brunswick was formed separate and apart from Nova Scotia. A year later, Governor Thomas Carleton renamed the community "Frederick's Town," (after the son of King George III) and by 1785, it became New Brunswick's capital.

In 1845, although the population of Fredericton was not large enough to be a considered a city, Queen Victoria made Fredericton a Cathedral City, giving rise to the striking Christ Church Cathedral that still defines the skyline. Fredericton was incorporated as a city on March 30, 1848.

The community continued to thrive and served as home to several military regiments. The Infantry School Corps (later the Royal Canadian Regiment) was born here in 1883.

Through the 19th century, Fredericton flourished with mills, tanneries, and factories before evolving into a centre of learning, creativity, and public service. A series of amalgamations, helped shape the modern city.

Today, Fredericton is one of the fastest growing cities in Atlantic Canada and the Capital Region stretches across the Wolastoq, Nashwaak, and Oromocto watersheds, offering rich history, vibrant culture, and nature at every turn.

POPULATION 2024



New Brunswick
850,084

Metro Fredericton
122,500



Fun Facts & Firsts

- About 1.8 million visitors to the Capital Region annually.
- Home to CFB Gagetown, one of the largest military training bases in the British Commonwealth.
- Over 70% of New Brunswick's knowledge industry is in Fredericton.
- Fredericton features one of the highest per capita clusters of engineers in North America. UNB has been graduating engineers since 1854.
- Abony Family Tennis Centre is New Brunswick's only indoor tennis facility offering 6 full courts.
- The first observatory built in Canada (1851) was the William Brydone Jack Observatory, on the UNB Campus.
- Nicknames for Fredericton include "Freddy", "Celestial City", "City of Stately Elms" and "Freddy Beach".
- #6 for most walkable cities in Canada 2009 (Westjet Up Magazine).
- Fredericton is known as the Poets' Corner of Canada. Bliss Carman, Sir Charles G. D. Roberts and Francis Joseph Sherman were born and raised here.
- Christ Church Cathedral, completed in early 1850s, was the first Gothic Revival cathedral built in North America.
- Fredericton has a strong military history as a garrison town. It was established as a British Military Garrison in 1784, until the establishment of the Canadian army and the Infantry School Corps in 1883.
- In 2020, Rogers launched 5G in Fredericton, the first 5G enabled city in Atlantic Canada.
- As Atlantic Canada's Craft Brewing Capital, Fredericton has among the most taprooms per capita in Canada.
- Canada's First Amphibian Park, Hyla Park Nature Preserve, was named for the tiny gray tree frog who's habitat is protected by the park.



Accolades & Headlines

- Second Best Place to Live in Canada (2021) - Macleans News Magazine
- Top 20 Most Beautiful Canadian Cities to Live In - Slice.ca (2020)
- Top 10 Places to Live in Canada for 6 consecutive years & 3rd Best Place to Retire in Canada - Moneysense magazine
- Top 20 Most Beautiful Cities in Canada - University Magazine (2025)
- Top 10 Best Places to Travel in Canada - Vaycay.com (2023)
- Internationally recognized four times as "One of the World's Top 7 Intelligent Communities" - Intelligent Community Forum (2008, 2009, 2023, 2024)
- One of the Top 8 cities to Visit in Canada - The National Post (2025)
- Saint John River - one of Canada's Top 5 Bass Lakes/Rivers 2020) Fish'n Canada
- One of the Best Place to Watch the Sunset in Canada - Readers Digest (2023)
- FROSTival was named one of Canada's Best Winter Festivals - Chatelaine (2019)
- The Fredericton Marathon is one of 7 Great Canadian Marathons, (2019) - Canadian Running Magazine
- Healthier, Livable Cities: National & International Award Winner - Communities in Bloom
- Fredericton is number three on the list of Most Affordable Cities in Canada - University Magazine (2021)

CAPITAL REGION

Fredericton

New Brunswick | Canada

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www.FrederictonCapitalRegion.ca

Fredericton is a beautiful city, filled with art, nature and heritage. But beyond the typical experiences, there are many lesser-known treasures that are truly here and only here.

Only in FREDERICTON

A few story starts ...



The Oldest Birchbark Canoe in the World

The Grandfather Akwiten, now on display indefinitely at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, has had an interesting journey. Designed and crafted by local Maliseet craftsmen in the early 1820s, the canoe was taken to Ireland around 1825 by an officer serving with British forces. The canoe ended up in the custody of a university there in 1852 and forgotten in an attic for decades. The conservation process began in 2001 when a professor took interest in the tree root-sewn boat, and eventually had it sent to the Canadian Museum of Civilization for restoration. The Maliseet were once considered the finest canoe builders along the eastern seaboard. Maliseet are also known as the Wolastoqiyik, which means "people of the river."



Canada's Oldest Spirit Festival

The New Brunswick Spirits Festival

Each November this 5 day festival features 200 of the world's finest spirits, single malt whiskies, scotches, cognacs, rums, gins and liqueurs, theme dinners, samplings, seminars, and even a taxi ride home connoisseurs from around the world attend each year, as many of the spirits available are rarely available to the public.



One of the Largest Rivers on the Eastern Seaboard

The Wolastoq (Saint John River), a Canadian Heritage river travels 673 kilometres (418 miles) from deep in the woods of northern Maine to the Bay of Fundy on the New Brunswick coast. The Saint John River is ranked as one of the most historic rivers in Canada, with 10,000 years of Maliseet history and 400 years of rich stories of French and then English settlement. Often referred to as the "Road to Canada" helped open up the Canadian wilderness to early settlers as a travel route from the Atlantic Ocean.



Atlantic Canada's Only Houseboat Rental

Lakeway Houseboat Vacations

Docked in scenic Mactaquac Provincial Park, the fleet of 6 houseboats can sleep up to 14 and each features a full kitchen, hot tub and BBQ. Enjoy a unique boating experience with the unspoiled beauty and along the Saint John River Valley. Swim in the summer or enjoy breathtaking fall foliage.



Atlantic Canada's First 5G City and Centre of Innovation

In the fall of 2020, Rogers launched 5G in Fredericton, making it the first 5G enabled city in Atlantic Canada. The innovation partnership between the City of Fredericton and Rogers supports Fredericton's efforts as a smart city and a critical step in the digital evolution which began in the 90's when the city launched Canada's first city-wide free Wi-Fi network.



The Most Drinks in 1 City Block Downtown

Lunar Rogue has 1100 of the planet's whiskeys in the tiny maritime pub, Southside Shake has the most gins in Atlantic Canada and the Joyce Pub has the largest selection selection of NB craft beer on tap anywhere.



One of the Most Valuable Books in the World

New Brunswick Legislature Assembly is home to rare books by great American naturalist and artist John James Audubon. The massive 5 ft by 3 ft hand-tinted books, *Birds of America* displays life-size portrayals of birds. This is one of only 5 publicly owned copies of the book in Canada and only 200 sets were ever produced. Another complete copy of "Birds of America" was sold by Christie's Auction House for \$8.8 million in 2000.



Visitors from around the world come to Fredericton to see works by Surrealist Spanish artist Salvador Dalí

His spectacular masterwork *Santiago El Grande*, the second largest canvas he ever painted (an immense 13½ x 10 feet, 4.1m x 3m), is displayed in its own special gallery at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, along with other Dalí masterpieces.



The Oldest English University in Canada

The University of New Brunswick was established by the United Empire Loyalists in 1785 and is one of four schools that claim the title of oldest public university in North America. UNB is also the only institution worldwide which awarded honorary degrees to both John F. Kennedy and Robert Francis Kennedy (1950s & 1960s). UNB has an amazing collection of images which document their visits to Fredericton.



The Oldest Existing Astronomical Observatory in Canada

William Brydone Jack Observatory, was built in 1851 on the campus of the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Jack carried out astronomical observations and his measurements were used in the first map of New Brunswick. A copy of that map, and the equipment Dr. Jack used, including a 7.5-foot achromatic telescope custom-made in Munich in 1849 of mahogany and brass, are housed in the observatory.



Fish the "Triple Crown"

On the Wolastoq (Saint John River), you can fish the Triple Crown: Musky, Striped Bass and Sturgeon. This river is one of two in North America to fish Sturgeon.



There are many more special things to discover in New Brunswick's Capital including our **brewers and distillers**, **natures wonders** and **creative artisans and craftspeople**.

CAPITAL REGION
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