



What's New in 2026

Increased Air Access

YFC **Air Canada** -Fredericton has a new year-round daily flight to Ottawa International Airport. Daily service departs YFC at 16:15, arriving at YOW at 17:00. Flight times to/from Toronto were also shifted to improve connectivity.

WestJet – Calgary direct service continues for 2026 season and is expected to increase flights between Calgary and YFC between May and October

Porter offers year-round daily flights to Billy Bishop and Ottawa airports, with flights to Ottawa increasing to 2x daily during summer of 2026

PAL – PAL Airlines anticipates beginning daily flights to Halifax in 2026

Outdoor Adventure

Killarney Lake Park Major Upgrades Underway

Killarney Lake Park is one of the region's largest natural recreation areas (1594 acres/645 hectares; twice the size of Central Park) and the park remains over 90% untouched wilderness while offering extensive year-round recreation.

There are 35 km /21 mi of multi-use trails for hiking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing, and a freshwater lake popular for swimming, paddling, and fishing. Opening this summer:

Championship Disc Golf Course - 18-hole, par-67 competition-level course (with 9-hole winter course). Designed to be one of Canada's premier, year-round forested disc golf courses. It will be disc-golf cart compatible, and integrated into the natural landscape and there will be stadium viewing areas and space for hosting national-level events.

Mountain Bike Skills Park & Trail Network - 32km network of natural-surface single-track trails. 12km as well as a skills park to be completed and ready for riding this summer. The network includes adaptive, beginner, intermediate, and black-diamond trails as well as a race course element.

Natural Playpark –for all ages and abilities has inclusive features and play equipment that allow for sensory-based play and modified physical activity. An accessible pathway will connect the parking area to the beach and park trail network. An accessible beach mat system will be added to enable persons with mobility challenges to access the beach and shoreline.

Ski Trails – The Park has 17mi/28km of beginner, intermediate and advanced cross-country ski trails. The City recently completed upgrades to the cross-country ski trail network, enabling the trail system to host national competitions and improving the overall flow of some trails. The 2026 Bill Gairdner Canadian Masters Championships take place here in February.

Crabbe Mountain Bike Trails

River Valley Cycling and Crabbe Mountain have partnered to create a new land-use agreement that opens up access to 400 acres of prime terrain and 240 metres of vertical for future mountain bike trail development

June Launch - Wolastoq Watershed Paddling Trails

Network – the new River Access Initiative hopes to establish the area as a top paddling destination. This blue trails paddling network celebrates a rich paddling heritage and majestic natural landscapes. The network is a combination of linear river routes running point to point; and lakes and out-and-back loops where you end right back where you parked the car. There are more than two dozen mapped routes cover 100+km of spectacular paddling along five primary river routes and tributaries: the Wolastoq (Saint John River), the Nashwaak River, the Oromocto River, the Keswick River and the Rusagonis Stream. Most of the routes are accessible only by kayak or canoe. A new website will launch outlining routes and launch sites that connect paddlers to local tourism operators, accommodations, and restaurants

New Observation Tower at Hanson Nature Preserve-

Visitors can climb a new 30-ft observation tower for breathtaking views at this 400-acre preserve in French Lake. The preserve is a mosaic of wetlands, old growth forest, ponds, trails, and abundant wildlife. Within the area you can also visit Hanson Art Gallery & Sculpture Garden with over 200 paintings inside and 80+ sculptures outside. You can also launch your canoe/kayak, walk Gene's Trail to a 260-year-old white pine, or enjoy a picnic and playground.

Gagetown Regatta will take place June 12–14, a brand-new signature event for Arcadia. The weekend will honour the legacy of Gagetown native Harry Vale, an elite rower and renowned Harvard University coach. This sanctioned regatta will bring competitive crews to the waters of Upper Gagetown for three days of spirited racing, riverside activity, and community celebration.

Arts & Culture & History

Beaverbrook Art Gallery Exhibitions:

Highlights from the Beaverbrook Collection (until March 28, 2027) showcases the legacy of Lord Beaverbrook, with key works from his original gift, one of the most significant collections of British and Canadian art in Atlantic Canada. Opened in 1959, the gallery itself and a \$1 million endowment were part of Lord Beaverbrook's original gift to New Brunswick. Visitors can experience a rare concentration of international masterworks, including paintings by Lucian Freud, J.M.W. Turner, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Constable, Sargent, Stanley Spencer, and Salvador Dalí, an unparalleled permanent collection that has defined the gallery for more than six decades.

A Family Journey: The Private Collections of the Sobey Family (until Sept. 27, 2026) Discover a sweeping story of Canadian art through the eyes of one of Atlantic Canada's most influential families. *A Family Journey* showcases highlights from the private collections of the Sobey family, with additional works on loan. The exhibition brings together iconic artists such as Cornelius Krieghoff, J.W. Morrice, Tom Thomson, Emily Carr, the Group of Seven, Jean-Paul Riopelle and more. A special feature pairs powerful paintings by Cree artist Kent Monkman with "Grandfather Awketin," a 180-year-old Wolastoqiyik birchbark canoe offering a meaningful dialogue between past and present.

Fredericton Region Museum is planning 2 major projects to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. "**1776 – The Year That Changed Everything**" in 1776 when the Continental Congress in the American colonies issued the Declaration of Independence, severing political ties with Great Britain and prompting difficult decisions about loyalty. These events ultimately led to the evacuation of thousands of Loyalists to this region in 1783. Through musical performances and evening theatrical presentations, visitors can engage with this historic debate and reflect on how on the choices made in 1776. This initiative aims to engage the public in understanding what distinguishes Canada from the United States.

"Rebels on the River – Rebelles sur la rivière" exhibition will explore the 1776 American Rebellion in Sunbury County – the only known "spontaneous" rebellion in what is now New Brunswick, and the only one successfully suppressed. The exhibit hopes to shed light on questions of loyalty, identity, and community during a pivotal moment in our region's history.

Chestnut Canoe Celebration This summer, the Fredericton Region Museum will display its 18-ft Chestnut Prospector Canoe for the first time, alongside a new exhibition celebrating the region's canoe-making traditions. The exhibit will highlight the connection between Indigenous knowledge and the iconic Chestnut Canoe Co., which operated in Fredericton 1897 - 1979. Visitors can also see the museum's collection of more than 200 Chestnut canoe-making tools. A Thursday Night Lecture Series will further explore this history.

Accommodation News

Fredericton Inn (Steele Group) – major renovations underway to bedrooms, lobby, ballrooms and restaurant to finish this year.

Ramada Fredericton (Wyndham) – renovations underway include the transition from carpeting to new luxury vinyl flooring, a full refresh of Guest bathrooms with upgraded showers, new vanities, LED mirrors

Holiday Inn Express Fredericton is refreshing key guest areas ; guest rooms, breakfast area, lobby, business center, gym, and public spaces.

[The Hollows](#) –The first of 4 chalets opened in Jan. at this luxury nature retreat near Mactaquac Provincial Park. The Hollows offers modern, fully equipped chalets designed for deep rest and wellness, set on 200 acres with year-round trails. Each chalet features a private sauna, cold plunge, hot tub, and outdoor shower.

OG Domes: new Hightower Lakefront Chalet is a luxurious rental unit with stunning lake views and wrap around terrace that includes a large saltwater hot tub and Mezzanine loft. Sleeps up to 6.

Mangata Mactaquac – Mangata finished their 6th cabin, Creekside Haven to add to their unique, pet-friendly, luxury A-Frame cabins on 27 acres, beside Mactaquac Provincial Park. A multi-use cabin with group sauna, laundry, washrooms, games for guests, as well as two A-frames for camping also happening.

New Boutique Hotel /Venue - St. Paul's United Church (1896), an historic downtown church and National Historic Site is being converted into a boutique hotel and event space. There will be 18 rooms with kitchenettes and the sanctuary will be used for events such as concerts and weddings.

Bear Island Kingdome – sits on 11 serene acres of private woodland in Bear Island next to the Wolastoq. Offering 3 domes and now 2 new canvas tents; The Waterfront Canvas Tent is on the shoreline and a peaceful nature escape and The Lantern, a spacious 16-foot round canvas tent offers a blend of rustic charm and modern comfort.

New Tours & Experiences

A Taste of History –The Fredericton Region Museum has new group offering – it's a combined tour and theatre show- *A Taste of History* - the songs and stories are topics in the Fredericton Region Museum (i.e. lumber industry/logging, steamboats, Loyalists, Black History, Coleman Frog etc). It will include local apple cider and cookie. Min group size: 15 / Max 30.

[Wolastoq Adventures](#) new 10-passenger boat offers Sunset Cruises and Traditional Tours Traditional tours to learn about the rich heritage and traditions of the Wolastoqey people, and connection to the Wolastoq (Saint John River).

[Big Fiddle Still](#) Distillery, Harvey – new “Screamed In Tour – Become an Honorary New Brunswicker in this Ceremony that includes an entertaining story from owner, Trent, a shot of Big Fiddle's New Brunswick Scream, kissing of the Beaver and an official certificate.

[Wolastoq Casino](#)– “New Brunswick’s newest place to play” opened last July with over 300 Vegas slots, 2 roulette, Black Jack and poker 5 x week . BINGO runs 6 nights a week. There will be monthly entertainment, and a variety of Poker Tournaments. The Pine Tree Bar & Grill will host Trivia nights monthly.

[Hunting Zone Simulator](#) -Indoor Hunting Simulator in downtown Fredericton. Train, play, and compete in a realistic virtual hunting range with full-motion gear, big-screen projection, and 2 state-of-the-art simulators.

Festivals & Special Events

Fredericton Kidsfest- August 28-29 is a new 2-day celebration of children, families, and the arts in Officers' Square. Kidsfest will feature children's entertainers from across Atlantic Canada, interactive experiences, theatre, magic, storytelling, and bilingual performances. Food trucks, craft workshops, bouncy castles, treats and a children's marketplace for local vendors.

New Comedy Festival - Comic Sutra Comedy Club the city's first comedy club. Is presenting Fredericulous Comedy Festival in February 2026. James Mullinger, well known award-winning British comedian now living in NB, will kick off the Festival with 3 shows.

The Still Here: Emancipation Festival (July 31 – Aug. 3) is a 4-day celebration launching *Still Here* book published by Goose Lane Editions and the *Still Here* exhibition at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. The festival honors over 200 years of Black Loyalist resilience in the province, uniting 15 generational families, academics, and the public through art, history, and community. Highlights include picnics and live music, acclaimed play "The Price of Freedom," a night of poetry and more.

Latin Arts Celebration- May 2- The Fredericton Latin Community will launch its inaugural showcase of Latin-Canadian music, dance, arts, and culinary traditions. Live performances by local and regional artists, cultural market with Latin artisans, entrepreneurs, and traditional foods. Educational activities will share the history of Cinco de Mayo and celebrate the diversity of Latin heritage.

Food & Drink News

- [First Light Distillery](#) -now offering guided group tours of the distillery, private cocktail classes, gin blending classes and monthly public classes.
- [Nomad Coffee](#), 546 Queen St – open til 9 pm
- [Namaste Bistro Fredericton](#) - opening inspiring uptown on Acorn St
- [The Rocky Lemon](#) Café- opening a second location downtown in Carleton Place
- [Bam Restaurant](#) - new Korean café on York St
- [El Mariachi](#) Restaurant Bar – authentic Mexican cuisine is opening a second location on northside

Anniversaries & Milestones

Boyce Farmers Market - 2026 marks 75 years at the George Street location and a celebration is planned for the fall.

Gallery 78 celebrates its 50th anniversary of bringing visitors excellence in Atlantic Canadian fine art. Celebrations include a 50th Anniversary Exhibition in October, an exhibition of work by beloved Fredericton artists Molly Lamb and Bruno Bobak, exhibitions, concerts, book readings, workshops.

Kingswood Golf – celebrates 25 years as an 18-hole signature course, 9-hole executive course, full practice facility, restaurant and lodge.

Flo Greig Pottery 50th anniversary. The Wolastoq (Saint John River) and the local apple orchards in Gagetown have been the inspiration for the apple motif which has become synonymous with the name Greig Pottery.

2026 marks [75 years of the Fredericton Airport\(YFC\)](#), a busy airport with direct service to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Calgary.

For more info, story ideas, fact sheet or photos:
Mary Ellen Hudson, Travel Media & Travel Trade
(506) 292-0843 | maryellen.hudson@fredericton.ca
facebook:FrederictonTourism / IG: FredTourism
tourismfredericton.ca/en/travel-media

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