

FREDERICTON Fact Sheet



Our History

The majestic Wolastoq (Saint John River) makes a natural turn at Fredericton, carving out the fertile shores and plains that have attracted hunters, farmers, entrepreneurs and innovators for hundreds of years.

Long before the founding of Fredericton by the Loyalists in the 1780s, the region was home to the Maliseet and Mi'kmaq who made the region a seasonal stop for hunting, fishing, and farming.

French fur traders arrived in 1692, establishing a settlement on the Nashwaak and Saint John rivers. French Acadiens, fleeing from the British expulsion, formed another settlement in 1732.

The British swept up the Saint John River Valley in the tumult of 1758, settling a few kilometers downriver from today's city limits. Post American Revolution, more than 2000 British Loyalists arrived at St. Anne's Point and began drawing up formal plans for a town. The area was renamed "Frederick's Town" in 1785 in honour of the second son of King George III and declared the capital of the province.

On April 25, 1845, Queen Victoria made Fredericton a Cathedral City despite the population falling short of the 10,000 required for city status. The consequence was the stunning Gothic Revival Christ Church Cathedral whose spire still dominates the skyline today.

Fredericton has grown from a wild fur-trading outpost and seasonal hunting ground to a thriving cultural, educational, and economic centre and one of the country's most beautiful and creative communities.

POPULATION 2021:



FREDERICTON
64,180

METRO FREDERICTON
111,024



? 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 Q3, 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.



Honors & Awards

- 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
- "Startup Community of the Year" by Startup Canada (2016)
- The University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University amongst most gorgeous campuses in Canada, Huffington Post (2014)
- One of the World's Top 7 Intelligent Communities (2008 & 2009) - Intelligent Community Forum
- 4th Best City for Families in Canada (2009) Richard Florida, "Who's Your City?"
- Saint John River- one of Canada's Top 5 Bass Lakes/Rivers (2020) Fish'n Canada
- One of North America's top microcities for business investment (2015) fDI Magazine
- FROSTival was named one of Canada's Best Winter Festivals (2019) - Chatelaine
- The Fredericton Marathon is one of 7 Great Canadian Marathons, (2019)-Canadian Running magazine
- Cultural Capital of Canada, Government of Canada (2009)
- Fredericton is number three on the list of Most Affordable Cities in Canada (2021) University Magazine