

Often people will arrive at UNB in September and see nothing more of Fredericton, their newly adopted home, than the Campus, the liquor store, and McDonald's. While these places are undoubtedly necessary for the continuance of everyday life, the insulation of campus living can lead to a view of Fredericton as a boring, corny little town. Hopefully by now most people have ventured further than University Avenue or Prospect Street, and have seen that while they're not in Toronto or Vancouver, Fredericton is an interesting town which changes its character with the seasons. The great parties of summer are unfortunately missed by the majority of students who hail from elsewhere, but believe me, they do exist.

In any case this feature is in partial response to those souls who are occasionally overheard remarking "I'm trapped in a cultural backwater -and I'm drowning," or more often, "The sooner I get out of this place, the better!" We also feel that it's important to know something about your surroundings, for not only do they determine in part who you are and what you are doing with your life, a knowledge of your position in time and space enables you to relate much more easily with others who share these same life co-ordinates.

So, if you crave adventure, don't go to the Himalayas! Forget the Amazon! And drop your dreams of the tropical desert isle...stay home for a change. Get to know your city...it's more interesting than you may think!

While native Indians undoubtedly were familiar with the site of the present city of Fredericton, the first settlers here were European, possibly Scottish soldiers who established a fort at the mouth of the Nashwaak River some time around 1631. Due to Indian massacres, yearly floods, and military raids, the Saint John River valley was deserted by 1703 and permanent settlers did not return until 1762. These people were members of the Saint John River Society who had received large land grants and wanted to settle their properties with men in order to exploit the great forests that grew here. The Loyalist immigration began in 1783 and by the next year more than 600 people were living in or around the town of St. Ann's so named because of its location on St. Ann's Point.

The town was renamed Osnaburg, then in 1755 it was again renamed, this time Frederick's Town, after His Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnaburg. Thomas Carleton was appointed as governor of the new colony of New Brunswick, which had just divided from Nova Scotia, and in 1785 he proclaimed Frederick's Town the capital of the province because of its central location, its close proximity to the fertile farmland of Maugerville, and the convenience of the river; big enough for boats of trade and transportation but too small for naval vessels.

'...it was a place of great beauty

with well-kept lawns, a profusion of flowers, orange trees, well-trimmed hedges, the greenhouses, stables,

FREDERIC

AN INFORMAL LOOK BY JUDY KAVANAGH AND

Streets were laid out in a grid pattern and were unnamed until 1819. Wooden houses, the stone officer's barracks, and the first Legislative Assembly, which soon burned, were built during this time. The College of New Brunswick (later King's College, then UNB) was established in 1800 and in 1845 the town legally became a city when Christ Church Cathedral became the seat of a bishop; according to Church of England rules, any place with a bishop was automatically proclaimed a city.

Fredericton grew steadily, with a booming lumber business and manufacturing industries playing a much greater role in the city's life than they do today. Saw mills, leather tanneries, and brick-making all flourished here. As well, some unusual products like beer, brooms, and cymbals, have been made here. But today as in the past, governmental and educational institutions provide the bulk of jobs in the city.

The development, housing-wise, of Fredericton is obvious if you take a walk from downtown up towards Prospect Street. The grand old houses and business district are surrounded by the smaller, steep-roofed homes of the early 20th century. Next come the structures of the wars, which tend to be compact, functional and similar in design. These are close to the university campus. The next development in housing are those built after the second world war, and much of the south side hill area is covered with these. The final stage in housing growth is that of the suburbs, with their bungalows, corner stores, and playgrounds. These developments are paralleled on the North side of the city, as well. The trend of the 80s seems to indicate that people will keep moving even farther from the city center, to wooded lots and country estates.

Several years ago, Fredericton amalgamated with several other communities which previously had operated as independent towns. These included Silverwood, New Maryland, Nashwaaksis, Marysville, Barker's Point and Lincoln. This amalgamation brought Fredericton's population to nearly 60,000 with an even split between the two sides of the river.

The future of Fredericton? Well, one source predicted 5 years ago that by the year 2000 Fredericton would be the largest city in the Maritimes, due to a number of factors. But with the current economic conditions, growth will certainly not be as dramatic as previously thought. As long as the elms trees remain, though, Fredericton will retain some of its small town charm.

