

New Brunswick

The Land

New Brunswick borders on Nova Scotia, Quebec and the U.S. state of Maine. It is almost rectangular in shape, extending 322 km north to south and 242 km east to west. It is more or less surrounded by water on three sides.

New Brunswick has a land mass of 73 500 km², 85 percent of which is forest. The northern part of the province is quite mountainous, the tallest peak being Mount Carleton, 820 m high. The interior consists mainly of a rolling plateau, flatter in the east and more hilly in the southeast.

The main rivers are the Miramichi, Nepisquit, Restigouche and Saint John. Known as "oa-lus-tuk" or "beautiful river" to the Indians, the Saint John waters the fertile lands of the western part of the province over a distance of 725 km. Downstream, in the Madawaska area, it traces a natural boundary between the state of Maine and Canada.

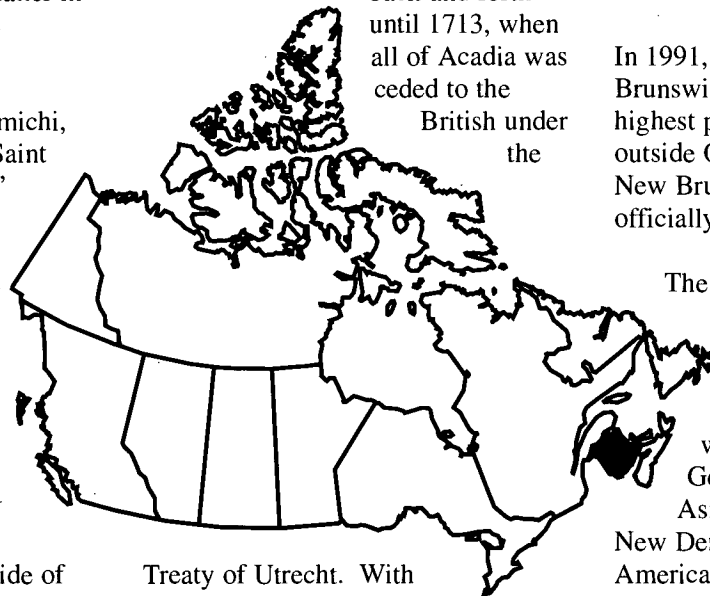
Twice a day, with the rising tide of the Atlantic Ocean, 100 billion tonnes of water stream past a rocky headland in the Bay of Fundy. The current created is practically equal to the flow of all the world's rivers over a 24-hour period. The eastern end of the Bay has tides of nearly 15 m, the highest in the world, sufficient to completely submerge a four-storey building.

The History

The existence of New Brunswick was known to the Europeans as early as the 1400s, when intrepid Basque

fishermen plied their trade off Miscou in the northeast of the province. At that time, the region was inhabited by the Malecite and Micmac Indians. The Micmacs were the first to receive Samuel de Champlain and the French when they landed in New Brunswick in 1604. The Indians established good relations with the French from the outset, helping the French settlers, known as Acadians, to adapt to their new country and taking part in the French attacks on New England.

The British and French feuded over the area for a century. Control passed back and forth until 1713, when all of Acadia was ceded to the British under the



Treaty of Utrecht. With time, France lost interest in the Acadians, turning most of its attention to New France and the burgeoning fur trade.

By 1755, England had established its dominance as a colonial power. Fearing that the Acadians were a security threat, the British deported, mainly to the United States, all Acadians who would not swear allegiance to the British Crown. Their exile lasted eight years, after which a significant proportion returned to their homeland.

In 1783, the western part of Nova Scotia became the home of thousands of Loyalists who had taken flight in the aftermath of the American Revolution. These American colonists, wishing to remain faithful to the British Crown, founded communities in the northern part of the province. This mass influx of Loyalists created a rift between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and New Brunswick became a separate province in June, 1784. In 1867 it joined other provinces to form the Dominion of Canada.

The People

In 1991, the population of New Brunswick was 723 900. With the highest percentage of Francophones outside Quebec (almost 35 percent), New Brunswick is Canada's only officially bilingual province.

The heritage of New Brunswick's people is a blended one, combining elements of the French, British Loyalist, Scots and Irish traditions, with later elements of German, Scandinavian and Asian. The little municipality of New Denmark boasts North America's largest Danish colony.

The aboriginal people of New Brunswick number more than 12 000, most of them Micmac and Malecite.

The coasts and river valleys are the areas of heaviest population; Saint John is the largest city, followed by Moncton and Fredericton, the provincial capital.

The Economy

Leading the manufacturing industries are food and beverages, followed by