

THE FRENCH

Acadians

The Huguenots arrived in Passamaquoddy Bay in 1604, four years before Quebec was founded. Subsequent arrivals settled in Port Royal Valley, Canso, Cape Sable and the coast of Minas Bay. The British took Acadia in 1710 and made it Nova Scotia. In 1755 they exiled some 16,000 Acadians, and perhaps half died of starvation. The rest were sent to New Brunswick, to Prince Edward Island, to the Magdalen Islands, to New England and to the Ohio Valley. Some 300 of the latter made their way down the Mississippi to the French colony in Louisiana. Many who left later came home, and today there are nearly 400,000 Canadians of Acadian extraction in the Maritimes, half of them in New Brunswick.

Québécois

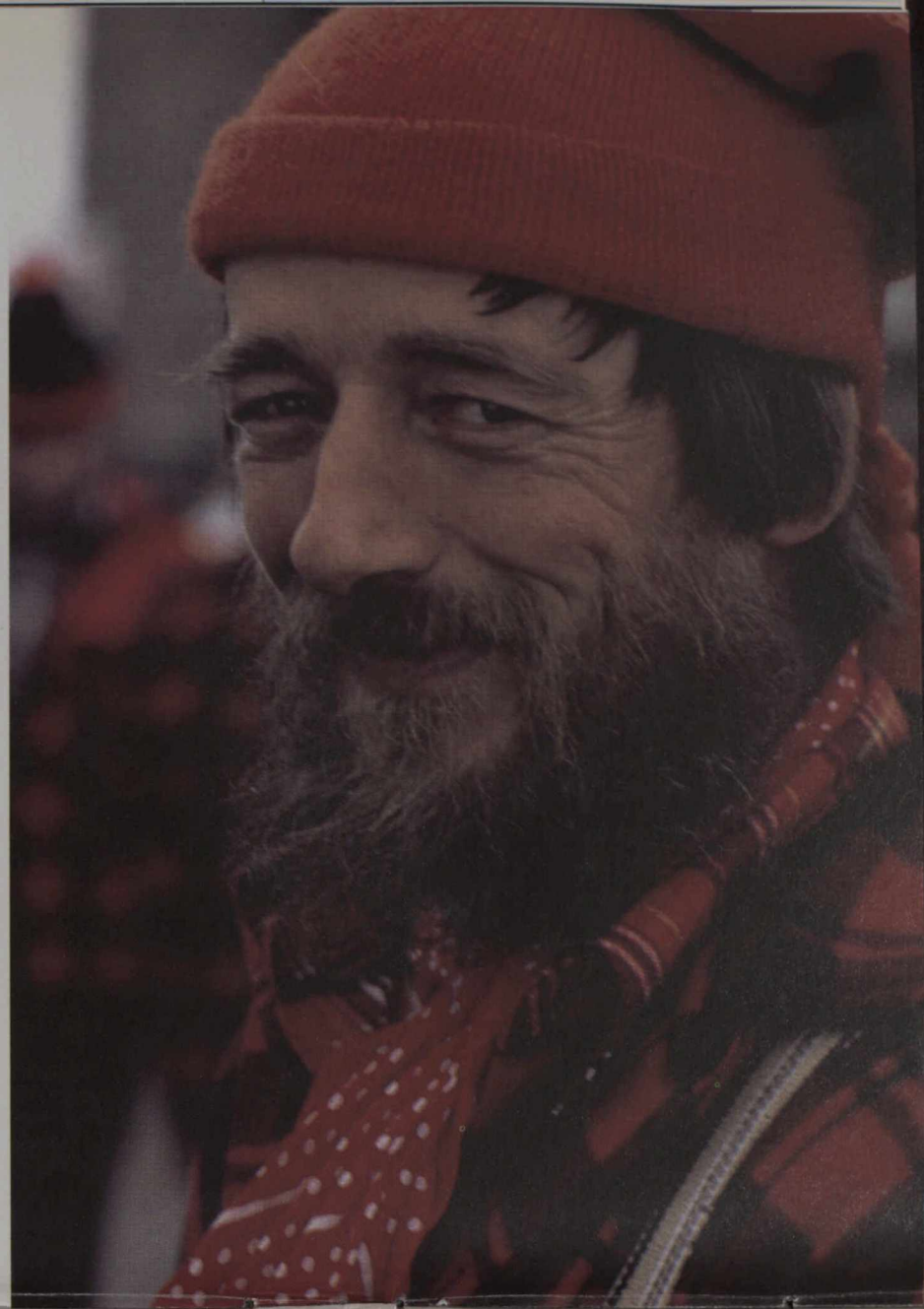
The British won the North American wars in 1763, but the 65,000 *Canadiens* remained Catholic, continued to speak French and kept their system of land tenure. They survived and flourished. Quebec is still distinctly Quebec, with more than six million people and 594,860 square miles, the great city of Montreal and all manners of men and women—dairy farmers and fishermen, miners and poets, bankers and hockey players.

Some Islanders

Anticosti Island is 360 miles northeast of Quebec City at the mouth of the St. Lawrence and it is huge, as large as the province of Prince Edward Island. It has eight lakes, the Jupiter River, one of the world's best salmon streams, and the spectacular Vauréal Falls. Its forests of spruce and balsam are alive with Virginia whitetails, mule deer, elk, moose and beaver.

Henri Menier, a French chocolate manufacturer, bought it in 1895, intending to make it his private kingdom. He owned everything—homes, halls, forests, deer, fish, strawberries, the bakery, the school, the church and the lobster pots. The residents were expected to doff their caps when M. Menier went by. His dream died with him in 1926, and his brother Gaston sold the island to a group of logging companies. The Quebec government bought it in 1974 and turned it into a democracy. It has 237 people and is still a paradise. Rich visitors can stay at a luxurious lodge and fish for salmon for as little as \$2,500 a week.

Photos: Mia and Klaus.



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CANADA
TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

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