

New Found Province

Canada's oldest settlement is its newest province. It was settled by fishermen perhaps as early as 1100. It was a "summer fishery" until 1817, and its first full-time governor died during his first bleak February in office. It became an official colony in 1824. When the rest of the colonies joined in confederation in 1867, the Newfoundlanders decided to wait. They waited until 1949.

Newfoundland is very much its own place. Its people live in its main city, St. John's (population 88,102), and in beautiful tiny villages with names like Left Hand Pond, Quidi Vidi, Bay Bulls, and Skibbereen, surrounded by water, fish and evergreen trees. The men and women are as distinctive, brisk and unexpected as the climate. So are their leaders. The most conspicuous (and the one who steered the island into confederation) was Joey Smallwood, who was premier for twenty-three years. He is a Canadian folk hero, who has been called a deadly serious clown and "a lonely visionary who has spent almost seventy years pursuing a dream." The dream, in Joey's own words, was to make Newfoundland "a self-supporting province, independent and proud." A proper Newfie leader is one who can — in the words of that grand old poem, "If" — look at success and failure and treat those two imposters just the same. Joey could. He seldom lost. When he was finally replaced as premier by Frank Moores in 1971, Franklin of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* pictured his sanguine departure.



S M T W T F S

1

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

23/30 24/31 25 26 27 28 29