

In 1970 the government of Quebec declared the whole island an historic district and it is a remarkable one. Some fifty structures date from before 1759. (Montreal has fewer than ten.) More than a hundred of them date before 1850, and the Quebec Ministry of Cultural Affairs lists 568 buildings as worthy of protection.

Each of the six villages has its own authentic charm. Many island houses are in the old style, with stone skins on the exterior walls, echoing the past. Visitors can begin at Ste. Pétronille, the capital, with its Victorian buildings. From there the old Royal road runs south to St. Laurent and St. Jean where the farmers grow strawberries. St. Jean is the most architecturally striking of the villages, once the home of the local sea captains who built distinctive two-storey frame houses with yellow brick facades and wooden verandahs with wrought iron railings. St. François, at the far end of the southern shore, is the smallest of the villages, with a beautiful church built in 1735. Ste. Famille and St. Pierre on the northern flank towards the bridge also have eighteenth century churches. Ste. Famille's, built in 1749, has three bell towers. The Norman-style church in St. Pierre dates from 1717.

Upper Canada Village

Upper Canada Village, outside Kingston, Ontario, is a re-creation of village life in the early nineteenth century. It was never an actual settlement but a collection of old houses brought together in a 2,500-acre park. The forty buildings are authentic. Most were taken from land now submerged by the waters of the St. Lawrence Seaway, and they include homes, stores, a tavern, a mill, a school and a church. There is a good view of the ships passing on the Seaway. Automobiles (and other twentieth century conveniences) are not allowed in the village, and transportation is by horse-drawn carryalls.

Village Historique Acadien

Village Historique Acadien, in Caraquet, New Brunswick, 152 miles from Moncton, has 3,000 acres and buildings dating from 1770 to 1880, including a chapel, pioneer homes, a general store, a tavern, a school and a blacksmith shop.

A Lost Ship

That's it. I think that's it.

You're kidding.

No, dammit. That's it. Look, there's her hull. I can't believe this.

She's intact. Even her masts are still standing.



A diver moves in on the Breadalbane's coral encrusted wheel.