

Signal Hill, overlooking St. John's, is the point where Marconi received the first transatlantic Morse code message.

inviting coves have been a haven for sailors from ancient times. As early as the eleventh century, the Vikings founded a settlement there. Then in 1497, it was rediscovered by John Cabot, a Genoese sailor commissioned by King Henry VII of England. Later it became a temporary base for the many European fishing fleets attracted by the abundance of fish off its shores. The island remained unclaimed until 1583 when Sir Humphrey Gilbert took possession for Queen Elizabeth I of England. Representative government was granted in 1832 and responsible government 23 years later.

The Depression of the 1930s brought disastrous consequences to Newfoundland. The need to provide government relief to large numbers of people and the sharp decline in revenues led the government to suspend its dominion status in favour of a sovereign commission made up of officials from Newfoundland and Britain. On March 31, 1949, the people voted by referendum to bring Newfoundland into the Canadian confederation, thus becoming Canada's tenth province. Liberal Joey Smallwood was elected premier, a position he held for 23 years. Progressive Conservative Brian Peckford, known to Newfoundlanders as "Our Brian", was re-elected premier in 1982.

An expanding economy

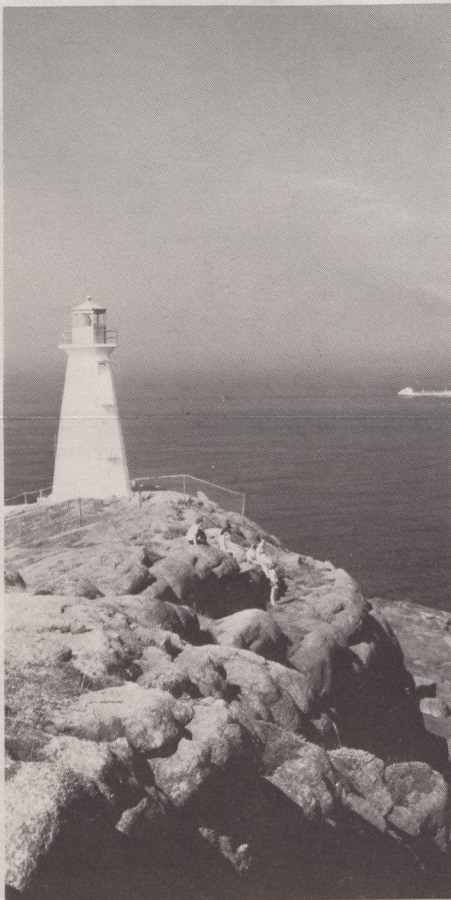
The economic development of the province is due in large part to mining, notably the production of copper, lead, zinc, silver, gold, cadmium, iron ore,

fluorspar, pyrophyllite, asbestos, silica, gypsum and limestone. Since the 1970s, more than half of Canada's iron ore has been produced in western Labrador.

In addition, the hydrocarbon potential of the continental shelf surrounding the south and east coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador and covering an area of 932 000 square kilometres has for some years attracted considerable interest. Active exploration began in 1965 and hopes for large-scale commercial production were heightened by the discovery in 1979 of a deposit of high-quality crude oil on the southeastern Grand Banks.

Numerous natural reservoirs and rivers produce most of the province's hydroelectric energy through facilities constructed during the 1960s and 1970s. One of the largest of these, operating since 1972, lies on the Churchill River in central Labrador. The availability of large quantities of electric power at low cost has encouraged the growth of energy-intensive industries such as pulp and paper, oil refining, and the electric reduction of phosphate ore.

Fisheries continue to form the backbone of the economy. At one time, New-

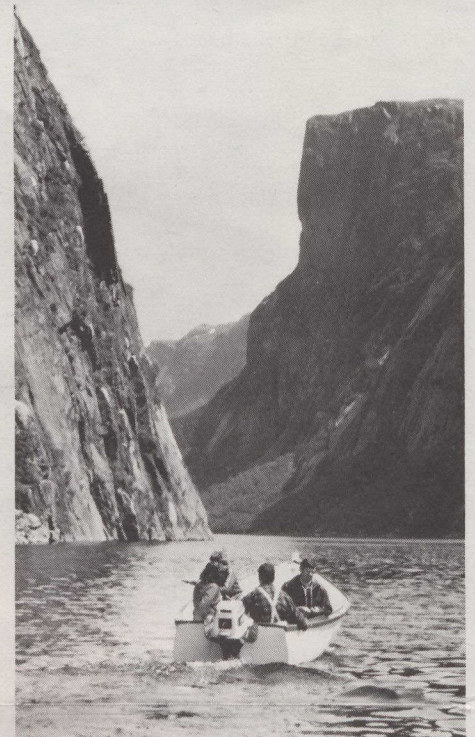


Cape Spear, the easternmost point of the continent is marked by North America's oldest lighthouse.

foundland sold salt cod almost entirely, but today it exports mainly frozen fish.

Tourism expands

Newfoundland's well-known hospitality, its spectacular landscapes, and the calm atmosphere of its outports explain the growing success of tourism in the province. One may camp in one of the many provincial parks or in the two national parks (Terra Nova in the east and Gros Morne in the west). Canoeing and other water sports may be enjoyed in the thousands of lakes and bays. Anglers can pit themselves against trout or salmon in freshwater, or codfish and giant bluefin tuna in the sea, while caribou and black bear are available for the hunter.



Gros Morne National Park is a campers' paradise, offering spectacular vistas and excellent facilities.

Newfoundland also has many historic sites and monuments. Signal Hill, overlooking St. John's, is a national park. From this hill, the Italian engineer Marconi received the first Morse code message sent across the Atlantic. Cape Spear, outside St. John's, is easternmost point of the continent, some 2 639 kilometres from Ireland, and the site of North America's oldest lighthouse.

For further information, contact the Department of Development, Tourism Branch, Box 2016, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 5R8.