

Halifax

West of Antigonish is New Glasgow and west of that are trees, sheep farms and, in the Bay of Fundy area, the highest tides in the world. You are now getting fairly close to Halifax, a logical place to wind up. Head back for the south coast.

Halifax is a handsome, historic city with excellent dining places and smart shops centred around the downtown waterfront.

Right in the middle and looming high is the Citadel, a hill that's been fortified for centuries. The clock tower is the symbol of the city, and the battlements are in a fine state of preservation, the view is breathtaking and there is a Sight and Sound show entitled *The Tides of History* tucked away in the West Curtain Wall. Halifax has never been attacked, possibly because it has always been so stoutly defended. In addition to the Citadel there is the Prince of Wales Round Tower in Point Pleasant Park at the south end of town, built in 1796, and the York Redoubt, begun in 1793, at the harbour entrance.

The most striking thing about both the city and the fortifications is the air of durability: a great deal of it is stone, and right on the waterfront is a preserved three-acre memento of past commercial glories somewhat prosaically called Historic Properties. The two blocks between Barrington and Hollis were rebuilt after a great fire in 1859, and the remarkably pleasant results have remained intact and were recently refurbished. Below, stretching to the water, are early nineteenth century warehouses, now converted to a variety of uses. The oldest is the Privateers', built in the late 1700s when some of the most substantial citizens were indeed privateers. It now has a pub on the ground floor, a lounge on the second and a first-class restaurant on the top. Simon's Warehouse, of solid granite, is next door. It was built about 1860 to hold liquor.



Food and Lodging

The best food in Nova Scotia is seafood—lobster, scallops, salmon, haddock—straight from the boat, right from the sea.

There are good accommodations all over the

province, ranging from thrifty to luxurious. Old Orchard Inn at Greenwich in the Annapolis Valley is open the year round, has an excellent menu, an indoor pool, night as well as day tennis and a babysitting service.

Oak Island Inn in Lunenburg County has large terraced rooms, and the Zwicker Inn has wonderful fish chowder. Up the coast, on a river bank in Liscombe Mills, is the Liscombe Lodge, one of the three resort hotels operated by the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism. It has thirty-five not-too-rustic cottages with pine panelling and fireplaces. Fires in the evening are pleasant even in July.

In Baddeck in Cape Breton the Inverary Inn, on the shore of Bras d'Or Lake, has motel rooms and cottages, bagpipe music and a traditional Scottish breakfast. Gisele's in the same town has excellent poached salmon.

High above the Cabot Trail, on a crest looking down on the sea, the Department of Tourism's Keltic Lodge is excellent. The Pines Hotel in Digby, the third provincially operated resort hotel, is an old-fashioned manor house with trim green lawns, a sun porch with wicker chairs and huge public rooms.

Halifax has a wide range of places to stay, including the Chateau Halifax, a new highrise with splendid food and service and large, comfortable rooms.

Camping Tonight

Nova Scotia appreciates campers. They buy supplies from the local stores and help spread money around the back corners of the province, and they tend to be neat and to leave the parks clean. The province has two national parks with eight campgrounds, nineteen provincial parks and 150 commercial ones. It maintains a close supervision over the commercial as well as the public, and approved ones display a sign. As the gent in the tourist office said, "Any problems and we rip the sign off and they don't get it back for two years." The province also publishes a comprehensive camping guide listing all the grounds and describing them in detail—"wooded and open field areas on pond, 4.8 km (3 mi) north of Route 101 at Berwick, exit 15. 200 service sites (200 electric & water, 120 sewage), 20 unserviced etc. etc."—and gives rates and phone numbers. It also has lists of particular sites close to particular towns.

Farm and Country Vacations

The Nova Scotia Farm and Country Vacations Association lists some thirty-four homes that house and feed guests well for reasonable prices. Many are on farms, some are in villages, some by the shimmering sea. Most offer three full meals, many bed-and-breakfast. All are inspected by the Association and guaranteed to be clean and tidy. Most of the hosts grow their own vegetables, many their own fruit, and varieties of fish fresh caught from the sea are frequently for dinner.