



Saint John, the Fundy City, where it all begins as the first port of call for *"The Traveling Divas"* sailing on the *Carnival Glory*, June 13, 2011.

Saint John is steeped in history but primed for the future! For Saint John, it began in 1785 when they became Canada's first incorporated city. Two-hundred (plus) years later, they enjoy the historic architecture and rich cultural heritage of their ancestors, the highest concentration of arts, dining and entertainment in the Province (on our waterfront) and a national and international reputation as a great place to live and work.

From the thrills of the Reversing Falls Jet Boat to the serenity of historic parks, Saint John is a great place to visit. They have the oldest market in Canada (The Saint John City Market (est. 1876) and the oldest museum in Canada, The New Brunswick Museum (est. 1842). They're connected by a modern pedway system that links many uptown businesses.

They're known for their green spaces. At 2,200 square acres, Rockwood Park is the largest urban park in the country. And, in 2001 Saint John won the 'Most Beautiful City Award', Communities in Bloom National Championships.

At first sight SAINT JOHN (never "St John", and not to be mixed up with St John's, Newfoundland) seems a confusing hotchpotch of industrial and residential zones spread over the bluffs, valleys and plateaus where the Saint John River twists and turns its way into the Bay of Fundy. In fact, the downtown area is squeezed onto a chubby peninsula immediately east of the river mouth – a surprisingly compact centre for a city of 126,000 people with the focus firmly on the short main drag, King Street.

In 1877, a fire wiped out most of the town, but as a major shipbuilding centre Saint John was sufficiently wealthy to withstand the costs of immediate reconstruction. Consequently, almost all the city's older buildings are late Victorian. Most of the shipyards have now gone and the place survives as a modest seaport and manufacturing town – hence the belching chimneys – with a good range of restaurants. Apart from its diverting Victorian architecture, Saint John's leading attractions are the New Brunswick Museum and the Reversing Falls Rapids; the latter is a good place to see the effects of the Fundy tides. The town's most famous son is actor Donald Sutherland; its most celebrated product, Moosehead beer.

After *The Traveling Divas* enjoy all that Saint John, New Brunswick has to offer it will be on to Halifax, Nova Scotia as the next port of call! HOPE YOU ARE MAKING PLANS TO SAIL WITH *THE TRAVELING DIVAS* ON THE *CARNIVAL GLORY* FROM *JUNE 13 – 18, 2011*. Stay tuned for more letters telling you all about your next port of call.