

NEW BRUNSWICK

Canada's Acadian Region

By **TERRI & MARTIN HIRSCH**

Moncton, New Brunswick, located at the centre of Atlantic Canada and central to the Fundy Coast, was the start of our Acadian Coastal Drive. Moncton is Canada's first bilingual city, with residents speaking both French and English, and a major transportation centre. Our hotel was the Marriott Residence Inn, an all-suite hotel five miles from the Moncton Airport.

Hotel amenities included free high-speed Internet access and a complimentary hot breakfast buffet. A short walk away was the Restaurant Le Chateau a Pape, which serves local Acadian delicacies prepared in the traditional way by Acadian chefs.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

The following morning, we traveled to the Memramcook Valley of southeastern New Brunswick to visit the Monument Lefebvre National Historic Site. This site commemorates the survival of the Acadian people from before the expulsion until the present day. Our guided tour included a video about the deportation and a one-hour visit of the historical exhibit "Reflections of a Journey: The Odyssey of the Acadian People." This exhibit allowed us to appreciate the history, culture, and accomplishments of the Acadian people. Their story is one of survival.

In 1604, a group of French colonists ventured from France to the coastal regions of Canada where they established the first permanent settlement in North America. Following a difficult winter, the settlement was moved to Port-Royal, Nova Scotia, in 1605. During this period, they relied on the help of the native inhabitants to establish new colonies. These were landmark years for French colonization, heralding the birth of the Acadian people.

Acadia was the frequent target of fighting between France and England. The turning point of Acadian history began in 1755 when the British began deportation of the Acadians because of their refusal to sign an alliance with Britain. Their houses were burned, their cattle seized, and their crops destroyed. Many Acadians were lowered into boats, separated from their families, and deported to the United States, England, and France.

Louisiana became a meeting point for the exiled Acadians, and there they formed the Cajun culture. Hundreds of Acadians were eventually allowed to return to Acadia after almost 10 years in exile. English settlers had taken over their farmland and they too had to start over in more isolated areas.

In 1884, Acadians began to understand their roots when the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his poem "Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie," which depicted their suffering and deportation. Today, Acadians can be found all over the world.

MORE ACADIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

We left the Monument Lefebvre Na-

tional Historic Site and continued to Bouctouche, arriving at Le Pays de la Sagouine, a theme park filled with Acadian entertainment and history.

Le Pays de la Sagouine is based on Antonine Maillet's award-winning book "La Sagouine," which was published in 1971. Through Ms. Maillet's impressive literary work, we learn the story of the Acadians' suffering and their enduring strength and sense of humour in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Our lunch at La Paneterie Restaurant offered us Acadian specialties, including the famous potato dish poutine and a rape pie made of pork and potatoes. After lunch and a theater performance, we walked across a bridge to Flea Island where musical and theatrical performances were held inside and outside 18th century homes.

We traveled back in time through this remarkable, authentic historic site that portrays the lives of Acadians in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries.

From Bouctouche we continued our drive to Caraquet, New Brunswick, located in the heart of the Acadian Peninsula. As we approached Caraquet, we saw flags of yellow-starred red, white, and blue everywhere. Some houses were completely decked out in these colours and had displays of wooden Acadians. For the next three nights, we stayed in Caraquet.

The following morning, we visited the Acadian Historical Village. We traveled back in time through this remarkable, authentic historic site that portrays the lives of Acadians in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. More than 40 buildings are staffed by interpreters in period costumes, who explain typical life and activities that enabled the ancestors of today's Acadians to survive. We visited a straw house where brooms were being made, a crochet house, a blacksmith, a fishing house, a school house, and a church. We also tasted breads made from recipes of that period.

On Aug. 15, we were on the main street of Caraquet around 6:00 p.m. It was crowded with more than 40,000 people. Since 1994, the World Acadian Congress has united Acadians from across the globe for this huge event.

The noises during this famous Tintamarre Parade joyfully expressed Acadian pride. Wearing the Acadian colours, people paraded to the sounds of pots, pans, and musical instruments. Many of the people had face

paintings and some wore beautiful coloured costumes. At 7:00 p.m. the noise receded, but the crowds were still parading. The day ended with the grand opening concert featuring some of the most distinguished artists in Greater Acadia.

That night's dinner was at the Hotel Paulin, situated on the Bay of Chaleur along the Acadian Peninsula. It was the first hotel constructed in Caraquet in 1891. Hotel Paulin is a beautiful living history of early Acadian architecture and is one of the oldest family-operated hotels still remaining in Canada.

Today, Hotel Paulin is an upscale boutique-style hotel, preserving the charm, elegance, and spirit of the 19th century. It is operated by Innkeepers Gerard Paulin and his wife Karen Mersereau, a well-known Acadian chef.

NORTHEASTERN NEW BRUNSWICK

On Sunday, our drive took us to the northeastern corner of New Brunswick where we visited Shippagan, Lamèque, and Miscou Island. The Shippagan Aquarium and Marine Centre is the perfect place to learn about sea life.

Our tour started by viewing a presentation on the history of fisheries. The Marine Centre has a large collection of more than 100 species of fish, as well as a rare blue lobster, that are native to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Atlantic Canadian lakes and rivers. Some of the local fish seen were cod, mackerel, snow crabs, Atlantic salmon, white flounder, and Greenland shrimp.

The New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre is also a museum. The museum exhibits focus on the contemporary fishing industry and the gear and equipment required. There is a life-size wheelhouse equipped with all the electronic devices, including navigation instruments used by fishermen to locate and catch fish.

Our guide, Gilbert, explained that lobsters are lured into the back of a 40-pound wire mesh trap by the smell of the bait and cannot get out. Lobsters are measured, and smaller ones are thrown back into the sea while the remaining lobsters are sent to market. Gilbert's best catch was 32 lobsters in one trap.

Lamèque is noted for Saint-Cecile Church. When the church was built in the 19th century, the interior was a drab brownish colour. In the 1970s, the priests spray-painted the inside of the church in the colours peach, yellow, ivory, and tortoise.

Every summer since 1975, Lamèque has hosted an annual Baroque Music Festival and has attracted thousands of music lovers to this picturesque island. Its program features chamber music and solo pieces performed in the colourful Sainte-Cecile Church with exceptional acoustics.

Miscou Island is at the most northeastern tip of the Acadian Peninsula and has one of the oldest operating lighthouses in New Brunswick (1886).



THE WAY WE LEARN: A schoolhouse complete with schoolmarm in the Acadian Historical Village. **TERRI HIRSCH**



LIGHTING THE ACADIAN WAY: The lighthouse on Miscou Island at the most northeastern tip of the Acadian Peninsula. It is one of the oldest operating lighthouses in New Brunswick. **TERRI HIRSCH**

It has a white, octagonal wooden tower with a red lantern. The island's sand dunes and lagoons make it a favourite location for migrating birds.

On Monday morning, we traveled south along the Acadian Coastal Drive toward Moncton, arriving at Kouchibouguac National Park. This wilderness Canadian National Park is located on the east coast of New Brunswick. The name Kouchibouguac (Kou-she-boo-qwack) means "river of long tides."

The park includes barrier islands, sand dunes, lagoons, salt marshes, and forests. It offers excellent opportunities for hiking, canoeing, camping, picnicking, rowing, bicycling, and swimming.

SANCTUARY

The national park provides habitat for seabirds, including the endangered piping plover which is a small, well-camouflaged shorebird. Their nests are small holes that they dig in the sand on the beach. Each nest contains up to four spotted, sand-coloured eggs. Because the eggs are well camouflaged, people often walked right over them, which made it necessary to fence the nests for their protection.

Another natural wonder around the park is the second largest tern colony in North America. Like piping plovers, nesting terns also face many obstacles to survival and are especially vulnerable to human disturbance.

After a long day, we set out for Shediac, known as the Lobster Capital of the World, situated on the east coast of New Brunswick. The first mention of the word "lobster" appeared in the Maritimes Archives in 1578.

Our last night was at the Maison Tait House, a historic mansion built in 1911, located in the heart of downtown Shediac. Our beautiful room had a fireplace and canopy beds with all the modern amenities, including telephone, air-conditioning, television, and high-speed Internet. At our farewell dinner at the Maison Tait House, we enjoyed beautiful amazing food, wine, and pastry.

Terri and Martin Hirsch travel extensively and are freelance travel writers.

SUDOKU

Fill in the boxes using numbers between 1 and 9 so that each column, each row, and each 3x3 square contain all nine numbers only once.

	1		2	5					
	9		4		3			5	
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1	9	5	6	4	7	3	2	8
7	8	2	1	5	6	9	4	3
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6	3	4	3	2	1	9	8	7
8	7	1	4	9	6	2	5	3
4	1	9	6	8	7	5	2	3
5	2	2	1	3	1	4	8	6
9	6	8	5	7	2	1	3	4

This week's solution



SERVING UP THE SPIRIT OF 19TH CENTURY ACADIA: Hotel Paulin was the first hotel constructed in Caraquet and is a beautiful living history of early Acadian architecture. **TERRI HIRSCH**

4 PUZZLES PEACE

Guess the hidden saying, phrase or word(s) suggested by the graphic below



Presented By



SOLUTION ON P7

The Epoch Times Geography Guru™

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Quiz #241



DRY ZONE: There are six time zones covering continental North America. Only one of the six has no U.S. states nor Canadian provinces or territories bordering either the Pacific Ocean or the Atlantic Ocean/Gulf of Mexico. It does, however, have Canadian territories bordering the Arctic Ocean. Name that time zone.

Read The Epoch Times next week for the answer!

Answer for Quiz #240:

MOUNTAINOUS: Mountain ranges and nations Atlas—Morocco; Carpathian—Slovakia; Ghats—India; Grampian—Scotland; Kunlun—China; Macdonell—Australia; Sierra Madres—Mexico