



steep streets, in the old part of the city, are lined with tall, narrow frame houses, painted in vivid shades of pink, green and yellow. Interspersed among the houses are the towers and spires of churches and other public structures, some old, some new. Further out, the newer sections are indistinguishable, in most ways, from the residential and industrial suburbs of any North American city. However, the oldest street on the continent, Water Street, dates back to 1583 when Sir Humphrey Gilbert claimed the island as a British possession.

The residents of St. John's, like other Newfoundlanders, speak with a lilting accent. Fortunately, for the visitor, it is considerably easier to understand than that of the fishermen from the tiny outports. They speak with an earthy wit peculiar to the people of that province. Nobody could ever accuse a Newfoundlander of taking himself too seriously. Several years ago a city councillor commented that a road, then being built, had cost so much money it should indeed be a road deluxe. When the time came to name the new street, it was called Road Deluxe. Every Newfoundlander, it seems, is a born raconteur. Drop into one of the bars on Water Street, the main thoroughfare, and find out for yourself. Listeners are always welcome.

Although St. John's was the first site in British North America continuously visited and eventually settled by white men from western Europe, it was not incorporated until the late 19th century. The old part of the city dates back, for the most part, only to 1892 with some small sections going back to 1846 and only a few buildings from before that. Two major conflagrations, in 1846 and 1892, virtually destroyed the



biggest and best part of the capital, which is why "Old St. John's" really isn't all that old.

One of the earliest buildings still in use is St. Thomas Anglican Church, familiarly known as the "Old Garrison". It opened in 1836. The Roman Catholic Basilica of St. John the Baptist, an imposing twin-tower structure, was constructed between 1841 and 1855. It is built in the shape of a Latin Cross and holds 6,000 worshippers. The Colonial Building, seat of government from 1850 to 1960, is another of the city's older buildings. Built of stone brought from Cork, Ireland, and opened January 28, 1850, it served as Newfoundland's House of Assembly through four successive forms of government.

Signal Hill National Historic Park, site of the Cabot Tower and

(far left) North lake, P.E.I. (middle) St. John's at night. (above) Beach, P.E.I. (left) Water Street, St. John's (lower left) Farm Vacation, P.E.I.

Queen's Battery, is probably St. John's best known tourist attraction. The view of the city and surrounding area is magnificent. The Visitors' Reception and Interpretation Centre at the Park features an audio visual tour of the history of Newfoundland. From here foot paths lead to Gibbett Hill, Queen's Battery, Cabot Tower and Ladies Lookout.

Not everything worth visiting in St. John's is old. The Arts and Culture Centre, Newfoundland's major Canadian Centennial project opened in 1967 and has been a resounding success. The Centre includes a 1,000-seat theatre, an art gallery, library facilities, teaching facilities consisting of classrooms and studios for the visual arts, drama and music, and a restaurant.

St. John's is an ideal city for the outdoorsman. He need not even go beyond the city limits to enjoy swimming, boating, hiking and fishing. Several modern hotels and motels are conveniently located both downtown and on the outskirts of the city. Nearby campgrounds are numerous. Good restaurants are also at hand. The province is noted for its fine Queen crab, lobster, Atlantic salmon, halibut and cod tongues.

Visitors can travel to Newfoundland either by air or car ferry from North Sydney, Nova Scotia to Port aux Basques and to Argentia. From Port aux Basques to St. John's it's 904 kilometres (565 miles) on the Trans-Canada Highway. Argentia is 126 kilometres (79 miles) from St. John's. □