



Main Street (the view from Town Hall)



Parade on Main Street (the view from the Miller Block)



Wood Block, Bridge Street

Postcards from Sackville

SELF-GUIDED HERITAGE TOUR

Historical SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF DOWNTOWN Sackville

New Brunswick, Canada



This self-guided tour highlights many of our historic buildings and properties.
The map guides you through Sackville's downtown.



The Building Blocks

Founded as the Township of Sackville—1762

Incorporated—February, 1903

Named after Lord George Sackville (1716-85), the former commander of the British forces.

Founding Groups

Mi'kmaq, Acadians, New England Planters, Yorkshire Settlers, Loyalists.

Factors in Early Development

Location

- Only 7 km from the present Nova Scotia border and 5 km from Fort Beauséjour.
- At the southwest end of the Chignecto Isthmus, a narrow body of land between the Bay of Fundy and the Northumberland Strait.
- Near the great Tantramar Marsh, on the banks of the Tantramar River that flows to the tidal salt waters of the Cumberland Basin and into the Bay of Fundy.

Transportation

- The first route through is believed to be the ancient trading portage of the First Nations peoples following the water ways over to the St. John River and up towards the St. Lawrence River.
- The earliest "post road" came across the marsh, following the route of the High Marsh Road.
- The first of several bridges across the lower Tantramar River was built in 1840, establishing Bridge Street as the main road leading to the centre of the town of Sackville as we know it today. Although these bridges have long since vanished, the road is still called "Bridge Street".
- Until 1962, the interprovincial highway ran directly through downtown Sackville.
- In 1869, a special route of the InterColonial Railway ran from Moncton through Dorchester to Sackville. The NB-PEI Railway provided an early shipping and transportation line.
- In the mid to late 1800's, three large shipyards on the Tantramar River were building sailing ships that carried cargo and passengers to Saint John, Halifax, the eastern United States and beyond.

Commerce

- Agriculture, production of high quality hay, building stone and leather goods, shipbuilding, shipping, lumber and the grindstone industry were the earliest principal commercial activities in this area.
- By the 1870's two large foundries were established and became major manufacturers of cooking and heating stoves and furnaces.
- Establishment of a Wesleyan Academy for boys opened in 1843, the first of several institutions which eventually became Mount Allison University, has been key to Sackville's economic development and quality of life.

Sackville





Marshlands Inn

Historical SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF DOWN TOWN Sackville

1 Marshlands Inn 55 Bridge Street

The house was built in the early 1850's as a wedding present from William Crane to his daughter, Ruth Crane Cogswell. In 1895, Henry C. Read of the Read Grindstone company, purchased the house, enlarging and remodeling it. By 1935, the Read family had transformed the property into the Marshlands Inn, which they ran until the 1980's. The Inn developed a sterling reputation. Even Queen Elizabeth II visited here! Today, the Marshlands Inn continues to greet people from around the world as a Heritage Inn and Restaurant. Many handsome architectural details enhance the Inn. The William Morris wallpaper in the dining room is noteworthy, as is the view of the marsh from the garden. The birch tree on the front lawn is one of the area's oldest.

2 Memorial Park 52-54 Bridge Street

This Park was once the site of a woodworking factory, Copp, Dixon's & Co, which burned to the ground in a fire in 1905. In 1911, the Town purchased the land and the Sackville Women's Civic Council undertook the development of a park. The cenotaph was dedicated in 1922 to soldiers of the First World War. Plaques commemorating the 2nd World War and the Korean War were added in subsequent years. The monument is made of New Brunswick grey granite. At the head of the monument is a Celtic cross with the letters I.H.S. – In Hoc Signo Vincimus (By This Sign We Conquer) – the motto of the Crusaders. In 2005, the Year of the Veteran, Holland donated 700 tulip bulbs for the Park as a tribute to Canadian veterans of the Liberation of Holland.



Memorial Park

3 The Wood Block 4-14 Bridge Street

Josiah Wood was one of the first two graduates of Mount Allison College in 1863. He became a successful businessman and politician who helped shape Sackville's future. He was summoned to the Senate in 1895 and became Sackville's first mayor in 1903. He was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick in 1912.



This imposing building was built in 1914-1915 by his son Herbert after a disastrous fire that destroyed the original Music Hall Block. The stone on the façade of the building is from the local Read Quarries. The top floor houses the remains of the 800 seat Imperial Theatre that was in use until the 1940's. In 1994, this Romanesque Revival style building was declared a Provincial Heritage Site.

4 Cranewood 115 Main Street

William Crane was a successful Sackville businessman with interests in agriculture and shipping. In 1824, he was elected to the House of Assembly. Construction of his new stone residence in Sackville began in 1836. Crane married Eliza Wood in 1838 and this became their home. It is a fine example of a Georgian style English country house with Greek Revival features. Josiah Wood purchased it in 1867, adding a Mansard roof in 1888 creating a ballroom, later removed. Herbert Mariner Wood, the oldest son, inherited the house in 1927, giving it the name Cranewood. In 1966, Dr. and Mrs. W.S. H. Crawford bought the house and in 1975, Mount Allison University purchased the property as the official residence for the President.



5 The Sackville United Church

112 Bridge Street

A small Methodist chapel was built on this site in 1838 on land donated by Sackville businessman William Crane. The chapel was expanded twice, then moved up West Main Street to become a meeting hall, which later burned. The present church was built in 1875, with major renovations in 1898 and 1927. Inside the Main Street door and up the left staircase is an interesting display and collection detailing the history of Methodism in the Sackville area. The "Rose" stained glass windows are of special note. The sanctuary is constructed of oak. Beside the church is the Old Lower Sackville Methodist Cemetery where lies Charles Frederick Allison, founder of Mount Allison University.

6 Centennial Monument

Adjacent to the United Church

Take the crosswalk in front of the brown church (St. Paul's Anglican) and walk across the "Rotary Bridge". To the left is our Centennial Monument. Dedicated in September 2004, the monument is a reminder of the links between the five founding groups and how their contributions played an important role in the development of our Town. This project was designed by a local volunteer committee to commemorate the incorporation of Sackville in 1903. Across the street is St. Paul's Anglican Church, a wonderful example of ecclesiastical Gothic Revival architecture designed by Bishop Medley.



16 Dr. Charles Paisley House

42 York Street

Located at a prominent corner, and opposite the Hammond gateway to the campus, this is another charming house designed by Toronto architect Edmund Burke. It was built in 1903 by Dr. Charles Paisley, who was a professor and Dean of Theology. Interestingly, he leased the land from the university for his new home. The style mixes Cottage and American Shingle style.

Dr. Norman Hesler was the next resident, acquiring the house during the 1920's. He was the Mayor of Sackville for four terms, the first president of the Sackville Rotary Club in 1931 and was president and managing director of Enamel and Heating Products Ltd. Hesler sold the house in 1977.

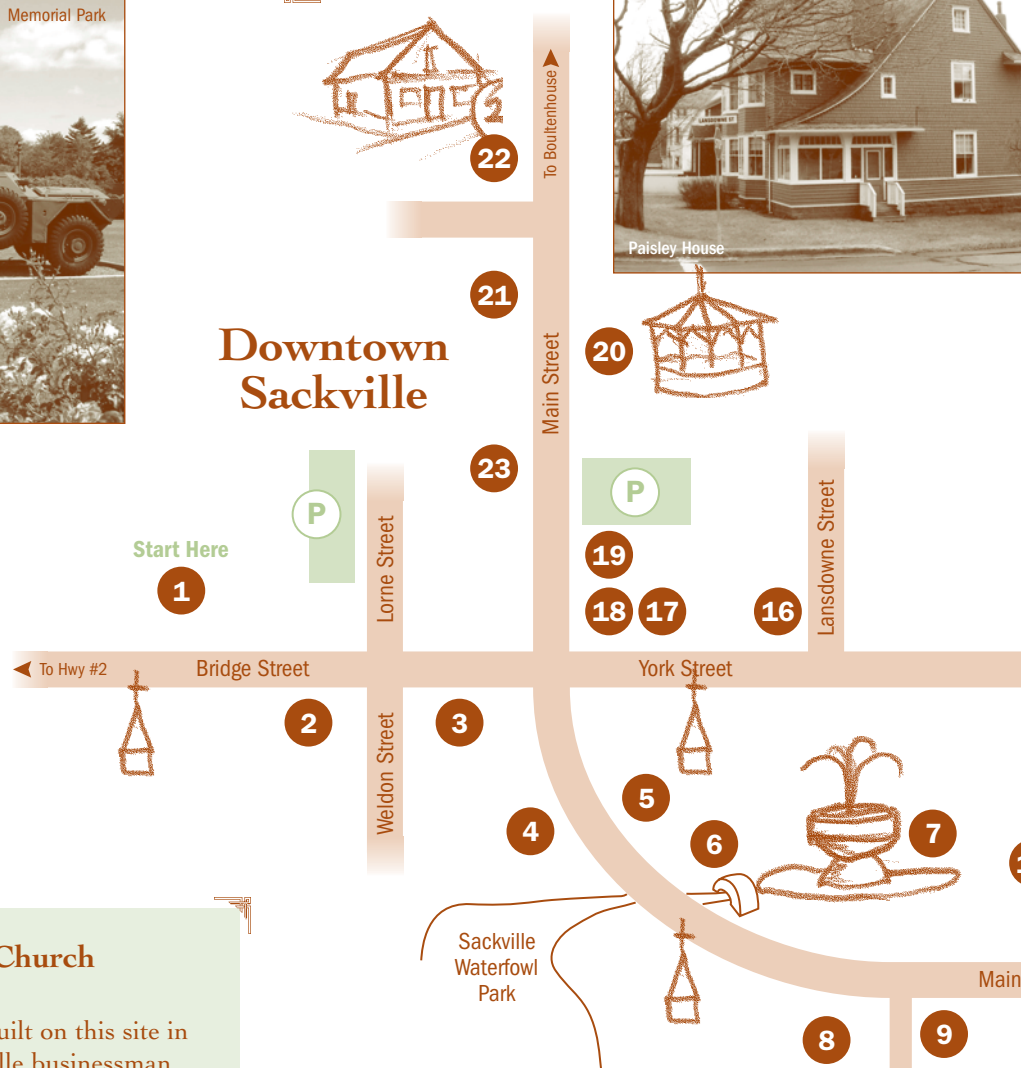
Currently, Senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell maintains the house as her primary residence. She served as New Brunswick's 28th Lieutenant-Governor (1997-2003) and reopened the newly restored Old Government House as "the people's home", welcoming people from Sackville to visit her in Fredericton for many special occasions. She is a respected champion of children and literacy.

To back cover



Paisley House

Downtown Sackville

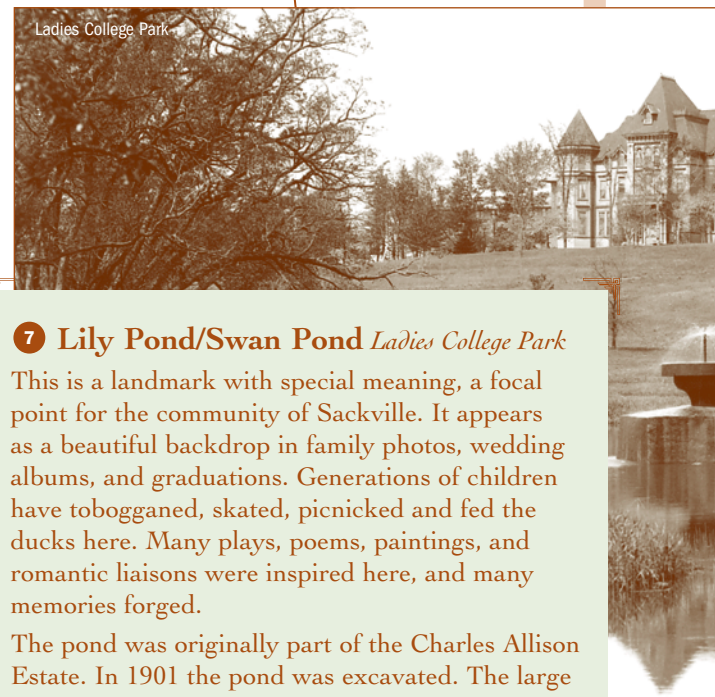


7 Lily Pond/Swan Pond Ladies College Park

This is a landmark with special meaning, a focal point for the community of Sackville. It appears as a beautiful backdrop in family photos, wedding albums, and graduations. Generations of children have tobogganed, skated, picnicked and fed the ducks here. Many plays, poems, paintings, and romantic liaisons were inspired here, and many memories forged.

The pond was originally part of the Charles Allison Estate. In 1901 the pond was excavated. The large stone for the fountain was taken from the Pickard Quarry in Sackville. It was then carved into a shape believed to be designed by John Hammond, first director of the Ladies College art program and Owens Fine Arts Museum. The fountain was installed in 1904.

Mount Allison University refers to this area as Ladies College Park. You may also hear it referred to as the Lily Pond and, since the addition of two swans in 1968, the Swan Pond.



15 Owens Art Gallery

61 York Street

The Owens Art Gallery is the oldest university art gallery in Canada. It is a fine building with interesting details such as the terracotta frieze, wooden front door and windows, graceful overhanging roofline. It is the design work of Toronto architect Edmund Burke, and was officially opened in 1895 as the Owens Museum of Fine Arts. The story is interesting: A wealthy shipbuilder in Saint John, John Owens, left money in his will to gather a collection of 18th and 19th century European and North American art and to begin an art school in Saint John. John Hammond was the artist commissioned to travel the world to collect art for the John Owens estate. This he did, returning to be engaged as the professor. The school ran into financial trouble and the collection was offered up to any institution in New Brunswick that would build a home for it. Mount Allison University stepped up and built what is now known as the Owens Art Gallery. John Hammond was hired to direct the art program at the Ladies College where he continued in his role from 1894-1919. He was a colourful character with worldly experience and a flair for architecture. He was also a prolific painter whose works are prized possessions of many local families. The Gallery underwent extensive renovations in 1971/1972 after construction of the Gardiner Fine Arts facility next door.



14 Hammond/Black House and The Hammond Studio

82 York Street

This was the site of the Pickard farm in 1869. Humphrey Pickard was the first president of Mount Allison College in 1862. The Pickard Quarry, very close by, has been the source of the pink sandstone in many local buildings and foundations for more than a century. (It is believed that Humphrey Pickard first brought elm saplings from Fredericton to plant along the streets of Sackville.)

The house that you see is considered an architectural “gem”, noted by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as a rare and excellent example of period architecture. It was built by the prominent artist, John Hammond in 1896. He commissioned his friend and architect, Edmund Burke from Toronto, to design it. Obvious influence of American Shingle and Queen Anne style of the period is accented with a bell-shaped conical roof on a pedimented gable. The gambrel roof even includes a small Palladian window tucked up under the eve. Inside are magnificent murals painted by Hammond depicting the four seasons. Just beside the house is the “Hammond Studio”, built from one of the existing Pickard barns to become the artist’s studio. Note the huge pink sandstone pillars. Inside is a large hearth, built by Hammond from the same quarry stone.

Senator Frank B. Black and his family purchased the property in 1912. It was then called “Braeburn”. Since 1958, the university has been the owner.



13 Anchorage

78 York Street

Built in 1893 by lawyer Henry Powell, there are many well-crafted details to note on this house. The brackets, moldings and sashes of the windows are Queen Anne style. The doorway and Portico reflect the Greek Revival influence. The steep roofline with all of its various shapes presents an interesting painting challenge! In 2004, The Carriage House, just behind, was retrofitted as the Mount Allison University Sustainable Residence.

In 1933, this was the stately home of wealthy retired mariner Captain Ronald V. (“Hat”) Bennett and Mrs. Ilsa Bennett. They were kind, compassionate people and helped to establish such services as the Westmorland Children’s Aid Society and the Sackville Memorial Hospital. A regular visitor was R.B Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada from 1930-1935. Sadly, the Bennetts suffered the loss of their two sons, both members of the Black Watch and both killed in action during the invasion of Normandy, near the end of WW II. The Bennett estate, along with this house, was bequeathed to Mount Allison and several offices now operate from here.

12 Colville House

76 York Street

Colville House, built in 1879, was the home of Alex Colville and his family for 27 years. Alex, the internationally respected artist, was a student of Fine Arts at Mount Allison in 1938-1942. Upon graduating he married his classmate, Rhoda Wright and shortly after received an overseas assignment as Canadian War Artist. After the war, they settled in Sackville and Alex taught Fine Arts, painted, and he and Rhoda raised their family here. Many of the interior details of the house were added by Colville himself. In the 3rd floor studio, some of the most important works of his career were painted. The Colvilles moved to Wolfville in 1978 and the house was purchased by Mount Allison.

11 Centennial Hall

65 York Street, Mount Allison University Administrative Building

The second oldest campus building remaining, it was built in 1884 and named in honour of the Centennial Celebration of the Methodist Church of Canada. The builder, John Francis Teed of Dorchester, also built Saint Thomas Roman Catholic Church in Memramcook (1881), the Mount Allison University Men’s Residence (1890’s) and the Owens Art Gallery (1895). The sandstone came from the quarries to the south-west of Sackville. In 1933, Centennial Hall was gutted by fire and rebuilt with a different roofline.

10 The President’s Cottage

Mount Allison Campus

Across the street, on the Mount Allison Campus, stands a charming white wooden house known as The President’s Cottage. It is the oldest building on campus. It looks refreshingly out of place now, flanked with stone buildings that have replaced wooden structures through the years. It was built in 1857 for Dr. Humphrey Pickard, Principal of the Mens Academy, and housed presidents for the next 90 years. In 1967, the house was restored as Mount Allison University’s Centennial Project. It is now used as office space and as the Faculty Club. The tradition of hospitality from early Presidential functions is upheld in the contemporary casual gatherings of faculty and guests.

8 Joseph F. Allison House

151 Main Street

Directly across the street from the Swan Pond sits this late Georgian-style house built around 1840. With many fine architectural details including two-story curved bay windows, a large wrap-around decorated verandah and top dormers, this fine structure adds much to the streetscape locally known as “Academy Stretch”. The home originally belonged to Joseph Francis Allison, brother of Charles Frederick Allison, and business partner of William Crane. It has been known by many names, including Acacia Grove. In 1901, the house was purchased by Horace Ellsworth Fawcett and was called Elmhurst, perhaps in reference to the elm trees lining the driveway. Major renovations were completed in 1908. In 1934, Mr. & Mrs. C.M.P Fisher became the home’s new owners. Mrs. Fisher was the daughter of Horace Fawcett, owner of the Fawcett Foundry. Mr. Fisher was the son of W.S Fisher, owner of the Enterprise Foundry Company Limited. The Fisher family sold the house in 1986. In 1997, a well-designed addition nearly doubled the size to accommodate the communications firm, SGCI Marketing Communications Inc. (shown at right). One of the original barns remains.

9 The Anglican Church Rectory

145 Main Street

This lovely 1880 house with its striking wood trim was built as the Anglican Church Rectory on land donated by J.F. Allison and Mary Allison Botsford. To this day, the family of the Anglican rector lives in this charming Queen Anne Revival style home with its Carpenter Gothic detailing. Of particular interest is the vertical siding called Board and Batten. The Gothic Revival style dormers incorporate the quatrefoil design frequently found in Gothic buildings, for example, the Doge’s Palace in Venice. The tree in the front yard is shown as a sapling in an 1889 photo.

Further along is the new residence, Campbell Hall, which replaced Palmer Hall in 2003. It was the original site of the Mount Allison Wesleyan Academy, founded by Charles Frederick Allison in 1839 and formally opened in 1843.



Joseph F. Allison House

12

13

14

York Street

Salem Street

P

TO HWY #2

15

11

10

Street

17 Bowser House

24 York Street

Early reports tell of Thomas Bowser sailing from Sunderland, England to Nova Scotia in 1773. In 1777, Bowser bought 1100 acres of land from a Daniel Hawkins, including a large parcel of the land surrounding this house. He established a farm on the land that is now occupied by Mount Allison University. This house was built on his property in the early 1800's. Gradually, family members sold off surrounding land for development of downtown Sackville. In 1904, Dr. John Hedley Secord, who had moved to Sackville from PEI, acquired the property as a home and for his growing medical practice. The house remained in his family until 1961. It now houses the Flower Boutique and apartments.



18 Dixon Block

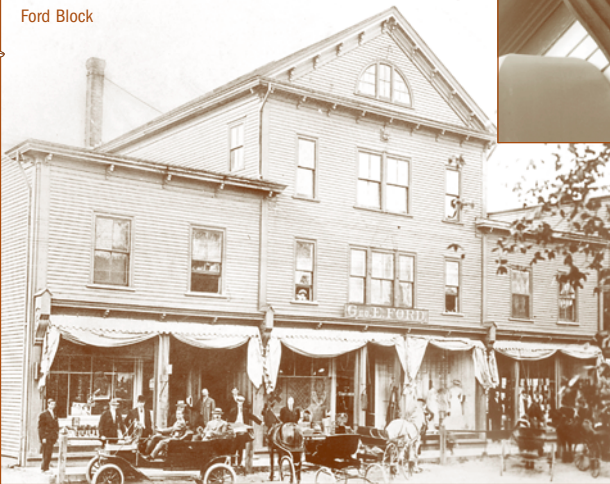
104 Main Street

Fondly remembered by locals as the Corner Drug Store and Turner's Grocery, this commercial building stands at one of the signature four corners of downtown Sackville. It is one of only a few remaining wooden commercial buildings in Sackville surviving virtually intact since 1857. The building has a delightful history of commerce: Edward C. Palmer, noted on the Walling Map as a Merchant Tailor, lived here and general stores were operated by R.M. Dixon, Albion Gray and David Dickson. Amasa Dixon purchased the building in 1882. Architectural details date from a major renovation and expansion in 1896 when the whole building was elevated to three stories. The third floor was a large hall, used for political meetings, as a band room for the Sackville Citizens Band, and by the Oddfellows. Dr. Charles Gass purchased the drug store business in 1923 and the store operated as the "Corner Drug" until 1992. Some of our citizens remember, as children, being taken for a treat to the soda fountain there.



Dixon Block

Ford Block



19 Ford Block

96-100 Main Street

In its day, this was a very handsome department store built, owned and operated by the enterprising merchant George E. Ford. *The Chignecto Post* (Nov. 1894) describes the building's grandeur: "The new quarters are commodious, convenient and well arranged to display the goods. The plate glass windows in Mr. Ford's new store are said to be the largest of any in the Maritime Provinces being eleven feet each way."

Looking towards the peaked roofline, just below the modern demi-lune window, is a dark square about 1'x1'. It is a "grotesque" casting of a stylized lion's head and believed to be a good luck charm. During renovations in the late 1980's, this casting was removed when the façade was being sided. Having a sharp eye, Mr. Harvey Mesheau retrieved it from the dumpster. In 2003 a copy of the original casting was replaced to its perch, overseeing the activity on downtown streets, as a project of the Tantramar Historic Sites Committee. Please take time to read the bronze plaque inside the recessed doorway.

21 Miller Block

47-55 Main Street

The Brunswick House Hill, or Iniquity Hill (as one editor wrote) is historically significant to the economic development of downtown Sackville. Earliest records show that a public house was run here by Abraham Bass, a native of Northamptonshire, England. He died in 1842 and is buried in the Westcock cemetery. The 1862 Walling Map noted this site as the King's Hotel. Harris Miller owned the block and operated his grocery and dry goods business here from 1909, building the present structure in 1913. Miller continued to own the building until 1941 and several businesses operated through those years. Many Sackville children were brought here to Sharpe's Family Shoe Store to be fitted for "school shoes". Many Sackville watches and clocks were brought here to be fixed by Lloyd MacPherson at the store next door that was originally a bowling alley built in the 1920's.

Until May 2006, the oldest remaining Irving Gas Station (built in 1936) stood next door. It was a charming building but, unfortunately, was moved from Sackville to Caraquet.



23 The Box Factory

69 Main Street

Although this is hard to imagine, a large stream flowed through here down to the marsh. It continues to flow, but is now buried underground close to this building.

In 1902, The Carriage Factory, a three story wooden factory (63' x 25'), was built here by Bedford Crossman for Blair Taylor. The first floor contained the blacksmith and wood shops, the second floor was used as the trimming shops and ware rooms, while the third flat was divided into varnish, colour and lead rooms.

In 1907, a local incorporation started The Sackville Paper Box Company and began factory operation from this location with Mr. Azor Wentworth Davis as foreman. In 1918, Mr. Davis took over full control of the company with his two sons. They designed and made boxes for many Maritime shops including Henderson and Cudmore, T. Eaton Co., Hayward and Warwick and La Salle Confectionary. A.W. Davis designed a berry box that was patented in 1937. The June 1937 *Sackville Tribune* reports: "Last year, the company manufactured between 400,000 and 500,000 of these berry boxes, and had to turn down orders for about 125,000 boxes." The Box Factory remained in business until 1960 when it was sold to a Saint John firm.

Until 2000, the lot beside was the site of the Sackville Armouries, home of "C" Squadron of the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's Militia).



22 The Sackville Harness Shop

59 Main Street

Please visit the living history experience of The Sackville Harness Shop. Owner/operator Bill Long purchased this treasure in 1995, having been a long-time employee. The Harness Shop is famous for making a complete range of harness and hand-made straw collars for draught horses in Canada and the United States. The Sackville Harness Limited, formed in 1919 and incorporated in 1920, had as founders: Aretis Anderson, Albert Anderson, J.L. Dixon, Frank W. Fullerton, Clarence Griffin and William W. Ward. The two-story wood frame shop was one of the first commercial buildings along the Old Post Road in Lower Sackville, built c. 1846 by Samuel Freeze Black shortly after the opening of the Great Bridge across the Tantramar River. The Old Post Road was the main overland route from New Brunswick to Nova Scotia. Prior to 1840 and the construction of the first bridge across the Tantramar River, coaches traveled from the village of Dorchester, along present day Main Street and through to Middle Sackville accessing the High Marsh Road to cross the Tantramar Marshes.

On June 21st, 2003, a plaque was unveiled by Hon. Peter Mesheau, MLA, as a tribute to the historical significance of the Sackville Harness Shop to the Town of Sackville.



Sackville Harness Shop

Rod Mattatall

Rod Mattatall

Sackville

Main Street

Museums

Please visit the Campbell Carriage Factory Museum in Middle Sackville and, opening in September 2006, the Boultenhouse Heritage Centre on Queens Road.

Acknowledgements

We are fortunate to have a community rich in history, and many citizens willing to share memories and information. Of particular note are Virginia Harries and Phyllis Stopps, who have compiled research and generously shared it to produce this Heritage Tour of Downtown Sackville.

The project was coordinated by Meredith Fisher for the Tantramar Historic Sites Committee, with funding from NB Heritage Branch and the Town of Sackville. Design is by Leslie Van Patter.

At the time of printing, to the best of our knowledge, the information provided is accurate. If you have questions or comments, and for more information, please visit our website: heritage.tantramar.com.

May 2006