

# Sackville Arts Walk



*A self-guided walking tour, Sackville NB, Canada*

This approximately 1.5 hour walking tour was developed by the Cultural Development Committee of Renaissance Sackville, a group of community volunteers interested in promoting the arts and cultural activity in Sackville. In the spirit of celebration, this contribution recognized Sackville's 100th year of incorporation in 2003.

**Begin at parking lot adjacent to Main and King Street. (see map below)**

## Note of interest: Mount Allison University.

This tour will lead you through the central area of Sackville. The campus includes about 76 acres with 45 buildings. There are nearly 1,100 trees and shrubs giving the campus a park-like setting. The Swan Pond, a symbol of Mount Allison since its creation in 1901, has traditionally been the site of picnics, cultural events, orientation activities and wintertime skating.

In the 1840s, local merchant Charles Frederick Allison proposed that a school be built in Sackville. The Mount Allison Academy for boys had its formal opening in 1843. In 1854, a branch institution for girls, known as the "Ladies College", opened to complement the Wesleyan Academy for boys. In July 1862, the degree-granting Mount Allison College was organized with the first two students graduating in May 1863.

## I. Six Figures: a sculpture by Anne Kahane (Mt. Allison Student Centre Building).



As you approach the building from the South, you see this sculpture placed high on the exterior wall on the left. In 1960, The Canada Council funded a sculpture competition at Mount Allison University.

This work, by Montreal artist Anne Kahane was chosen. It represents a gathering of people and was intended to be viewed as part of the busy University campus, rather than as an isolated object. Unfortunately, after renovations to the University Centre, the sculpture was removed and later re-positioned much higher on the wall than the artist had intended. The piece is made of kiln-dried mahogany and measures 10 x 11 feet.

## 2. Mount Allison Chapel



Built in 1964, this chapel bears very interesting design qualities and details reminiscent of the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral in Britain. The architect was Dr. F. Bruce Brown of Toronto. The stained glass windows are the work of Ontario artist Gerald Tooke. The three major windows are symbolic of Creation, Incarnation and Redemption. Images representing the four gospel stories are seen in the pillar windows.

The pillars themselves represent the founding churches of the United Church. The interior details at the top of each pillar illustrate: the burning bush (Presbyterian Church), the open bible (Congregational Church), the descending dove (Methodist Church), and also the sailing ship (ecumenical church). The theme of the chapel design symbolizes the fact that all religions are welcome here.

All the interior lines lead one's eyes to the huge front cross outlined by 30 small stained glass windows. The granite of the altar step comes from a quarry in Wallace, Nova Scotia. The incredible Casavant organ has 1563 pipes. The chapel is open during the summer from 7 am to 7 pm weekdays.

## 3. Owens Art Gallery

The Owens is the cultural heartbeat of the campus with year-round exhibitions of historical and contemporary art as well as symposia, performances and lectures. Over 2,500 artworks of Canadian and international origin form the permanent collection. The gallery has a conservation department as well as a Children's Education Program. Hours: 10 am – 5 pm on weekdays and 1 pm – 5 pm during the weekend. Admission is free. Contact the Gallery at 506-364-2574 or at: [www.mta.ca/owens](http://www.mta.ca/owens)

## Note of interest: 19th Century Terracotta Frieze



The Owens Art Gallery is the oldest university art gallery in Canada. It was designed by Toronto architect Edmund Burke and built with regional olive sandstone in 1895. The terracotta frieze which decorates the upper exterior of three walls of the

Owens was also designed by Burke and manufactured by the Tallman & Sons, a brick and terracotta company in Beamsville, Ontario. The terracotta craftsmen likely carved one image (following the drawings of the architect), then produced a plaster mould of the carvings and reproduced the design twelve times to form the entire length of the frieze with names of twelve individual artists inserted into the pattern later. In the 19th century, terracotta was popular in North America as material for architectural ornamentation, particularly in the United States. Existing examples in the Atlantic region in Canada are rare.

## Salt/Marsh: Sculpture by John McEwen



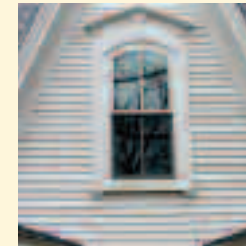
(Exterior steps at York Street Entrance). Completed and installed in 1995, this is the first major outdoor sculpture by McEwen in the Maritimes. Commissioned by Friends of the Owens Art Gallery in honour of the Gallery's centenary celebrations, it flanks the steps at the York

Street entrance to the Gallery. The running wolf fools the eye in the dusk.... The viewer interprets.

**Note of interest:** Walking through campus, you will notice many of the buildings are built and faced with red/pink sandstone. Most of the stone has been cut from Pickard Quarry, now overgrown and hidden in the southwestern corner of town. The yellowish-green or olive sandstone was brought in from the quarries in Rockport, about 15 miles to the west of Sackville.



## 4. Corner of York Street and Salem Street



From this corner, one sees several properties of cultural importance to Sackville.

**76 York** is the former home of Alex Colville where he lived from 1946 to 1973 with his family. Alex and Rhoda Colville both graduated from Mt. A in Fine Arts in 1942. In

this house, he painted many of his most important works while working as a Fine Arts Professor. Many interior details were built by Colville himself. The Colvilles now reside in Wolfville, NS.

**77 York** was the home of painter Lawren P. Harris who was head of the Department of Fine Arts from 1946-75.

**82 York** was the home of John Hammond, an important painter and figure in the history of Fine Arts at Mount Allison at the turn of the century. It is a fine example of Queen Anne Revival Style architecture. The building immediately behind, with the huge sandstone pillars, is known as the Hammond Studio.

**87 York** was the childhood home of Mary Laura Wood, Sackville's own star of stage and screen, born in 1924. She performed on stage in London during the 1940s in such productions as *Deep are the Roots*, *The Dark of the Moon*, *Death of a Salesman* and *All My Sons*. Mary Laura bore a striking resemblance to Vivien Leigh and, at times, was her understudy. Her first full-length movie was *Valley of the Eagles* in 1951.

## 5. Tweedie Hall, Trueman House Residence: Alex Colville mural, The History of Mount Allison.

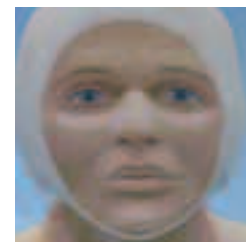


Colville mural, *The History of Mount Allison*.

If the main door of the student residence Trueman House is open, you can go in and walk straight to a set of doors with glass windows. The doors are usually locked but you can look through the windows to the far wall to see this mural, originally titled *The Circuit Rider*. In 1947, just five years after graduation from Mount Allison, the Executive Committee at the University commissioned Alex Colville to decorate the end wall of Tweedie Hall with a large mural. The subject shows various scenes of Mt. Allison's history, painted in a style developed by the Mexican muralists Diego Rivera and Jose Orozco. It was completed in the summer of 1948. The medium is egg tempera on canvas adhered to plaster. In April 2002, Colville gave 65 preparatory drawings to the Owens Art Gallery. (*Due to campus renovations in 2006, this site may be inaccessible*)

**Note of interest:** The more modern sandstone building beside the Owens Art Gallery is The Gairdner Fine Arts Building. Many of Canada's foremost artists have graduated from the four year undergraduate Fine Arts Program here. These include Alex Colville, Christopher Pratt, Mary Pratt, Tom Forrestall, Dawn MacNutt and Susan Lo Beer. A painting of the Sackville Waterfowl Park by 1975 graduate, Chris Parker, graces the current highway signage and major promotional material for the Town of Sackville.

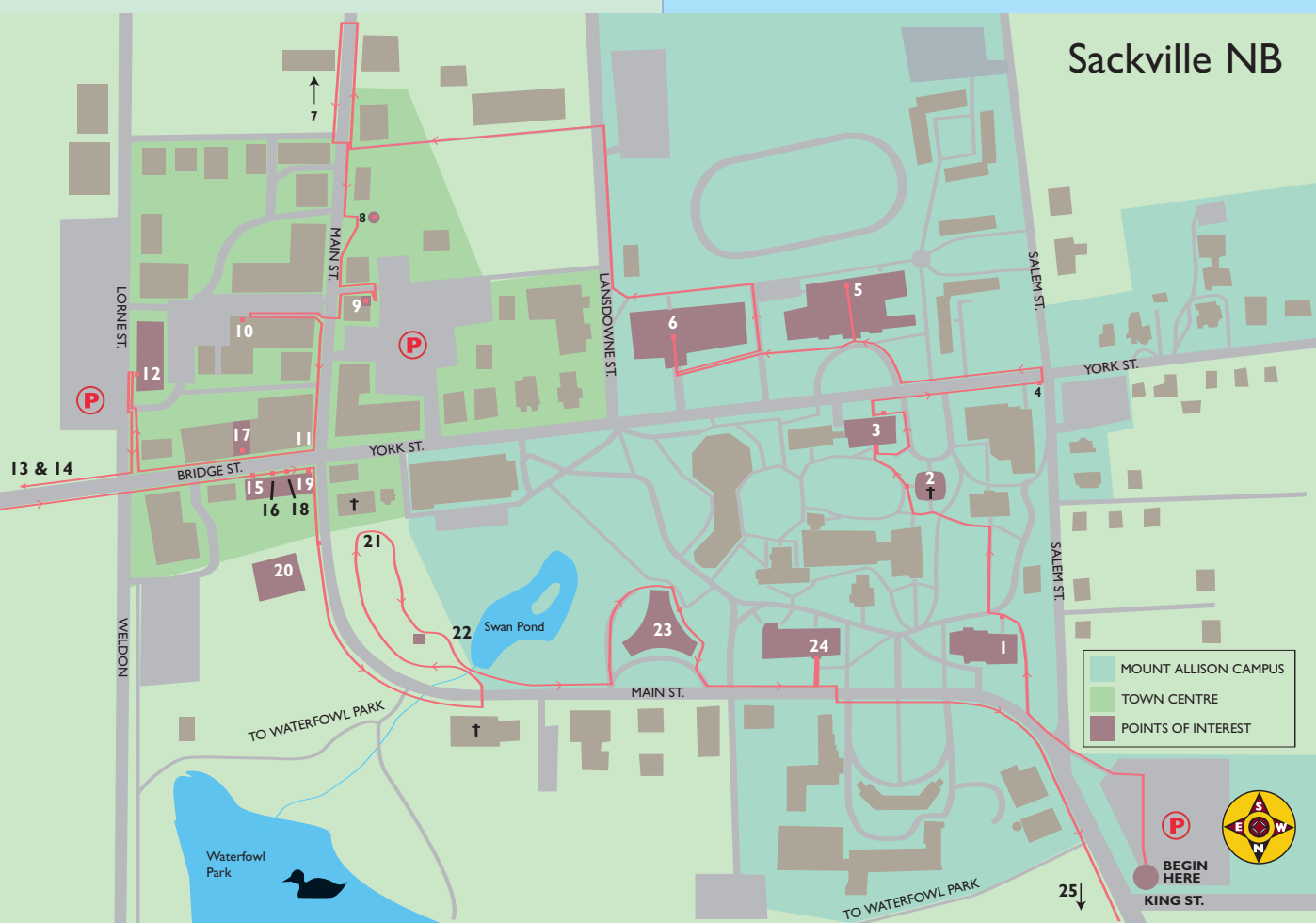
## 6. Athletic Centre Triptych Mural by Alex Colville: *The Athletes*.



*The Athletes*.

Walk up the front stairs, through the doors to the end of the hall. If the door is locked, you will still be able to see the lighted 1960-61 painting *Athletes* commissioned by Mount Allison University for its new Athletic Centre. The painting was an important challenge for Colville in terms of the size of the work, the specific demands of the subject matter and its prominent position in the main hall of the Athletic Centre. There are 88 preparatory sketches of this triptych in the Owens Art Gallery Permanent Collection which reveal the artist's meticulously thorough development of the composition. The medium is oil and synthetic resin on board. Colville's teenaged children and their neighbourhood friends posed for the figures.

Now head back out toward York Street. As you come down the front steps of the Athletic Center, turn right and go down York Street. Turn right on Lansdowne Street. Take the public footpath between the soccer field and the Curling Club to Main Street (by the Fire Hall). Turn right and walk towards the Sackville Harness Shop.



## 7. Sackville Harness Shop: 39 Main Street.

A cultural icon of Sackville, this is a wonderful old place to visit! The smell of the leather, sound of the antique sewing machines, the shine of the brass and the natural atmosphere all combine to create a special place. To get a jump on your Christmas list, choose a handmade leather belt with solid brass buckle for every member of your family and a handmade leash for Rover! One stop shopping! Open Monday to Friday from 8 am until 5 pm and Saturday from 8 am until noon. Call 506-536-0642.

## 8. Sackville Bandstand & Public Library

Here is another of our cultural icons. The Bandstand is a long-time center for community activities. Local musicians give free concerts here on Thursday evenings during the summer. *Please note monument in front of Library*

### Note of interest:

The Canadian Flag was designed in 1965 by Dr. George F. G. Stanley, a long time resident of Sackville, former professor of Canadian Studies at Mount Allison and former Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. In Stuart McLean's book *Welcome Home*, Dr. Stanley tells us that his inspiration came from a childhood recollection. A photo from the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam showed runner Percy Williams crossing the finish line, breaking the tape with his chest, wearing a white jersey with a bright red maple leaf. This was a gold medal win for Canada in more than one respect!

## 9. Rob Lyon Graphics: 86 Main Street.

Behind the Post Office, you see the small, tucked-away studio/gallery of Robert and Katherine Lyon. Original artwork and limited edition prints by Robert and Katherine are complimented by Celtic, nature and kids T-shirts, notepaper, note cards and many other uniquely crafted products. Robert Lyon Graphics has a large selection of items depicting the sandpipers of the Fundy mudflats. Open Monday to Friday from 9 am until 5 pm. Call 506-536-1904. Check out: [www.robertyongraphics.ca](http://www.robertyongraphics.ca)

## 10. Live Bait Theatre: 87 Main Street.

Live Bait is really "Where Everyone Comes to Play". This professional theatre company is known for its high energy and entertaining shows. This is now a permanent theatre space for co-artistic directors Charlie Rhindress and Karen Valanne. Visit Live Bait to satisfy your appetite for fun. For more information call 506-536-2248 or check out: [www.livebaittheatre.com](http://www.livebaittheatre.com)

## 11. Alex Colville painting of Ford Block: 96 Main.



Here is the exact site of the wonderful painting *Milk Truck* by Alex Colville done in 1959. This photo was taken on September 30th, 2000 on Alex Colville Day in Sackville.

*Alex Colville with a reproduction of Milk Truck 1959, and the building as it stands today. Photo courtesy of Moncton Times & Transcript*



## 12. Struts Gallery and Faucet Media Arts Centre:

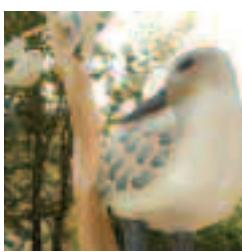
7 Lorne Street. Established in 1982, the center is dedicated to the presentation of local, regional and national

contemporary artist-initiated activities including exhibitions, performances, workshops, screenings, residencies, and symposia. Struts also maintains a Media Centre for members to produce digital video works. The Centre is open Tuesday to Friday from 12 to 5 pm and on Saturday from 12 until 4 pm. Admission is free and for more information call 506-536-1211 or check out: [www.strutsgallery.ca](http://www.strutsgallery.ca)

## 13. Original William Morris Wallpaper at The Marshlands Inn: 55 Bridge Street.

Take a quick peek at wallpaper designed and printed by the English designer William Morris (1834-1896), famed member of the Arts and Crafts movement. The Inn has one carefully preserved section left in the dining room. While you are there, visit Blue Willow Antiques, noted especially for their antique glassware. For more information call 505-536-0170 or check out: [www.marshlands.nb.ca](http://www.marshlands.nb.ca)

## 14. Sanderling Carving at The Sanderling Bed and Breakfast and Art Gallery: 59 Bridge Street.



This unique carving of the sanderling sandpiper was carved by Edmundston, New Brunswick artist Albert Deveau from an elm tree. One of the older trees in town, it took Deveau twenty hours and three chain

saws to complete the project. Donna Sharpe, the proprietor of the bed and breakfast and an artist herself, painted the sculpture. Her work includes collage paintings with a Japanese influence. For more information call 506-536-1062 or visit [www.sanderling.ca](http://www.sanderling.ca)

## 15. Fog Forest Gallery: 14 Bridge Street.

Since 1984, this gallery has been dedicated to the exhibition and sale of original artworks by professional artists and crafts people of Eastern Canada. Monthly exhibitions offer works by Atlantic Canada's finest painters, printmakers, sculptors, photographers and artisans. Fog Forest also offers full-service custom picture framing. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm or by appointment. Call 506-536-9000 or check out: [www.fogforest.com](http://www.fogforest.com)

## 16. Old Imperial Theatre, Wood Block. In 1883, the Sackville Music Hall was built on this site but burned completely to the ground in 1914. A year later, the large impressive Wood Block was built and housed, on the third floor, was the 600 seat Imperial Theatre. If you look up to the roof above the Fog Forest Gallery and to the left, the large box-like structure is the "fly" gallery of the old Imperial Theatre where the stage curtains were lifted to during a performance. The Imperial was used as a movie theatre, for plays and for lectures until the late 1940's.

## 17. Mel's Tea Room: 17 Bridge Street.

With its classic 1950's soda fountain, Mel's is a cultural experience that speaks for itself! Stuart MacLean has featured Mel's on his CBC program *The Vinyl Café* and it is also featured in his book *Welcome Home*.

## 18. Tidewater Books: 4 Bridge Street.

Here you will find an amazing selection of works by our local artists including Thaddeus Holownia's photography and Douglas Lochhead's poetry, both of which have been inspired by the gracious, historic, windswept Tantramar Marshes. Local history and genealogy books are also on sale here. For more information call 506-536-0404 or check out: [www.tidewater-books.ca](http://www.tidewater-books.ca)

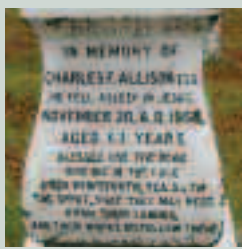


## 19. Harold Geddes Memorial by sculptor Kip Jones.

A number of local citizens and businesses owners have rallied together to organize a fundraising campaign in order to realize a fitting memorial recognizing Harold Geddes' contribution to the town of Sackville. Harold was orphaned in 1917 after the Halifax Explosion and was adopted by Charles and Alice Geddes. After retiring from his job as a custodian at Mount Allison University, he became the community's volunteer caretaker as he kept the downtown centre litter-free for more than twenty years. Harold was a quiet and kind man. For his efforts he earned Sackville's Good Neighbour Award and in 2000 the Mayor's Award. Harold passed away on September 8, 2004. The streets of downtown Sackville will never feel quite the same.

## 20. Cranewood: 113 Main Street.

Here is the site of another well-loved Alex Colville painting, "Mr. Wood in April" (1960). This stately home was built in the 1830's by William Crane. He arrived in Sackville as a young man in 1804 and soon became one of the most successful and respected businessmen in the Chignecto area. The house was purchased in 1975 by Mount Allison as the official residence of the President.



## 21. Gravesite of Charles Frederick Allison: Old Lower Sackville Methodist Cemetery.

Please take a short walk through this old Methodist Graveyard to visit the subtle, yet imposing white stone to the memory of Charles Frederick Allison. He first established Mount Allison University in 1839.

## 22. The Swan Pond: Ladies College Park

This is perhaps the most picture-perfect and romantic spot in town! It is impossible to count the number of wedding photos, graduations, family portraits that have had this scene as a backdrop. The story goes that the fountain was designed from a sketch by artist John Hammond in the early 1900's. It is the focal center of the Town and a superb picnic spot.

### Note of interest:



The Sackville Centennial Monument was designed to commemorate the incorporation of Sackville in 1903 and to remember its founding groups: The Mi'kmaq, the Acadians, the Yorkshire Settlers, the New England Planters and the Loyalists. With a community committee, Peter Manchester designed the monument to fit in with the surrounding landscape. Unveiled at the 2004 Fall Fair Opening Ceremonies, the monument recognizes links between the founding groups and how each played an important role in the development of the town. Built of sandstone, the monument's bench-like design provides an area where people can sit and enjoy the beautiful scenery that surrounds them while reflecting on the town's past.

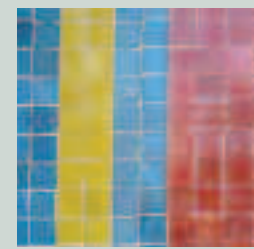
## 23. The Marjorie Young Bell Conservatory of Music



Often, you can hear music being played or sung as you pass the conservatory. Many of the exceptionally talented students who study here go on to be some of Canada's finest musicians and composers. The Brunton Auditorium hosts many performances of all descriptions: visiting artists from The Performing Arts Series, The Sackville Music Festival, student festivals, faculty recitals, and Mount Allison President's Leadership Speaker Series. With the generous help of the Marjorie Young Bell Foundation, many cultural aspects of the University continue to exist.

"Song in the Wind" sculpture in exterior back courtyard area: This cast bronze sculpture on a stone plinth is the 1968 work of Frances Marie Gage, a well-known Canadian sculptor who attended the Art Student's League in New York. The sculpture was donated to Mount Allison in 1969 in memory of Cecil Record Johns by the artist's family and friends at Mount Allison and across Canada.

## 24. Lawren P. Harris Tile Mural: Avar-d-Dixon Building: 144 Main Street door.



This tile work was almost destroyed when the building was re-faced with red sandstone in 1994. Fortunately, Virgil Hammock (former head of the Fine Arts Department) was walking by as workers were demolishing the entrance area. What you see here is less than half of the tile mural created by Harris in 1970.

## 25. Tree Carving at The United Church Home For Senior Citizens (Drew Nursing Home): 165 Main Street.

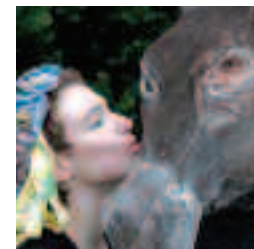


To mark the fiftieth anniversary in 2005 of The United Church Home For Senior Citizens Incorporated, the Board of Trustees commissioned Albert Deveau of Edmundston, New Brunswick to carve a tree sculpture on the grounds of the home. The work entitled "From Common Roots" depicts six figures including a grandfather and his descendants. Deveau has been sculpting wooden carvings for the past thirty years.

This completes the walking tour of Sackville. By all means, drop in to the Sackville Visitor's Information Centre, 34 Mallard Drive, to find out more about Sackville.

### Special Events

#### Festival by the Marsh is an annual drama, music and art festival. With everything from presentations of William Shakespeare's most famous plays to late night jazz concerts, art exhibits, community animation and educational programmes, the festival is sure to have something to suit everyone's tastes. For more information contact 506-364-2229 or at [www.festivalbythemarsh.ca](http://www.festivalbythemarsh.ca)



#### Art Across the Marsh: [www.artacrossthemarsh.ca](http://www.artacrossthemarsh.ca)

Annual Studio Tour, call (506) 536-1904

#### Sackville Fall Fair: [www.sackville.com](http://www.sackville.com)

#### Other sites of interest near by:

Campbell Carriage Factory Museum, Middle Sackville  
Sir Charles G.D. Roberts Monument, Westcock  
Acadian Settlements Monument

*Information about these and many more interesting places in the area can be found at the Visitor Information Centre, 34 Mallard Drive (East of Tim Hortons off Main St. towards the TCH).*

Sackville NB Municipality of the Arts 2003

Sackville, One of the best

places to live in Canada,

Canadian Association of

Retired Persons 2005.

**Sackville**  
New Brunswick  
*Where you belong.*