

EXPLORER

FREE

CELEBRATING 17 YEARS ♦ 2011 Visitors Guide ♦ Annapolis Royal & Area

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(Parks Canada, Fry, www.paulillsley.com)



Stroll Through the Centuries

As one of the oldest European settlements in Canada, Annapolis Royal is also the country's largest National Historic District. In 1605 the area was settled by a small group of French explorers two years before Jamestown, Virginia, three years before the founding of Quebec, and fifteen years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Led by Samuel de Champlain and Sieur de Mons, the French named the new land Port Royal and built the Habitation as a center for operations in Acadia.

This creative group formed the "Order of Good Cheer," North America's first social club. For its entertainment, a young Parisian lawyer, Marc Lescarbot, wrote and

produced "The Theatre of Neptune", the first European drama in North America. He wrote one of the first travel books about his experiences in Port Royal. In 1607, the settlers built North America's first water-powered grist mill.

During the 150 year struggle for control of the continent, the area changed hands between the French and English seven times. In the 1640s the French constructed the first of four forts on the site that is now Fort Anne. In 1710 the British captured Port Royal and renamed it Annapolis Royal to honour Queen Anne. It remained the capital until Halifax was started in 1749. Fort Anne opened in 1917 and is now the oldest continuously-operated National

Historic Site in Canada. The star-shaped fortifications are among the country's best Vauban earthenworks. As the seat of government for both French and British regimes, the area holds an important place in Canada's early history. The Fort Anne Heritage Tapestry in the Officers' Quarters Museum was stitched by over 100 volunteers over a four year period. This large mural tapestry features highlights of the past 400 years.

Today Annapolis Royal is the quietly dignified home of about 450 people and the site of another very interesting "first," North America's only tidal power generating station. The town has won numerous awards for lifestyle, beauty and heritage preservation including "The World's

Most Liveable Small Community" in international competition endorsed by the United Nations.

Enjoy a delightful blend of panoramic scenery and culture as you stroll through 400 years of history. Festivals and events, King's Theatre, interesting museums and ecotourism adventures offer fun-filled entertainment options for all ages. Unique waterfront shopping with its scenic boardwalk, delicious dining and gracious accommodations await you. From the Farmers and Traders Market, boat haul-up and Fort Anne, to the Historic Gardens, Tidal Power Plant, Port-Royal Habitation and Bay of Fundy, the Annapolis Royal Area makes the perfect vacation destination.

Timeless
Annapolis Royal



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