

St John's, Newfoundland

World Regional Geography *by Lew, Hall & Timothy*

Virtual Field Trip

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Photos Taken: 2004



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Outline

- ▶ St. John's is the capital and largest city of the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador with a population of just over 100,000 people
- ▶ Previously a British colony, then independent country (1907–1934) and Dominion (1907–1949), Newfoundland joined the Canadian confederation in March, 1949
- ▶ The city is the oldest English-founded city in North America and its safe harbour and position on the east of the island of Newfoundland has meant it has a rich maritime heritage. Originally based on the fishing industry the city's economy is now buoyed by the offshore oil and gas industry and tourism growth.
- ▶ The city also enjoys a reputation for being extremely friendly towards visitors and being very safe.
- ▶ St. John's has a number of excellent eateries and has a strong folk music tradition along with one of the highest concentrations of pubs and bars per capita in North America.

The city has a rich architectural heritage which makes it a major attraction for visitors















Probably the world's longest pedestrian crossing!

The province's famous dog breeds of Labradors and Newfoundlands are honoured in statues at the harbour waterfront.



Signal Hill

- ▶ Signal Hill lies at the entrance to the harbour. Because of its strategic importance it has been fortified since the mid-1600s. It was the site of the last battle of the Seven Years War in North America when the British retook St. John's from the French (1762) and it was the site of the first trans-Atlantic wireless transmission in 1901 (see next slide)
- ▶ The tall building on the top of Signal Hill is the Cabot Tower construction of which began in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and the 400th anniversary of John Cabot's landfall in 1497. Although the building was declared officially open until 1900. The building was used for flag mast signalling, and as a wireless station.
- ▶ Signal Hill is a Canadian National Historic Site and its walking trails and viewing opportunities means that it is one of the most frequented attractions of the city.



A supply ship coming into St. John's harbour. The oil and gas development has also had substantial spinoffs for tourism by generating a substantial business travel market as well as supporting air and ship connections that are also utilised by leisure travellers, including direct flights to the UK and USA.

