

NEW BRUNSWICK FALL 2019

As a Fulbright Fellow, I spent a month in New Brunswick in 2019.

Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and New Brunswick are the four Atlantic provinces. Originally inhabited by three main first nation groups, New Brunswick is now about two-thirds anglophone, and one third francophones, with about 3% first nation. Many people speak both English and French.

Fredericton is a very historic town that is bisected by the Saint John River. With a population of around 60,000, it is very accessible, and has a remarkable number of excellent restaurants.



Other notable characteristics of Fredericton include: outstanding hiking/biking trails that are part of the 15,000 mile Trans-Canada Trail, two excellent public libraries (one for general subjects, the other for art and design), a small but outstanding Farmer's Market, an excellent regional art museum, and an excellent theater. I was amazed to see that the Chieftains (a renowned Irish group) were booked there and happily attended their outstanding concert a couple of days after I arrived.



It is also a very historic town that is still dominated by governmental buildings and a collection of barracks on the waterfront. Largely populated by Loyalists, New Brunswick (and Quebec) suffered multiple invasions by American forces during the Seven Years War and the Revolutionary War.



My Fulbright requires me to make at least three visits to Canada, so I plan additional trips in May and September-October 2020. My project is multi-faceted. I am working with the Atlantic Centre for Creativity on expansion of and improvements to its website and on the development and publication of proceedings from their recent conference. I am also working on a book on creativity which is heavily reliant on interview with creative people from all sorts of professions.

I had visited Fredericton in summer 2018, so already knew my way around. Extensive work with the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design and a more compressed trip to MacKenzie College in Moncton were notable additions this time.

NBCCD is mostly located in two historic buildings near the river. Notable programs include ceramics, design, photo, fibers and metals. It offers a one-year Foundations program followed by an intensive two-year program in a primary field. An additional diploma is offered in Advanced Studio Practice, which is their closest equivalent to an American graduate degree. Non-credit workshops are also offered. I found the entire college welcoming and my presentations and critiques in various classes were very well received. I also gave a two-hour hands-on workshop at their St. John campus, about a 90-minutes



away by car. My primary resource people, Brigitte Clavett (an internationally renowned metalsmith) and Jean Rooney (a painter with extra expertise in public art) were terrific: prompt, resilient, enthusiastic. My work at the College was both a personal pleasure and a great contribution to the Atlantic Centre, which gains a lot through connections between its home base at University of New Brunswick (which is a couple of miles away) and NBCCD.

The other surprise was MacKenzie College, a small private institution which has recently moved to a new building in Moncton, the largest city in New Brunswick. Focused on video game design,



graphic design and photography, as well as coursework in language, MacKenzie is emphatically career-focused. The training and job placement of students is its main goal.

Again, everyone there was extremely supportive and enthusiastic, from the maintenance people to the president, Dale Ritchie. Indeed, he and his wife took me on an amazing drive in the country to visit internationally renowned photographer Thaddeus Holownia, who was remarkable and most welcoming. He specializes in self-published books that combine poetry and landscape photography: wonderful.



I also visited Riverview high school and was greatly impressed by its art program. This also led to a daylong trip along the coast with MacKenzie's Vice President Holly McKnight and with Ian Fogarty, who teaches Chemistry and Physics at Riverview and co-directs an amazing summer program for gifted teens at University of New Brunswick.

All in all, an amazing month. I wrote two interviews and updated a third during this visit, gave two public presentations and a design workshop, and critiqued work by nearly a hundred students.