

Québec - Fini

Rimouski

From what I have read, the name Rimouski was most likely derived from a Micmac word meaning "land of the moose". My guess is that there used to be a lot of moose in the area.

The Red Night

On May 6, 1950, Rimouski suffered a severe fire, in which 319 houses burned to the ground. This event is known as *La nuit rouge*. The fire originated in the Price Brothers and Company yard on the left shore of the Rimouski River and quickly crossed the river and spread throughout the city pushed by strong winds, destroying half of the city. Fortunately, no one died in the blaze. Legend has it that a priest sprinkled holy water around the city's cathedral and that the fire would not cross the line.

Junior Sailboat Regatta

As we were approaching Rimouski, we saw a sailboat race going on. There were lots of little boats everywhere. Heading for the marina I was driving, and David was getting dock lines & fenders ready when a police boat approached us with sirens blaring! We were not going fast, but my first thought was did I miss a "No Wake" buoy. The two policemen were very nice and spoke excellent English. They just wanted us to know that the Junior Regatta had just finished their last race of the day. So, we needed to keep a watch out for junior sailors returning to the marina. I thanked them for the heads-up on the regatta and proceeded to the dock without hitting any junior sailors – or anyone else.

Tonto entered the marina first and got tied up port side to the dock. Because the marina was full, we had been told that we needed to shoulder our boats. That is Canadian for rafting our boats together.

Éole

As we cruised from Rimouski to Sainte-Anne-des-Monts we passed a large wind farm. Éole is the world's tallest Vertical-Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) located in the village of Cap-Chat. Aeolus was the divine keeper of the winds and king of the mythical, floating island of Aeolia.

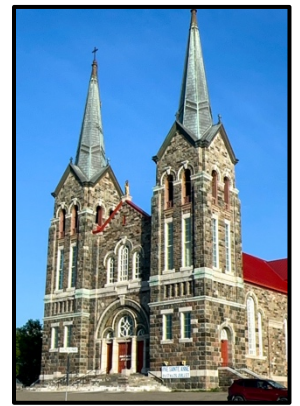


Éole was inaugurated in 1987. With a total height of 110 m, rotating mass of 880 metric tons and a rated power of 3.8 MW, Éole was by far the largest VAWT constructed. The Éole turbine had a direct synchronous generator based in the ground. The total cost of turbine was 27.5 million dollar which was huge investment at that time. The turbine remained operational for 5 years and shutdown in 1993 due to bearing failure. Unfortunately, due to economic viability, the turbine could not be repaired. However, this giant VAWT is still standing and serves as a tourist destination.



Sainte-Anne-des-Monts

Sainte-Anne-des-Monts lies between the Chic-Choc Mountains and the south shore of the St-Lawrence river estuary. The first European settlers arrived in 1815 and named it in memory of their native parish of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière in France. They established small fisheries. Tourism and fishing are the local industries.



Paul arranged dockage for us at Havre polyvalent de Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. A very nice marina and we had a private dock for

Tonto & Exhale. As we headed out for dinner, we passed a Yellow Submarine.

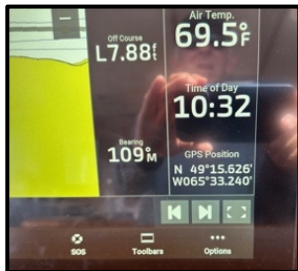


Sainte-Anne-des-Monts is also renowned

for its driftwood art collection, with new works added every year thanks to a festival held annually that attracts artists from all over for four days of creation and entertainment.



Cruising The Saint Lawrence



Northern Most Point - N 49° 15.626'

As we cruised from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts to Riviere-au-Renard we passed our northern most point at N 49° 15.626' & W 065° 33.240'.

Sea Cucumber Fishing

On this leg of our cruise, we also passed a fishing boat that we were unfamiliar with. As we chatted between Tonto and Exhale on VHF 17, about the boat and wondering what they were catching, the fishermen came on the VHF and answered our questions. They must have been scanning all VHF channels and heard us talking.

Sea cucumbers harvested from the cold, clean and pristine waters along the Canadian east coast are considered a delicacy in many cultures. The sea cucumber is used either fresh or dried in various dishes, though the dried form is the most common. Sea cucumbers are low in calories and fat and high in protein.



Rivière-au-Renard

Originally settled in the 1790s by French-Canadian and Irish families, Rivière-au-Renard is located on the banks of a large open bay on the Gulf of Saint Lawrence at the eastern end of the Gaspé Peninsula. The town was originally populated by immigrants from Ireland, mostly those who remained in the area following the sinking of the Carrick in 1847.



Fishing Industry



Rivière-au-Renard is considered Québec's fishing capital. The shore-side aspect of the fishing industry in Riviere-au-Renard is fascinating. We saw more sea cucumber fishing boats, their nets, and nets being repaired by hand.



Riviere-au-Renard brings together several companies specializing in the maritime sector. It includes three shipyards with a full range of fisheries-related services in the Rivière-au-Renard industrial park.



Les Pêcheries Marinard is a leading Canadian processor of northern shrimp, producing between 13 and 15 million pounds per season. Also located in Rivière-au-Renard, Les Pêcheries Gaspésienne ensures the landing, processing, smoking, salting, and drying of various species of ground fish. It exports several of its products, including cured salted and dried cod. It also has a fish shop, La Gaspésienne,



where we loaded up on some northern shrimp, a seafood pot pie, and some smoked turbot.



Entreprises Maritimes Bouchard, builds fishing boats and Soudure Gilles Aspirault, repairs and builds boats.

Village Name

Rivière is French for river and renard is French for a reddish-brown fox. So, the village is the River of the Red Fox. On one of his morning walks, David saw this fabulous mural of a red fox running by a river.



Gaspé Peninsula



Sea cliffs dominate the peninsula's northern shore along the St. Lawrence River. Cap Gaspé, jutting into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is



the easternmost point of the peninsula. The Gaspé Peninsula is a peninsula along the south shore of the St. Lawrence River that extends from the Matapedia Valley into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.



It is separated from New Brunswick on its southern side by Chaleur Bay and the Restigouche River. The name *Gaspé* comes from the Mi'kmaq word *gespe'g*, meaning "end", referring to the end of the land. David consulted



with John, his brother-in-law & fraternity brother, about the rock formations. As a mining engineer, John studied a lot of geology and has done a lot of "graduate" work in various national parks.

Village of Gaspé

Gaspé claims the title of "Cradle of French America", because on June 24, 1534, explorer Jacques Cartier halted in the bay after losing an anchor during a storm and claimed possession of the area by planting a wooden cross with the king's coat of arms and the sentence *Vive le Roi de France* (meaning "Long live the King of France").



Viking Neptune



The Viking cruise ship we saw in Saguenay had completed its NYC to Montreal itinerary and were now on a return trip. Our dock space was on the same dock that the Neptune shuttle boats used. Thanks again to Paul who made our slip reservations. He had been told we would have to anchor outside the marina until the cruise ship was out of sight. However, the marina staff wanted to go home and called us in as the last shuttle left the marina. It is always good to be lucky!

Christ The King Cathedral

The first two places of worship erected in Gaspé to meet the needs of the Catholic population were simple chapels; the first was built around 1825 and the second in 1860. The appointment of the first bishop of the diocese, Bishop François-Xavier Ross, was held in December 1922, but he could not reach Gaspé to take charge and organize the diocese until February 1923. The first cathedral was destroyed by a fire in March 1929. It was not until the mid-1960s that Bishop Jean-Marie Fortier commissioned the Montreal architect Gérard Notebaert to design a new cathedral for the Diocese of Gaspé. Bishop Gilles Ouellet consecrated the building in 1969. It is the only wooden

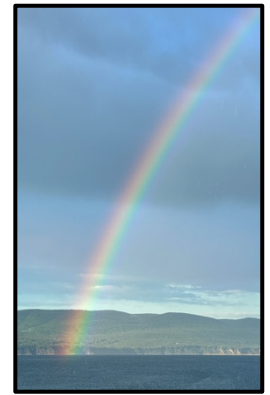


cathedral in North America. The cedar siding is unfinished. It is a material that ages well, taking on a grey color with time and exposure. It was the wish of the architect to let nature transform it over the years.

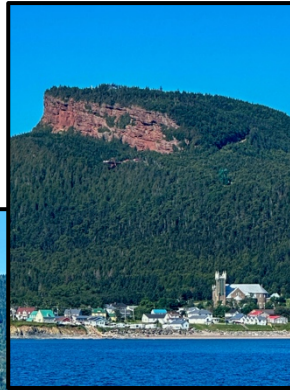
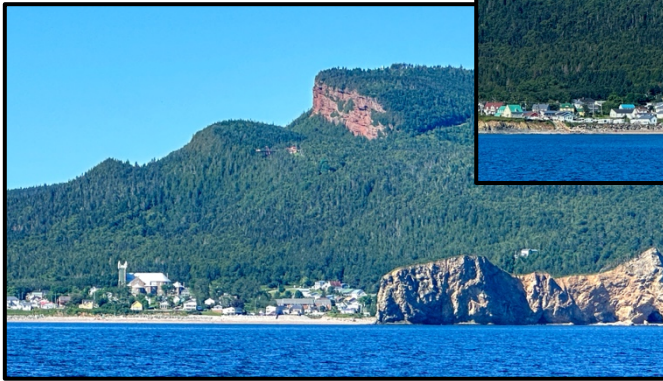
Rainbows



We did our Gaspé sightseeing in the morning because each afternoon we had thunderstorms. This afternoon when the sun broke through, we saw a fabulous rainbow that covered the entire bay.



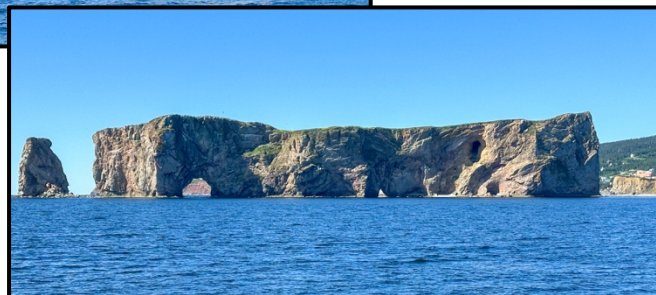
Percé



Percé is a small city near the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula. The area was within the traditional homelands of the Mi'kmaq people, who called the place Sigsôg ("steep rocks" or "craggs") and Pelseg ("fishing place"). In 1603, Samuel de Champlain visited the area and named the famous rock Isle Percé ("Pierced Island"). During the 17th century, the place was used primarily as a stop-over for ships travelling to Québec.

Percé Rock

Percé Rock, an island pierced by a natural arch, is located just offshore of the Gaspé peninsula's eastern end. The peninsula's interior is a rugged northward continuation of the Appalachian Mountains called the Chic-Chocs, with Mount Jacques-Cartier at 4,160 feet is the peninsula's highest peak.



Percé Rock's huge limestone formation is geologically dated to the Devonian period of more than 400 million years ago. However, Percé Rock is only a small component of the large areas of Devonian rocks that occupy the interior area that were first mapped in 1844 by Sir William Edmond Logan, known as the father of Canadian geology. Fossils in such rocks show a variety of animal and plant communities from both terrestrial and marine habitats from the Devonian period. The Percé Rock contains 150 species of different fossils such as brachiopod, trilobites, dalmanites, corals and marine worms from the Devonian period.



Originally, the Percé Rock was inferred as connected to the mainland. When Jacques Cartier, the first colonist arrived here in 1534, he reported three arches in the massive rock formation. In time, two of the arches disappeared, with the last one collapsing on June 17, 1845, leaving a separated pillar. When it was seen in 1603 by the French geographer and founder of Québec City, Samuel de Champlain, it had only one arch. However, in 1760, a picture of Percé Rock



drawn by an English officer, Captain Hervey Smyth, showed two arches, one of which collapsed in June 1845. Percé rock's two large holes were cut through by the sea waves. One of the holes seen now is an arch described as "gothic arch of rock", which is about 49 feet high. A small boat can pass through the arch during high tide. Of the two arches, the outer arch, which collapsed with great force in 1845, remains in the form of an "obelisk". In early 1900s, enchanted by the beauty of the Percé Rock, travelers started visiting the area of Gaspé, Percé and Bonaventure Island.



Exhale passing Percé Rock.

Île Bonaventure

Île Bonaventure is a Canadian island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence located 3.1 miles southeast of the village of Percé. Roughly circular in shape, it has an area measuring 1.61 square miles.

The island became a migratory bird sanctuary in 1919 due to the 1916 Migratory Bird Convention between Canada and the United States. The Province of Québec acquired



ownership of the entire island by act of expropriation in 1971, evicting the whole population. At this time approximately 35 families were forced to move elsewhere, all residents were evicted. Later the Province of Québec grouped it together with Percé Rock into the Parc national de l'île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé in 1985. One of the largest and most accessible bird sanctuaries in the world, with more than 280,000 birds. The most common bird found on the island is the northern gannet. The island is home to one of the largest colonies of gannets in the world, with 51,700 pairs.



The cliffs where the northern gannets mate is on the east side of the island. We did not circle around the island because we were trying to get to Middle Caraquet, NB before the afternoon winds and waves built. It was a good plan, but the execution not as good. The winds built to 20 – 25 knots right on our bow. It was a rough ride! Poor Buttercup, she is just a puppy, and it was her first voyage in really rough water. She got seasick and was not a happy camper! Both Tonto & Exhale were covered with saltwater splashing over our pilothouses before we made it into the Halte Nautique du Port de Caraquet. Marina. Once safely tied up in the marina, the only thing Buttercup wanted was to get off that rocking-horse of a boat and the rest of us just wanted a survival cocktail!

Next Steps

We have finished our time in Québec Province. Our next stop will be in New Brunswick for a few nights. Then on to Prince Edward Island, followed by Nova Scotia.