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The existence of markets in Saint John goes back to the time of the Loyalists. The current market officially opened in 1876. It is the oldest continually operated public market in Canada, having survived the Great Fire of 1877. Since shipbuilding was a major industry in the city, it was constructed by local tradesmen with the roof of the City Market resembling the inverted keel of a ship. (Don't forget to look up!!)

Occupying an entire city block from Charlotte to Germain Streets, it sets behind intricately designed wrought iron gates (designed by local tradesmen) that have protected the structure since 1880.

Although the Mayor of the City is designated by Royal Charter as the Market Clerk, it is the Deputy Market Clerk who rings the Market Bell daily to open and close 'the Market'. It was designated as a National Historic Site in 1986.

As you enter the enormous space, you will be fascinated by the sights and sounds that greet you, and especially by the myriad of heavenly smells that make you want to sample one of everything. Although the vendors (butchers, bakers, artisans, photographers, grocers, crafts people, artists and ethnic food producers) have changed over the decades, it remains a space with a vitality of its own and a unique location not to be missed during a visit to 'our fair city'.



Photo Credit: Canadian Encyclopedia



Photo Credit: Canvas Pictures



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