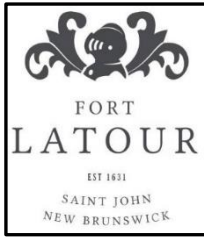


## 20....20 SAINT JOHN THINGS TO SEE, THINGS TO DO

### *Fort LaTour – A New Brunswick Adventure Story*

Credit: Fort LaTour Dev Authority



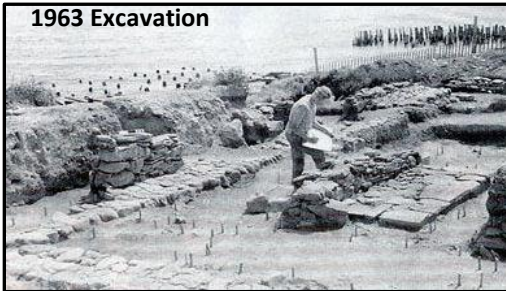
Walking is one of the best exercises and in Uptown Saint John you can combine that with several historic walks. From the cranberry walkways of *Harbour Passage* to the three historical walking tours that cover the city's history from its Loyalist roots to the Victorian era, you will find lots to keep your feet moving.

*Harbour Passage* was created to provide visitors and citizens with views of the harbour and a link to the history of shipbuilding and waterfront activity in the city. The interconnected walkways, lookouts and historic sites like **Fort LaTour** on Portland Point, can take from 30 minutes to an hour or two to complete depending on your interest. You can start by the cruise terminals on Water Street or begin on the boardwalk behind the Hilton Hotel and stroll to the former site of Fort LaTour. The trail extends to the Reversing Rapids.



Credit: NB Dept of Tourism

1963 Excavation



Credit: Fort LaTour Image Comm

As a young man, Charles St. Etienne de La Tour lived in Port Royal across the Bay of Fundy. In 1613 the fort was captured by the English. For several years he and a friend roamed the woods of Nova Scotia and what was to become New Brunswick. They came to appreciate the riches of both provinces, especially the lower Saint John River area. In the future, Charles decided that he would like to establish a trading post near the mouth of that river.

In time he married Francoise-Marie Jacquelines and they lived near Cape Sable, Nova Scotia. After a war in Europe and a treaty to settle the conflict, in 1635 Charles was given a grant of land at the mouth of the Saint John River.

He established a fort at Portland Point and settled there to trade with the local Indigenous peoples. For several years the fort prospered, then a rival, Charles de Menou, Seigneur d'Aulnay Charnisay, started to petition the court of France for control of the LaTours' property. Eventually in 1641, he was able to gather five ships and soldiers to attack the fort and arrest LaTour. The LaTours traveled to Boston on a ship sent by their friends in France. They were able to hire four ships and soldiers to mount a defense. They sailed back to the Bay of Fundy and drove Charnisay's ships back to Port Royal and defeated them in 1643.



Credit: Fort LaTour Facebook Page

Credit: Fort LaTour Facebook Page



After that conflict, Madam LaTour had to travel to France to secure more support to defend the fort. While in France she was faced with many problems leading her to escape to England where she was finally able to charter a ship to return to New Brunswick. The captain was not reliable and eventually she had to travel to Boston on the ship. She sued the captain and was able to hire three ships to return to the fort with supplies. The prospect of another conflict forced Charles to travel to Boston to hire more soldiers. He left his wife in command of the fort with forty soldiers.

In 1645, Charnisay attacked the fort by sea. He was repulsed by the soldiers, but waited just outside the harbour to plan another attack. He decided to attack by land. At first he was still unable to capture the fort, but finally by bribing a Swiss guard he was able to take the fort. Madame LaTour agreed to surrender with the promise that all her soldiers would be spared. Upon entering the fort Charnisay broke his promise, asked for a volunteer and ordered all her men to be hung.



Credit: James Walsh – Rod Stears Photo & Video

Madame LaTour was forced to watch as her men died. Three weeks later she died. The romantics say of a broken heart. Others think she was poisoned. Charnisay destroyed the fort and built another on the opposite bank of the harbour calling it Fort Charnisay. Charles was unable to return to New Brunswick at this time.

Five years later, after Charnisay’s death Charles did return and married his widow. Returning to Saint John he occupied the new fort renaming it Fort LaTour. He lived there until his death in 1666. Many of his descendants still live in the province to this day.

Credit: Canadian Broadcasting Corp



**In the spring of 2020, an interpretation center will be opened** at Portland Point telling the LaTours’ story with several replica buildings including a palisade, blacksmith’s forge, bastion and a plaza. It will be adjacent to an Indigenous burial ground which is on the exact site of the fort. As you walk along Harbour Passage you can imagine all the different types of vessels that have entered our harbour from French supply ships in the 1600’s to the cruise ships that visit the city now.



[Fort LaTour – National Historic Site of Canada](#)  
[Fort LaTour – Statement of Historical Significance](#)  
[Fort LaTour’s Facebook Page](#)