

A GUIDE TO DAY OF MOURNING MONUMENTS IN NEW BRUNSWICK APRIL 28



In 1984 the Canadian Labour Congress declared an Annual Day of Mourning on April 28 for workers killed or injured on the job.

The Parliament of Canada recognized April 28 as a day of national observance in 1991, and New Brunswick enacted a Workers Mourning Day Act in 2000. The day is also marked in more than 100 countries around the world.

Day of Mourning monuments are among the most prominent "labour landmarks" in the Province of New Brunswick. Workers in New Brunswick have marked the Day of Mourning since the 1980s, and by 2009 local labour councils had constructed monuments in six communities within the province. These monuments serve as public sites of remembrance and as symbols of commitment to health and safety in the workplace.

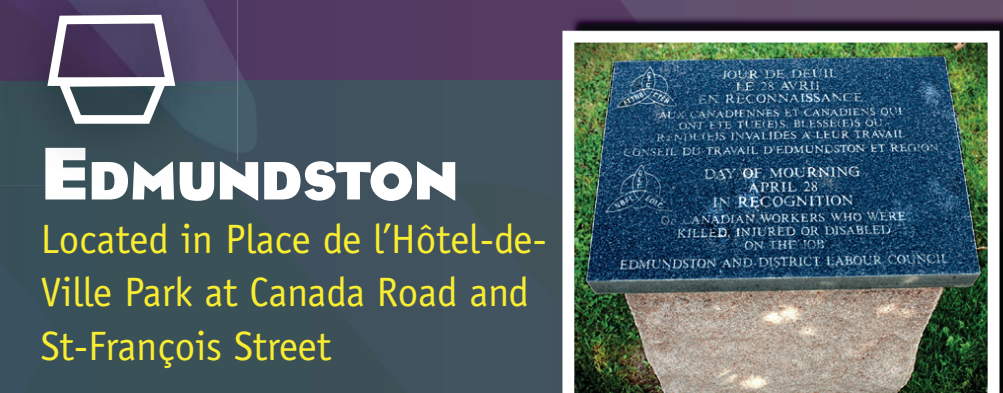
The monuments often feature two interesting references. The canary symbolizes the days when coal miners took canaries into the mines in order to test for unsafe conditions in their workplace. The words "Fight for the Living, Mourn for the Dead" are based on a quotation from the legendary union organizer Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1837-1930).

This pamphlet is produced by the New Brunswick Labour History Project, a Community-University Research Alliance, in partnership with the New Brunswick Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress. For more information about the Day of Mourning monuments and other labour landmarks in the province, visit our website at www.lhtnb.ca.



ATHOLVILLE
Located in front of the Municipal Building on Notre Dame Street

For many years workers in northern New Brunswick have organized a March of Solidarity in Atholville on April 28 to remember the many victims of work-related accidents in the region. Plans for a monument were initiated by the Restigouche District Labour Council, and the project became a strong community partnership supported by local employers and by the municipalities of Atholville, Campbellton and Dalhousie and the villages of Balmoral, Bellefleur, Charlo, Est River and Tide Head. The granite monument was dedicated in 2006. It bears the canary symbol and is carved in the shape of a tear drop, symbolizing grief and compassion.



EDMUNDSTON
Located in Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville Park at Canada Road and St-François Street

Every year since 1995 there has been a small ceremony on April 28 in the park in front of the city hall in Edmundston. A personal statement by a survivor of a workplace accident or by a close relative of a person killed on the job is part of the annual observance ceremonies, which traditionally close with a minute of silence and the placing of flowers. Plans for the monument were started by workers at the pulp and paper mill and by municipal employees and brought to completion by the Edmundston and District Labour Council. The prominent public site was chosen in cooperation with the City of Edmundston. The monument, unveiled on April 28, 1995, bears the following inscription: "Day of Mourning, April 28. In Recognition of Canadian Workers Who Were Killed, Injured or Disabled on the Job, Edmundston and District Labour Council".



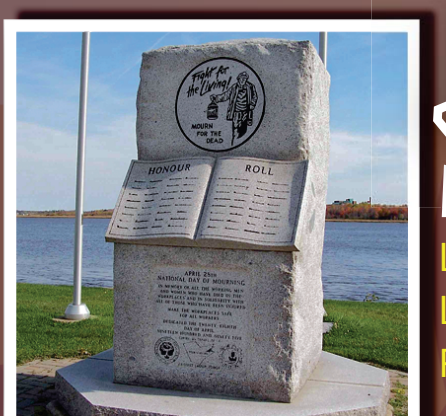
MONCTON
Located in Bore Park at Main Street and Bendview Court

On April 28, 1995 the Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, joined with union leaders, church and civic officials to unveil the Day of Mourning monument in Moncton. The monument was planned by the Moncton and District Labour Council and a special committee established by the City of Moncton, who agreed to place the monument in the well-known downtown Bore Park. Every April 28 at this location the labour council organizes a ceremony to mark the Day of Mourning. Roses are laid at the foot of the monument, and a minute of silence is observed. In addition to the symbol of the canary and the words of Mother Jones, the monument shows a family group in order to underline the human impact of death and injury in the workplace.



BATHURST
Located in front of the Nepisiguit Centennial Museum/Cultural Centre on Douglas Avenue

To represent the workers of the Chaleur region, this monument features three materials: rock for those who worked in the mines and smelters; wood for those in the forests and mills; and steel for the builders of the community in other workplaces. The monument also includes the wooden beams of fishing wharves, and scars are welded into the standing sheets of steel to represent the sacrifices of workers. The monument, designed by artist Joel Boudreau, was sponsored by the Bathurst and District Labour Council, and the site was chosen in cooperation with the City of Bathurst. It was unveiled on Labour Day, September 4, 1995, and ceremonies are held on the site every year on April 28.



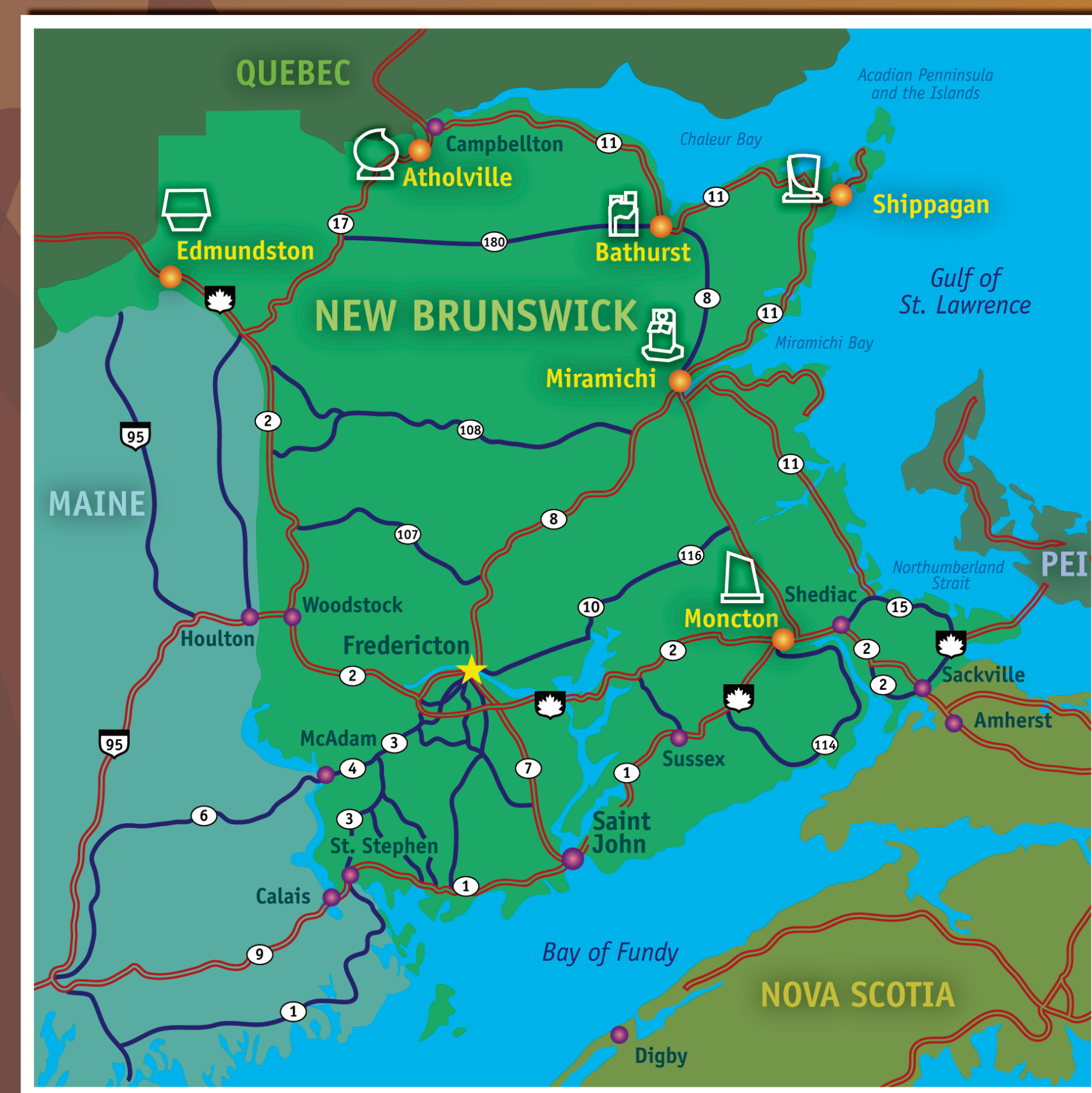
MIRAMICHI
Located in River Front Park off Ledden Street across from the Public Library

This imposing monument stands above the Miramichi River as a reminder of the many thousands of workers and families whose lives have been shaped by the lumber camps, mill towns and other workplaces of the region. The monument was sponsored by the Miramichi and District Labour Council and built by New Brunswick workers using New Brunswick stone. It includes the image of a canary, an open honour roll and an inscription adapted from the words of Mother Jones. The monument was unveiled in a ceremony on April 28, 1995, when the labour council announced that the goal of the monument was to renew the commitment to workplace safety: "We must never allow ourselves to return to the time when we have to use canaries to alert us to any possible dangers that are around us".



SHIPPAGAN
Located in Centennial Park on Degrace Street

Communities in the Acadian Peninsula have marked the Day of Mourning since the beginning of the 1990s. On April 28, 1995, for example, all the municipalities in this region lowered flags to half-mast and endorsed a proclamation of concern for injured workers. When plans for a monument were discussed, the Acadian Peninsula Labour Council chose Shippagan as a central location for all workers in the area, and the site was provided by the municipality. Unveiled on April 28, 2001, the granite monument features a family group and flowers.



The New Brunswick Labour History Project is a Community-University Research Alliance supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. It is based at the University of New Brunswick and the Université de Moncton and includes partnerships with the New Brunswick Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress. We invite you to learn more about New Brunswick labour history by visiting us at WWW.LHTNB.CA

