

# Festival Navigation



2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# SPRING TIDE SHANTYFEST

PRESENTED BY

FUNDY SEA SHANTY  
— • FESTIVAL • —

A FAREWELL TO WINTER IN  
UPTOWN SAINT JOHN

March 26 to 28 • 2026

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The Quilters Guild The Swinging Belles AND MORE!**



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STANFEST ROADSHOW!**



# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Ahoy! Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Tide Shantifest, presented by the award-winning Fundy Sea Shanty Festival. We are once again transforming Uptown Saint John into a celebration of maritime music, stories, and community.

This springtime gathering is all about waving goodbye to winter and welcoming the season with the songs and traditions of the sea.

Over three lively days, Spring Tide Shantifest brings together an outstanding lineup of performers, interactive workshops, presentations, and themed dining experiences across multiple Uptown venues. From rousing shanties and cozy pub sings to hands-on craft workshops, historic walking tours, Irish céilí dancing, tastings, and chowder-and-song events, each experience highlights a different piece of Saint John's rich seafaring heritage.

Whether you're singing along, learning something new, or simply soaking up the atmosphere, Spring Tide Shantifest is an invitation to reconnect through music and storytelling. Join us as we celebrate maritime culture, community, and the return of brighter days — right here in the heart of Uptown Saint John.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

On behalf of the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, I'm delighted to welcome visitors, participants, and partners to Saint John for this year's Spring Tide Shantifest.

Saint John's rich history, culture, and maritime charm make it the perfect place to celebrate the music and traditions of the sea. This festival highlights the exceptional New Brunswick artists and cultural heritage that bring our coastal stories to life.

We're thrilled so many of you are here to experience New Brunswick's traditions, enjoy workshops, savor local cuisine, and explore all our province has to offer.

Thank you to everyone who helps share New Brunswick's stories. We hope your time here is memorable, inspiring, and filled with the sights, sounds, and flavors that make our province special.

*Au nom du ministère du Tourisme, du Patrimoine et de la Culture, je suis ravie d'accueillir les visiteurs, les participants et les partenaires à Saint Jean dans le cadre du Spring Tide Shantifest de cette année.*

*La riche histoire, la culture et le charme maritime de Saint Jean en font l'endroit idéal pour célébrer la musique et les traditions de la mer. Ce festival met en valeur les artistes exceptionnels du Nouveau-Brunswick et le patrimoine culturel qui font revivre les récits de notre littoral.*

*Nous sommes ravis que vous soyez si nombreux à venir découvrir les traditions du Nouveau-Brunswick, participer à des ateliers, savourer la cuisine locale et explorer tout ce que notre province a à offrir.*

*Merci à tous ceux qui contribuent à partager les histoires du Nouveau-Brunswick. Nous espérons que votre séjour ici sera mémorable, inspirant et empreint des paysages, des sons et des saveurs qui rendent notre province si unique.*



**ISABELLE  
THERIAULT**

Ministre / Minister  
Tourisme, Patrimoine et Culture  
Tourism, Heritage and Culture



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the 2026 Spring Shantifest. It is a pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone joining us to celebrate the songs, stories, and traditions that have carried through generations of seafarers. I also offer a special welcome to our guests who have traveled from the United States to share in this weekend's festivities.

Saint John's deep connection to the sea makes our city the perfect setting for this festival. Our long history of shipbuilding, navigation, and maritime culture continues today as we welcome ships from Northern Europe, the Mediterranean, and Asia throughout the year. This spirit of openness reflects who we are as a community, a Small City with a Big Heart and a long tradition of greeting the world at our shores.

My sincere thanks go to the volunteers, performers, presenters, and organizers whose dedication brings Spring Shantifest to life. Your work strengthens our community and helps create an event that both residents and visitors look forward to each year.

Sea shanties have always brought people together through shared rhythm and shared stories. They remind us that unity can be found in simple moments and that community grows stronger when voices rise together.

I invite you to enjoy the music, the workshops, the storytelling, the meals, and the beauty of our city and the Bay of Fundy. May this festival bring you joy and a renewed sense of connection.



The City of Saint John

**Mayor Donna Noade Reardon**  
Mayor's Office/Bureau de la mairesse

## FUNDY SEA SHANTY — NIGHT —



**Hosted by  
Before the Mast**

Join us for this free  
monthly music event  
at O'Leary's Pub



**7pm -8:30pm**  
2nd Thursday of  
every month!



Scan the code  
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session!

# FEATURED PERFORMERS

## Pressgang Mutiny

Pressgang Mutiny are Toronto's Shantymen, dedicated to traveling the globe to discover shanties, works songs and the people who sing them. A quartet of dynamic musicians and tall ship sailors, they have performed extensively in Canada, the US and Europe and have showcased at the Folk Music Ontario and Folk Alliance International conferences.



Whether performing a rollicking set of shanties from around the world, leading educational workshops for new and experienced shanty audiences, or interviewing other artists on The Shanty Show, the lads of Pressgang Mutiny are guaranteed to entertain, educate, and delight.



## Dram and a Draw

Drawing inspiration from the musical past of the Atlantic provinces, Dram & A Draw - from Kent County, NB - brings acoustic instruments together with a danceable energy that creates a rowdy pub atmosphere in any room.

Original storytelling and addictive melodies keep the tunes in your head long after the show is over. Their songs "She Was A Maritimer" and "East Coast Town" sing about the places we call home and the people who make them unforgettable.

## Come All Ye... and dance

This dance creation is a fusion of sea shanties and contemporary dance. August 2026 will see the world premiere of this new creation in St. Martins, NB, and you can grab a sneak peak of the first half of the production 5 months early.

Through the power of dance *Come All Ye... and dance* honours the work done by sailors and explores their lives at sea.

Choreographed by New Brunswick born-and-raised artist Liam Caines, and featuring an all-Maritime cast of performers, this production will inspire and thrill audiences, while preserving the rich tradition of shanties.



## The Seven 90s

The 790's puts smiles on faces by sharing Maritime & Celtic songs and tunes, both old and new. People sing, clap, and stomp along to their favourite well-known pub songs and some good old jigs n' reels. Spontaneous step dancing has been known to break out!

# FEATURED PERFORMERS

## Sara & James Nelson

Sara and James Nelson are siblings from Lower Coverdale NB that are bringing the traditional toe-tapping Maritime Fiddle music to audiences around the Maritimes, and beyond. Finding a love for fiddle music early on, these first generation musical siblings have been finding people to entertain for as long as they can remember. Starting out at church functions, local jam nights, or wandering from room to room at the hospital and nursing homes, these two have always enjoyed playing a tune for someone.



## Northern Voice

Northern Voice is an a cappella singing group that features entirely Canadian folk and pop songs. The group rehearses in Hampton, NB with members from all over southern New Brunswick. Northern Voice was founded in 2015, and is always happy to welcome new singers.



## Frantically Atlantic

Frantically Atlantic (Don Rigley and Michelle Daigle) is a musical duo based in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Their instruments include fiddle (violin), vocals, hammered dulcimer, Irish bouzouki, banjo, ukulele, bodhran (Irish drum), tin whistles, guitar, concertina and spoons. In their combined history they have served up their bill of fare in the Maritimes, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, New England and Ireland.



## Before the Mast

Before The Mast is eight guys who sing the sea shanties and sea songs that working men sang aboard ships in the age of sail. They sing with gusto and energy, balanced with heartfelt ballads and carefully-arranged harmonies. Like the sailors of old, they sing a cappella (without instruments), allowing the beautiful blend of male voices in harmony to shine through.

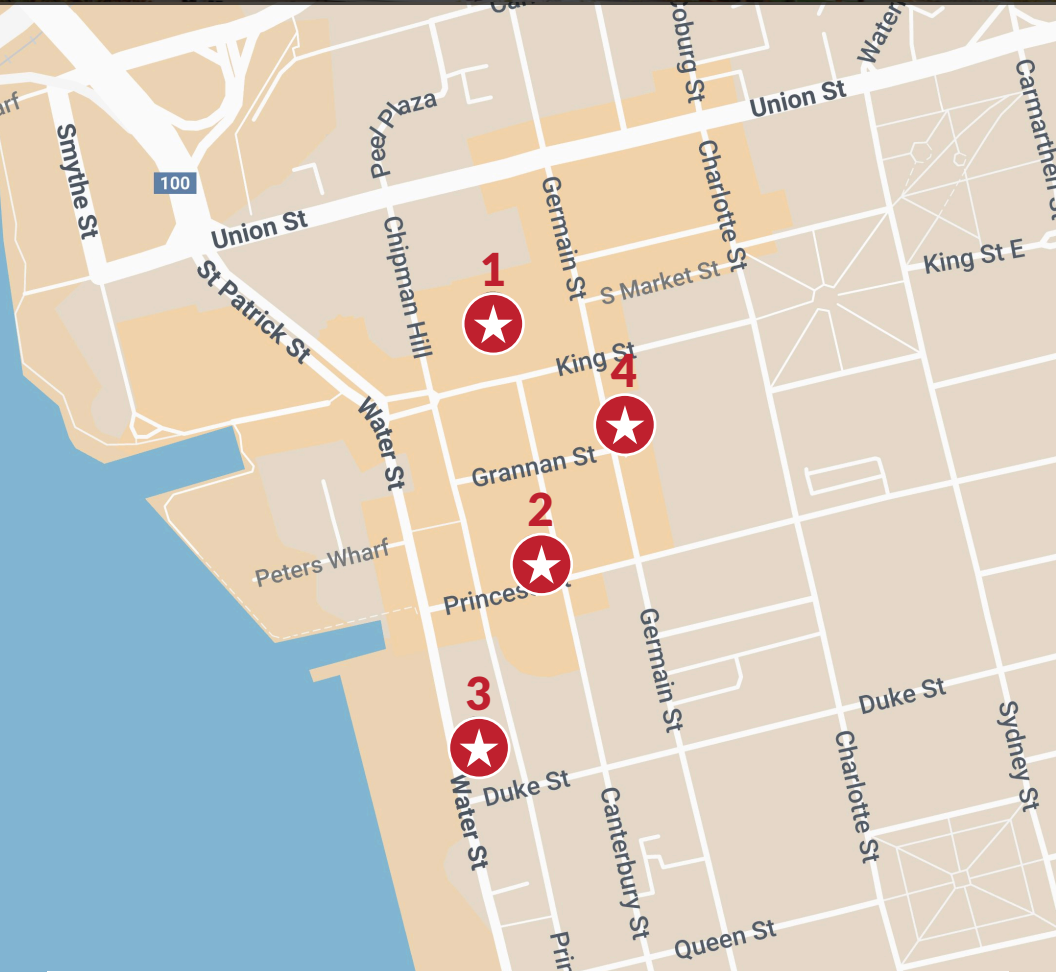


# FIND YOUR WAY THE VENUES



SAINT JOHN

1. **Delta Saint John** 39 King Street
2. **O'Leary's Pub** 46 Princess Street
3. **Steamers** 110 Water Street
4. **Grand Lodge of New Brunswick - Masonic Temple**  
92 Germain Street



## SCHEDULE

# THURSDAY, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>



**7:00 p.m.**

**Shanties & Dessert with Before the Mast (90 mins)**

*Masonic Temple, 92 Germain Street*



**9:00 p.m.**

**Shanty Pub with Northern Voice & the 790's**

*O'Leary's Pub, 46 Princess Street*

## SCHEDULE

# FRIDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>



**3:00 p.m.**

**Fundy Bay Sea Stories: Walk-n-Talk with David Goss (90 mins)**

*Meet at Delta Hotel Lobby, 39 King Street*

**or**

**Historic Tour of Uptown Saint John with Stephen Wilson (90 mins)**

*Meet at Delta Hotel Lobby, 39 King Street*

**or**

**Half Hitch Rope Mat with Daryl Caines (90 mins)**

*Delta Hotel, 39 King Street*



**5:30 p.m.**

**Dinner & Preview of *Come All Ye . . . and dance*,**

**featuring Frantically Atlantic & Pressgang Mutiny (90 mins)**

*Masonic Temple, 92 Germain Street*



**7:30 p.m.**

**Shanty Pub with Pressgang Mutiny & Dram and A Draw**

*O'Leary's Pub, 46 Princess Street*



NEED TO GRAB A LAST-MINUTE TICKET?  
**SCAN THE CODE**



# SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>



**10:00 a.m.**

**Social Singing with Pressgang Mutiny (60 mins)**

*Delta Hotel, 39 King Street*

**or**

**Fundy Bay Sea Stories: Walk-n-Talk  
with David Goss (90 mins)**

*Meet at Delta Hotel Lobby, 39 King Street*

**or**

**Historic Tour of Uptown Saint John  
with Stephen Wilson (90 mins)**

*Meet at Delta Hotel Lobby, 39 King Street*

**or**

**Half Hitch Rope Mat with Daryl Caines (90 mins)**

*Delta Hotel, 39 King Street*



**11:30 a.m.**

**Ship Building in Saint John with Harold Wright (60 mins)**

*Delta Hotel, 39 King Street*



**1:00 p.m.**

**Chowder & Song with Sara & James Nelson**

*Steamers Lobster Company, 110 Water Street*



**2:30 p.m.**

**Sea Glass Workshop with Salisha's Sea Gems (90 mins)**

*Steamers Lobster Company, 110 Water Street*

**or**

**Social Singing with Pressgang Mutiny (60 mins)**

*Delta Hotel, 39 King Street*



**4:00 p.m.**

**Irish Céilí Dancing Workshop  
with Celtic Roots Dance Academy (60 mins)**

*Delta Hotel, 39 King Street*

**or**

**Whiskey Tasting with Graham MacKenney**

*Masonic Temple, 92 Germain Street*



**7:30 p.m.**

**Shanty Sing-a-long & Pub with Pressgang Mutiny**

*Delta Hotel, 39 King Street*



50  
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2026



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plus many more. Stay tuned for announcements!

[fundyseashantifest.com](http://fundyseashantifest.com)