

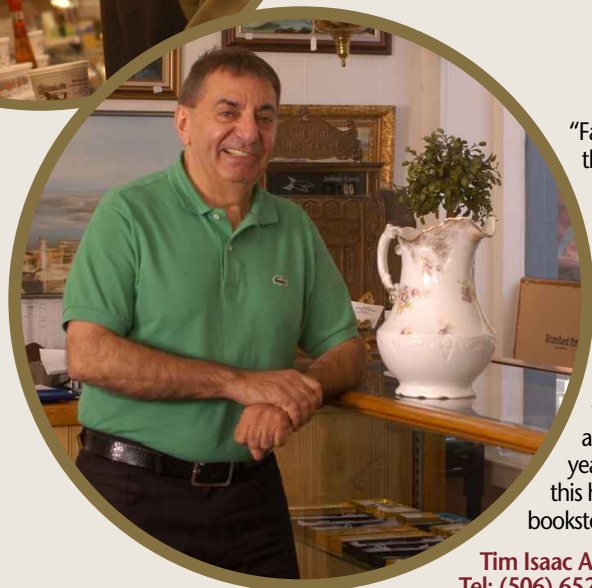
SAINT JOHN ON THE BAY OF FUNDY

THE FACES OF SAINT JOHN

DAVID FORESTELL | SLOCUM & FERRIS

"I'm just a shopkeeper in a building that's been blessed to be standing for 130-odd years." A self-proclaimed history buff, Dave was born and raised in Saint John. However, he confesses it wasn't until returning from living out west for ten years did he come to truly appreciate the inventory of heritage buildings in Saint John. So when Slocum & Ferris, in its same location in the Saint John City Market since 1895, went up for sale, it seemed natural for he and his wife to purchase it. Dave describes the market experience as "the anti-mall" where his goal is as much to engage the customer in friendly conversation as it is to make the sale. Dave recounts the story of one lady whose family had just moved to Saint John from Los Angeles and confessed she was absolutely hooked on Saint John because it was the first place she's ever lived where the minute she walked into the building, four or five vendors were greeting her son by his first name everyday. "The tenants in the market try to connect with the customer, says Forestall, "whether they're visitors or locals. We feel that's what our job is at the market."

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MARGRET BEGNER | OPÉRA BISTRO

"When I look back a little over 15 years, there was little variety of ethnic cuisine at all. Things have changed tremendously, which I think, to a certain degree, was initiated by us." Owners of the Opéra Bistro, Opéraleto, Margret and Axel Begner, immigrants of Germany, brought European cuisine and service in Saint John to a new level. Featured on the Food Network's *Opening Soon* program, viewers have often mistakenly assumed Opéra Bistro is located in trendy downtown Montreal or Toronto. When asked why the Begners settled in Saint John in 1992, Margret is quick to respond: "Because we like the fog and the lobster." In fact, many of their menu items incorporate their love of the area, like the "Bay of Fundy Cupcake" or "Maritime Sea Dog." When patrons finish their mouth-watering meals, the service doesn't end there. The next day, you may find Margret responding to patrons' e-mails with recipes for her salad dressing or crème brûlée or even the name of the designer of the local jewelry she wore. Margret attributes their success to consistency in the high quality of service and food. "The quality of food, the design of the restaurant, the high level of service and the customer appreciation...all that together gives it a European flare." Featuring local and ethnic foods. Open - Monday to Saturday.



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TIM ISAAC | TIM ISAAC ART AND ANTIQUES

"Families are giving you their history to put on the market. You're just a custodian for the next generation", says Tim Isaac, owner of Tim Isaac Antiques and Auctions on Prince William Street. Tim and his partner, Liz, have been "custodians" in the antique and auction business for almost forty years. What began as a summer craft and antique shop during Tim's teaching days, quickly became a successful antique and estate auction business. With a rich history of furniture makers, silver makers, artists and potters, Saint John has an abundance of "great stuff," as they say in the business. This was particularly evident at the first filmed broadcast of the Canadian Antiques Road Show in 2004, for which Tim and Liz act as consultants. Over 2000 people lined up outside the Imperial Theatre armed with their family heirlooms. A browse through the Isaac's shop is a glimpse into New Brunswick's history through the homes and the lives of generations before us, with pieces surviving more than two hundred years and two great fires. "Antique shops are a part of our people. It's important in this historical area to have the craft shop, the art gallery, the antique shop and the little bookstores. That's the backbone of this area."

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