

# Tourist numbers up in Grand Falls

By Stephanie Jellett

License plates from Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec, British Columbia and Texas are regularly seen at the Malabean Centre in Grand Falls, and the picturesque falls and gorge is still a large attraction for visitors.

Grand Falls has seen more than 1,000 additional tourists this year compared to last. In June, the Malabean Center recorded 4,734 tourists while the other tourist information centre, La Rochelle, had 299 visitors. Tourists also have been setting up camp with trailers or tents at the La Rochelle Campground.

Fred Fequet enjoyed a stay at the campground. The retired couple dreamed of travelling the Maritimes. They packed up their camper at their home in Granby, QC and are touring the Maritimes and the Newfoundland and Labrador coast. It was their first time in Grand Falls.

"It's beautiful," Fequet said. "We really wanted to stop and see the falls because we saw an ad on TV about it."

The Fequet's walked the trails by the campground, visited Paradis de la Petite Montagne and went for a pontoon ride to see the gorge. As for the zip line, Fequet said he was 'too old' and didn't have the nerves to try it. He also said that he loves meeting people everywhere he travels and was glad for the great weather.

Mora and Bob Kealey, who are from Montreal, were on their way home from Prince Edward Island and decided to stop in to check out the falls.

"It's great!" they said in unison.

Pierre Brissette and his family from Rivière-du-Loup, QC, were just finishing their lunch at a picnic table at the Malabean Center when it started to downpour and rushed under a nearby tree to wait out the rain. The family is on their way home from Halifax, NS.

Brissette said it was their first time in Grand Falls and were very impressed with

the falls and said 'it was a beautiful attraction.' Even though they were just passing through, Pierre said he and his daughter would probably go zip lining over the falls. Pierre also said it was amazing how Grand Falls is the only official bilingual town in all of Canada.

"It's great to see two cultures come together," Pierre said.



## ***Main attraction***

*Thousands of tourists from all over the world make sure to stop and see the majestic Grand Falls and Gorge. More than 5,000 tourists visited Malabean Centre and Centre La Rochelle in June. (Photo by Stephanie Jellett)*