TOPIC 3.5
Lifestyle and Culture
Life on Land and Sea

- Most rural households lived a **subsistence** lifestyle
  - Grew and hunted their food
  - Planted in late May
    - Summer consisted taking care of crops
      - weeding, fertilizing
    - Harvested and stored in September or October
- August-September -> fruit/berries gathered
- October-March -> game/seabirds hunted
- December-February -> harvest wood
- Late winter-early Spring -> fishing supplies repaired/prepared
Life on Land and Sea

- In many areas, families moved into the woods during winter (known as winterhousing)
  - Done to get wood for fuel and shelter
  - Practiced mostly outside Avalon Peninsula
Health

• Population increased, but services didn’t
• Health care was almost non-existent outside St. John’s
  ▫ Naval surgeons on British ships
  ▫ Physicians who serviced outports
    • Travelled long distances by boat, snowshoe, etc.
    • Patients often couldn’t afford to pay
• Hospitals began to open in St. John’s throughout 1800s
Education

- 17th-18th centuries
  - Making a living was main priority (fishing)
- Education was not important

- First school opened up in Bonavista in 1726, as people began to realize education was important
  - More followed
- First schools focused on Bible teachings
  - Run by church
- They were open to all, regardless of religious denomination
Education

- Still, many children went without education
- In 1900, less than 50% of children 5-15 were attending school
Social Class

- 1800 -> Two main classes
  - Wealthy merchants and planters
  - Poor fishermen

- Late 1800s -> Middle class emerged
  - Fishers who used cod traps (higher catches)
Communication and Culture

- Very little interaction between towns
  - No roads, most communities accessed by boat

- Many communities had very different cultures
  - Especially dialects

- 1800s, this began to change
  - First international newspaper – The Royal Gazette (1807)
  - First daily newspaper – The Evening Telegram (1879)
  - First post office - 1851