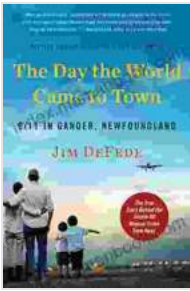


# The Day the World Came to Town: An Extraordinary True Story of Community and Resilience in the Face of Adversity



Amidst the tumultuous backdrop of World War II, a remarkable story unfolded in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland. On September 11, 1985, 38 planes carrying thousands of passengers were diverted to Gander after the United States airspace was closed due to the terrorist attacks. The sudden influx of strangers from different walks of life tested the limits of the town's resources, but it also ignited an extraordinary spirit of compassion and resilience.



## The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland by Jim DeFede

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 10595 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 271 pages



### A Community Transformed



When the first planes landed at Gander International Airport, the town's population of 9,000 was overwhelmed by the sheer number of arrivals. The airport became a makeshift city, with hundreds of people sleeping on floors and in makeshift beds. But rather than being deterred by the chaos, the people of Gander opened their homes and hearts to their unexpected guests.

Community centers, schools, and churches were transformed into shelters, providing warmth, food, and comfort to the weary travelers. Local residents shared their homes, offering beds, showers, and laundry facilities. The camaraderie and unity that emerged in those trying times were truly inspiring.

### **Strangers United by a Common Thread**



Passengers from all walks of life and from more than 100 different countries came together in Gander. There were business executives, tourists, families, and young children. Despite their diverse backgrounds and experiences, they found common ground in their shared humanity and resilience.

People of different faiths and ethnicities shared meals, celebrated each other's cultures, and supported one another through the challenges they faced. Amidst the uncertainty and fear, a sense of community and belonging emerged.

### **Local Heroes and Acts of Kindness**



The people of Gander played a crucial role in making the unexpected influx of passengers as comfortable and manageable as possible. Local volunteers worked tirelessly, providing food, transportation, and medical assistance. They also organized activities and entertainment to keep spirits high.

One remarkable act of kindness involved a local bakery that donated over 12,000 loaves of bread to feed the stranded passengers. Another heartwarming story includes the efforts of a local choir that performed a concert at the airport, bringing a sense of joy and hope to those facing an uncertain future.

### **Enduring Legacy of Compassion**



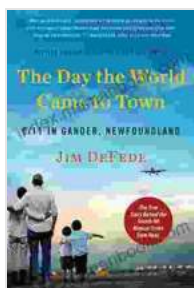
The events of September 11, 2001, and the Day the World Came to Town left an enduring legacy in Gander and beyond. The town's reputation for

hospitality and compassion became known worldwide. In 2002, a memorial was erected at Gander International Airport to commemorate the events and honor the spirit of unity and kindness that emerged during that time.

The story of Gander continues to inspire people around the world, and it serves as a reminder of the power of community and the importance of human connection, even in the face of adversity.

The Day the World Came to Town is a testament to the extraordinary capacity of humans to come together and support one another, even during the most challenging times. The people of Gander, Newfoundland, welcomed strangers from around the world with open arms, creating a sense of belonging and community that transcends borders and differences.

The enduring legacy of this event reminds us that even in the face of adversity, kindness and compassion can prevail. It is a story that will continue to inspire generations to come, and a reminder to strive for a world where unity and empathy overcome fear and division.



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