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Chameau. He and the two divers carried on as best they could, sailing and rowing their small vessel along the reef and over the grounds of the cove, while towing a large grapnel at the end of a line, a short distance off the bottom. It was hoped that the grapnel would hook into the wreck, but time after time it only took hold of another bedrock outcrop jutting up from the sea floor. The hardship suffered by the divers must have been considerable, as they descended hand over hand along the line. They wore no protective clothing save a layer of grease. The waters surrounding Cape Breton Island are icy cold year round and young Le Normant, son of the Commissaire, who was in charge of the operation, made sure that the men were well fed. His requests for supplies from Louisbourg included fresh beef, milk, vegetables and chocolate for his divers. Bad weather hindered the operations almost continually and Le Normant and the others spent more time shooting game and ducks than in searching for the treasure. The divers failed to see the cannons, anchors and cables from the wreck near Chameau Rock. They were misled by their expectation of finding a substantial hull section holding most of the valuables. The search lasted from 9 September to the beginning of October 1726, when Le Normant wrote a final letter to his father, the commissaire-ordonnateur, asking for more supplies and "five or six days of good weather, or an order to return." The latter came in due course. In what seems to have been a last-ditch effort, a search was made of the rocks close to the shore of the cove. When nothing new was found, the wreck was abandoned. On 14 December 1726, De Mezy wrote the minister, giving an account of the salvage work. The coins were still at the bottom of the ocean, but the sale of the goods that had washed ashore had amounted to 6,000 livres. At least that is what it ought to have been. The treasurer, Antoine Sabatier, had in fact received only 3,080 livres. This sum was for goods sold to officers in Louisbourg who had paid cash. The other buyers had not yet paid. If they failed to pay, it meant that the profit from the salvage was only 70 livres, since the expenses had mounted to 3,010 livres. Disastrous though the wreck of the Chameau was, it did lead to a major improvement in navigation. It prompted the establishment of Canada's first permanent lighthouse at A New Eating Experience Acadian Dishes Chowders & Fish Dishes Meat Pies Take-Out Orders Available May 12-October 15 224-3207 Co-op Artisanale de Cheticamp Ltee* Hand Hooked Virgin Wool Products May 6th - October 15th • 224-2170 • Open Every Day to Welcome You THE LONGER'U Sm A?Y, 'DieCloserYouGex 'M''&s *70 SHERAidffS EndlessWeekend Includes Fbii Breakfast R)r1/o And Late SunlwChbck-Out n, per night. [Take a summer recess from the routine weekend. Your break can begin as early as Thursday, then you'll awake to complimentary breakfasts Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. And to make the most of the lazy days of summer, Sunday check-out isn't until 6:00 pm. This weekend, spend a little time alone • together. Call your travel agent or 800-325-3535 and ask for Sheraton's Endless Weekend Package. Sheraton Mariner



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